



Petersfield Aero Modellers

Safeguarding

Introduction and part extract from BMFA guidelines issued April 2024:

All Clubs and voluntary organisations have a basic duty of care towards all their members. The BMFA Safeguarding Policy Statement sets out that duty of care towards children under 18 and vulnerable adults as outlined in the Children Act 1989 and 2004 amendment.

Implementing the BMFA Safeguarding Guidelines and Policy protects the interests of all concerned, from the junior members and vulnerable adults to the officers of the committee. The aim is to encourage junior members / vulnerable adults in model flying activities whilst providing a safe environment for them.

Definitions:

A "junior member" or "junior" is defined as a person under 18 years of age.

A "vulnerable adult" is defined as an individual age 18 or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for themselves. It can also refer to one who is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

A 'senior member' is any current, qualified PAM club member aged 18 or over.

Basic principles:

The child's or vulnerable adult's welfare is the first consideration.

All children and vulnerable adults regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, religion or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse and to be treated with dignity.

All those working with children should have the knowledge and awareness to permit them to make informed decisions to prevent placing themselves or children at risk.



Petersfield Aero Modellers

Safeguarding Policy and Rules

- 1 All members, parents, guardians and carers are to comply with BMFA and club policies and guidelines for the promotion of welfare and care of children and vulnerable adults.
NB. A vulnerable adult can also be a temporary designation covering persons who may, for instance, be recovering from illness or medical treatment.
- 2 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, capability and level of experience.
- 3 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.
- 4 No senior member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a child or a vulnerable adult unless he/she has been specifically requested to do so by the parent, guardian or carer. If a member agrees to provide care, they must assume complete and total responsibility for the child or vulnerable adult whilst he/she is in their charge. Written evidence of the agreement must be supplied by the parent, guardian or carer before total responsibility is undertaken.
NB. Written evidence means both the request and the agreement of the member.
- 5 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. 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.
- 6 Whilst supervising children or vulnerable adults, 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.
- 7 Petersfield Aero Modellers and its individual members reserve the right to refuse to provide care and insist that the parent, guardian or carer are on site to provide responsible supervision.
- 8 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 **Mark Agate** (Club Welfare Officer) or any of the helplines below.

NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit: England & Wales 0116 2347278

NSPCC: 0800 800 500

Police: 101 or in an emergency call 999