



DUBLIN
GLIDING CLUB

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CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Version Control

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Dublin Gliding Club

Child Protection Policy

This sports club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland

[\(http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Code_of_Ethics_Manual/\)](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Code_of_Ethics_Manual/).

Participation for children shall be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere where the child's welfare is paramount. The club recognises that all children have the right to protection from abuse and will ensure that all instances of inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with. Standards of behaviour for leaders and children are considered to be as important as the standards set for performance in the sport. The club's aim of achieving a high standard of excellence also extends to personal conduct.

The Dublin Gliding Club shall work closely with our Governing Body, The Irish Gliding and Soaring Association, to ensure that best practice is followed by this club. In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, this club shall comply with the guidelines of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland as set out in Section 2.7 of that publication, which require that:

The club shall

- adopt and implement the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland as an integral part of its policy on children in the club;
- have its constitution approved and adopted by club's members at an AGM or EGM;
- promote the voice of the child, in particular through meetings and the AGM. One parent / guardian should have one vote for all their children under 18 years of age, where relevant;
- ensure that the Club Management Committee is elected or endorsed by registered club members at each AGM;
- adopt and consistently apply a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Sports Leaders;
- clearly define the role of committee members, all Sports Leaders and parents/guardians;
- appoint at least one Children's Officer as outlined at 2.8.1 in this Code. In the event that a club caters for both boys and girls, one Children's Officer of each gender would ideally be appointed;
- have a Designated Person to act as liaison with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. (See 5.12) Any such reports should be made according to the procedures outlined in this Code;
- ensure best practice throughout the club by disseminating its code of conduct, including the disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in operation within the club to all its members. The club's code of conduct should also be posted in all facilities used by the club;
- have in place procedures for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a committee member or Sports Leader or other members of the club. Regulations should stipulate that a Sports Leader who is the subject of an allegation, which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, should stand aside, while the matter is being examined. *S/he should be invited to resume full duties when and if appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are completed;*
- ensure that relevant Sports Leaders report to the Club Management Committee on a regular basis;
- encourage regular turnover of committee membership while ensuring continuity and experience;
- develop effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents;
- ensure that any unusual activity (high rate of dropout, transfers, etc.) is checked out and reported by the Club Chairperson to the Governing Body of Sport;

- ensure that all club members are given adequate notice of AGMs and other meetings;
- ensure that minutes of all meetings (AGMs, EGMs and Committee) are recorded and safely filed.

Guidelines for parents/guardians

Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the care and welfare of their children. They should :-

- appraise themselves of the club's policies and rules;
- insist that their children abide by the rules and requirements of the club;
- liaise with instructors in relation to all requirements for their child's safety;
- advise instructors of any medical conditions that their children may have;
- consider joining the club under the family membership scheme.

Guidelines for Members

A) Protecting children from abuse

The club recognises that abusers have difficulty operating in a well-run club with good quality management and training. To minimise the risks to children the club shall:

- plan the organisation's operations to minimise the situations where abuse can occur;
- appoint and train two members of the club (one of each gender) as Children's Officers;
- train all relevant persons in the prevention of child abuse;
- issue guidelines on how to deal with abuse and follow established procedures;
- ensure children's complaints are heard.

Members can help in minimising opportunities for abuse and can help protect themselves against allegations by the use of good practice which includes:

- Minimising time spent alone with children, except for essential training purposes.
- Not taking children alone in a car.
- Not taking children to your home.
- Not taking photographs of any young person without the parents' permission

(Where these situations are unavoidable, ensure they only occur with the authority of the child's parents or a responsible person within the Club)

- Not allowing children to use inappropriate language.
- Not making suggestive comments to a child.
- Not doing things of a personal nature for children.
- Not engaging in physical or sexually provocative games.

- Not engaging in inappropriate touching.
- Always acting upon allegations made by a child.

B) Action if a child complains he/she is being abused

If a member receives a complaint of abuse from a child it is essential that appropriate action is taken, as follows:

- Stay calm and ensure that the child is safe and feels secure.
- Consider the environment carefully if recording information.
- Tell the child that you are taking the complaint seriously.
- Be honest; explain that you will have to tell somebody else, emphasising that this will be on a 'need to know' basis.
- Document what the child has said as soon as possible.
- Record basic information - (do not start an investigation).
- Be aware that unnecessary interviews with a child may prejudice a police inquiry.
- Ensure that another adult is present.
- Avoid touching the child.
- Avoid rushing into any actions.
- Avoid making promises you cannot keep.
- Avoid inappropriate questions.
- Avoid taking sole responsibility.
- Report the complaint to the club's Children's Officer(s).

