



DEVON & SOMERSET GLIDING CLUB

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
(England and Wales)**

DSGC CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This is the child protection policy for Devon & Somerset Gliding Club (DSGC)

It aims to:

- Establish clear lines of communication for any child protection issue.
- Avoid confusion for instructors, officials, clubs and volunteers.

There is a considerable body of legislation, government guidance and standards designed to ensure that children are safeguarded from harm. These include:

- *Children Act 1989*
- *Children Act 2004*
- *Protection of Children Act 1999*
- *Human Rights Act 1998*
- *UN Convention on Rights of the Child*
- *Sexual Offences Act 2003*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010* document by the Department for Children, Schools and Families

The statutory inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié highlighted the lack of priority status given to safeguarding. The Government's responses to these findings included the *Every Child Matters* green paper and the 2004 Children Act.

Everyone who works with or around children, young people and vulnerable adults needs to be aware of the laws that aim to protect children from harm.

Should you have any queries relating to this policy, please contact any of the following:

DSGC Welfare Office

Tim Johns

Tel: 01392 461486 or 07968 172540

DSGC Deputy Welfare Officer

Pete Harmer

Tel: 01884 860722

BGA Child Protection Lead

Tel: 07880 547 176

BGA Office

Tel: 0116 253 1051

The policy is supported by the BGA Child Protection policy and set of procedures as set out in the BGA document *Child Protection Policy and Procedures* which is available from the club on request and can be downloaded from the BGA website.

If you should have any concerns about the immediate safety of a child or vulnerable adult, refer to sections 9-11 of the above document, but you should not delay; Children's Services and Police are always available.

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Policy Statement

DSGC Duty of Care

The DSGC recognises that sport can and does have a very powerful and positive influence on young people. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement; it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork. These positive effects can only take place if sport is in the right hands – in the hands of those who place the welfare of all young people first and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them.

Most youngsters happily and safely participate in sport under the watchful and concerned care of dedicated instructors and club members. However, the reality is also that abuse does take place in sport and in some cases members have been convicted. Every adult has a legal and moral responsibility to protect young people and disabled adults in sport from abuse.

The DSGC recognises that we have a duty of care towards young and vulnerable participants and can help to protect them from abuse. (From *Guidelines for Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Authorities*, Sports Coach UK (NCF), NSPCC.)

The DSGC recognises that for Child Protection purposes, a child refers to any person under the age of 18.

Principles

DSGC recognises that:

- The welfare of young people and vulnerable adults is the primary concern.
- All young people whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- It is the responsibility of the child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.
- All incidents of suspicious poor practice and allegations should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

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Summary of Partnership Responsibilities

DSGC

- Accepts the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for young people, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.
- Respects and promotes the rights, wishes and feelings of young people and disabled adults.
- Recruits, trains and supervises its employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse and themselves against false allegations.
- Requires staff and members to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and Good Practice Guidelines. Employed staff should abide by DSGC guidelines.
- Responds to allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

It is intended that all employees and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults will receive training to assist them in the recognition of abuse; the referral process; sensible working practices; and to identify 'appointed persons' within the BGA and at club level, whom staff can contact about child protection issues.

The DSGC Welfare Officer is Tim Johns, tel: 01392 461486 or 07968 172540

The DSGC Deputy Welfare Officer is Pete Harmer, tel: 01884 860722

This policy was adopted at a meeting of DSGC Committee of Management,
held on 5th January 2011

Signed on behalf of the Committee of Management _____

Peter Smith, Chairman DSGC