

ORRELL ARCHERS



Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy Guidelines

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Many children and young people are involved in Archery every day. Some are able to gain sporting skills or knowledge; some gain a social confidence or learn a leisure pursuit and others are provided with competitive opportunities. It is to be hoped that all the children and young people who come into contact with sports organisations also receive care and attention, and that the organisations protect them from coming to any harm whilst they are working with them.

The GNAS in conjunction with The NSPCC child protection in sport unit have adopted policy and procedures to make a significant contribution to safeguarding the children and young people participating in its sports activities.

In line with this Orrell Archers have adopted a Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection policy.

Policy

This Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is based upon the following principles:

- Whilst dealing with children and vulnerable adults, their welfare is paramount.
- All children and young adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or neglect.
- The rights, dignity and worth of every child and vulnerable adult should always be respected.

Orrell Archers believes that when dealing with children and vulnerable adults, their welfare should always be of paramount importance. We are committed to providing an environment where young people can learn and participate in a sport free from harassment and abuse. All those people working with children have a moral responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare. This club has therefore adopted the GNAS Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy to ensure peace of mind for both adults and children.

Orrell Archers have adopted and implemented a policy of best practice procedures for parents, coaches, volunteers, officials and the club, see attached.

It should always be remembered that whenever you are responsible for the care or supervision of a young person, or where you are in a position of power or influence over a young person, you are in a relationship of trust. You should never do anything to abuse that trust.

A relationship of trust can be described as one in which one party is in a position of power or influence over another by virtue of their position. A genuine relationship can start between two people within a relationship of trust but the trust must end before any sexual relationship develops.

Designated Child Protection Officer Lorraine Burrow

Good Practices

Parents

- A parent should always accompany their children if they are under the age of 8 years. Any parent, who brings along children 8 years of age or under, who are not their own children, retains the responsibility for their care.
- In the instance where a parent supervises their child, the responsibility for the care of that child would remain with the parents.
- If you leave your child, ensure there is more than one responsible adult at the club who explicitly agrees to take the responsibility of the care of your child.
- Arrange to deliver and collect your child in plenty of time.
- You are responsible for the care of your own child whilst that child participates in tournaments.
- Children and all archers applying for MB status or greater or a FITA star 1200 or greater become eligible for drug testing at any UK tournament.
- Check that the coaches are suitably qualified and all staff including volunteers are carefully recruited.
- Check that the coaches have been screened to ensure suitability to work with children.
- Check that the club offer regular training to staff and coaches.
- Encourage your children to talk to you about their training and ensure that they know how to voice their concerns if they are not happy about any situations that may arise.
- Check there are procedures in place through which you can voice your concerns.
- Ensure you are given opportunities to discuss matters with coaches and all involved.
- Work with the club/coach/volunteer for the benefit of the child or young person. Be prepared to take coaching advice on your child's psychological and physical archery needs.
- If you are discouraged from watching, then ensure the club make you aware of the reasons for doing so.

Good Practices

Coaches/Volunteers/Officials

All coaches/volunteers and officials working with young archers have a responsibility to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within Archery.

- Always adhere to the GNAS Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.
- Keep up to date with the technical skills, qualifications and insurance within archery.
- Obtain permission from parent's to coach their child and provide them with an information pack setting out how the instruction is undertaken.
- Work with the parents and be aware that all parties concerned have their own goals.
- Secure parental consent in writing to act in *loco parentis*, if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Two adults (one of whom must be a GNAS member) must supervise juniors at all times whilst shooting. At no time should one adult take charge of a junior or group of juniors. The only instance where one adult may supervise a junior is in the parent/legal guardian and child relationship where GNAS Rules of shooting apply.
- It is recommended that the ratio of juniors to supervising adults never exceeds 12:1.
- Whilst coaching on a one to one basis ensure there is another adult present.
- Recognise the development needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults – avoid excessive training or competition and do not push them against their will.
- Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encourage an open environment).
- Always put the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals.
- Be an excellent role model – behave in an exemplary manner in the company of young people.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

- Treat all people with respect and dignity.
- Request written consent from parents when young children need to be transported by coaches/volunteers or officials.
- At tournaments or residential events, adults should not enter children's rooms or invite children into their rooms. Should adults need to "check up" on children, whilst they are in their rooms, then another adult must accompany them.
- If mixed teams are taken away, an adult male and adult female member of staff should always accompany them.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with young archers (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- Do not allow a sexual relationship to develop.

It may sometimes be necessary for staff or volunteers to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents and the children involved. There is a need to be responsive to a child's reaction. If a child is fully dependent on you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing, or where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting a child to carry out particular activities. Avoid taking on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

Designated Coach

David Clayton