# **ROWINDERMERE 2024 – 14/15th September 2024**

Welfare plan

Objective:

**The organising committee of the RoWindermere event believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants are paramount, whether as competitors or spectators, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects the statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British Rowing requirements**.

It acknowledges that everyone, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, have equal rights to safety and protection and that special measure are required to protect children and young people and vulnerable adults. It is accepted that all participants will be over the age of 17. Younger people may be present as spectators.

All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

This Policy Statement aims to ensure that all participants:

● have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at RoWindermere in a safe environment.

● are protected from abuse while participating/attending RoWindermere or outside of the activity. The event policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone taking part in RoWindermere. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the event and future British Rowing competitions both virtual, indoor and on water.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee (OC)

* As part of our safeguarding policy the OC will:
* Promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of participants, officials, volunteers and spectators.
* Ensure all personnel understand their role and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and welfare and have undertaken appropriate training.
* All volunteers should have regard to the British Rowing Safeguarding policies and Codes of contact. (Safeguarding Handbook 3)
* Ensure the Event Safety Advisor is aware of this policy statement and Safety plan.
* Ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of welfare incidents/concerns of abuse and that appropriate support is provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
* Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate reports of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and stored in a secure location.
* Do their best to ensure that individuals who are known to be unsuitable are not employed or deployed at the event.
* Ensure that robust safeguarding arrangement and procedures are in operation throughout the weekend.

Mrs Judith Rimmer has been appointed as the Event Welfare Officer (EWO). She can be contacted by email: [welfare.RoWindermere@gmail.com](mailto:welfare.RoWindermere@gmail.com) or by phone 07796 005 767. This contact number will be posted on the event website, and she can be contacted during the event via any event official.

To report an allegation or concern please contact the Event Welfare Officer

The only RoWindermere volunteers who may have *substantial, unsupervised access to young people or vulnerable adults* will be the First aiders or the Event Welfare Officer. These volunteers will be asked to provide the date and number of their enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Where no such disclosure exists, the Committee will require one to be produced before the event.

Responsibility of Clubs

It is a condition of entry to RoWindermere that any crew that includes junior athletes shall have a named coach or responsible adult. *Please note the minimum age for participation is 17.* The named coach or responsible adult, who must be over the age of 18, must be named on the entry form and a current mobile telephone number for that person must be provided. If a substitute coach or responsible adult comes to the competition, they must contact the Event Welfare Officer and register their mobile telephone number. Each named coach or responsible adult is responsible for the welfare, safety and appropriate supervision of their crew or entered athlete and is always expected to know the whereabouts of all their athletes during the competition. All participants and coaches must abide by British Rowing Rules of Racing and Codes of Conduct as well as the BR Safeguarding Policy, which can be found on our safeguarding webpage, and are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and conduct at all times.

**The OC should be informed of any particular medical needs of participants such as epilepsy, asthma, severe allergies or diabetes. Clubs should make sure that their crews are aware of any possible medical problems and where necessary, carry required medication – insulin, inhalers or EpiPens.**

DBS checks, access to young people or their contact details

The Entries Secretary and Registration personnel should not hold any contact details for young people and do not need to be DBS checked. **DBS disclosures of medical staff and the Event Welfare Officer shall be checked.**

Photography and publicity

The OC recognises that at a sports event such as RoWindermere, many parents and other supporters will wish to take photographs and all participants should be aware of this. The OC may approve photography by commercial organisations and these professional photographers will be asked to display a badge to the effect that they are permitted to take photographs. The OC will provide the professional photographers with a copy of British Rowing Photography Policy which they are expected to sign and follow British Rowing’s Photography and Use of Imagery policy: https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safeguarding/

Reporting procedures for an adult at risk

A diagram of a flowchart

Description automatically generated

Medical provision

All medical staff will be sent a copy of this Policy Statement and be given the contact details for the Event Welfare Officer. In an emergency the Race Committee/Safety Advisor/Welfare Officer should contact the emergency services using 999.

Medical facilities will be provided at Windermere Rowing Club Fell Foot.

All launches will carry basic first aid.

**Evacuation points are noted on the Course Map**

Security

Volunteers and officials may be briefed on exercising vigilance for anything suspicious, e.g. someone unknown to the crews hanging around or tampering with equipment; people taking pictures near the changing facilities.

Missing persons

Juniors or vulnerable adults who have become separated from their parents, carers or guardians should report to race control where this can be reported to the EWO, and messages can be relayed to marshals via radio.

Parents, carers or guardians that have become separated from children or vulnerable adults in their care should report to race control where this will be reported to the EWO. Boating and crews can be checked to see who is on the water and a search can be coordinated between marshals and volunteers. If a person has been missing for more than 20 minutes, contact the Event Welfare Officer and/or the Event Safety Advisor via any official.

**The initial report must be reported to the EWO.**

* The EWO will request all available officials to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area.
* Radio communication should convey a description of the child *but not their full name*.
* All those searching should be told to report back within a short time, dependent on the size of the area being searched.
* If the child cannot be found after a search of the immediate surroundings, the child’s parents/carers should be contacted to advise them of the concern and reassure them that everything is being done to locate the child.
* A note should be made of the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where he/she was last seen. A detailed physical description of the child should be prepared, including their hair and eye colour, approximate height and build and clothing he/she was wearing, as the police will require this.
* The concern should be reported to the police if the search is unsuccessful, no later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the search is ongoing.
* Police guidance should be followed, further action recommended should be taken and close contact with the police maintained.
* All officials involved, the parents, searchers, and police must be informed if at any stage the child is located.

Overnight stays

RoWindermere is a two day event and clubs may wish to organise overnight accommodation for their members. Clubs staying overnight need to consider the following:

● There should be separate sleeping, washing and toilet areas for adults and children, older and young children, male and female.

● Children sharing rooms must be of the same gender, and ideally, of a similar age (e.g. a 17-year-old should not share with a 12-year-old).

● All beds should be single beds and coaches and children/adults with care and support needs must not share rooms, unless the coach is the designated carer for the adult with care and support needs, and this has been discussed with them, and agreed upon, prior to the trip.

● Sharing arrangements should be finalised before departure for the trip, and these arrangements should be shared with the child’s parents.

● **Everyone must know the fire procedures and be aware of evacuation procedures.**