



Thurso Amateur Swimming Club



## Child Protection Policy Statement

The General Committee of Management (GCM) of Thurso Amateur Swimming Club has adopted this Statement to meet its obligations under the Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

The GCM recognises that child protection should not be treated in isolation – we will take on board guidance given by the Highland Child Protection Committee and will address the selection of volunteers by doing the following:

- 1 We accept that it is our responsibility as a group to check that all adults with regular access to children have been appropriately vetted.
- 2 We will ask for names of two referees who will be prepared to provide a written reference, and who may be contacted personally.
- 3 We will interview prospective volunteers.
- 4 We will note at interview any previous relevant experience of volunteers.
- 5 We will carry out a probationary period for all volunteers.

The GMC believes that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. In our Club, if we have suspicions about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well being, we will take action.

All volunteers are encouraged to share concerns with the Club's Designated Officer. If the situation is clearly an urgent case, the child is too frightened to go home or you have serious doubts about the child's safety, contact Social Work Services or Police immediately. If your concerns are more general about a child's welfare, then discuss these with the Club's Designated Officer. The Designated Officer should then make a referral to the Designated Officer, Social Work who will make the necessary arrangements. It is important that all volunteers and staff communicate concerns accurately. To this end, volunteers will follow the procedures below:

- 1 Upon receipt of any information from a child or suspicious, it is necessary to record what they have seen, heard or know accurately at the time the event occurs;
- 2 Share their concerns with the Designated Officer for the Club and agree action to take;
- 3 Never investigate.

If you have concerns you must act – it may be the final piece of the jigsaw that is needed to protect that child – or you may prevent further children from being hurt.

Both the local Area Social Work Services and Police Office telephone numbers are listed below along with the Club's Designated Officers.

TASC Designated Officers	01847 831701	Mrs S Bain
	01847 831336	Mrs K Cartwright
Area Social Work Office	01847 893835	Emergency only - 0345 697284
Police Station	01847 893222	