

Club Child/Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is based on nationally recognised best practice standards as developed by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit. Having a proactive Club Safeguarding Officer is an integral requirement of this Code of Conduct.

Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct

MSVR, (“the Club”) is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club.

1. The Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people entrusted to its care and is committed to provide a safe environment for all members.
2. The Club confirms that it adheres to MCRCB/ACU Child/Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and procedures, practices and guidelines as published from time to time. The Club will follow the guidance of the Policy in the event of any concerns or allegations and without fail will report concerns as required by the Policy and procedures.
3. For the purposes of Safeguarding, a child is anyone under the age of 18. This provision reflects sexual offences legislation whereby any young person aged 16 or 17 may be influenced by participants in a position of trust or authority. Vulnerable adult is defined as any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of assistance by reason of mental or physical or learning impairment.
4. The key principles of this policy are as follows:
 - The welfare of the child is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration
 - Club events and activities that include young people will follow and adhere to MCRCB/ACU values
 - All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse or harm
 - All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously will be reported as required and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately and respecting relevant principles of confidentiality
5. The Club recognises that all children have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice. The Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved, in whatever capacity, at the Club.
6. The Club will implement and comply with the MCRCB/ACU Code of Conduct.
7. **The Club will appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO), normally The Secretary of the meeting or a person who is an official at the event,** to deal with any issues concerning Safeguarding and Child Protection.
8. If you witness or are aware of an incident where you are concerned that the welfare of a child/vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the CSO. If at any time you are not able to contact your CSO or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - Contact the ACU Compliance Officer 01788 566414 (neil@acu.org.uk)

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- Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
9. The Club will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, competitors, teams or officials will comply with all guidance and best practice as issued by MCRCB/ACU. Please note the definition of 'Participant' in the Safeguarding policy.
10. In summary, the following points are considered as best practice to create a safe, friendly and welcoming environment for children:
- Adults should display high standards of behaviour and refrain from pursuits considered inappropriate in front of children
 - Adults should avoid working in isolation with children and out of sight of parents, guardians or other volunteers.
 - Avoiding smoking in the presence of children if you are in a position of trust
11. The following are **NOT** acceptable and will be treated seriously by the Club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Club, MCRCB/ACU:
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs whilst responsible for children
 - Providing alcohol or illicit drugs to any person including children/young adults or allowing its supply
 - Humiliating or bullying children in person or through a third party or in any form of media including chat rooms or forums even where considered to be private or of limited access
 - Using obscene or inappropriate language
 - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child
 - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any young person less than 18 years of age or vulnerable adult where there is a position of trust
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material

With the exception of close family members or legal guardians, the following are **NOT** acceptable:

- Unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person
 - Sharing the same immediate accommodation, e.g. overnight room, with children or young persons when travelling away or at events
12. The Club will review this Code of Conduct annually.

There may be a number of other points Clubs may wish to add to this policy to take into account any matters which are specific to their Club.

Signed

Date