



## Sapphire Coast Outrigger Canoe Club (SCOCC)

### 'Commitment to Child/Young Person Safety' statement

*SCOCC is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people that are involved in our Club, and to creating and maintaining a positive, safe and inclusive Club culture for our members and the wider community.*

*Our policies and procedures seek to address risks to child safety and to establish child safe culture and practices.*

#### **1. We are committed to keeping children & young people safe.**

- (a) Through the 'Safeguarding Children and Young People' Policy, we document our clear commitment to keeping children & young people safe from harm, risk of harm, abuse and neglect
- (b) We provide access to our 'Commitment to Child & Young Person safety' statement on our website
- (c) We are guided by policies, procedures and resources from the Office of Sport; Office of the Children's Guardian; eSafety Commissioner; Sport Integrity Australia and Play by the Rules, and use the Child Safe Standards to underpin how we keep children safe.

#### **2. We promote inclusion, respect and diversity.**

We uphold the rights of all children to participate to their full capacity, regardless of their gender, race, ability or cultural background. We use inclusive program design to support them to participate safely in our sport.

#### **3. We create a culturally safe sporting environment.**

We welcome all children and families, treat all members as individuals, and would foster equitable, respectful engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

#### **4. Our members know the behaviour we expect.**

- (a) We ensure that each person involved in our Club understands the behaviour we expect in relation to keeping children & young people safe from abuse and neglect through our Code of Conduct

(b) We are guided by Sports Integrity Australia policies and fact sheets which outlines our expectations for behaviour towards children & young people, and provides clear information and procedures to support their safety. Much of this information is on our website.

## **5. We prioritise the safety of the children & young people who paddle with adults.**

All adults who paddle with the juniors are requested to apply for a Working with Children Check (WWCC) which is then verified.

## **6. Information to members regarding our commitment to child safety.**

All members have online access to a range of information and supporting documents that aim to identify and prevent behaviour that may be harmful to children and young people. These supporting documents have been developed to guide appropriate behaviour and to create, maintain and improve a child safe environment. They include the 'Safeguarding Children and Young People' policy and 'Responding to Risk of Abuse and Harm to Children and Young People' procedure (on page 11 of the above-mentioned policy).

## **7. We encourage the involvement of Children/Young People and their parents.**

(a) We involve and communicate with children & young people and their families in developing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. We provide information to children & young people and their parents about our commitment to child safety and how the Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) can support them; we encourage parents of the juniors to attend our monthly Committee and member meetings, and have them sign the 'Code of Conduct' that outlines the behaviour we expect of all members, both adults and children. We respect diversity and seek to facilitate effective communication with all members.

## **8. Our members understand their responsibility for reporting Child Abuse.**

(a) Information about and the process for how to respond to suspected child abuse is on our website – see page 11 of the 'Safeguarding Children and Young People' policy ('Responding to Risk of Abuse and Harm to Children and Young People' procedure).

We expect adults to -

- i. Immediately report abuse or neglect and any concerns with policies, practices or the behaviour of members as per our policies and procedures
- ii. If any allegation, disclosure or concern regarding child abuse occurs, we will take immediate appropriate action and monitor responses.

## **9. We maintain and improve our policies and practices.**

(a) We are committed to maintaining and improving our policies, procedures, and practices to keep children & young people safe from neglect and abuse

(b) We have assigned responsibility for regularly maintaining and improving our policies and procedures to Fran Bowery

(c) We have created a Risk Management Plan to identify and document potential risks to children & young people, including ways to mitigate these risks (April 2025)

(d) We will undertake a formal review of the Risk Management Plan, at least annually, or more often if the need is identified, to identify and document these potential risks.