

# LOC

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

**THE VOICES OF CHILDREN** in regard to safeguarding:

“**Vigilance** – to have adults notice when things are troubling me.”

“**Respect** – to be treated in an appropriate way in light of my age and ability.”

“**Stability** – to be able to develop an on-going stable relationship of trust with adults.”

“**Understanding & Action** – to understand what is happening and to be heard and to have that understanding acted upon.”

## PREAMBLE

### LOC Safeguarding Children Policy

**Abuse can happen on any occasion or in any place where children and young people are present.**

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and represents an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in a community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Children can be abused by adults, either male or female, or by other children.

Any allegations or suspicions of abuse, poor practice or bullying **need to be responded to and reported** in line with LOC's safeguarding procedures.

There are 4 main types of abuse: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Children and young people can also be harmed through poor practice and bullying within a sport setting.

#### **Warning Signs**

**Neglect** in sport could include a coach or supervisor repeatedly failing to ensure children are safe by:

- exposing them to undue cold, heat or extreme weather conditions without ensuring adequate clothing or hydration

- exposing them to unnecessary risk of injury e.g. by ignoring safe practice guidelines or failing to ensure the use of safety equipment
- by requiring children to participate when injured or unwell.

**Physical abuse** in sport could be when the nature and intensity of training or competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

- where coaches encourage the use of drugs or harmful substances to enhance performance or delay puberty
- when sanctions used by coaches imposed involve inflicting pain.

**Sexual abuse** in sport could occur when coaching techniques which involve physical contact with children can create situations where sexual abuse can be disguised and may therefore go unnoticed.

- The power and authority of, or dependence on, the coach if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing.
- Contacts made within sport and pursued e.g. through texts, Facebook or Twitter have been used to groom children for abuse.

**Emotional abuse** in sport may occur if children are subjected to:

- constant criticism
- name-calling
- bullying
- sarcasm
- racism
- pressure to perform to unrealistically high expectations
- when their value or worth is dependent on sporting success or achievement.

## LOC Safeguarding policy

Lakeland Orienteering Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The legal and statutory definition of a child is a person under age 18.

In this policy the word child is used to refer to a person under 18.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances.

It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at LOC in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in orienteering or outside of the activity.
- are treated equally with respect and dignity

LOC acknowledges that some children, including disabled children or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy LOC will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children

- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in LOC who are involved in training/coaching, transporting and overnight stays with children.

### **Safety guidelines:**

- At least 2 supervisors with any group of children - this is to ensure that at least one supervisor is able to oversee a group while a problem is being dealt with.
- Ensure appropriate ratios of adults to children based on a risk assessment.
- Work in pairs when supervising groups
- Ensure if possible that when mixed groups of children go on residential events they are accompanied by both male and female supervisors.
- Supervisors avoid being alone with a child, for example, taking a child home in their car.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

DBS checks are required by law for those adults who voluntarily supervise children who have at least one of the following:

- contact with children once a week or more
- contact with children 4 or more days in a 30 day period

- overnight supervision of children

AND

work in isolation from other adults eg a coach shadowing a child.

## **LOC Safeguarding Procedure**

### **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

It is important if you are concerned about a child that you act on these concerns. It is **not** the responsibility of anyone participating in LOC club to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place.

**YOU** have a responsibility to **ACT** by reporting your concerns to LOC Welfare Officer.

LOC Welfare Officer will:

- Co-ordinate concerns about the child and ensure completion of LOC **incident reporting form**
- Offer support
- Put safeguards in place
- Act on reports of concern which may lead to a referral to Children's Services who may involve the police

If concerns are about poor practice the concerns need reporting to British Orienteering Federation Lead Safeguarding Officer who will decide on the course of action needed.

### **Recording**

It is important that all concerns are recorded - including information about:

- the concern
- how it was responded to
- where it was reported to

- and what the outcome of this report was

## **Storage of Information**

Child welfare concerns that LOC refers on to Children's Services or the police need to be retained for 6 years after the last contact with the child.

Child welfare concerns that LOC decide, after consultation, do not necessitate a referral to Children's Services or the police LOC will make a record of the concern and the outcome and will keep for one year.

Concerns about volunteers/parents who work with children and young people in LOC who have had allegations made against them a record of the behaviour will be kept and the action taken. The record will be kept for at least 6 years or longer if there were concerns about an adult behaving in such a way that a child was harmed.

Records will be stored electronically and will be password protected and only limited people will have access.

Written & approved by committee

Judy Filmore LOC Welfare Officer 2018 -2020.