



The British Aerobic Association

Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Aerobatics

Part 1. Policy

1st January 2010

Version 2010-1

1. Introduction

The British Aerobatic Association (BAeA) is the national governing body responsible to the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain for organising powered and glider aerobatic competitions within the United Kingdom. The BAeA takes responsibility for running a programme of around 20 aerobatic contests in the UK each year. Contests are run in accordance with the BAeA's General Rules for the Conduct of Aerobatic Contests and, where appropriate, Section 6 of the Sporting Code of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). The BAeA's primary concern is to ensure that aerobatic contests are conducted in a responsible, safe manner and in accordance with the statutory instruments and rules that govern the sport in the UK.

2. Participation in sport aerobatics

Participants in aerobatic competition fall into three categories: pilots, judges and support staff.

2.1. Pilots

Participation as athletes in aerobatic competitions is restricted by national legislation concerning the licensing of air crews for powered aircraft and gliders. The minimum age to fly a glider solo in the UK is 16 years, and to fly a powered aircraft 17 years. In addition, special skills and training are required in addition to the basic qualifications. Participation by pilots under 18 years is exceptional.

2.2. Judges

The BAeA appoints members to the judging panel at each event. Judges are always experienced adults over the age of 18 years.

2.3. Support Staff

Support staff may include young people acting as judging or administrative assistants.

3. General responsibilities of those in aerobatics

The BAeA is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people involved in aerobatics. It accepts a responsibility to help safeguard the welfare of young people and protect them from harm.

Every individual or organisation within the Aerobatic Family has a role and responsibility to help ensure the safety and welfare of young people. In particular, any club or individual providing opportunities for young people to participate in aerobatics must accept that they are required to fulfil their duty of care, which means that they do everything that might be reasonably expected of them to help safeguard and protect young people from any reasonably foreseeable harm.

4. Definitions

4.1. The Aerobatic Family

All individuals, clubs and other organisations involved in any capacity in the sport of aerobatics, whether or not they are members of the BAeA. To avoid doubt, this includes all participants and anyone working in aerobatics (in a paid or voluntary capacity, and whether as an employee or on a self-employed or other work basis) including all coaches, instructors, judges and other officials.

4.2. Young people

Any people under the age of 18.

5. The Aerobic Family's obligations

Everyone within the aerobic family must act in accordance with the general principles set out in this policy.

6. General principles for safeguarding and protecting young people

- the safety and welfare of young people is paramount.
- all young people, regardless of age, ability, sex, race, religion or belief, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from harm.
- the rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected.
- everyone within aerobatics must report all concerns to a responsible committee member of the BAeA without delay. Contact details for committee members are available on the BAeA web site and in the Contest Information Booklet. It is the responsibility of everyone within aerobatics to report their concerns.
- any policy or procedure is only as effective as the ability and skill of those who operate it.
- the BAeA is committed to encouraging the effective and safe recruitment of any individual working with young people in aerobatics.
- all those working in aerobatics, in a paid or voluntary capacity must abide by the BAeA's Code of Conduct.
- Policies, procedures and good practice relating to the safeguarding of young people in aerobatics must be applied both in relation to activities for young people specifically and where young people may be involved within the adult sporting body, for example, where people under the age of 18 years are incorporated into the judging or administrative activities

7. How the BAeA can help

As the national governing body, the BAeA will publicise and promote within aerobatics its policy, principles and guidance for safeguarding young people.

The BAeA is committed to ensuring that concerns relating to the safety and welfare of young people in aerobatics are taken seriously and acted upon both swiftly and appropriately. To this end, the BAeA recognises the roles of the statutory agencies in safeguarding young people and the responsibilities and expertise of the relevant agencies in determining whether young people have, or may have, been abused or otherwise harmed. Accordingly, the BAeA will work cooperatively with the relevant statutory agencies on matters relating to safeguarding young people and where the BAeA receives report of a concern, it will always refer the matter to the relevant statutory agency without delay.

The BAeA is also committed to directly challenging conduct within aerobatics that is, or might be, harmful to young people. The BAeA will take appropriate action against any person or organisation within its jurisdiction whose conduct is found to have harmed a young person in aerobatics or whose conduct (within or outside aerobatics) poses or may pose a risk of harm to young people in aerobatics.

8. Guidance and legislation

Further guidance on the care of young people is available in Part 2 of this document.

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within UK and international legislation and Government guidance and have been designed to complement Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures and take the following into consideration:

- The Children Acts 1989 and 2004
- The Protection of Children Act 1999
- The Police Act 1997
- The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- The Criminal Justices and Court Services Act 2000
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1998
- "Caring for the young and vulnerable" Home Office guidance for preventing the abuse of trust 1999.
- What to do if you are Worried a Child is being Abused DOG 2006
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006, HM Government
- The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006



Alan Charles Cassidy MBE
Chairman



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Part 2. Guidance on the Care of Young People

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1. Guidelines

The British Aerobic Association acknowledges that good practice when dealing with young people is essential. All people caring for young people are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Always be publicly open when working with young people. Ensure that whenever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with young people, or at least that you are in sight or hearing of others.
- Manual support is rarely required in the sport of aerobatics. If an adult feels that it is necessary the reasons should be clearly explained to the young person, and if possible the parents/carers, and their consent gained. Be aware that any physical contact with a young person may be misinterpreted.
- Where possible, parents should be responsible for their own child in the changing rooms.
- Treat all young people with respect.
- Provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy/encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour that they do not like.
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/ suspicions of abuse.

You should give guidance and support to inexperienced helpers.

2. Don'ts

All people caring for young people should never, except in emergency:

- spend excessive amounts of time alone with young people away from others
- take young people alone on car journeys, however short
- take young people to your home where they will be alone with you.

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should occur only with the full knowledge and consent of the young person's parents. Where someone has had to act outside BAeA's guidance in an emergency, this should be reported at the first opportunity to a BAeA committee member.

You should never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- allow or engage in any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with young people
- allow young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged

- make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun
- allow allegations of a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves
- invite or allow young people to stay with you at your home unsupervised
- allow bullying or bad behaviour by young people
- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour or make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of young people
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- show favouritism to any individual
- believe 'it could never happen to me'

3. Reporting

If you accidentally hurt a young person, the young person seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incident as soon as possible to another colleague and make a brief note of it. Parents or guardians should be informed of the incident.

It is strongly recommended that you do not work completely alone with groups of young people. Enlist the support of others – assistants, parents/carers.

4. Positions of trust

All adults who work with young people in aerobatics are in a position of trust which has been invested in them by parents, the sport and the young person. This relationship can be described as one in which the adult is in a position of power and influence by virtue of their position.

Within aerobatics most adults in a position of trust recognise that there are certain boundaries in their relationship with a young person that must not be crossed. The relationship, in essence, is no different to that between a school teacher and the pupils in their care. Adults must not encourage a physical or emotionally dependant relationship to develop between the person in a position of trust and the young person in their care.

All those within the Association have a duty to raise concerns about the behaviour of coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators and professional staff which may be harmful to the young people in their care, without prejudice to their own position.