



Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

- *The Criminal Justice Court Service Act (CJCSA) defines a child as someone who is under 18 (under 16 if the child is employed)*
- *A vulnerable adult means a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type:*
 - *a learning or physical disability*
 - *a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs*
 - *a reduction in physical or mental capacity*

In the following text, the words child and children may also be read as vulnerable adult / s

As a sporting club our approach to children has to be carefully considered. Children need to be taught to recognise what is and is not safe in an archery situation but whilst they are learning this they will need to have a responsible adult keeping an eye on them.

It is unlikely that a paedophile would regard any sport as a likely place for them to pursue their activities but this must still be regarded as a potential risk.

In order to address the needs of the individual child and to fit these into the way that the Club will operate we have carefully considered our approach and have determined a course of action that has, so far, proven to work well in the field archery context

The BAFAC child protection policy shall be as follows.....

- As this is a sporting organisation, using potentially dangerous equipment, the club will not instruct or 'look-after' any unsupervised children or groups of young people.
- Children, under the age of 18, will be welcomed, along with a parent/guardian or parent appointed shoot guardian, who will be responsible for the welfare of the child and ensure that his/her behaviour and actions are safe within the rules and code of the club.
- It is quite normal for children to accompany parents and for the whole family to take part in this sport, this is to be encouraged, as archery is one of the few sports where the whole family can take part together.
- It is also quite normal for club members to look after the children of fellow club members when going to shoots at other clubs. In this case the parent will have appointed a shoot guardian to be responsible for their child and who is known to both them and the child.
- Under no circumstances will an unsupervised child be alone in the company of an adult that is not known to them and their parents. *For example, if the parent or shoot guardian needs to leave the designated archery location the child must leave with them.*
- Notwithstanding any of the above, we must all be responsible for the safety of both ourselves and others. Should any child or their guardian be acting in an unsafe manner or placing themselves and others in danger, no-one should hesitate to intercede to make the situation safe and follow the notification and reporting guidelines.
- The elements of this policy have worked well, albeit informally, for many years within the sport of field archery, where children can take part and have fun in a safe and secure environment.
- The sport is one which requires and teaches discipline, respect and confidence. It is hoped that through this policy and the challenges that the sport presents, that our young archers are helped to develop sporting and life skills that will remain with them.