

Yad Moss Ski Club Safeguarding Policy

This version written: October 2022

Review due by: October 2025

This is the Yad Moss Ski Club (YMSC) safeguarding policy, which aims to prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to children and adults at risk when using the facilities at Yad Moss.

Children are defined as those under the age of 18.

Adults at risk of harm are defined as individuals of 18 years or older who have care needs and are at risk of abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves [1].

The Committee and volunteers at YMSC are committed to:

- ensuring that the welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount;
- enabling everyone to participate in snow sports in a fun and safe environment, whatever their age, culture, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity;
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children and adults at risk from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, views, feelings and dignity (unless there are overwhelming reasons not to do so);
- taking seriously all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse [2] and responding swiftly and appropriately. Any action taken should be proportionate to the risk of harm.

It is not always easy to distinguish poor practice from abuse. It is NOT the responsibility of Members to make judgements about whether or not abuse is taking place. It is however their responsibility to identify poor practice (and possible abuse), and to act if they have concerns about the welfare of the child or adult.

Good Practice

All personnel should adhere to the following principles and actions:

- Ensure we have an inclusive environment, where everyone is welcomed and supported to enjoy our recreation.
- Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets).
- Make the experience of snow sports fun and enjoyable: promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying.
- Treat all children or adults at risk equally and with respect and dignity.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the child or adult at risk.
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible, e.g. where children need to be supervised on our premises, encourage parents to take responsibility for their own children. If groups have to be supervised always ensure parents and volunteers work in pairs.
- Avoid transporting children in cars.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given.
- An adult's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs must be taken into account when decisions are made about how to support their safety. Treat people with respect, enhancing their dignity and supporting their ability to make decisions helps promote a sense of self-worth.

Examples of Poor Practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided:

- Spending unnecessarily excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

- Taking children alone in a car on journeys, however short.
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reducing a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Doing things of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves.
- Harassment of a participant because of their (perceived) disability or other protected characteristics.
- A participant threatens another participant with physical harm and persistently blames them for poor performance.

Photographs

Photographs which include children should, where possible, be taken with their permission. Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported and recorded in the same manner as any other safeguarding concern.

Previous convictions

Anyone who has a previous conviction or caution for offences related to abuse against children should be automatically excluded from working with children. These people must be reported to the Club's Safeguarding Officer.

Reporting abuse

If there is any doubt, you must report the incident: it may be just one of a series of other incidences which together cause concern. Any person reporting or investigating an accusation should not contact the alleged abuser, child or adult at risk of harm, but should speak to the Yad Moss Safeguarding Officer who will seek appropriate advice.

The Child and Adult Safeguarding Officer for Yad Moss Ski Club is:

Peter Stockton, 9 Atkinson Avenue, DL10 4UE, Richmond
peterstockton08@gmail.com

National governing body, safeguarding policy and advice

Snowsport England: <https://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/safeguarding/>

Active Cumbria <https://www.activecumbria.org/workforce/safeinsport/>

Cumbria Local Safeguarding Children Board is at: <https://cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/> 0800 1111

Review policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if requested/recommended to do so by Snowsport England or Active Cumbria, or in the case of event-based learning.

[1] The Care Act 2014 makes it clear that abuse of adults links to circumstances rather than the characteristics of the people experiencing the harm. Labelling groups of people as inherently 'vulnerable' is seen to be disempowering.

[2] Physical, Sexual, Emotional/Psychological/Mental, Neglect and acts of Omission, Financial or material abuse, Discriminatory, Organisational / Institutional, Self-neglect, Domestic Abuse (including coercive control), Modern slavery