

East Sutherland Wheelers

Youth policy

Introduction

This policy does not apply to sporting competition which is covered by the regulations of the relevant governing bodies. It is particularly aimed at events organised by the club such as club runs, coaching sessions, etc.

A complete code of good practise 'Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults' has been written by British Cycling, the governing body for cycle sport in the UK and will apply to all cycle events including young people.

However the code is general in nature and this document sets out an ESW Youth Policy that specifies how young people can participate in our activities. The policies below have been created not to stop children participating, but to give a framework to support both them and volunteers.

As already defined in the British Cycling publication 'Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults'

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered to be a child/young person

All policies and procedures described refer to vulnerable adults as well as children

The term parent is used as a generic term to represent parents, carers and guardians

Welcoming young people

Many volunteers are concerned by the prospect of unaccompanied young people on their rides, especially the risk that may not be able to keep up. There are also concerns about potential liability.

This guide sets out a set of commonsense rules which should make it easier for volunteers to cater for unaccompanied young people without fear of liability.

Participation by young people in 'open age' activities

These are in principle open activities for all ages and therefore should aspire to general aspects of good practice, any attendee has a right to expect a quality, well run, supportive experience regardless of age.

Activities that are supportive, well run, apply common sense and have the best interests of the participant at heart are unlikely to attract complaints, let alone claims.

However it must be recognised by volunteers, participants and their parents that these rides are public events for all ages and the duty of care that can be provided by the volunteer is only at a level of good practice for all ages. Child protection procedures are therefore only advisory and represent good practice. Volunteers organising activities which have regular child participation, even if accompanied by parents, are encouraged to familiarise themselves with 'Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults'

In detail:

- A young person under 13 may participate in an ESW open age activity only if a current member of ESW and accompanied by a parent
- A young person aged from 13 to 17 may participate in an ESW open age activity only if a current member of ESW and either:
 - Accompanied by a parent
 - Accompanied by a responsible adult acting in loco parentis who produces a signed ESW consent form

Participation in activities specifically organised for young people

An activity specifically organised for young people where the volunteer takes a duty of care over minors clearly fall within the scope of the Children's Act and the volunteer should:

- Complete a Scottish Cycling 'Self Declaration Form'
- Receive child protection awareness training
- Have a criminal records check ie Disclosure

The self declaration form provided by Scottish Cycling is the first stage of a records checking process and must be completed by the volunteer. This gives permission for Scottish Cycling to obtain the necessary checks as required, and provides the initial information needed to accept an activity provider.

All volunteers involved in running the activity should make themselves fully aware of the provisions of 'Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults'.

Young people attending this type of activity would need to be ESW members and have parental permission.