



STRONGER TOGETHER

Youth Leading a Healthier, Kinder, Greener Future

RYLA 2026–2027 Safeguarding & Youth Protection Standard

1. Purpose & Scope

This Safeguarding Standard establishes the minimum required protections to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of all youth participating in RYLA 2026–2027. It applies to:

- All RYLA events, sessions, breakout rooms, online platforms, and communications
- All adults involved in planning, delivering, or supervising RYLA
- All youth participants, including Interact, Rotaract, and invited students
- All countries participating in the district-wide RYLA programme

This standard must be adopted in full by every country.

2. Safeguarding Principles

All adults must commit to:

- Zero tolerance for abuse, harassment, bullying, discrimination, or exploitation
- Do no harm - every decision must prioritize youth safety
- Transparency - no private or secret interactions with youth
- Accountability - all concerns must be reported immediately
- Respect & dignity - youth are treated as valued individuals
- Inclusivity - safe participation for all genders, cultures, abilities, and identities





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3. Mandatory Requirements for All Adults

All adults must complete:

- Online Youth Protection Module

Training must be completed no later than 30 days before the event.

Adult–Youth Interaction Rules

- No adult may be alone with a youth at any time
- Use the two-adult rule for all supervision
- No private messaging, DMs, or personal social media contact
- All communication must occur on official RYLA channels
- Physical contact must be appropriate, non-invasive
- Adults must avoid any behaviour that could be misinterpreted





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4. Participant Safety Requirements

4.1 Registration & Consent

Every youth must have:

- Signed parent/guardian consent
- Completed medical & emergency form
- Photo/video release
- Contact information for emergency response

These options will be included in the registration form

4.2 Medical & Emergency Protocols

- On-site first aid and trained personnel
- Emergency evacuation plan
- Access to medical facilities





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5. Code of Conduct

5.1 Youth Code of Conduct

Youth must agree to:

- Respect others
- No bullying, harassment, discrimination or inappropriate conduct
- No drugs, alcohol, or weapons
- Follow instructions of facilitators
- Report concerns immediately

5.2 Adult Code of Conduct

Adults must:

- Model professional behaviour
- Maintain boundaries
- Avoid favouritism
- Use inclusive language
- Never share personal contact information with minors
- Never transport youth alone





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6. Reporting & Incident Management

6.1 What Must Be Reported

- Any suspicion or disclosure of abuse
- Bullying or harassment
- Boundary violations
- Unsafe behaviour
- Medical emergencies
- Breaches of conduct

(Use the Incident Reporting Form)

6.2 How to Report

Every country must have:

- A Safeguarding Officer
- A RYLA Incident Reporting Form (See RYLA website)
- A confidential reporting channel

Reports must be made within 1 hour of the incident.





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6.3 Response Protocol

1. Ensure immediate safety
2. Notify Safeguarding Officer
3. Document incident
4. Inform parents/guardians (when appropriate)
5. Escalate to District RYLA Chair
6. Follow legal reporting requirements in the country

7. Supervision Standards

- Minimum ratio: 1 adult: 10 youth
- Gender-balanced supervision required
- Night supervision for residential RYLA must include two adults awake at all times
- No adult enters the youth sleeping quarters
- Curfews must be enforced





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8. Venue & Environmental Safety

8.1 Physical Venue

- Safety inspection completed
- Fire exits clearly marked
- Secure boundaries
- Adequate lighting
- Safe transportation arrangements

9. Data Protection & Privacy

- Youth data stored securely
- Access limited to authorized personnel
- No sharing of personal information
- Photos/videos used only with consent
- No tagging youth on public social media





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11. District Oversight

The District RYLA Team will

- Provide training materials
- Review incident reports
- Support country coordinators
- Ensure standardization across all 17 countries

