



SAILING FOR THE DISABLED

Manx Registered Charity No. 325

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

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1. Introduction

These guidelines have been produced by Sailing for the Disabled (Isle of Man), also known as SFTD (IOM) within this document, to help the charity take appropriate action to enable children and vulnerable adults to enjoy sailing in a safe environment and:

- To protect volunteer crew carers by giving them some practical, common sense guidelines to avoid placing themselves in situations where they are open to allegations which could seriously damage their lives and careers.
- To protect the organisation, by showing that you have taken 'all reasonable steps' to provide a safe environment.

The policy seeks to safeguard these individuals who are taking part in boating from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The charity will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, those persons participating in our activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise that the safety and welfare of those persons is paramount and that all people, irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual identity or social status, have a right to protection from abuse.

The Crewmaster when compiling crews for sails will adhere to this policy and work with the nominated Skipper for the sails to safeguard all parties and the integrity of the charity.

Members under 18 years of age and those adult members who are classified as vulnerable who wish to sail unaccompanied will only be carried on sails with the prior consent of the parent, guardian or legal carer of the individual, when the booking for the sail is made the Crewmaster or Skipper will confirm the consent has been given.

2. Policy Statement

The Sailing for the Disabled (Isle of Man) Policy Statement on Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection is as follows:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- As defined in the Children and Young Persons Act 2001, **anyone under the age of 18 years** should be considered as a child for the purpose of this document.
- It must be remembered that not all adults who are disabled are necessarily vulnerable. A vulnerable adult is defined in the Isle of Man multi-agency Adult Protection Policy as “any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of care services by reason of mental or other disability, of age or illness; **and** who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation”.
- All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- The skipper of the boat is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to whilst they are in charge of the boat.
- All relevant allegations, complaints and their outcomes will be notified to the designated Child Protection Coordinator.

3. Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Coordinator

The Executive Committee of SFTD (IOM) will appoint a person to the position of Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Coordinator. Before taking up the role the nominated person will have been checked using the Isle of Man Vetting Bureau process and cleared to the satisfaction of the Committee.

It will be the responsibility of the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Coordinator to:

- Ensure that the organisation has an up to date policy with procedures to support it;

- Periodically review this document and to bring forward to the executive committee any recommendations for changes;
- Ensure that relevant members understand the procedures and put them into practice;
- To receive reports of any concerns or allegations; in conjunction with the person in charge (Chairman), to decide on the appropriate action to be taken;
- To keep the RYA informed as necessary.

4. Members

All able-bodied persons aged 18 years and over who are members of the SFTD (IOM) who wish to sail and act as crew carers will submit themselves for record checks that will be under taken by the Isle of Man Vetting Bureau into any Criminal Records.

The final decision on the acceptance of persons as members will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

Non-sailing able bodied members who wish to commence activities as a crew will be required to undergo vetting through the Isle of Man Vetting Bureau.

When Community groups sail with the charity they will provide their own carers to be responsible for ensuring the suitability and trustworthiness of the carers who accompany their charges. Community groups will not be accepted for sails without their own carers.

5. Confidentiality

No personal information other than that required for the wellbeing of the member will be requested and only that relevant to the sailing activity will be sought. Any personal information will be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to see it in the course of their duties to protect children or vulnerable adults. Any information recorded by the skipper on medication taken by the member will be destroyed as soon as a sail has been completed.