



This policy applies to everyone involved in any way with the British Motorsports Marshals Club (BMMC), irrespective of role or capacity. The policy is effective from the Date of Issue shown at the bottom of this page.

Statement of Intent

BMMC recognises its legal responsibilities and believes that safeguarding incidents are preventable. BMMC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. BMMC will implement and comply with Motorsport UK's Race with Respect Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.

Policy Aims

This policy is to help prevent abuse and guide actions if a concern arises. BMMC aims to

- Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm and abuse occurring.
- Properly handle any allegations of abuse or suspicions and support the person experiencing abuse.

BMMC will review this policy annually, as well as following a major regulatory change.

This policy will be communicated to all our members and organisations working on our behalf, on our external website, and made available to third parties.

Leadership Responsibilities

The Policy Owner, shown at the bottom of this page, is the BMMC Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO). They are responsible for implementing this policy on behalf of the BMMC Directors who will monitor its effectiveness.

Margaret Simpson is the BMMC's current CSO and can be contacted via email at nat.safe@marshals.co.uk

Definitions

The policy relates to both the safeguarding of adults at risk and to children. The following definitions apply:

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Adults at risk are defined in the Care Act 2014 as individuals aged 18 or over who:

- Have needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs).
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

A child is defined in the Children Act 1989 as:

- Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or are in hospital.

BMMC Policy Owner: Margaret Simpson	Policy Ref: BMMC/007
Date of Issue: 1 st July 2024	Date of Next Review: 1 st June 2025

Responsibilities of the BMMC

BMMC considers:

- The welfare of the child is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration.
- All activities will follow Motorsport UK's Race with Respect values and Under-18 Policy.
- Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse and harm.
- All allegations, suspicions and concerns of abuse, neglect or harm will be taken seriously.

BMMC will:

- Endeavour to keep up to date on how to prevent abuse of adults and children.
- Respond appropriately when abuse has or is suspected to have occurred.
- Understand how people's diversity, beliefs and values might affect safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure anyone that meets the eligibility criteria for a Disclosure check (DBS, or PVG in Scotland) is so checked.

Ensuring a safe environment at events

The following points are considered essential to create a safe, friendly and welcoming environment for children:

- Adults should display high standards of personal behaviour, avoid unsafe behaviours, and be good role models.
- Marshals and other role holders should avoid working in isolation with children and out of sight of parents/carers or other role holders.
- Avoid drinking alcohol excessively or smoking whilst volunteering alongside children, and avoid offering alcohol or tobacco to children.
- Avoid humiliating children, using foul or sexually explicit language.
- Avoid inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child, including avoiding sharing accommodation (such as an overnight room) with a child except where related or legally responsible for the child.

The parent / legal guardian must always complete the Motorsport UK signing-on form, including the Under-18 section. When a parent or carer is not marshalling with the child it is their responsibility to name a temporary carer, and to complete the Motorsport UK signing-on form.

Supervision by a parent/legal guardian or a named temporary carer must be on a 1:1 basis as it is unrealistic to expect adequate supervision of more than one young person at any given time.

16- to 18-year-olds are allowed to undertake incident duties if supervised by a parent / legal guardian or by a named temporary carer but are not allowed onto a live circuit / track / stage. Any duties on circuit / track / stage can only be carried out when all competing cars have exited the circuit / track / stage.

Recognising the Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

Abuse and neglect can take many forms. Abuse includes discrimination and harassment; domestic abuse or violence (including psychological abuse); financial abuse; physical, psychological or sexual abuse; and in some cases, self-neglect.

It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse and exploitation that fall within these categories, including online abuse.

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

Responding to People who have Experienced or are Experiencing Abuse

BMMC recognises that it has a duty to act on reports, or suspicions of abuse or neglect, for example where a child talks about this when marshalling. It also acknowledges that taking action in cases of abuse is never easy. In the event that a member or role holder has a concern about abuse relating to a person or family with whom they are marshalling, they should contact the CSO.

Reporting Abuse

Reports to the relevant authorities of abuse will be made by the CSO.

The CSO will work with the appropriate agencies including social care and safeguarding teams within the local authorities where we deliver support, and where necessary the Police, to ensure the reporting of abuse is appropriate, proportionate and aligns with national and local requirements, including in devolved nations.

Reporting Process

A safeguarding incident can be a concern or a physical act.

Any safeguarding incidents should be reported to the CSO. Any report can be submitted verbally but must be followed up in writing within 24 hours. In an initial report it is important to provide the key information relating to the concern or act, along with what has been witnessed by or disclosed to you, and when the incident occurred to guide any immediate threat or danger to the individuals concerned.

If there is an immediate threat or danger, the CSO will inform the police. If it is not possible to contact the CSO, a role holder or member should contact the Police or emergency services without delay.

If a member witnesses or becomes aware of an incident and is concerned the welfare of a child has been put at risk they must, in the first instance, inform the CSO. If at any time they are not able to contact the CSO, they should:

- Contact the Motorsport UK Lead Safeguarding Officer on 01753 765 071 or e-mail safeguarding@motorsportuk.org
- Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
- Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

All safeguarding incident reports will be deemed as being made in good faith.

Using the information provided in the initial and follow up reports, the CSO will decide and advise the next course of action; which authorities to escalate to; and which partners to make aware, if needed. If necessary, legal advice may be sought.

Following escalation, the report will be held by the CSO in the event that the BMMC is required to support or provide evidence in any resulting investigation or action.

On a half-yearly basis, the response to any incidents will be reviewed by the CSO and the Directors in order to adopt any recommendations from actions taken and strengthen policy, training and partner relations regarding safeguarding.

Recording and Managing Confidential Information

BMMC is committed to maintaining confidentiality wherever possible and information regarding safeguarding issues must only be shared with those who need to know. For further information, please see the BMMC's Data Protection Policy.

The information should be factual and not based on opinions.

Non-compliance with this policy

Marshals who fail to uphold high standards of personal behaviour or who abuse their perceived authority with an adult at risk or child, will be subject to immediate disciplinary actions and be referred to Motorsport UK.

Where there is any risk of illegal activity, this will be referred to the appropriate authorities, including the police and local authority.