

Guidance Notes for the Moravian Orienteering Club Child Protection Policy

Moravian Orienteering Club has adopted the Scottish Orienteering Association Child Protection Policy. The following notes are intended for guidance on some areas that will help the club fulfil the policy.

1. The PVG Scheme

All members who perform “regulated work” with children as part of their role in the club need to be a member of the PVG Scheme (Protection of Vulnerable Groups). “Regulated work” is paid or unpaid work in which the **normal** duties involve children, no matter the frequency. This can be teaching, caring for or supervising children, or it could mean being in sole charge of or having unsupervised access to children. It would include being a host parent. It does not include simple arrangements between friends.

It is an offence for someone who is barred from “regulated work” to do or seek to do that type of work. It is an offence for an organisation to take on an individual in “regulated work” if that person is barred.

In the Moravian Orienteering Club, most officials would not require a PVG Scheme Membership. Those that do include coaches, the development officer, child protection officer and, for instance, anyone who organises a club trip to an event which includes unaccompanied children.

2. Training In Child Protection

The club supports training in Safeguarding and Protecting children for members for whom it is appropriate and also for those who would like the training. This training is also an important contribution to a club culture in which children feel able to be open and know that they will be listened to.

3. Coaching

The club coaches adhere to the British Orienteering Code of Conduct for Coaches which can be found on the British Orienteering Federation website.

4. Club Organised Trips Away

The specific details of trip plans and a risk assessment should be made taking into account the age, maturity, number and gender of the children, together with the nature of the event, and travel/ accommodation options, such that the safety and well-being of children is the first priority. The organiser should inform parents of the detailed plan and obtain consent from parents. The organiser should also provide their own contact information and collect personal details, emergency contacts and relevant medical information for each participant. Ideally there should be at least 1 responsible adult for every 10 children over the age of 8yrs and a minimum of 2 adults in any group, at least one male and one female for a mixed gender group.

5. Social Media

The club has an official web page, Facebook pages (one public and one for members only) and a Twitter account. These sites are moderated for suitable content, both written and photographic by a nominated Moderator with suitable training in Safeguarding and Child Protection. Any content which could cause distress, embarrassment or offence will be removed. Similarly, any content which makes public a members private information, such as address, will be removed. The Moderator will report instances of online safeguarding concerns, including suspected grooming, bullying or inappropriate content, to the Club Child Protection Officer who will investigate as appropriate.

Coaches and other officials are advised not to accept “friend requests” on social media from children that they coach, and should avoid contacting children directly via email, text or telephone.

6. Photography

Images focusing on specific children will not be used in newspaper articles or other publicity, online or on social media sites unless permission has been granted by the parents or guardians of those in the images. Images containing larger groups including children will not name the individuals unless parental permission has been given.

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