

**Safeguarding Adults**

**Policy and Guidelines**

for RYA affiliated clubs, class associations and organisations

and recognised training centres

Version 5

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### Who could be regarded as an ‘adult at risk’ or ‘vulnerable adult’?

Revised Jan 2019

In recent years there has been a shift away from using the term ‘vulnerable’, which can be perceived as a disempowering term, to describe adults who are potentially at risk of harm or abuse (for more information on types of abuse, see Appendix A).

The term ‘Adult at Risk’ as defined by the Care Act 2014[[1]](#footnote-1) applies to people aged 18 or over who are in need of care or support, regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

There are also adults who are at risk due to a specific circumstance they may find themselves in, for example: domestic abuse, forced marriage, sexual or commercial or financial exploitation. Adults at risk may include individuals who are vulnerable as a consequence of their role as a carer.

All of us could be regarded as being at risk or vulnerable at certain times in our lives, for example when undergoing medical treatment or experiencing a period of mental ill-health. Equally, not all people with a disability would identify themselves as being vulnerable or at risk at all times.

In a sailing and boating context, clubs and centres may work with:

* people who have a physical disability, whether from birth or acquired through injury, illness or advancing age, ranging from those who can sail independently but need some assistance getting afloat, to those who depend on others for physical care and support
* people who are blind or visually impaired, who may need to be guided around the site and when getting on board, and sail with sighted crew
* people who are deaf or hearing impaired, whose needs are largely connected to communication and inclusion
* people who have learning disabilities or who for some other reason (eg. brain injury, dementia) may not have the capacity (see Mental Capacity below) to make independent decisions or to assess risk
* people who are on the autism/Asperger spectrum
* people who are experiencing mental illness.

## 2 Policy Statements

### RYA Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement

Revised Jan 2020

**This policy refers to anyone aged 18 or over who may be defined by the Care Act 2014[[2]](#footnote-2) as an ‘Adult at Risk’, who is in need of care or support, and who because of those needs is unable to safeguard themselves at all times. The policy applies to all RYA employees, contractors and volunteers**.

**The RYA is committed to safeguarding adults at risk taking part in its activities from physical, sexual, psychological, financial or discriminatory abuse or neglect. We recognise that everyone, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership or social status, has a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.**

**The RYA takes all reasonable steps to ensure that, through safe recruitment, appropriate operating procedures and training, it offers a safe environment to adults at risk participating in RYA events and activities. All participants will be treated with dignity and respect.**

**The participant’s experience of the sport is our priority. We will create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where participants can have fun and develop their skills and confidence. We will treat all participants with respect, celebrate their achievements and listen to their views and experiences.**

**Relevant RYA recognised training centres are required and all affiliated clubs, class associations and Sailability groups are encouraged to adopt and implement similar policies and procedures. The RYA will provide them with information and support.**

The RYA:

* Recognises that safeguarding adults who may be at risk is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work directly with them.
* Carefully recruits and selects all RYA employees, contractors and volunteers in roles involving close contact with adults at risk and provides them with appropriate information or training.
* Responds swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected abuse, referring to external agencies as necessary.
* Regularly reviews safeguarding procedures and practices in the light of experience or to take account of legislative, social or technological changes.
* Communicates changes and shares good practice with training centres, clubs, class associations and Sailability groups.

This policy will be reviewed by the RYA Safeguarding Steering Group annually and by the RYA Board at least every three years.

**The RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager should be notified of all relevant concerns, allegations or complaints.**

Revised April 2018

1. The Care Act 2014 only applies to local authorities in England. Social Care in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. However the principles of good practice set out in this document apply throughout the UK. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Applies in England only. The relevant legislation in Wales is the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. In Scotland the Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007 applies to individuals aged 16 and over. In Northern Ireland the framework ‘Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership 2015’ puts adult safeguarding on a statutory footing. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)