



**Malahide Yacht Club,
St James's Terrace,
Malahide,
County Dublin.**

Child Protection Policy

Malahide Yacht Club Summer Training Programme is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of all junior members and visitors. Every individual involved in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all involved. Club activities involving persons under 18 should be conducted in a way that reflects the principles of Malahide Yacht Club, the Irish Sailing Association, and the guidelines contained in the ***Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland***.

Copies of the Code of Ethics are available from the club Junior Affairs Officer, the club Children's Officers or from the Irish Sports Council. The Code of Ethics is also available online through the Irish Sports Council website www.irishsportsCouncil.ie

Leaflets containing guidelines on implementing the Code of Ethics have been distributed to all parents who attended the parents briefing meeting. Additional copies may also be obtained from the Senior Instructor during junior training courses.

Children's Officers

If anybody considers that there has been a breach in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland, involving members or employees of Malahide Yacht Club they should contact one of the Children's Officers listed below without delay

Maighread Tobin

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087 277 8874

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086 245 2062

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Good Practice Guidelines for Instructors, Volunteers and Staff

Based on ISA Policies and Procedures Manual (2005), p36.

The following guidelines are intended to promote best practice and in turn to reduce the potential for participants or staff to feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Be aware of situations that can generate the potential for misunderstandings and lead to allegations of abusive behaviour. One-to-one discussions should be conducted in a relatively open place, in view of others. Where the discussion is of a sensitive nature, a third party should be made aware beforehand of the nature of the discussion, and if possible be in attendance. Disciplinary matters should be dealt with according to a pre-determined code of discipline, not addressed in the heat of the moment.

Be aware of the potential for teasing, intimidation and bullying within any group. Participants on the summer training programme will range from 9 years to older teenagers, and there may be a wide mix of ages within each level. Those participants who are shy could be overwhelmed by more assertive ones. There may be pre-existing tensions among participants that could flare up in a new setting. Ensuring that participants are busy and occupied will minimise the opportunity for overt physical intimidation. Where instructors, staff and volunteers interact in a respectful way when dealing with each other and with participants, this will encourage the participants to behave in a similar manner towards each other.

The use of sexually suggestive language should be regarded as inappropriate at all times, both from a child protection perspective and an equality perspective. References to race, sexual orientation or other differentiating features should not be tolerated.

Where it is necessary to have physical contact with participants, e.g. pulling them into a rescue boat, be aware of how that contact could be misinterpreted by a worried parent later that evening. It may be advisable to tell the parent of the incident when they collect their child. For some participants, changing in and out of sailing gear in a communal changing room may be a source of tension, and it is imperative that males do not enter the female changing room or vice versa.