



Dane Valley ASC SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Policy also includes Anti-Bullying, Child Abuse, Self-Harm, Late Collection and Missing Child Information.

Dane Valley Amateur Swimming Club (DVASC) is committed to providing an environment in which all children and young people participating in its activities have a safe and positive experience.

In Order to achieve this, the organisation to:

- Adopt and implement the policies and procedures in Wavepower in full.
- Recognise that all children participating in the DVASC (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to enjoy their involvement in aquatics in a safe environment and be protected from harm.
- Ensure that all individuals who work with children in the DVASC, whether paid or voluntary, provide a positive, safe and enjoyable experience for children.
- Appoint a welfare officer with the necessary skills and training as outlined by the ASA who will take the lead in dealing with all child safeguarding matters raised within the organisation.
- Ensure that the welfare officer's name and contact details are known to all staff, members and parents of members.
- Ensure the welfare officer is available to discuss issues of concern on matters of safeguarding and deal with such concerns appropriately and in line with Wavepower.
- Ensure that all individuals who work with children in the DVASC have undertaken the appropriate training, have the relevant DBS checks, and adhere to the required practices for safeguarding children as outlined in Wavepower.
- Ensure that all individuals who will be working or will work with children in the DVASC have been recruited in accordance with the ASA Safe Recruitment Policy.
- Ensure that all individuals who work with children in the organisation have the appropriate training, code of conduct and good practice to follow in line with the guidance in Wavepower.
- Provide all members of the organisation and parents of members with the opportunity to raise concerns in a safe and confidential manner if they have a concern about a child's welfare.

- Ensure that all child safeguarding matters, whether they be concerns about a child's welfare or protection, are dealt with appropriately in accordance with the guidance for reporting and action in Wavepower.
- Ensure that confidentiality is maintained appropriately and in line with the best interests of the child.
- Ensure all papers relating to child safeguarding matters are held in a safe and secure manner.

Anti-Bullying

DVASC is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all its members in a secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable within the club. If Bullying does occur, all members should feel that they can speak out and be reassured that the incident will be dealt with promptly and effectively. If an incident does occur it is expected that the welfare officer, coach, teacher and committee be informed.

Forms of Bullying include:

- **Verbal:** Name Calling, mocking persistent teasing and threats.
- **Physical:** Physical violence, theft or damage of possessions, intimidating behavior. This includes hitting, kicking and pushing.
- **Emotional:** Excluding, ridiculing, tormenting, humiliation, setting people up and spreading rumors.
- **Cyber:** Misuse of digital technologies or communications to bully a person or group, which is threatening, humiliating or to cause offence and anxiety.
- **Racist:** Bullying based on ethnicity, skin colour, language, religion or cultural practices.
- **Homophobic:** Discrimination based on sexuality and/ or gender identity.
- **Sexual:** Unwelcome sexual advances or remarks which could cause offence, humiliation or intimidation.
- **Disablist:** Bullying of children who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Based on Differences:** This can include but is not limited to, factors surrounding the way someone looks or dresses, hobbies and interests, family situation or social behaviour.

DVASC will NOT Tolerate any form of Bullying, and expects all the members, parents, teachers and coaches to remember the rules which can be found in their Code of Conduct.

Child Abuse

DVASC Has a Duty of Care to safeguard all children which are involved in the club from harm. We will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in the club through adherence to the child protection guidelines adopted by the ASA.

DVASC believe that the welfare of all its members is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting them from abuse. So, it is up to the coaches, teachers, volunteers, parents and the members themselves to inform the welfare officer if they suspect someone is being abused. Once informed it is up to the welfare officer to refer all concerns to the appropriate agencies or child services.

Types of child abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Self-Harm

DVASC is Fully aware that there is an increase of self-harming in children. Which is why if a member of the club is suspected to be self-harming then it is up to the teacher or coach to report this to the welfare officer or the ASA safeguarding team, so that the appropriate advice / help can be given.

In most cases, the organisation would discuss the concerns with the member and their parents and advise that they get the appropriate professional advice. If its felt that the self-harm is due to an issue at home, then the concerns should be referred to Children's Services.

Possible types of self-harm:

- Scratching and pinching
- Hitting objects
- Cutting
- Ripping skin
- Carving
- Interfering with healing
- Burning
- Rubbing/scraping the skin with sharp objects
- Hair pulling
- Abusing drugs and alcohol
- Eating disorders
- Poisoning or overdosing

Late Collection

DVASC understands that occasionally, parents / carer may be delayed or unable to collect their child from training or event on time. In this situation the list of emergency numbers for parents is to be used. If a parent knows they will be late or unable to collect they must inform the coach/teacher and give consent if they wish another parent to transport their child home. The coach/teacher must never leave a member alone unless they are over 16 and only with parental consent. If under 16, two coaches/teachers must remain with the member until someone arrives. If you are unable to reach a parent/carer, then the local police should be contacted to get the best course of action.

Coaches/teachers should avoid:

- Taking the child home or to another location
- Asking the child to wait in a vehicle
- Waiting with the child at the organisation on your own.
- Sending the child home with another person without permission.

If a Parent/carer fails to collect their child on several occasions, with no contact from them or reasonable explanation for the delay, the welfare officer should be notified and arrange a meeting to discuss the matter. If there is no change after this then ASA child safeguarding team or children services should be contacted.

Missing Child

It is hoped that no child will ever go missing from DVASC. If they do, remember that most children are found within a few minutes of their disappearance.

However, if a child who DVASC has responsibility for goes missing, the following guidelines have been devised to clarify the actions that should be taken.

- Ensure that all other members are looked after appropriately while you search for the missing child.
- Inform the members parents in person or over the phone of your concerns. But reassure them that you are doing everything you can to locate their child.
- Get all other available adults to search different area, Including changing rooms, toilets, public and private areas around your location. Make sure that all people searching report back at certain times.
- Nominated someone to be making notes on the events and so a physical description of the member i.e. height, build, eye colour, hair colour and style. Also include information on what clothing they were wearing and where they were last seen.
- If the search is unsuccessful then you report your concerns to the police. They will advise you on further actions, you should respect their actions at all times.
- If at any stage the member is located, make sure that all relevant people are contacted.

A REPORT SHOULD GO TO THE POLICE NO LATER THAN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE MEMBERS DISAPPEARANCE IS NOTED, EVEN IF THE SEARCH IS NOT COMPLETE.