



NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE YOUTH SAILING ASSOCIATION

Equity Policy

Version History	Date	Changes	Approved By
2026_1.0	13/02/2026	First Issue	FS/DM



1. North East & Yorkshire Youth Sailing Association Equity Policy

**We use the term "Equity" as this goes a step further than "Equality". The term "Equity" aims to promote the idea that individual people sometimes might need an additional helping hand to get the things that they need in order to feel as though they belong to a particular community – which could be described as "breaking down systemic barriers". Whereas equality only suggests that people should get exactly the same treatment regardless of their individual circumstances.*

NEYRSA respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equitably within the context of our sport, regardless of religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, sex, pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership, disability, race, and age.

For Scotland, Socioeconomic Status is classed as an additional.

NEYRSA is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from the threat of discrimination, victimisation, intimidation, harassment and abuse. We will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to our disciplinary procedures and will ensure that equity is incorporated across all aspects of our development.

NEYRSA acknowledges and adopts the following UK Sport statement for sports equality:

"Equality is about recognising and removing the barriers faced by people involved or wanting to be involved in sport. It is about changing the culture of sport to one that values diversity and enables the full involvement of disadvantaged groups in every aspect of sport".

NEYRSA will ensure that anyone accessing the sport will be:

- o Able to participate to the full extent of their own ambitions and abilities
- o Assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected
- o Assured of participating in an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of all participants are recognised and valued.

All NEYRSA members have a shared responsibility to challenge any discriminatory language or behaviour and promote a fair and equitable environment for all.



NEYYSA Anti-Discrimination Statement

Our Commitment on Discrimination

NEYYSA is committed to promoting equity and diversity in our policies, practices and procedures and in influencing others to do the same in our dealings with volunteers, members, participants and any members of the public who are accessing our premises and undertaking our services.

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NEYYSA is committed to complying in both letter and spirit with all anti-discrimination legislation and associated codes of practice in force either now or in the future.

NEYYSA will:

1. Treat everyone equitably and with the same attention, courtesy and respect regardless of their religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, sex, pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership, disability, race, and age.

For Scotland, Socioeconomic Status is classed as an additional.

2. Aim to eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation by:
 - o Building cultures of trust, where anyone experiencing discrimination feels confident to come forward and know that they will be listened to, and their concerns acted upon
 - o Show zero tolerance of discrimination, victimisation and harassment
 - o Encourage and enable all volunteers, participants and members to act and stand up to discrimination and intervene if they become witness to such actions
3. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it by:
 - o Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
 - o Fostering good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
 - o Embedding good diversity and inclusion practice into our decision-making processes
 - o Ensure the clubs/centres [delete as appropriate] commitment to diversity and inclusion is communicated through internal practices and externally

By implementing this policy NEYYSA aims to ensure that we are providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all who wish to undertake boating and social activities within our centre.



NEYYSA Speech Policy

Social media is a brilliant tool that enables people to connect with each other, share their experiences and inspire each other to get active and take part.

Unfortunately, it has also created an environment in which far too many people feel it is okay to make vile or threatening comments, with little respect for individuals, groups or consequences. It is our responsibility to protect people in our community both in person and online, and to play an active role in shutting down hateful comments and profiles.

This document outlines guidance on what to do when someone has posted a hateful comment on one of our social media platforms aimed at one or more of the people in our community.

There can never be a 'one size fits all' approach to hate speech, so we should review each on a case-by-case basis before acting or reacting.

What do we mean by hate speech?

Hate speech is typically directed towards another person or group on the grounds of protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010; *age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation*, with the intention to harass, distress, offend and/or threaten.

However, hate speech could be directed towards anyone, at any time, for any reason at all, so it is important to be on the look-out for it at all times in order to shut it down.

For us, this would be any negative comments directed at the members in our association across any of our social media channels. We also include any comments that may be considered grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false.

Key principles

- ***Don't be abusive***: make sure your words and any content you share aren't abusive or derogatory to others.
- ***Don't spread hate***: don't give voice to hate speech, follow the steps below to log it, report it and delete it.
- ***React promptly***: responding to old comments risks reviving a conversation and have an adverse effect.
- ***Be consistent***: in how you tackle hate speech.

What do we do when we see hate speech?

1. ***Log it***

Screenshot the post and add it to a hate speech log. This will help to see any themes or reoccurring topics and can be a helpful reference when dealing with new incidents.

2. ***Report it***

Use platform reporting tools to report the post. There is usually a link on or near the post to report the content. More info:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

If you think the comment may breach the law (e.g., there is a specific threat of violence aimed at an individual or it is grossly offensive) and you think it originates in the UK, you should report it to the police. This can be done through the [True Vision online portal](#), a government-funded website designed for reporting online hate crime which will pass your report to your local police force.

3. ***Delete it***

If the comment is offensive, indecent or obscene, delete it.

Different social media platforms use different methods to be able to remove hate speech. We may also block the user or the account from our social media. This may depend on a number of factors but make sure to at least think about it.



4. Respond

In some incidences it may be appropriate to respond to comments to demonstrate that you do not condone hate speech.

If you decide to respond, responses should be drafted and signed off by your comms lead and at least one other person, ideally an EDI (equality, diversity, and inclusion) lead, and another senior committee member to ensure diversity of thought and proper consideration.

Responses should:

- *Not personally attack the original poster*
- *Be consistent with the club's tone of voice and stance around EDI*
- *Express support for those under attack*
- *Be civil, respectful and polite*

5. Monitor

Continue to update the hate speech log to track how many comments are received, and how each incident is dealt with.

This should be reviewed periodically to decide whether any specific messaging, guidance or content on certain topics or issues should be created.

Other comments and posts

We might see some posts that contain hate speech in response to posts from other people or organisations similar to ours.

Just because they are not on our accounts, does not mean we should ignore them.

If the comment is in relation to our community, we have a responsibility to act. We will;

1. Log it

Screenshot the post and add it to a hate speech log.

2. Contact the account being targeted

Contact the person or organisation through the channel (e.g. Twitter direct message), or via email. Let them know you've seen the post and can support them as needed.

Advise them to follow the steps above and encourage them to develop a policy like this one if they don't have one already.

3. Report it

If you believe the comment contains hate speech, report the post using the platform reporting function or report it to the police if appropriate.

4. Monitor

Continue to update the hate speech log.