



Child and Vulnerable adult protection policy

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Rules.

Definitions

A **Junior Member** is defined as being under 18 years of age.

A **Vulnerable Adult** is defined as a person of 18 years of age or over but through mental or physical attributes requires a higher level of supervision than would be normally necessary for an adult member.

A **Responsible Adult** is defined as a senior member or parent/guardian who has the clearance, experience, knowledge and training commensurate with the type and degree of supervision required.

The club recognises the need for sensible measures to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults whilst taking part in the sport.

To that end, the club has adopted the BMFA policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults, and that policy is available on the BMFA web site

at www.bmfa.org.

[BMFA Safeguarding Policy](#)

In accordance with that policy, the club committee members are appointed as 'Welfare Officer's' within the meaning & terms of the BMFA policy / Child & Vulnerable adult protection policy until that time when other named members are included.

Club Policy

Lea Fields Model Aircraft Club fully accepts

- Its legal and moral obligations to provide a duty of care to protect all children and vulnerable adults and safeguard their welfare irrespective of age, disability, gender and sexual identity, race or religious belief (Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Act 2003).
- That the welfare of junior and vulnerable adult members is paramount and that children have the right to protection from all forms of abuse.
- That all juniors who take part in model flying activities should be able to participate in a fun and safe environment in an atmosphere of fair play.

Lea Fields Model Aircraft Club is committed to ensuring that:

- It takes all reasonable practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respects their rights, wishes and feelings.
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, as whilst it is the responsibility of child protection authorities/experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, it is everyone's responsibility to report concerns.
- High standards of behaviour and practice in compliance with the BMFA Code of Practice on Club Welfare and Child Protection are established within the club environment at all times.
- Any club member participating in "regulated activity" will be carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities and provided with guidance and/or training for good practice and child protection procedures.
- Lea Fields Model Aircraft Club will strive to ensure that all members understand and accept their responsibilities and work together, including: parents, juniors, instructors, volunteers and club officers.

Club Rules

The following rules set out the means of implementing the BMFA policy for Lea Fields Model Aircraft Club

- All members, parents, guardians and carers are to comply with BMFA and club policies and guidelines for the promotion of the welfare and care of children and vulnerable adults.
- Junior members must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision is to be commensurate with the junior member's age, maturity, capabilities and levels of experience.
- Junior members under the age of 14 years shall not start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless they are supervised by a responsible adult.
- No child or vulnerable adult shall undertake any activity which might place him or her at risk. In any event prior consultation with their parent, guardian or carer must take place if there is any doubt on the member's abilities to undertake a specific activity.
- No senior member of the club is to be expected to assume responsibility for a child or a vulnerable adult. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to supervise any child or vulnerable adult at all times, or to appoint a responsible adult to do so on their behalf. The club will not accept responsibility for appointing a responsible adult, nor will it make any recommendations about an individual's suitability for that appointment. It is the parent or guardian's sole responsibility to satisfy themselves of the suitability of the person they appoint and to notify the club of the

appointment. Full details of how the parent or guardian may be contacted in an emergency must be provided if they are not present as the responsible adult.

- Notwithstanding the requirements of the previous paragraph, should a member discover a child or vulnerable adult that is unsupervised then he/she must assume responsibility for that person's safety in the first instance. They should never assume this role as an individual and should immediately involve at least one other senior member of the club while the matter is being resolved. The situation should then be rectified as soon as possible by seeking out the parent, guardian, carer or nominated supervisor. Any instance of such an occurrence is to be reported to the club committee as soon as possible and a record made of the occurrence. The club will then contact the parent or guardian and inform them that should a similar situation arise again, the committee will consider terminating club membership for the child or vulnerable adult.
- Whilst associating with children or vulnerable adults at the flying field, members should avoid placing themselves in a position that could be open to misinterpretation or question in accordance with BMFA policy.
- Remember, the policy is there to protect you as well as children and vulnerable adults.
- The club has instructors for teaching people to fly radio controlled model aircraft. These people are registered with the BMFA or LMAC club as instructors and some are DBS cleared as suitable to work with children and vulnerable adults. (Note: if the parent or guardian is a sufficiently competent pilot and wishes to instruct their own child or vulnerable adult, then they may do so after clearance from the committee.)
- Should any member, parent, guardian, carer or the person themselves have concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults then he or she is to contact the club 'Committee Welfare Officers' or one of the help lines listed in the BMFA policy.
- The Parent / Guardian needs to stay with the child at all times
- All members are required to respect the rights and dignity of children and vulnerable adults and to promote their welfare. Caring is largely a matter of common sense provided everyone is clear on what is expected of them and a few simple principles are adhered to. It is not a responsibility to be feared but is, nevertheless, essential if we are to ensure that we are to be a club that offers opportunities for all.

End

To be reviewed 2027