



## **British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) Safeguarding Policy Statement**

### **Introduction**

The terms 'child' and 'young person' describe any person under the age of 18 and are used interchangeably. References to 'parents' should be read to include parents, carers, and anyone *in loco parentis*.

Due to the requirement to achieve a Club Pilot rating at a BHPA registered school prior to becoming a member of a BHPA Club, unsupervised participants under the age of 18 will be rare. However, the minimum legal age to fly solo in the UK is 14 years.

As a result, whilst the majority of participants in hang gliding and paragliding in the UK are adults, it is possible that BHPA Clubs may have a young person join their club.

It is also recognised that, on an occasional basis, BHPA members, including those who are themselves young people, may have contact with members of the public who also may be children, at club events or when they engage both formally and informally on a site.

Appropriately licensed BHPA members may fly tandem with young people in line with the BHPA position paper on dual flying with minors.

Again, this will normally only be on an incidental basis with the children of family or friends.

In both these scenarios, the parents will normally be present. Should such a scenario become routine practice or should a young person join a club or participate in an event, this policy and related procedures should be followed, and the Club or BHPA Event organiser should contact the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO) for support. As support of a young person in a BHPA Club is considered to be incidental, it has been confirmed that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for club members are not required.

### **Our statement**

The BHPA acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring that its safeguarding practice reflects its statutory responsibilities, any government guidance and complies with best practice.

This 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 or gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of the sports of hang gliding, paragliding or associated activities, in a safe and child centred environment.
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in hang gliding, paragliding or associated activities

The BHPA acknowledges that some children can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. CONTINUED

## **Our Policy**

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children.
- value, listen to, and respect children.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
- adopt safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and codes of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children.
- provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about our policies, procedures and behaviour codes and follow them confidently and competently.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents or concerns of abuse.
- prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals by recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- appoint a CWPO who is the board member (normally the Chairman) for safeguarding.
- ensure that both children and their parents know where to go for help if they have any concerns.

This policy will be published and promoted on the BHPA website. It is mandatory for all members and staff of the BHPA. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay, and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

## **Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed from time to time, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance as required by the local safeguarding partnership, UK Sport and/or home country Sports Councils and the BHPA.
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

Approved by the Executive Council on date.....

**In a safeguarding emergency, where a young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.**

## **References**

<https://thecpsu.org.uk>

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/putting-safeguards-in-place>

<https://shpf.co.uk/info/young-persons-in-scottish-clubs/>

ENDS