ALPORT MODEL FLYING CLUB

POLICY FOR THE WELFARE AND CARE OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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Revision 1 02-Nov-19 to update Welfare Officer contact details

- A junior member is defined as being under 18 years of age.
- A vulnerable adult is defined as a person of 18 years of age or over but through mental or physical attributes requires a higher level of supervision than would be normally commensurate with an adult member.
- A responsible adult is defined as a parent/guardian who has the clearance, experience, knowledge and training commensurate with the type and degree of supervision required.
- Junior members must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision is to be commensurate with the junior member's age, maturity, capabilities and levels of experience.
- Junior members under the age of 14 years shall not start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless they are supervised by a responsible adult.
- No child or vulnerable adult shall undertake any activity which might place him or her at risk. In any event prior consultation with their parent, guardian or carer must take place if there is any doubt on the member's abilities to undertake a specific activity
- No senior club member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a child or a vulnerable adult.
- Notwithstanding the requirements of the previous paragraph, should a member discover a child or vulnerable adult that is unsupervised then he/she should assume responsibility for that person's safety in the first instance. The situation should then be rectified as soon as possible by seeking out the parent, guardian, carer or nominated supervisor. Any instance of such an occurrence is to be reported to the club Secretary as soon as possible and a record made of the occurrence.
- Whilst supervising children or vulnerable adults, members should avoid placing themselves in a position that could be open to misinterpretation or question in accordance with BMFA policy.
- Should any club member, parent, guardian, carer or the person themselves have concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults then he or she is to contact the club Welfare Officer or Secretary, or any of the help lines listed below.
- All club members are required to respect the rights and dignity of children and vulnerable adults and to promote their welfare.

"***Note to parents, guardians and carers:***
Whilst this Club has a moral and statutory duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure the general welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adult members, in particular during the actual act of model aircraft flying and associated pre-flight and post-flight procedures, the Club will not undertake the all encompassing responsibilities of those acting in the role of guardians or carers.
Should your child have any special medical or physical needs you are required to advise the Club in writing.
Should the Club wish to use a photographic image of your child, the Club will follow the guidelines laid down by the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit as detailed in the BMFA publication "The Promotion of Welfare and Care of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Model Flying". In addition, your written consent will be required for the Club to do so.

In addition the BMFA and this Club have specific rules and policies relating to children and vulnerable adults, as contained in this document and you are required to study it carefully.
The membership form must be countersigned by the parent or guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age or by the authorised carer of a vulnerable adult, thereby signifying acceptance of the conditions of membership.
Should you wish to discuss any issue, have any concerns or have suggestions on how we may improve our policies, then please contact the club Welfare Officer in writing.

INSTRUCTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The BMFA advocates that instructors, especially those working with children or vulnerable adults, must always comply with the principles of good, moral and ethical frameworks and exemplary standards of conduct.
In addition instructors should also comply with the following guidelines:

- Instructors should place the well-being and safety of the trainee above the development of performance. They should follow all of the BMFA's appropriate guidelines appertaining to instruction.
- Instructors should develop an appropriate working relationship with the trainees (especially children and vulnerable adults) based on mutual trust and respect. Instructors must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward nor abuse their position of trust.
- Instructors should encourage and guide trainees to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and standards of flying, adopting safe procedures.
- Flying instructors should hold either a BMFA approved instructor or BMFA registered club instructor qualification and ensure that their instruction and knowledge are to current best practice.
- Instructors must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are commensurate with the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual. Those activities which entail increased risks, such as starting an internal combustion engine by hand, must be carefully controlled and monitored to ensure that the trainee is in a position to reasonably undertake them.
- Instructors should at the outset clarify with the trainee exactly what is expected of him/her and what the trainee is entitled to expect from the instructor. In addition, it may be appropriate to consult with parents or carers.

CONTACT POINTS

Welfare Officer Alport MFC at contact@alportmfc.co.uk
BMFA Chief Executive: 0116 244 0028
BMFA General Manager: 0116 244 0028
BMFA Development Officer: 0116 244 0028 or 01526 832871
NSPCC: 0800 800 500
Childline: 0800 1111
Social Services: Details from your local telephone directory.
Police: Details from your local telephone directory or in an emergency call 999.