

# Reef Scuba Welfare Policy



## Child Protection

The primary concern of the Club and dive school is the protection and welfare of all its members, with special focus upon those under the age of 18.

For the purpose of this policy, children are defined as any young person under the age of 18.

If you or your child has any problems or concerns, you or they should discuss these with any club official you or they feel confident with.

## Responsibilities for children & young people, before during & after club sessions

Parents/guardians should be aware that some club sessions take place in pools where changing facilities are shared.

Open water activities may take place where there are no discreet changing facilities, and the general public have right of access.

Parents of young people must be present at all times during training at open water sites.

Whereas the club takes responsibility for children & young people during training sessions in and around the pool it cannot be held responsible for members before or after training sessions, in changing rooms and common areas

All club members, Reef Scuba Dive School staff and parents/guardians have a shared duty of care and if they see any suspicious behaviour they should report any incident Reef Scuba Dive School staff or Club Committee members trained under the NSPCC 'Child Protection in Sport' programme.

## Before Club Training Sessions

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children at the pool area – there is no dedicated life guard.

Parents/guardians should accompany their child if they have any concerns about their welfare in the changing rooms.

Parents/guardians should not leave their children at Club venues unless they are under the direct supervision of a Club official.

## During Club Sessions

While a child or young person is training he/she remains the responsibility, under the duty of care, of the person who is teaching him/her at that time on behalf of the Club.

If a young person goes out of the pool or classroom area, or out of direct sight when participating in open water venues (e.g. to go to the toilet), he/she should make the instructor aware of this.

If he/she fails to return in a reasonable time, or appears upset upon leaving the pool or lake side, dive school staff (or a Club official) or

## **Reef Scuba Welfare Policy**

parent/guardian to make sure that he/she is all right. It is best practice for two people to look for a missing young person.

If an incident occurs in the changing room between a young person and any other person it should be reported to Club Committee (if on a Club night) or Dive School staff. The Club and School have a duty to act upon that concern and investigate appropriately.

If the incident involves a person not associated with the Club, the Welfare Officer will be made aware and consideration given as to whether the statutory agencies need informing.

### **After a pool session is completed**

Parents/guardians should accompany their child if they have any concerns about their welfare in the changing rooms.

### **Taking moving images of children and young people during club sessions**

Club management may from time to time wish to record images of a member diving at a Club session to show them how they are performing in order to highlight any errors and to assist in dive skill development.

If the management believes this would assist the young diver they will obtain written permission of the parent/guardian to do so in advance. The parent/guardian must attend whilst such recording takes place.

If there are any concerns during the session recording will cease and not be used.

After it has served its purpose, the recording will be destroyed unless wider consent has been obtained. In the latter case, images will be securely stored in electronic format, and destroyed in line with Reef Scuba retention policy guidelines.

### **Photographing of children and young people**

The publishing of a photograph of a young diver under 18 either in the press, or on the Club website will only be done with parents/guardians consent.

Photographic details will not include the young diver's name.

A parent or guardian has the right to refuse to have their own children photographed.

Reef Scuba recommend that a record is made of the name and address of any spectator who wishes to use recording equipment to record images at a pool or open water session.

### **Transporting Young People**

Reef Scuba will not arrange transport for young divers to or from pool or open water sessions in the cars of Dive School staff or Club committee without documented consent of a parent or guardian.

Please note that neither the school nor Club has dedicated insurance to transport students.