

BRITISH HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION

Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Policy and Guidelines

Introduction

Whilst recognizing that the vast majority of participants in hang gliding, paragliding and other BHPA activities are adult, the BHPA is keen to encourage young people to participate in all the various airsports disciplines within its remit.

The BHPA believes that none* of the activities of its member clubs and schools falls within the scope of the 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006', and that therefore there is no legal requirement for any specific actions to be taken in regard to Child Protection.

The BHPA is aware of the general recommendations of the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport (CPSU) but feels that whilst these may be appropriate for many sports where child participation is widespread, fully implementing them would be inappropriate given the actual nature of child participation in hang gliding and paragliding etc..

A child is defined as an individual under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

*Nb. Within the BHPA there are a small number of Scout Parascending Clubs. These clubs operate under Scout Child Protection policies which in those clubs have precedence.

Policy Statement

- The BHPA recognises that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to live in a safe environment free from harm be it physical, emotional, sexual or neglect.
- The BHPA endeavours to ensure the safety and protection of all children and vulnerable adults involved in its activities through promoting adherence to its Child Protection Policy and guidelines.

Guidelines

Good practice for adults working with young people:

- Avoid situations where an adult and an individual child are completely unobserved.
- If physical support/movement guidance is required (e.g. when learning how to launch) ensure the individual is aware of what is happening and has consented to this physical help. Similar care must be exercised when showing students how to wear a harness.
- Act as a good role model for children by:
 - Using appropriate language.
 - Demonstrating the principles and practice of equity. (I.e. treating adults and children, regardless of race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background and culture with dignity, respect, sensitivity and fairness.)

The following should only be sanctioned in an emergency situation:

- Taking young people alone on car journeys.
- Spending time alone with a young person who is not a direct relation.

The following must never be sanctioned:

- Taking young people alone to your home
- Sharing a room with a young person or young people.
- Allowing young people to engage in the use of inappropriate language.
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person even in fun.
- Doing things of a personal nature for a young person they can do themselves.
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, not acted upon or not recorded.
- Allowing young people to consume alcohol or take illegal recreational drugs.
- Allowing any physically rough or sexually provocative, contact or games.

Acting on concerns:

Concerns and allegations about child abuse require very careful handling and should be treated with the strictest confidence. Any form of abuse can ultimately result in a criminal conviction. It is important that all allegations are kept in the strictest practical confidence. It is important you act on your concerns.

If the concern/allegation is suspected abuse then refer it to Social Services or the Police. Alternatively you can contact the NSPCC 24hr help line on 0800 800 500.

Useful Contacts

Child Protection in Sport Unit
0116 234 7278
www.thecpsu.org.uk

The NSPCC help line
Tel 0808 800 5000
Asian Helpline:0800 096 7719
Welsh Helpline:0800 100 2524
www.nspcc.org.uk