

Ribble Valley CRC – Safeguarding and Protecting Children

Introduction

British Cycling has published a very detailed document entitled “Safeguarding and Protecting Children”. Where safeguarding issues arise within Ribble Valley CRC this document should be referred to as a source of best practice. Ribble Valley CRC will adopt any future additions or amendments to this document.

The Ribble Valley CRC – Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy is based on the British Cycling guidance but aims to provide a brief and more easily understood policy guide. The Policy is primarily aimed at protecting children, but similar procedures should be adopted with vulnerable adults.

Young People and RVCRC

Young people may join our club and participate in club rides under the following conditions. Club members under the age of 18 years will be referred to as **Juniors**.

1. Club members should be at least 14 years old.
2. All Juniors need to present a completed Parental Consent Form which has been signed by their parent or guardian before participating in a club ride.
3. Juniors under the age of 16 years must be accompanied on the ride by a parent, guardian or a nominated adult who has been identified on the Parental Consent Form. The nominated adult must be over 18 years old.
4. Juniors who are 16 years or over may participate unaccompanied on club rides at the discretion of the ride leader.
5. On receipt of the completed Parental Consent Form the club's Safeguarding Officer will contact the parent or guardian to ensure they understand the nature of the club rides.
6. The Junior should have third party insurance.
7. Once the Safeguarding officer has checked the Parental Consent Form and contacted the parent or guardian a Junior Ride Participation Card will be issued.

Advice for Ride Leaders

(The following wording is adapted from the document “Cycling UK Safeguarding Policy – A Guide”.)

All Ride Leaders, instructors and other volunteers have an obligation to avoid creating distressing situations. Therefore, they are expected to follow the Code of Conduct below:

As a Ride Leader, you are expected to:

- respect everyone as an individual
- provide a good example of acceptable behaviour
- respect everyone's right to privacy
- show understanding when dealing with sensitive issues
- adhere to the organisation's policies

As a Ride Leader you may not:

- permit abusive behaviour
- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others
- jump to conclusions or make assumptions about others without checking facts
- make suggestive or inappropriate remarks or actions

- deliberately place yourself or others in a compromising situation

Ride Leaders and other Participating Adults

Ride Leaders and other adults participating in a club event should avoid situations where they are alone with a young person or vulnerable adult, unless they are that young person's (Junior's) parent, Guardian or nominated accompanying adult. This precaution protects all parties by removing the feeling of threat from an insecure participant, and by providing a witness if an accusation of improper behaviour is made. However, there may be occasions where this is not possible, and a judgment will have to be made as to what is in the best interests of the young person or vulnerable adult.

Physical Contact

Physical contact between an individual and the Ride Leader or other participating adult should be avoided. There are instances when it is necessary, e.g. to demonstrate a skill, but such contact should remain impersonal so there is no risk of it being misinterpreted.

Appropriate Language

Care should be taken about what is said, and the way it is said. Leaders, instructors and other volunteers should avoid saying anything which could be interpreted as being aggressive, suggestive, or containing an innuendo.

Creating False Impressions

It is important that Ride Leaders, instructors and other volunteers do not create a false impression. Words and actions can be misunderstood, and care should be taken to avoid awkward situations. Should such a situation arise, it is essential to handle it with care and consideration to minimise embarrassment to Ride Leaders, instructors, other volunteers and participants.

Disclosure and Barring Service

(The following information is adapted from the Cycling UK document "Disclosure and Barring – a briefing note for Cycling UK staff and volunteers".)

The CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) and the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) merged to form the Disclosure and Barring Service. This means that CRB checks do not exist anymore and are now called DBS checks. DBS checks are not a mandatory requirement and it is for RVCRC to decide whether a DBS check is appropriate for club member.

If RVCRC organises an event aimed primarily at Juniors and those young people attended unaccompanied, then the supervising member would need to undertake DBS check. Where a Junior member (or non-member) joins a club ride this is classified as "incidental contact" as the activity is not being provided for children and the presence of a child or children is unforeseen, as the regular club rides not specifically aimed at children and young people. This means that a DBS check is not necessary for RVCRC ride leaders.

RVRCRC – Advice for Ride Leaders

1. The Ride Leader should establish whether a Junior has presented a completed Junior Ride Participation Card
2. The Ride Leader should discuss with the Junior the nature of the ride and establish that they have the skills necessary to complete the ride and that their cycle is appropriate.
3. The Ride Leader must have the contact details of the parental or guardian if junior is unaccompanied.
4. The Junior must wear a cycle helmet.
5. The Ride Leader should ensure the Junior understands how to ride as part of a group.
6. The Ride Leader has the final decision as to whether the Junior can join the ride.
7. If under 16 the Junior **MUST** be accompanied by a Parent, Guardian, or Junior Ride Participation Card.