

East Anglian Cyclemotor Club

Encouraging and protecting children

Foreword

- The East Anglian Cyclemotor Club (EACC) recognises that the long-term future of its activities lies in encouraging the active participation of young people.
- As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.
- Current road traffic legislation allows children aged 16 years and over to ride a moped unaccompanied on public roads. The EACC aims to encourage children aged 16 years and over to take part in its events and aims to provide them with a safe environment for the responsible enjoyment of these activities.
- Children aged under 16 years may not legally drive a motor vehicle on public roads and, therefore, will participate in EACC events as passengers (eg: pillion riders). Therefore, children aged under 16 years will be admitted to EACC events provided that they are accompanied by an adult who is responsible for their behaviour, safety and well-being.



Child Protection Policy Statement

The EACC has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in the EACC from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account.

- the EACC will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in the EACC through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the EACC
- A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

Policy aims

The aim of the EACC Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the EACC.
- Allow club officials and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

Good practice guidelines

Club officials and volunteers are encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate.

Good practice means:

- Always working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication.
- Treating all young people and disabled adults equally with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with young people (eg it is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship).
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision making.
- Being an excellent role model.
- Making activities fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive responses rather than negative criticism.

- Ensuring that if any form of manual or physical support is required, it should be provided openly. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should always be carefully considered.
- Involving parents and carers wherever possible.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Requesting written parental consent if club officials are required to transport young people in their cars.

Practices to be avoided

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If a case arises where these situations are unavoidable (eg: the child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child), it should be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the club or the child's parents.

Otherwise, avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Taking or dropping off a child to an event.

Practices never to be sanctioned

The following should never be sanctioned. Club officials and volunteers will never:

- Disclose the names and addresses of children and young people on the club membership list.
- Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults that they can do for themselves.
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

Note: It may sometimes be necessary for club officials and volunteers to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or are disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents and the children involved. There is a need to be responsive to a person's reactions. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with him or her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing, or where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting a child. Avoid taking on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

Incidents that must be reported and recorded

If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a child.
- If he or she seems distressed in any manner.
- If a child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

Review

- The Policy and Guidelines as agreed are a live document, capable of being reviewed and amended according to need. For the sake of continuity and consistency, any review period other than that occasioned by changes in legislation should not be less than one year.
- The EACC welcomes any written comments or suggestions regarding the Policy and Guidelines, and their application, at any time.