



500 Motor Racing Club of Ireland

Safeguarding Policy



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Introduction

The 500 Motor Racing Club of Ireland Limited (500 MRCI) organises and promotes 4-wheeled motorsports events at Kirkistown racing circuit in Northern Ireland including sprints and race meetings.

500 MRCI recognises that we have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our members this includes members of our committee, our volunteers, participants and those who attend our events socially.

The 500 MRCI is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines and providing a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is respected, valued, and supported to participate or volunteer with our club.

We will safeguard children and adults at risk by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all children and adults at risk safe.

The 500 MRCI is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to children which necessitates: the recognition of children and adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how child abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

The 500 MRCI is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all children and adults at risk to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

This policy is in line with the Motorsport UK Safeguarding Children Policy as 500 MRCI's national governing body.



Policy aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide all staff and volunteers with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
- Promote consistent good practice which encourages the development of a safe and positive environment for all
- Demonstrate our organisation's commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk

Scope

This policy applies to all club members, employees, volunteers and participants in club activities. This includes visitors (e.g. spectators) during all club activities

Policy Statement

This statement sets out the position of the 500 MRCI in relation to safeguarding of children and adults at risk. The 500 MRCI policy is that:

- The welfare of the individual is paramount
- All individuals, regardless of age, ability, culture, race, language, religious beliefs, sexual or gender identity, have equal rights to protection
- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to respond positively in response to any concerns, suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
- Children, adults at risk, volunteers, and staff involved in safeguarding issues will receive appropriate support
- Staff and volunteers who meet the criteria set out by Motorsport UK will be subject to appropriate safe recruitment checks and safeguarding training
- The 500 MRCI is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for everyone to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so.

Key Principles of Safeguarding

All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language, or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse or harm. All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm, and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly, and appropriately. 500 MRCI events and activities will follow and adhere to the Motorsport UK Race with Respect values:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Fair play
- Self-Control
- Good Manners



Policy Principles

- The welfare of our members is paramount. 500 MRCI has a role to play in protecting our members from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, from neglect and bullying.
- Everyone, regardless of age, ability, culture, race, language, religious beliefs, sexual or gender identity, have equal protection rights.
- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. All volunteers and club members have a responsibility to respond positively, swiftly and appropriately in response to any concerns, suspicions, or disclosures that may suggest a child or adult is at risk of harm.

Responsibilities

Members of 500 MRCI Council will:

- embed this policy and work according to its principles
- promote and publicise this policy with all members
- ensure it has a minimum of one Club Safeguarding Officer, licenced by Motorsport UK who is in receipt of an enhanced DBS/PVG check
- Support the Club Safeguarding Officer in their role
- Ensure that any services contracted out to other providers take into account the requirement to safeguard our members from abuse, neglect or harm
- Make other users of 500 MRCI premises aware of the 500 MRCI Safeguarding Policy and report to the Club Safeguarding Officers any instances of non-compliance.

Members of 500 MRCI will:

- act according to the principles of this policy and associated procedure

500 MRCI Club Safeguarding Officer(s) will:

- Meet the annual licence requirements set out by Motorsport UK
- Promote their role to the community
- Be contactable during all club events
- Attend training as required by Motorsport UK
- Embed local safeguarding policies and procedures and work in support of the Local Authority Designated Officer (if required to do so)
- Support the implementation of safer recruitment requirements, ensuring that anyone classed as being in regulated activity with children has appropriate suitability checks completed



Good Practice

Abuse is a very difficult situation for all officials and having the right systems in place can help all concerned. The club has appointed a number of people to fulfil the role of Safeguarding Officers for the club. Their role will be to offer advice in the prevention of abuse, issue guidelines on how to deal with the discovery of abuse, follow agreed procedures and develop systems which allow complaints to be heard.

Abuse, particularly sexual abuse, can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.

Officials or volunteers may have regular contact with young and vulnerable individuals and are an important link in identifying cases where an individual needs protection. All suspicious cases of poor practice should be reported to the club via the Club Safeguarding Officers (contact details below).

All personnel within sport should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within sport:

Good Practice means:

- Always working in an open environment, hence avoiding private or unobserved situations.
- Treating all people equally and with respect and dignity.
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Involving parents / guardians wherever possible.
- If children have to be interviewed ensure officials work in pairs.
- Ensuring that children should be accompanied by parents / guardians preferably with a member of the same sex.
- Try to set a good example in your behaviour at all times.
- Give constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Be aware of any medicines being taken by participants or any existing injuries.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of treatment given
- Request written parental consent if officials are required to transport children in vehicles.

