

It is important that all coaches, officials and staff whether in a paid or voluntary role, understand their responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. In addition, those who employ or deploy coaches or officials should know what standard of behaviour is acceptable.

## Coaches and Officials:

1. must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
2. must place the well-being and safety of the child above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by British Canoeing and hold appropriate insurance cover.
3. must develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, especially children, based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
4. must encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
5. should hold up to date nationally recognised British Canoeing coaching qualifications.
6. must ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
7. should at the outset clarify with participants, and where appropriate their parents, exactly what is expected of them and what participants are entitled to expect from the coach.
8. should cooperate fully with other specialists e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists in the best interests of the participants.
9. should always promote the positive aspects of their sport e.g. fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
10. should not be under the influence of drink, drugs or any substance.
11. must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
12. should be acutely aware of the position of trust that a coach develops with participants and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise).
13. should be acutely aware of situations with participants that could be construed as compromising and actions that others could perceive as being outside the coaching role.
14. should report any concerns within the area of Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults in confidence and without delay to the appropriate person.

15. should at no time make comment to the media. The British Canoeing Press Officer should be made aware of any media interest in relation to Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults.

In the event of an allegation of improper behaviour being made, the personal conduct and professional behaviour of the adult will be very important evidence. For child abuse to take place, particularly sexual abuse, the child and adult(s) will generally be alone and away from public view. Therefore the best practice is to avoid all situations in which behaviour cannot be observed.

Safeguarding is about putting in place the best possible practices and procedures, this will protect not only the child but also you, the adult. If you have any comments on this guideline or require any further support or guidance relating to children and young people please contact the British Canoeing Lead Safeguarding Officer.