

## Mid Sussex Triathlon Club Policy Statement on Safeguarding Youth Members

Mid Sussex Triathlon Club (MSTC) has incorporated a Youth member group which allows members aged 16 – 17yrs to join before becoming senior members (18yrs and above). This level of membership enables youths to train in all senior club sessions. A key priority for the club is to ensure those youth members enjoy their training and participation in Triathlon in a safe and fun environment. This statement is relevant to that group.

The club acknowledges and adheres to the guidance for coaches as laid out in the 'British Triathlon Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy', and we recommend that this is read by all coaches and parents. Coaches, parents and triathletes are expected to understand their responsibilities in ensuring all members are safe and enjoy their training and participation.

<https://www.britishtriathlon.org/about-us/safeguarding>

Practise principles:

- To ensure that all training schedules are based on the needs and interests of the young people, not the parents, coaches or club.
- To challenge any inappropriate or dangerous behaviour exhibited by participants, parents or coaches.
- To avoid overly physical contact with the young people.
- To coach in an open environment and never on a one-to-one basis or unobserved.
- To ensure parents are fully aware of the nature of the training and sport participation involved in the Youth membership.
- To seek consent from parents for relevant aspects including membership, publication of personal information, social media and Open Water Swimming.
- To encourage parents to take an interest in their child's participation in the club and attend if they wish.
- To, wherever possible, obtain additional consent from parents before any first aid or medical treatment is sought. However, this shouldn't unnecessarily delay the administering of any treatment required.

All members including coaches, committee members and also parents should be aware of whom to contact if there is a safeguarding concern. Anyone with information of a disclosure, allegation or concern about the welfare of a child or young person relevant to the club should report this immediately either to:

The Welfare Officer – Jean Fish  
A committee member  
Childline – 0800 1111  
NSPCC helpline – 0808 8005000