



British Sleddog Sports Federation BSSF **Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

- The British Sleddog Sports Federation (BSSF) aim to ensure the protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who are involved in any way with the federation, and to give volunteers/staff a clear structure within which they can work safely. All new volunteers/staff must comply with BSSF good practice guidelines (refer to recruitment and selection procedures).
- The following procedures and guidelines are intended to assist in identifying and reporting abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults. They are in line with National Guidelines for the protection and welfare of children, introduced in 1999 in the UK.
- The federations Child protection and Vulnerable adults policies and procedures are underpinned by the principles derived from the UN convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children Act, and UK National Guidelines.
- Definition of Abuse: Child abuse as defined by the National Guidelines outlined in the Children first as published by the Department of Health and Children will be adopted and carried out by BSSF policies.
- Abuse may also be defined as the wrongful application of power by someone in dominant position. Whether abuse occurs in institutions or in the home, it involves the elements of a power imbalance, exploitation and the absence of full consent. It also involves acts of omission and commission.
- Definition of a child: For the purpose of these guidelines, BSSF will adhere to the policies as outlined by the Department of Welfare and Children as a child being any unmarried person under the age of 18 years.
- Definition of a Vulnerable Adult: For the purposes of this policy, BSSF deem that a Vulnerable Adult is a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness: and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, un unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
Specified Objectives
 - To ensure all volunteers/ members take responsibility, in order to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.
 - To make all BSSF volunteers/members aware that they have a role in protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm, and that they must give paramount concern to the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
 - To ensure all members/volunteers are informed of the relevant responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse or harm so that children and vulnerable adults are safe.
 - To ensure that members/volunteers provide an environment in which everyone, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults feel safe, secure and valued.
 - To provide clear lines of communication so that members of the BSSF are aware that there is someone whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and know that they will be listened to fully.

Justification:

This policy and the related procedures have been drawn up in accordance with current legislation and principles derived from the Irish National guidelines for the protection and welfare of children stated by the Department of Health and Children. This policy operates in conjunction with the BSSF Code of Good Work Practice For Children and Vulnerable Adults.

References:

- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Sports Council, 2000.
- Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 1999
- Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002
- Guidelines for Good Practice Child Safety and Youth Exchange Programmes, 2002