

ASSOCIATION  
OF  
NORTH  
EAST  
MIDLANDS  
MOTOR  
CLUBS

CHILD PROTECTION  
POLICY

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## INTRODUCTION

Please note for the purposes of this document a child is defined by The Children's Act 1989 as anyone under the age of 18.

All sporting organisations which make provision for children/young people must ensure that:

- ? The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
  
- ? All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
  
- ? All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
  
- ? All staff (paid or unpaid) working in motor sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
  
- ? Staff/volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect the dignity and spirit of all competitors, marshals and organisers including children/young people.

Treat all children/young people fairly.

Avoid contact or conduct that may be interpreted as having sexual connotations or which motor sport defines as inappropriate.

Do not take part in or tolerate behaviour that frightens, embarrasses or demoralises a child/young person or that negatively affects their self esteem.

Do not tolerate acts of aggression.

Work towards eliminating harassment and abuse from motor sport environments.

Be prepared to intervene if a child/young person is being abused or neglected.

Practice fair play both during and outside of all motor sports activities e.g. show regard for all staff, volunteers, competitors, marshals and organisers and abide by the rules and officials decision.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Association of North East Midlands Motor Clubs (hereafter referred to as ANEMMC) have a duty of care to safeguard all children/young people involved in the activities of ANEMMC from harm. All children/young people have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children/young people and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. ANEMMC will ensure the safety and protection of all children/young people involved with ANEMMC through adherence to the child protection guidelines adopted by ANEMMC.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children's Act 1989)

### Policy Aims.

The aim of ANEMMC Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice.

- ? Providing children/young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of ANEMMC.
  
- ? Allow all staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.
  
- ? The Child Protection Officer for ANEMMC is,  
Avril Clarke Tel. Home 01724 342821 Mobile 07979 288716

## PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgement about the appropriate action to take. Having the right system in place can help all concerned.

Potential abusers have great difficulty operating within a well run system with knowledgeable staff/volunteers.

Abuse can occur within the home/school as well as within outside activities.

Some individuals will become actively involved in motor sport to gain contact with children/young people and harm them.

Any staff/volunteers that have regular contact with children/young people can play a crucial role in identifying potentially harmful situations.

## GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

All staff/volunteers should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations.

- ? Plan all ANEMMC work so as to minimize situations where the abuse of children/young people can occur.
- ? Appoint a member of the team to fulfil the role of Child Protection Co-ordinator, to whom all allegations or incidents are reported. This person is Avril Clarke.
- ? Advise all staff/volunteers of the signs to watch for that indicate possible abuse.
- ? Always try to work in an open environment, and do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children/young people.
- ? Treat all children/young people equally and with respect and dignity.
- ? Make Motor Sport fun and enjoyable.
- ? Be a good role model.
- ? Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- ? Keep a written record of any injury or incident that occurs.
- ? Issue guidelines on how to deal with the discovery of abuse and the procedures to be followed.
- ? Try to avoid taking children/young people in your car. If this situation occurs get written consent from the parent/guardian.

## PRACTICES TO BE AVOIDED.

- ? Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including 'horseplay'.
- ? Allowing or engaging in any form of inappropriate touching.
- ? Making sexually suggestive comments to a child/young person, even in fun.
- ? Reduce a child/young person to tears as a form of control.
- ? Allow allegations made by a child/young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.

## USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC/FILMING EQUIPMENT

If a child/young person is named avoid using their photograph.

If a photograph is used avoid using the full name of the child/young person.

Ask permission from the child/young person to use the photograph.

Always get the parent/guardian's permission to use an image of a child/young person.

Always issue the Media person with identification which must be worn at all times.

Do not allow unsupervised access for photo shoots/filming at events where a child/young person is involved.

Do not approve/allow photo/filming sessions outside the event or at a child/young person's home.

## RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS/SUSPICIONS.

If a child/young person reports an allegation or complaint and you need advice try Childline 0800 1111 or NSPCC 0808 800 5000. Social Services 01522 532244 or out of hours 01529 413366.

