

Maldon Gig Rowing Club

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Reviewed July 2016

Introduction to the Maldon Gig Rowing Club

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Membership of the Maldon Gig Rowing Club (“MGRC”) is open to all, including those with mental and physical disabilities.

This Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy is designed to guide MGRC members in dealing with people with disabilities and to protect people with disabilities taking part in any activity connected with MGRC.

In formulating this policy, MGRC committee has had the benefit of reading the British Rowing Vulnerable Adults Policy. This contains important guidance and insights on the issues involved and is compulsory reading for the MGRC Safeguarding Officer and others who may become significantly involved in dealing with vulnerable adults. The current size and resources of MGRC and its current lack of experience of applicants with disabilities mean that the British Rowing methodology cannot be applied by us. This makes it more important that we are aware of the issues and prepared to welcome such applicants and to deal with the special challenges which that may represent.

This policy is therefore designed as an appropriate policy to meet our requirements to achieve the above.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the MGRC Safeguarding Officer in conjunction with MGRC committee.

Maldon Gig Rowing Club Safeguarding

Vulnerable Adults Policy

- 1.1 MGRC recognises that making its activities open to vulnerable adults and safeguarding their welfare is important. MGRC has a duty of care to vulnerable adults participating in any activities organised by the club and will take reasonable steps to provide an appropriate safe environment for those activities.
- 1.2 MGRC acknowledges that a “one size fits all” policy is inappropriate to this issue and that its lack of experience in dealing with vulnerable adults means that a policy adapted to the individuals who participate in MGRC activities is called for.
- 1.3 Upon receiving an application for membership or to participate in a taster session or otherwise becoming aware of any person with a disability seeking to participate in MGRC activities, the membership secretary or other person with whom contact is made will inform the club Safeguarding Officer.
- 1.4 The club Safeguarding Officer will carry out a risk assessment, based on the applicant’s disability, in consultation with the applicant and/or his/her carer(s). This will be done in such a way as will be as welcoming and non-intrusive to the person concerned as possible but will seek to identify such steps as are reasonably practical to safeguard the vulnerable person, not forgetting the safety of others participating with them in activities organized by the club.
- 1.5 The risk assessment will take account of all relevant matters, including the following:
 - The nature of the disability
 - Any disability affecting boarding or leaving the boat and quay, the ability to row, stability within the boat, emergency action, safety of other crew members
 - Mental capacity to understand and follow instructions
 - And such other matters as the Safeguarding Officer considers appropriate.

1.6 Arising from the risk assessment, the Safeguarding Officer will use best endeavours to enable the person's safe participation in club activities. The Safeguarding Officer's recommendations may include:

That the person's disability is such that no abnormal action is required

Selection and briefing of the coach/skipper

Selection and briefing of the crew

Selection of the course

Stipulation of use of safety equipment

That the boat be accompanied by a safety boat

Inclusion of the person's carer or another suitable person in the crew or boat
and such other matters as the welfare officer considers appropriate.

Except to any extent that it is manifestly inappropriate, the MGRC Child Safeguarding Policy will apply to the Club's dealings with vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding Officer Contact details.

- Phone contact: 07884268053
- Email: info@maldongigclub.org.uk for the attention of: Safeguarding Officer