

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ScotSAC's updated Child Protection Policy has been adopted by ScotSAC for implementation across all Branches. Branch committees are advised to ensure they familiarise themselves with the updated document, and ensure their members are made aware of relevant changes.

Changes of note include:

- Branch Status
- Introduction of Instructors with Juniors Responsibility
- Introduction of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme which incorporates a change from "childcare" roles, to doing "regulated work"

The Scottish Sub Aqua Club is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all juniors in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect juniors from harm, abuse and exploitation.

Members and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of junior members.

This document outlines The Scottish Sub Aqua Club's commitment to protecting junior members.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of juniors is the primary concern.
- All juniors, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Junior protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Juniors have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- ScotSAC shall work in partnership together with juniors and parents to promote the welfare, health and development of juniors.

The Scottish Sub Aqua Club will:

- Promote the health and welfare of juniors by providing opportunities for them to take part in Sub Aqua activities safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of juniors.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of juniors and protect them from abuse.
- Recruit, train, support and supervise its instructors, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect juniors from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require all members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.

- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of juniors in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.