



## **ALRC CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Note that this policy and following code of conduct also applies to people with disabilities and other vulnerable adults.

The ALRC believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or vulnerable person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable people, by a commitment to practice which protects them. Our commitment is underpinned by procedures that seek to maximise opportunity, minimise risk and continuously promote a culture that embraces the safeguarding of all in motorsport.

We recognise that:

- The child's welfare is paramount.
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and / or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All members have a responsibility to report any concerns to the appropriate officer.
- As defined by the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child.

The purpose of the policy and code of behaviour is:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who attend any events run by the ALRC and its member clubs
- To provide clubs with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.
- Remember it is not your responsibility to decide if abuse has occurred but it is your responsibility to act if you have concerns and do something about it.

This policy applies to all members.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for all members.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with all.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

*Simone Burch*

Date: 12.06.10

Review Date: June 2011

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CODE OF CONDUCT**

You must:

- Each member club should appoint a Club Child Protection Officer to deal with any child protection issues that arise. They should act as the first point of contact for anyone who has any concerns about a child or about any abuse carried out by adults who come into contact with children or vulnerable adults.

Advice can be sought from the ALRC Child Protection Officer.

- Treat all children and young people with respect.  
Provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow.
- Ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy/encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned.
- Be aware that even physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted.
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people.
- Operate within the ALRC Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct policy.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations / suspicions of abuse to the appointed Child Protection Officer.
- Keep a written record of any injury or incident that occurs.

You must not:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour.
- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Rely on your good name or that of the ALRC to protect you
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Believe "it could never happen to me" or take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests another more prudent approach.

You should give guidance and support to new club members involved in the running of events.

If any abuse is suspected then you must react immediately by informing the Child Protection Officer who should seek advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board, details of which can be found from the police.

Make a factual record of events to give to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and a copy should be given to the ALRC Child Protection Officer and the MSA Child Protection Coordinator at MSA Head Office (if a competitive club and the incident happens as a MSA permitted event). These records should be kept confidentially.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY AT ALRC EVENTS**

- Please be aware that photography is permitted at ALRC events and that the open nature of our events does not allow for full control of spectators.
- The ALRC reserves the right to prohibit the use of photographic equipment upon receipt of any complaint made that may infer inappropriate behaviour.
- Permission should be sought from the child's parent or guardian before publication of any photograph.