

EAST DEVON RADIO CONTROL CLUB POLICY

Promotion of Welfare and Care of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Model Flying.

Copy to be retained by Club Instructor/s, and Parent, Guardian or Carer of Member

October 2004

EAST DEVON RADIO CONTROL CLUB POLICY DOCUMENT No.1

Promotion of Welfare and Care of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Model Flying.

This policy document must be read in conjunction with EDRCC policy document titled 'Guide to the Children's Act '1989'.

Within this document a 'junior member' or 'junior' is defined as a person under eighteen years of age.

A 'vulnerable adult' is defined as a person of eighteen 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.

1. Responsibility of those involved with children.

All members of EDRCC who are involved with junior members or vulnerable adults will adopt this policy and the associated guidelines it contains and must also be familiar of the guidance given within the Clubs Policy 'Guide to the Children's Act 1989'. They will ensure that they are following the good practise and their legal obligations to protect both juniors and those working with them.

2. Requirement of both parties to recognise level of physical contact.

In all cases where physical contact is predetermined by the club activity, these procedures MUST be discussed with the child or vulnerable adult and their parent/guardian or carer to ensure all are aware of the reasons behind the physical contact and that there is no misunderstanding. The parent/guardian or carer must give their written consent for any form of physical contact anticipated or identified and should include the type of limits of contact. *Care must always be taken to avoid inappropriate touching.*

It may also be necessary to reasonably physically restrain a child or vulnerable adult to prevent he/she placing themselves in a hazardous situation.

In a high-risk safety situation, priority must be given to the safety of the child or vulnerable adult before the protocols of handling. However care should always be taken to avoid inappropriate touching whenever possible.

3. Demarcation of responsibility

Junior members and vulnerable adults must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision must be commensurate with the junior members age, maturity, capabilities and the levels of experience.

A responsible adult is defined as a Senior Member or parent/guardian or carer who has the clearance, experience, knowledge and training commensurate with the type and degree of supervision required.

A responsible EDRCC adult member will accept the responsibility of welfare of a junior or vulnerable adult during periods of time whilst training, instruction or supervision is taking place. A **clear and concise hand over** to the responsible parent, guardian or carer must be established **when training or instructional periods are concluded** and the welfare of the junior or vulnerable adult is put back to the parent, guardian or carer.

The **general welfare** of a junior or vulnerable adult whilst at the EDRCC flying site, **outside of those periods where training, instruction or supervision** is taking place, in respect of physical and psychological needs, likely to result in a serious impairment of the juniors health or development e.g: to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, **will remain the responsibility of the parent, the guardian or carer.**

The member conducting the training or instruction will give advice to the parent, guardian or carer in respect of any dangers, which may generally prevail at the EDRCC flying site.

‘Club Rules’ regarding handling of aircraft.

Junior members under the age of fourteen years shall not start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless a responsible adult of the EDRCC supervises them.

No child or vulnerable adult shall undertake any activity that might place him or her at risk. In any event prior consultation with the parent, guardian or carer must take place if there is any doubt on the members abilities to undertake a specific activity.

4. The Club Application Forms for Membership in respect of juniors or vulnerable adults.

East Devon Radio Control Club will place the following statements on the Club’s ‘Membership Application Form’ to ensure that the parent, guardian or carer of a child or vulnerable adult also agrees to abide by club policy.

‘Note to parents, guardians and carers.’

Whilst the club has a moral and statutory duty to take all responsible steps to ensure the general welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults, 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 unless specifically arranged.

Our activities at the flying site do not finish at a regular time. It is therefore your responsibility to ensure the well being of your charge over and above arranging a predetermined collection time. Should you wish to leave a child or a vulnerable adult at the flying site, it is your responsibility to arrange for one of the qualified club members to supervise him/her during your absence, and if necessary, make arrangements for the member to be able to make contact with you.

Should your child have any special medical or physical needs you are required to advise the Club in writing.

Should physical contact be required during model flying for instructional or any other purposes these will be explained to you and you will be required to record your agreement in writing defining the type and limits of contact.

Should the Club wish to use a photographic image of your child, the Club will follow all the guidelines laid down by the 'NSPCC' Child Protection Support Unit'. 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, a copy of which has been provided to you, and you are required to study it carefully.

The parent or guardian must countersign this membership form if the applicant is under eighteen 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 'Secretary of East Devon Radio Control Club'.

Do encourage your child or charge to talk about their training and the Club environment and ensure that they know how to express their concerns if they are unhappy about any aspect of their care. If you have any doubts, contact the 'Secretary of the East Devon Radio Control Club'

5. Instructor's responsibilities

The BMFA and EDRCC 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.

Designated East Devon Radio Control Club instructors must obtain CRB clearance through the BMFA. Details of how to comply will be advised by the Club Secretary. (Club Rules)

Instructors should place the well-being and safety of the trainee above the development of performance. They should follow all the BMFA 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 will hold either BMFA approved instructor or BMFA registered club instructor qualifications and ensure that their instruction and knowledge are to current best practise.

Instructors must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are commensurate with the 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 that the trainee is entitled to expect from the instructor. In addition, it may be appropriate to consult with parents or carers.

Instructors should fully co-operate with all other interested parties (e.g. other instructors, the Club, the school, or youth group and the BMFA) in the best interest of the trainee.

Instructors should always promote the positive aspects of model flying (e.g. compliance with BMFA, recommendations and club rules) and never condone unsafe or unacceptable behaviour, or practice.

Instructors should always display high standards of behaviour, appearance and flying practice. Instructors should refrain from publicity criticising the trainee, fellow members, the Club and the BMFA. Differences of opinion should be dealt with discreetly and through the appropriate channels.

6. General Club Policy

Although the code of this policy may be specifically directed towards those members actually working with children or vulnerable adults, all East Devon Radio Control Club members must uphold the principle of the policy and apply it within the general attitude to the young club members.

*Abbreviations used within this document: BMFA-British Model Flying Association
EDRCC-East Devon Radio Control Flying Club
CRB-Criminal Records Bureau*

A copy of this Policy Document should be handed to and retained by authorised Club Instructors/and parents, guardians and carers of Junior Members and Vulnerable adults.

October 2004