

## **The Schools' Head of the River Race (SHORR) 2025 Welfare Policy**

The Organising Committee of Schools Head of the river race believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants are paramount, whether as competitors or as spectators, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British Rowing requirements. It acknowledges that everyone, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, have equal rights to safety and protection and that special measures are required to protect children and young people and adults at risk. 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 the race in a safe environment.
- are protected from abuse while participating/attending the race or outside of the activity.

The SHORR policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the race. 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 wellbeing of participants, officials, volunteers and spectators.
- ensure all personnel understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and welfare and have undertaken appropriate training.
- ensure all personnel dealing with minors in rowing are aware of the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.
- ensure the Event Safety Advisor is aware of this Policy Statement and Safety plan.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of welfare incidents/concerns of abuse and that support is 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.
- do their best to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation - a designated Event Welfare Officer will be appointed annually and is responsible for receiving and managing any concern/reports with the appropriate bodies (British Rowing, Local Authorities, the NSPCC and/or the Police).

The Event Welfare Officer for 2025 will be Vikki Filsell. They can be contacted using the email [vikki10k@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vikki10k@hotmail.co.uk).

These contact details will be posted on the competition website and they can be contacted via any event official during the event as well. To report an allegation or concern, please contact the Event Welfare Officer Vikki Filsell.

The only volunteers who may have substantial, unsupervised access to children are listed below. 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.

- Event Medical Team
- The Event Welfare Officer

### **Responsibility of clubs**

It is a condition of entry to the SHORR that every crew shall have a named coach or responsible adult. 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.