C) Recognising abuse

This section briefly explains what child abuse is, how to recognise it and what to do.

(i) What is child abuse?

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children are harmed, usually by adults. This takes many forms including :-

Physical abuse - Physical abuse occurs where adults or other children:

- physically hurt or injure children;
- give children noxious substances (e.g. alcohol/drugs).

Neglect - Neglect includes situations in which adults:

- fail to meet a child's physical needs;
- consistently leave children alone or unsupervised;
- fail to give children affection or attention;

- fail to ensure children are safe or expose them to unnecessary cold or risk of injury.

Sexual abuse - Children are sexually abused when adults or children use them to meet their own sexual needs; examples include:

- Unlawful intercourse.
- Inappropriate touching.
- Taking pornographic photographs.
- Deliberately telling them inappropriate stories or jokes.

Mental Cruelty - This can take place if children are:

- taunted or unnecessarily shouted at;
- **subjected to undue criticism;**
- **put under unreasonable pressure to perform.**

(These last two points are ones that are potentially quite likely to occur in the sport of gliding)

Bullying - Bullying may be carried out by adults or by other children:

- Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour usually repeated over a period of time.
- Any child can be a victim of bullying.
- More usual victims are shy, sensitive, anxious and insecure.

(ii) How would I recognise if a child is being abused?

It is not always easy to spot when children have been abused. However, typical symptoms would include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries.
- Sexually explicit language or actions.
- A sudden change in behaviour.
- The child describes an abusive act.
- The child loses weight or becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt.
- The child has a general distrust and avoidance of adults.
- An unreasonable reaction to normal physical contact.

Although a child may be displaying some or all of these signs, it does not necessarily mean the child is being abused.

(iii) What should I do if I have concerns?

You should voice your concerns immediately to the Club's Children's officer(s).

Allegations of abuse

In the event that a concern about or a complaint against a committee member or Sports Leader or other member of the club is reported to the Statutory Authorities, that individual:

- should stand aside, while the matter is being examined;
- should co-operate with the Statutory Authorities making the investigations;
- be invited to resume full duties immediately if s/he is vindicated.

Fair participation policy for under 18 year-olds

The Dublin Gliding Club expects that:

- participants take part for enjoyment and to improve their skills, not just to please their parents or instructor;
- where rules apply, participants try to understand them and stick to them;
- participants recognise that there are hazards on an active airfield and that they must comply with rules made in the interests of safety;
- participants accept the decisions of instructors and officials;
- participants will control their tempers at all times;
- participants will be "good sports" and that they will acknowledge and commend good performance by others;
- participants agree that the aim of the sport is to have fun, improve skills and to feel good;
- participants will work equally hard for themselves and the club;
- participants will treat all other participants as they themselves would like to be treated;
- participants will not bully or take unfair advantage of any other participant;
- participants will keep log-books and progress cards up-to-date and present them to the instructor when proposing to have a lesson;
- participants will co-operate with the instructor and other participants - without them there would be no club or sport to enjoy.

Junior membership (under 18 year-olds)

Considerations - The sport is suitable for boys and girls of any age; however, due to the nature of the sport the following considerations must apply:

In order to benefit from a gliding lesson, the young person must be of sufficient physical size to be able to reach all of the controls in the glider.

S.I. No. 333/2000 — Irish Aviation Authority (Personnel Licensing) Order, 2000 prohibits anyone under the age of 16 from flying solo in a glider.

For those under 18 years of age a parent or guardian must countersign the registration form and fair participation policy.

Considering the hazards present on any active airfield the club requests that parents/guardians of those under 14 years of age accompany their children to the airfield and supervise them during their stay, to ensure their safety.

Special clothing is not required; however, airfields tend to be exposed places without much shelter. Participants should bring a warm coat, hat, gloves and footwear suitable for walking on grass that is frequently long and wet. Trousers are recommended to be worn during flying training. A sun-hat (without peaked brim) is necessary on warm days and sun-glasses may be worn, if desired.

Sufficient food and water for a day's strenuous activity is important.