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## Child Protection Policy

**Racing 795 is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every Individual in the Club should at all times show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good practice for Children's Sport.**

To ensure that the best practice is followed by this club we shall work closely with Triathlon Ireland and Cycling Ireland, our Governing Bodies. In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, we shall comply with the guidelines of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport; as set out in Section 2.7:

- adopt and implement the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as an integral part of our policy on children in the club
- have the constitution approved and adopted by club's members at an AGM or EGM
- promote the voice of the child, in particular through meetings and the AGM. One parent/guardian should have one vote for all their children under 18 years of age, where relevant.
- ensure that the Club Management Committee is elected or endorsed by registered club members at each AGM
- adopt and consistently apply a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Sports Leaders
- clearly define the role of committee members, all Sports Leaders and parents/guardians
- appoint at least one Children's Officer as outlined at 2.8.1 in the Code of Ethics. As the club caters for both boys and girls, one Children's Officer of each gender would ideally be appointed
- have a Designated Person to act as liaison with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Any such reports should be made according to the procedures outlined in this Code.
- ensure best practice throughout the club by disseminating its code of conduct, including the disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in operation within the club to all its members. The club's code of conduct will be made available through the website.
- have in place procedures for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a committee member or Sports Leader or other members of the club. Regulations should stipulate that a Sports Leader who is the subject of an allegation, which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, should stand aside, while the matter is being examined. *S/he should be invited to resume full duties when and if appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are completed*
- ensure that relevant Sports Leaders report to the Club Management Committee on a regular basis
- encourage regular turnover of committee membership while ensuring continuity and experience
- develop effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents
- ensure that any unusual activity (high rate of drop-out, transfers, etc.) is checked out and reported by the Club Chairperson to the Governing Body of Sport
- ensure that all club members are given adequate notice of AGMs and other meetings
- ensure that all minutes of all meetings (AGMs/EGMs/Committee) are recorded and safely filed

## **Role of Children's Officer**

Children's Officers should review current policies in relation to young people, check that all activities are safe and fun, and inform adults of how to deal with any concerns that may arise in relation to the protection of young people.

### **CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER**

Club Children's Officers should be child centred in focus and have as the primary aim the establishment of a child centred ethos within the club. S/he is the link between the children and the adults in the club.

S/he also takes responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and Sports Leaders.

The Children's Officer should be a member of or have access to, the Club Management Committee and should be introduced to the young people in an appropriate forum.

The Children's Officer should have the following role:

- To promote awareness of the code within the club, among young members and their parents/guardians. This could be achieved by:- the production / distribution of information leaflets, the establishment of children's/age-group specific notice boards, regular information meetings for the young people and their parents/guardians
- To influence policy and practice within the club in order to prioritise children's needs
- Establish contact with the National Children's Officer at governing body level.
- To ensure that children know how to make concerns known to appropriate adults or agencies.
- To encourage the appropriate involvement of parents/guardians in the club activities
- To act as an advisory resource to Sports Leaders on best practice in children's sport
- To report regularly to the Club Management Committee
- To monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout, absenteeism or club transfers by children or Sports Leaders
- To ensure that the children have a voice in the running of their club and ensure that there are steps young people can take to express concerns about their sports activities / experiences.
- Establish communication with other branches of the club, e.g. facilitate parent's information sessions at the start of the season
- Keep records on each member on file, including junior members, their contact numbers, and those of their Parent or Guardian and any special needs of the child that should be known to leaders
- Ensure each member signs an annual membership form that includes signing up to the code of conduct
- Ensure that the club rules and regulations include:-
  - \* complaints, disciplinary and appeals procedures
  - \* an anti-bullying policy
  - \* safety statement
  - \* rules in relation to travelling with children
  - \* supervision and recruitment of leaders

*(Note: This may simply mean adopting the regulations set out in the governing body's code for children's sport)*

The following has been inserted into the Constitution of the Club:

**Racing 795 aims to promote the participation of children by:**

- . Creating a culture of safety and fun;
- ii. Fully subscribing to the following international standards: "Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm.

**"They must be given proper care by those looking after them" (Article 19; UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)"**

- iii. Asserting the right of Children to be safe. Club officials must ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations;
- iv. Fully subscribing at all times and without variation to Triathlon Ireland's Code of Ethics for Children.