

YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS IN MOTORSPORT

A Code of Good Practice

The Stroud and District Motor Club regards motorsport as a positive activity for young people. Through its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the club encourages all participants in motor sport to assist with safeguarding the welfare of all junior and vulnerable participants, including protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.



For all adults in motorsport

Essential information

What happens if...?

If you suspect abuse, a young person confides in you, or a complaint is made about any adult or about you, it is **your duty** to report the concern.

If a young / vulnerable person tells you about someone else:

1. Allow the person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
2. Offer immediate understanding and reassurance, while passing no judgement.
3. Advise that you will try to offer support but that you must pass information on.
4. Immediately tell the Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.
5. Write careful notes of what was said, use actual words wherever possible.
6. Sign, date and pass your notes to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.
7. Ensure that no motoring situation arises that could cause further concern.

NOTE: In an emergency (young / vulnerable person at imminent risk of significant harm) contact the Police via 999 or Social Services department direct. Inform the Club Safeguarding Officer of the action you have taken.

If you have a concern about a young / vulnerable person's safety and wellbeing:

1. Immediately tell your Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.
2. Write careful notes of what you have witnessed, heard or were told.
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.
4. Ensure that no motoring situation arises that could cause further concern.

If you receive a complaint or allegation about any adult or about you, regarding a young / vulnerable person:

1. Immediately tell your Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.
2. Write careful notes of what you have witnessed, heard or were told.

3. Sign, date and pass your notes to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Deputy.

4. Ensure that no motoring situation arises that could cause further concern.

NOTE: Any adult in motorsport has the right to report any concerns or suspicions in confidence and free from harassment.

You must refer; you must not investigate.

Code of Behaviour

DO put this code into practice at all times.

DO treat everyone with dignity and respect.

DO set an example you would wish others to follow.

DO treat all young / vulnerable persons equally – show no favouritism.

DO respect a young / vulnerable person's right to personal privacy.

DO allow young / vulnerable people to talk about any concerns they may have.

DO remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to a young / vulnerable person's concerns.

DO encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like.

DO plan activities with young / vulnerable people so that more than one other person is present, or at least within sight and hearing of others.

DO let someone know where you are and what you are doing if you can't avoid being on your own with a young / vulnerable person.

DO avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. tantrums or crushes.

DO avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust e.g. a sexual relationship with a junior person over the age of consent.

DO have separate sleeping accommodation for young people and adults.

DO avoid drinking alcohol when young / vulnerable people are in your care.

DO consider how someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.

DO make young / vulnerable people, parents, carers and club members aware of the club's safeguarding procedures.

DO take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer immediately.

DO NOT trivialise abuse.

DO NOT form a relationship with a young / vulnerable person that is an abuse of trust.

DO NOT permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies, bullying.

DO NOT engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual.

DO NOT play physical contact games with young people.

DO NOT make suggestive remarks or threats to a young / vulnerable person – even in jest.

DO NOT use inappropriate language – verbal, writing, phoning, email or internet.

DO NOT let allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse go unreported.

DO NOT just rely on your good name to protect you.