

1. Introduction

Following requests from ride leaders, coaches and other volunteers (collectively called volunteers for the rest of this document) the Solihull Cycling Club (hereafter referred to as SCC) committee has recognised the need for a participation policy for young people taking part in SCC organised activities.

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 such as club runs, social rides 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 (available on the BC website) and will apply to all SCC cycle events including young people.

However the code is general in nature and this document sets out an SCC 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.

Nothing is as successful in encouraging children to take part in sport as encouragement, a welcoming environment and a common sense implementation of guidance, not a rigid enforcement of rules. It is hoped this policy will be implemented in this spirit.

As already defined in the BC 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

2.Welcoming young people

Many volunteers are concerned by the prospect of unaccompanied young people on their rides, especially the risk that they 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.

3. 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. This includes the SCC regular club runs.

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.

Participants and volunteers are asked to pay special regard to personal conduct in areas such as bullying (verbal and physical), unsuitable language, drinking and smoking. Act as ambassadors for SCC.

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. 1. a young person under 13 may participate in an SCC open age activity only if a current member of SCC and accompanied by a parent.
- a. 2. a young person aged from 13 to 17 may participate in an SCC open age activity only if a current member of SCC and either :
 - a.a. accompanied by a parent
 - a.b. accompanied by a responsible adult acting in loco parentis
 - a.c. unaccompanied but produces a counter-signed SCC club membership card

Note : For a young person to be a member of SCC his/her parent must have completed an SCC Parental Consent.

4. 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 :

- 0. • complete a British Cycling 'Self Declaration Form' (copy available on BC website)
- 0. • receive child protection awareness training
- 0. • have a criminal records check ie Disclosure (can be arranged through British Cycling)

The self declaration form provided by British Cycling is the first stage of a records checking process and must be completed by the volunteer. This gives permission for BC 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 SCC members and have parental permission. (see Note above)