



## **Safeguarding Policy**

**As defined in the Children Act 1989, for the purposes of this policy, anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child.**

The RS Class Association is committed to safeguarding children from physical, sexual and emotional harm, neglect or bullying. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child are paramount and that any child, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, has a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

The RS Class Association aims to support event clubs in their creation of a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.

A child competitor and their parent/guardian/legally responsible adult must complete an RS Class Association Under 18 Consent Form and hand this into the event race management team at event registration.

Please refer to the safeguarding policy of the specific event club which is hosting the Open Meeting.

The RS Class Association recognises that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children. So if you have any concerns about an under 18 competitor at an RS Class Association organised event please contact Clare Sargent at [clare@rs-association.com](mailto:clare@rs-association.com)

For further information contact the RYA Safeguarding Officer [safeguarding@rya.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rya.org.uk)