You should never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to an individual, even in fun.
- Let allegations an individual makes go unchallenged or unrecorded.
- Do things of a personal nature that individuals can do for themselves.
- Conduct any interview without a parent / guardian being present or without a witness.

Tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents / guardians and in an emergency situation, parents / guardians should be fully informed. It is important to ensure all officials are sensitive to the individual and undertake personal care tasks with the utmost discretion. In addition, medical consent should be obtained in the event where medication or treatment is required to be administered in the absence of the parent / guardian, including hospitalisation.



Safeguarding Officers

The 500 MRCI will identify a number of designated people, whose contact details are given below, to be titled the Club's Safeguarding Officers, to handle safeguarding issues.

Prior to appointment, these people will be required to complete the appropriate appointment process as set out by Motorsport UK and will have a role within the club management structure.

Once clearance has been received from the Motorsport UK Safeguarding Team, Motorsport UK registration cards will be issued to validate the appointment and they will access designated training that will be arranged via Motorsport UK.

The role of the Club Safeguarding Officers is crucial in ensuring that the 500 MRCI Safeguarding Policy and Procedures work in practice. The Club Safeguarding Officers act as the first point of contact for anyone in the club who has a concern about an individual and about poor practice or possible abuse by anyone working with vulnerable people.

The Safeguarding Officers therefore aim to be perceived as being approachable and as having a focussed approach.

The Safeguarding Officers are not perceived to be "experts" in safeguarding, that is the role of the statutory agencies (Police and Social Services). Ideally, they should have a background in working with vulnerable people such as teachers, childminders, social workers, Police child protection team officers, or child health workers.

The 500 MRCI Safeguarding Officers are:

Fay Weir

Tel: 07970 562 560

Email: fay@kirkistown.com

Fel McIlroy

Tel: 07712 551 149

Email: fel.mc@btinternet.com

Duncan McGregor

Tel: 07590 476 601

Email: duncan@kirkistown.com

The club safeguarding officers are supported by the Motorsport UK safeguarding team.

Motorsport UK Safeguarding Team

Tel: 01753 765 000

Email: safeguarding@motorsportuk.org



Responding to concerns

What is abuse?

Abuse is a term used to describe ways in which individuals are harmed, usually by adults and often by people they know and trust. It refers to the damage done to an individual's physical or mental health. Individuals can be abused within or outside their family, at school and in a sports or community environment. Abuse can take many forms and includes physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and bullying. It is important to note that an individual could be displaying some of the signs of being abused, or behaving in a way which is worrying - this does not necessarily mean they are being abused. Similarly, there may not be any signs that someone is being abused and you may just feel something is wrong.

Responding to concerns

If a person informs you directly that they are being abused or through your own observations or through a third party you become aware of possible abuse, you must react immediately.

- Ensure the safety of the person. If the person needs immediate medical treatment, inform the event medical team, take the person to hospital, or call an ambulance, and ensure they are aware that it is a safeguarding issue;
- Contact one of the Safeguarding Officers immediately either in person or by telephone / email;
- If the Safeguarding Officers cannot be contacted, seek advice immediately from the local Social Services or Police who will advise on the action to be taken, including advice on contacting parents. Expert advice can also be provided by the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or Child Line on 0800 1111.
- Make a full and factual record of events and forward a copy of the recorded information, as directed by the Social Services and/or Police and also to the Safeguarding Officers;
- It is never easy to respond to a young person who tells you that they are being abused and you may feel upset and worried yourself. Make sure that you are offered adequate support by discussing the matter with the Safeguarding Officers.

What should you do if there are allegations of abuse?

Always:

- Stay calm - ensure the individual is safe and feels safe.
- Show and tell the individual that you are taking what they say seriously.
- Reassure the individual and stress that they are not to blame.
- Be honest; explain you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- Make a note of what the individual has said as soon as possible after the event.
- Maintain confidentiality - only tell others if it will help protect the individual.

Never:

- Rush into actions that may be inappropriate.
- Make promises you cannot keep.
- Ask inappropriate questions, which may jeopardise any impending police investigation.
- Take sole responsibility - consult someone else so you can begin to protect the individual and gain support for yourself.



You may be upset about what the individual has said or you may worry about the consequences of your actions. Sometimes people worry about people being removed from their families as a result of abuse but in reality, this rarely happens. The effects of abuse on individuals can be devastating, especially if they are left unprotected or do not receive help to cope with the abuse.

When recording information, it is important that you do not carry the process beyond gathering information about the allegation, into beginning an investigation. Unnecessary interviews with individual complainants could prejudice the integrity of evidence that may eventually have to be presented in court. There are particular problems with regard to gaining information from individuals with limited communication skills. Care should be taken that appropriate means are used to find out what the allegation is about without "leading" the individual.

