



## **CHILD PROTECTION & WELFARE POLICY**

The Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race (“DW”) is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. All Competitors should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of DW.

We believe that taking part in Paddlesport should be a positive and enjoyable part of children’s lives, and provide an interesting challenge which they can build on for future ambitions.

DW has identified an individual to carry out the role of Welfare Officer. They will be the point of contact for anyone who has allegations, suspicions or concerns relating to the welfare of children and young people taking part in the event. The Welfare Officer contact details can be found on the ‘Contacts’ page of the DW Website ([www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk)) and will be clearly communicated throughout the duration of the event at Easter weekend.

Anyone with concerns relating to the welfare of a child or young person during the event should contact the Welfare Officer in the first instance. In the unlikely event that the Welfare Officer is unavailable they should contact a DW Director or the BCU Child Protection Officer (details can be found on the DW website).

This policy has 4 key areas as follows:

### **1. General Principles**

- All DW Officials and Volunteers should read and adhere to the [BCU Code of Ethics](#).
- All DW Officials and Volunteers should read and adhere to the [BCU Child Protection Policy](#). DW will follow the guidance of this policy in the event of any concerns or allegations.
- DW has, and regularly reviews, a Risk Assessment for the event.
- DW will review this Policy annually.

### **2. Parental Consent**

- Canoeing and Kayaking are “Assumed Risk” “Water Contact Sports” that may carry inherent risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
- The Entry Form on the DW Website contains all the general indemnities applicable to entries of all ages, where paddlers are required to accept the Race Terms & Conditions.
- For Junior Competitors, or Parent/Guardian or other Adult empowered to sign on their behalf for under-18’s, acceptance of the Terms and Conditions by signing the Entry Form and Disclaimer grants permission for the Competitor to participate in the event and camp overnight, in accordance with the Junior Class Rules.
- DW will obtain written medical details for Junior Competitors with pre-existing conditions via the Entry Form, which will be made known to certain DW Officials, where deemed appropriate and/or necessary.

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### 3. Detailed Guidance

The welfare of Junior Competitors is paramount.

In addition to the BCU Child Protection Policy, DW and its Volunteers will adhere to the following good practice:

- DW runs a mixed campsite for male and female Junior Competitors and will always ensure that, appropriately vetted, male and female staff are available at the campsite.
- Treat all Competitors equally, with respect and dignity.
- Always work in an open environment (avoid private or unobserved situations) and avoid situations alone with one child.
- Where possible ask Parents/Team Leaders to be responsible for children in changing rooms.
- Always ensure that whoever supervises young people work in pairs.
- If any form of physical support is required ask the paddler's permission, explain what is being done and why, to both the paddler and Parents/Team Leader.
- Ensure that any suspicions, allegations or concerns relating to the safety or wellbeing of a child will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

### 4. DBS Checking

- DW will work to ensure that anyone who meets the eligibility criteria for a Disclosure (DBS) Check will not be deployed until a satisfactory check has been returned. Eligibility will be determined, against a matrix of defined DW Roles, using the [BCU Disclosure Policy](#).

Signed:



Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Junior Teams Liaison & Welfare Officer

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