

Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

GENERAL

It is important that all Club Members, Examiners, Trainers, Trainees, Parents and Spectators are aware of Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection issues. It is the responsibility of every member of Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club to ensure that no Child or Vulnerable adult suffers from any type of abuse. The British Model Flying Association (BMFA) has a policy document "The Promotion of Welfare and care of children and vulnerable adults in model flying, policy, procedure and guidelines". This document should be read in conjunction with this Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club policy. A copy of this BMFA policy can be found on the Hedgehoppers Model Flying club WEB site.

A parent, guardian, or someone who has written authority to bring the junior or vulnerable adult to the site and supervise them must accompany them at all times. A copy of the written authority must be lodged with the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Chairman and will be retained for future record.

All Senior Members will receive a copy of this policy and must sign and return the confirmation slip confirming that they have read understood and will comply with this Protection Policy. This confirmation will be held in the clubs records.

The safety and well being of all is of paramount importance and all concerns will be taken seriously, abuse can take many forms and the following definitions must be noted: -

- ◆ **PHYSICAL INJURY** - Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child or Vulnerable adult whom they are looking after. Physical Abuse in a sporting situation might occur when the nature and intensity of the training exceeds the capacity of the child's or Vulnerable adults level of maturity.
- ◆ **EMOTIONAL ABUSE** - Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child or Vulnerable adult such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the individuals emotional development. It may involve conveying to the individual that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve causing children or Vulnerable adults frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children or Vulnerable adults. Emotional abuse in a sporting situation

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may be where a child or Vulnerable adult is subjected to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.

- ◆ **SEXUAL ABUSE** - Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or Vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child or Vulnerable adult is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. Rape and buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children or vulnerable adults in looking at, or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- ◆ **NEGLECT** - Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's or vulnerable adults basic physical and/or psychological needs. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child or Vulnerable adults from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's or vulnerable adults basic emotional needs. Neglect in a sporting situation might occur when children or vulnerable adults are exposed to undue cold or extreme heat conditions whilst training.

SUSPICIONS AND ACTION

If anyone has any suspicions or recognises any signs of child or Vulnerable adult abuse, the following procedures will be followed:

The incident or allegation must be recorded by the club's chairman, who will keep a record of:

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| ◆ Name of child or Vulnerable adult | ◆ Parent / carer's details |
| ◆ The address, relevant telephone numbers | ◆ What happened / what was seen |
| ◆ When it occurred | ◆ Who else, if anyone, was there |
| ◆ What was said by parties involved | ◆ Record details of any evidence (e.g. bruises, cuts, change in behaviour) |
| ◆ Who has been told about it | ◆ Who was involved in the incident and in what way |
| ◆ Was the child or Vulnerable adult able to say what happened, how did they describe it | ◆ Have the parent(s) been advised |

It must be stressed that when dealing with allegations of abuse, tact, diplomacy and confidentiality are required. However, if a child or vulnerable adult confides in anyone who is in attendance at any Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club event of

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alleged abuse, this must be reported to the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Committee. Under no circumstances must you promise to keep these secret. It is also crucial that you stay calm and do not rush to any conclusions or take inappropriate actions. Always discuss or bring this to the attention of a Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Committee member. On completion of the above report, the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Committee in conjunction with the reporter would make the decision to which action should be followed.

The Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Committee in conjunction with the reporter will if it is felt appropriate take the following action: -

- ◆ Discuss concerns with the child's or vulnerable adults parents/carers.
- ◆ Contact NSPCC Child Protection Helpline.
- ◆ Contact the Emergency Duty Team Leader at Social Services.
- ◆ Contact the Police.

Where there are concerns, or where allegations have been made, it is natural to feel very apprehensive about making contact with the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Committee, the Social Services or the Police, over the fear of being wrong. It is very possible that there is some other explanation for the cause of concern but individuals should not be afraid to act. Every child or Vulnerable adult has the right to be free from the damaging effects and we cannot afford to take the chance in not reporting any concern. A failure to act could have serious detrimental effects to the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult

Please complete the slip below, cut it off and return it to the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Chairman.

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I hereby confirm I have received a copy of the Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club child and vulnerable adult protection policy. I confirm I have read and will comply with this policy document.

Members Name:

Hedgehoppers Model Flying Club Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Signature:

Date:

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