



NATIONAL SCHOOLS 25

National Schools Canoe Championships

Event Welfare Policy and Safeguarding Plan

Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee and **the Devizes to Westminster**

Organisation acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as well as vulnerable adults, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British Canoeing requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and vulnerable adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Hawley Lake in a safe environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in National Schools Canoe Championships or at Hawley Lake

Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee and **the Devizes to Westminster**

Organisation acknowledges that some children and vulnerable adults, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy, **Paddle UK Marathon Racing Committee** and **the Devizes to Westminster Organisation** will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults

- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the organisation and running of “National Schools Championship”.

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the event.

(Last reviewed July 2025)

Missing Child Policy

Welfare/Safeguarding policy is detailed in the above document. This has been reviewed and signed off by the Marathon Racing Committee welfare officer (Holly Mobbs) for the event. She will be the main point of call for any welfare concerns during the event and will be supported by all other marshals to ensure suitable action is taken when required.

If there is a lost or found child or vulnerable person at our event, the marshal or site staff first will notify the rest of marshals and site staff with details of the person. As it is a small scale event, most children or vulnerable people are known or their school is known so reconnecting a found child will not be the problem. Marshalls at the car park entrance will be able to police the exit if required or requested. Exits will be monitored in the event of a lost child or vulnerable person.

The Welfare Officer will lead the procedure with the main rendezvous point at race control.

If unable to reunite the child in a reasonable time, a report to police will be made. This decision will be made by the Welfare Officer and Event Organisers.