### Always.

- ? Stay calm and ensure that the child/young person is in a place of safety and that they feel safe.
- ? Show and tell the child/young person you are taking what s/he says seriously.
- ? Reassure and stress that they are not to blame.
- ? Be honest, explain you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- ? Make a note of what the child/young person has said as soon as possible.
- ? Maintain confidentiality, only tell others if it will help protect the child.

### **Never.**

- ? Rush into action that may be inappropriate.
- ? Make promises you cannot keep.
- ? Ask inappropriate questions, which may jeopardise any impending police investigation.
- ? Take sole responsibility. Contact someone else, so you can begin to protect the child/young person and gain support for yourself.
- ? Report to the appointed Child Protection Officer or person in charge.

## COMMON QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE USED.

THE DO's – open questions and statements. Use these to gain information.

- ? Would you like to tell me what happened?
- ? Can you tell me where/when this happened?
- ? Would you like to tell me who was involved?
- ? Can you tell me what happened next?
- ? Is there anything else you would like to tell me?
- ? Thank you for telling me this but you do realise that I will have to do something about it?

THE DON'T'S – leading/closed questions/comments. Avoid these as they can 'put words in your mouth/.

- ? Was it your parent/friend who did this to you?
- ? Are you sure that's what happened?
- ? Why did you let them do that to you?
- ? Why do you think this happened?
- ? I expect you must be very upset about this?
- ? This can be our little secret.

## INCIDENTS THAT MUST BE REPORTED/RECORDED.

You must always be careful not to 'lead' the child/young person. Let them do the talking.

If any of the following occur you should report it to a colleague and record the incident.

- ? If you accidentally hurt a child/young person.
- ? If he/she seems distressed in any way.
- ? If a child/young person seems to be sexually aroused by any of your actions.
- ? If a child/young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have said/done.

## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children are harmed, usually by adults, and often by people they know and trust. It refers to the damage done to a child/young person's physical or mental health. Children/young people can be abused within or outside their family, at school and within a sports or community environment. Child abuse can take many forms.

Physical abuse – where adults or other children

- ? Physically hurt or injure children/young people (e.g. hitting, shaking, biting etc. )
- ? Give alcohol, inappropriate drugs or poison.
- ? Attempt to suffocate or drown

Neglect – includes situations in which adults

- ? Fail to meet a child/young person's basic physical needs ( e.g. food, warmth, appropriate clothing )
- ? Consistently leave children/young people alone and unsupervised.
- ? Fail or refuse to give children/young people love, affection or attention.
- ? Neglect, in a motor sports situation, where the child/young person is put in a position of danger.

Sexual abuse – boys and girls are sexually abused when adults (male or female) use them to meet their own sexual needs. This could include

- ? Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex or fondling.
- ? Strong pornographic books, photos, videos or taking photos/videos for pornographic purposes.
- ? Sport situations which involve physical contact could create situations where sexual abuse may occur.

Emotional abuse – can occur in a number of ways. For example where

- ? There is persistent lack of love or affection.
- ? There is constant over protection which prevents children/young people from socialising.
- ? Children/young people are frequently being shouted at or taunted.
- ? There is neglect, physical or sexual abuse.

Bullying.

Bullying can be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. The bully may often be another child/young person. Although anyone can be a target of bullying victims are typically shy, sensitive or perhaps anxious or insecure. Sometimes they are singled out for physical reasons, disability or different race, faith or culture.

## SIGNS OF ABUSE.

Here are some typical signs which could trigger your suspicions

- ? Unexplained or suspicious injuries e.g. cuts, burns, bruises.
- ? Sexually explicit language or actions.
- ? Sudden change in behaviour.
- ? Child/young person describes what appears to be an abusive act.
- ? Any change observed over a long period of time (e.g. losing weight, dirty or unkempt appearance)
- ? General distrust or avoidance of adults.
- ? Unreasonable reaction to normal physical contact.
- ? Difficulty making friends.

Please note a child/young person could be displaying these signs and not be abused. Also a child/young person may not show any signs but you may feel that something is wrong.

Talk over your concerns with someone but remember it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse.