



SNOWSPORT SCOTLAND

The national governing body for skiing and snowboarding in Scotland

Child Welfare Policy & Procedures

March 2009

Produced with the help of the Child Protection in Sport Unit and Children 1st in partnership with the British Snowsports Child Welfare Management Group

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SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1.1 Introduction

Everyone who participates in the activities of Snowsport Scotland is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. Snowsport Scotland has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for children, coaches and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

Snowsport Scotland is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in the sport accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means following procedures to protect them and reporting any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities.

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst involved in the activities of Snowsport Scotland, and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific Child Protection issues.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989).

1.2 Policy Statement

Snowsport Scotland fully accepts its legal (Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003) and moral obligations to provide a duty of care to protect all children. Snowsport Scotland is committed to ensuring that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity are able to participate in snow sports in a fun and safe environment
- all reasonable steps are taken to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- all Snowsport Scotland employees/volunteers who work with children are recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility, and are provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and Child Protection procedures
- working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children

All Snowsport Scotland's Child Protection Policies are reviewed every three years or whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation. The current edition is dated March 2009.

1.3 Legal and Procedural Framework

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on principles contained within UK and International legislation and Government guidance – **see Appendix 20**.

Some of the legislations are listed below:

- Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003
- Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People (2006)
- 'Caring for the young and vulnerable' Home Office guidance for preventing the abuse of trust (1999)
- Criminal Justices and Court Services Act (2000)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989/1990)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Data Protection Act (1984 & 1998)
- Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006)
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

SECTION 2 - PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

2.1 Introduction

To provide children with the best possible experience and opportunities in snowsports, everyone must operate within an accepted ethical framework such as the Coaches' Code of Conduct, Practical Skiing Guidelines and the Equity policy (**See Appendices 1, 2 and 3**).

It is not always easy to distinguish poor practice from abuse. It is therefore NOT the responsibility of employees or participants in snowsports to make judgements about whether or not abuse is taking place. It is however their responsibility to identify poor practice and possible abuse, and to act if they have concerns about the welfare of the child, as explained in Section 4.

This section will help identify what is meant by good practice and poor practice.

2.2 Good Practice

All personnel should adhere to the following principles and actions:

- Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Make the experience of snowsports fun and enjoyable: promote fairness, confront and deal with bullying
- Treat all children equally and with respect and dignity
- Always put the welfare of the child first, before winning, the child's welfare being paramount
- Be acutely aware of the power that a coach, volunteer or official develops with participants in snowsports and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise)
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the child. Physical contact can be appropriate so long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing and the child's consent has been given
- Involve parents/carers wherever possible, e.g. where children need to be supervised in changing rooms, encourage parents to take responsibility for their own child. If groups have to be supervised in changing rooms always ensure parents, coaches etc. work in pairs
- Obtain written parental consent for any significant travel arrangements e.g. overnight stays
- Ensure that if mixed teams are taken away, they are always accompanied by a male and female member of staff
- Ensure that at away events an unaccompanied adult does not enter a child's room or invite a child to their room
- Be an excellent role model; this includes not smoking and reasonable standards of behaviour in respect of drinking alcohol in the company of children
- Always give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of the child and do not risk sacrificing welfare in a desire for club or personal achievements. This means avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing children against their will
- Secure written parental consent for the organisation to act in *loco parentis*, and for the administration of emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with details of any treatment given

2.3 Examples of Poor Practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided by all personnel:

- Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Taking children alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Taking children to your home where they will be alone with you
- Sharing a room with a child
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form
- Allowing children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Use of inappropriate language by coaches/parent helper/volunteers in their roles – especially in the presence of young people
- Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Reducing a child to tears as a form of control
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Doing things of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves

Where cases arise where it is impractical or impossible to avoid certain situations, e.g. transporting a child in your car, the tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the parent/carer and the child involved. The reasons for deviating from the above good practice should be documented and made available to the relevant people concerned (**See Appendices 4 and 5 -Transport & Supervision**).

If during your care you accidentally hurt a child, a child seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions and/or if the child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incidents as soon as possible to another colleague and make a written note of it. Parents should also be informed of the incident.

SECTION 3 - DEFINING CHILD ABUSE

3.1 Introduction

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race, religion or ability.

There are four main types of abuse: **physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. We acknowledge that bullying also exists within sport, and therefore have added bullying, as a stand alone additional type of abuse.** The abuser may be a family member, or someone the child encounters in residential areas or in the community, including sports and leisure activities. Any individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming the child. It is important to acknowledge that children can also abuse other children.

Abuse in all of its forms can affect a child at any age. The effects can be so damaging that if not treated may follow the individual into adulthood.

Children with disabilities may be at increased risk of abuse through various factors such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, isolation and a powerlessness to protect themselves or adequately communicate that abuse had occurred.

3.2 Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse: where adults physically hurt or injure a child e.g. hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, and drowning. Giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs would also constitute child abuse.

This category of abuse can also include when a parent/carer reports non-existent symptoms or illness, or deliberately causes ill health in a child they are looking after.

In a sports situation, physical abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of training disregard the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

Emotional Abuse: the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child is likely to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve telling a child they are useless, worthless, unloved, and inadequate or valued in terms of only meeting the needs of another person. It may feature expectations of children that are not appropriate to their age or development. It may cause a child to be frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted, which may make the young person frightened or withdrawn. Ill-treatment of children, whatever form it takes, will always feature a degree of emotional abuse.

Emotional abuse in sport may occur when the child is constantly criticised, given negative feedback, or expected to perform at levels that are above their capability.

Other forms of emotional abuse could take the form of name calling and bullying.

Neglect: occurs when an adult fails to meet the child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, to an extent that is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development – for example, in failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect from physical harm or danger, or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Refusal to give love, affection and attention can also be a form of neglect.

Neglect in sport could occur when a coach does not keep the child safe, or exposes them to undue cold/heat or unnecessary risk of injury.

Sexual Abuse: occurs when adults (male or female) use children to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing children pornography or talking to them in a sexually explicit manner are also forms of sexual abuse.

In sport, activities that might involve physical contact with children could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Also the power of the coach over young athletes, if misused, may lead to abusive situations developing.

Bullying: Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour usually repeated over a period of time where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. The three main types of bullying are: physical (e.g. hitting, kicking), verbal (e.g. racist remarks, threats, name calling) and emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from activities).

They will include:

- deliberate hostility and aggression towards the victim
- a victim who is weaker than the bully or bullies
- an outcome which is always painful and distressing for the victim

Bullying behaviour may also include:

- other forms of violence
- sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing or theft
- tormenting, ridiculing, humiliation
- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- unwanted physical contact or abusive/offensive comments of a sexual nature

Emotional and verbal bullying is more likely; however it is more difficult to cope with or prove. It is of paramount importance that all clubs develop their own anti-bullying policy that all its members, coaches, players, staff, volunteers and parents subscribe to and accept.

Every club/volunteer/staff member should be prepared to:

- take the problem seriously
- investigate all incidents
- talk to bully(ies) and victim(s) separately

Decide on appropriate action, such as:

- obtain an apology from the bully(ies) to the victim
- inform parents of the bully(ies)
- if appropriate-ensure the return of items 'borrowed' or stolen
- if appropriate-ensure the bully(ies) compensate the victim
- ensure the club and teams adopt and are aware of the bullying policy
- ensure coaches, volunteers and officials are aware of how to deal with the bully(ies)
- provide support for the coach of the victim
- if appropriate, invoke disciplinary measures.

Signs of bullying include:

- behavioural changes such as reduced concentration and/or becoming withdrawn, clingy, depressed, tearful, emotionally up and down, reluctance to go to training or competitions
- an unexplained drop off in performance
- physical signs such as stomach aches, headaches, difficulty in sleeping, bed wetting, scratching and bruising, damaged clothes, bingeing e.g. on food, alcohol or cigarettes
- a shortage of money or frequent loss of possessions

It must be recognised that the above list is not exhaustive, but also that the presence of one or more of the indications is not proof that abuse is taking place. It is **NOT** the responsibility of those working for Snowsport Scotland to decide that child abuse is occurring. It **IS** their responsibility to act or pass on appropriately any concerns.

3.3 Indicators of Abuse

Even for those experienced in working with child abuse, it is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may occur or has already taken place. Most people are not experts in such recognition, but indications that a child is being abused may include one or more of the following: (It must be recognised that the below list is not exhaustive, but also that the presence of one or more of the indications is not proof that abuse is or has taken place)

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- an injury for which an explanation seems inconsistent
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving them
- another child or adult expresses concern about the welfare of a child
- unexplained changes in a child's behaviour, e.g. becoming very upset, quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper
- inappropriate sexual awareness
- engaging in sexually explicit behaviour
- distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected
- difficulty in making friends
- being prevented from socialising with others
- displaying variations in eating patterns including over-eating or loss of appetite
- losing weight for no apparent reason
- becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt

SECTION 4 - RESPONDING TO CONCERNS AND ALLEGATIONS

4.1 Introduction

It is not the responsibility of anyone working for Snowsport Scotland in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities so that they can then make inquiries and take necessary action to protect the young person. This applies both to allegations/suspensions of abuse occurring within the sport and to allegations/suspensions that abuse is taking place elsewhere, such as in a child's family or community (**See Appendix 11**).

This section explains how to respond to allegations/suspensions.

At all times, bear in mind there may be media interest; refer to **Appendix 13** on how to deal with this issue. Snowsport Scotland requests that all media enquiries relating to incidents involving children should be referred to Snowsport Scotland's office on **0131 445 4151**

4.2 Responding to Concerns/Allegations

You may become aware of possible abuse in various ways.

- You may see it happening; or
- suspect or have concerns because of signs such as those listed in Section 3 or
- you may have concerns reported to you by either a member of the club or a third party It is particularly important to respond appropriately.

If a young person says or indicates that they are being abused:

- **Stay calm** so as not to frighten the child
- **Reassure** the child that they are not to blame and that it is right to tell
- **Listen** to the child, showing that they are being taken seriously
- **Keep questions to a minimum** so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. The law is very strict and child abuse cases have been dismissed where it is felt that the child has been led or words and ideas have been suggested during questioning. Only ask questions to clarify
- **Inform** the child that other people have to be informed about what they have told you and that these people are the experts dealing with Child Protection (tell the child who you have told)
- **The safety of the child** should be maintained as paramount. If the child needs urgent medical attention call an ambulance, inform the doctors of the concern and ensure they are made aware that this is a Child Welfare issue. It may also be appropriate to call the police in an emergency
- **Record** all information, recording exactly what the child has said using the exact words they use – sample forms in **Appendix 14**
- **Report** the incident to the Club Child Welfare Officer or Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Welfare Officer on 0131 445 4151 within 24 hours or immediately if a child is at risk

In all cases, if you are not sure what to do you can gain help from the Children 1st helpline Tel No: 0808 800 2222.

4.3 Reporting the Concern

All suspicions and allegations must be reported appropriately (this should be reported within 24 hours or immediately if a child is at risk). It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused, particularly in cases where sexual abuse is suspected or where there is

misplaced loyalty to a colleague. It is important to understand these feelings, but not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.

Snowsport Scotland expects its members and staff to discuss any concerns they may have about the welfare of a child immediately with the person in charge and subsequently to check that appropriate action has been taken

A summary of reporting procedures is provided in **Appendix 11**. Where there is a complaint against an employee or volunteer, there may be three types of investigation:

- **Criminal** in which case the police are immediately involved
- **Child Protection** in which social services and or the police are involved
- **Disciplinary or Misconduct** in which case Snowsport Scotland will be involved (**see Snowsport Scotland's Discipline and Dispute Resolution Procedures** which is available from the Snowsport Scotland office: email info@snowsportscotland.org or telephone: **0131 445 4151**)

Full details of Disciplinary procedures can be found at www.snowsportscotland.org or by contacting:

Snowsport Scotland
Hillend
Biggar Road
Edinburgh
EH10 7EF
0131 445 4151

Any concerns that a child has been abused by a coach, volunteer or official should be reported to Snowsport Scotland who will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.

In addition you can also report direct to Social Services or Police (statutory Agencies), however if you choose to report directly to the statutory agencies then you must also report the matter to Snowsport Scotland.

For all cases if your child welfare officer is not available you should take responsibility and seek advice from Snowsport Scotland's Lead Child Welfare Officer on **0131 445 4151** or, in emergencies: **07811962109** or from the Children 1st Helpline : **0808 800 2222**.

If the Club Welfare Officer is the subject of the suspicion/allegation the report must be made **DIRECTLY** to Snowsport Scotland office immediately on **0131 445 4151**

As mentioned previously in this document, Snowsport Scotland staff are not Child Protection experts and it is not their responsibility to determine whether or not abuse has taken place. All suspicions and allegations must be shared with professional agencies that are responsible for Child Protection.

Social services and the police have a legal responsibility to investigate all Child Protection referrals by talking to the child and family (where appropriate),

NB: If there is any doubt, you must report the incident: it may be just one of a series of other incidents which together cause concern.

Allegations of abuse are sometimes made some time after the event. Where such an allegation is made, you should follow the same procedures and have the matter reported to social services. This is because other children in the sport or outside it may be at risk from the alleged abuser.

4.4 Recording Information

To ensure that information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record should always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern. (The Incident Report Form, **Appendix 14**, can be used.) In recording you should confine yourself to the facts and distinguish what is your personal knowledge and what others have told you. Do not include your own opinions.

Information should include the following:

- the child's name, age and date of birth
- the child's home address and telephone number
- whether or not the person making the report is expressing their concern or someone else's
- the nature of the allegation, including dates, times and any other relevant information
- a description of any visible bruising or injury, e.g. location, size etc. Also any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes
- details of witnesses to the incidents
- the child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising/injuries occurred
- Have the parents been contacted? If so what has been said?
- Has anyone else been consulted? If so record details
- Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? Record details

4.5 Whistle Blowing & sharing of information/concerns

Snowsport Scotland acknowledges the need for a 'Whistle Blowing Policy' in line with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA). It is also important to have procedures for enabling staff and volunteers to share, in confidence with a designated person (normally a Club Welfare Officer or Snowsport Scotland's Lead Child Welfare Officer), concerns they may have about a colleague's behavior.

This may be behaviour linked to child abuse or behaviour that pushes boundaries beyond acceptable limits. If this is consistently ignored a culture may develop within an organisation whereby staff and young people are 'silenced'.

Snowsport Scotland is fully supportive of 'whistle blowing' for the sake of the child, and will provide support and protect those who 'whistle blow'. While it is difficult to express concerns about colleagues, it is important that these concerns are communicated to the designated officer or manager. All staff and volunteers will be encouraged to talk to the designated officer if they become aware of anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. Reports made in good faith but which are later assessed as unfounded will not result in any action being taken against the reporter. However, persons reporting for malicious reasons may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

4.6 Outside Concerns

Any person having concerns about the possibility of abuse having occurred outside the immediate sporting environment such as in the child's family or community should:

- Report the concerns to the Club Welfare Officer or Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Protection Officer
- Or report the incident to the local social services department or the police. The Police, Children's Services and the Child Welfare Officer will decide how to inform the parents/carers
- If the matter has been reported to the Social Services or the Police it should also be reported to Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Protection Officer
- It is important to maintain confidentiality on a need to know basis

4.7 Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only, which may include the following people:

- The Club Welfare Officer
- The parents of the child (where appropriate)
- The person making the allegation
- Social Services/police
- Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Protection Officer- always
- The alleged abuser (and parents if the alleged abuser is a child) – **CAUTION** see 4.8, below.

All information should be stored in a secure place with limited access to designated people, in line with data protection laws.

4.8 Approaching Alleged Abusers

- Any person reporting or investigating an accusation should not contact the alleged abuser or child, but should seek advice from Social Services, Police or Snowsport Scotland's Lead Child Welfare Officer.**

4.9 Suspension and Investigation

Snowsport Scotland will make an immediate decision about whether any individual accused of abuse should be temporarily suspended pending further police and social services or Snowsport Scotland investigation – see Snowsport Scotland's Discipline and Dispute Resolution Procedures which can be obtained by emailing: info@snowsportscotland.org or telephoning: 0131 445 4151

Irrespective of the findings of the children's services or police enquiries Snowsport Scotland will assess all individual cases to decide whether a coach, official or volunteer can be reinstated and how this can be sensitively handled. For example, this may involve debriefing of the club and/or parents, or the use of alternative coaches.

4.10 Working with the Aftermath

After a suspicion or allegation about a Child Welfare concern has been investigated, there are likely to be strong feelings amongst staff, parents and children and possibly among the wider community, which will need to be addressed.

There are likely to be issues of:

- Communication - if rumour or fact
- Guilt and blame - if suspicions had been around for some time
- Impact - on individuals, or the nature of what occurred and to whom
- Gaps in the organisation in terms of roles and post held

Careful thought will need to be given to the sharing of information and the provision of appropriate support. Once again debriefing sessions with the club, other staff and/or parents may be helpful; information should be shared strictly on a need-to know basis.

SECTION 5 - RECRUITING AND SELECTING

5.1 Introduction

It is important that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent unsuitable people from working with children. This applies equally to paid staff and volunteers, both full and part time. To ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children the following steps should be taken when recruiting.

5.2 Controlling Access to Children

All coaches, officials and volunteers with direct access to children should undertake an Enhanced Disclosure or Criminal Records Bureau check – see **Section 5.3** below for further information on how to obtain and complete the Disclosure. (Also see **Appendix 18** for more information about CRB Checks and Disclosures, including information about Snowsport Scotland's policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders and Frequently Asked Questions).

All staff and volunteers with direct or indirect access to children should complete an application form (see example forms, **Appendix 16**).

Clubs should always seek two confidential references, including one regarding previous work with children, from applicants working with children.

5.3 Interview and Induction

All coaches, officials and volunteers with direct or indirect access to children will be required to undertake an interview carried out to acceptable protocol. All employees and volunteers with direct or indirect access to children should receive an appropriate level of formal or informal induction during which the following procedures should be carried out:

- Free checks for volunteers may be processed through Snowsport Scotland. Tel 0131 445 4151 to request application form
- The applicant's qualifications should be substantiated, and references followed up
- The job requirements and responsibilities should be clarified
- The applicant must sign up to the organisation's Codes of Ethics and Conduct
- The Child Protection Policy and Procedures must be explained and training needs identified, e.g. basic Child Protection awareness

5.4 Training

In addition to pre-selection checks, the safeguarding process includes training after recruitment to help staff and volunteers to:

- analyse their own practice against what is deemed good practice, and to ensure their practice is likely to protect them from misunderstanding or misinterpretation
- recognise their responsibilities and report any concerns about suspected poor practice and/or abuse
- respond to concerns expressed by a child
- work safely and effectively with children

Snowsport Scotland requires:

- **all staff and volunteers who have access to children to undergo an enhanced Disclosure/CRB check covering their suitability to work with children**
- **all employees, volunteers, coaches, welfare officers and team managers to undertake relevant Child Protection training**
- **all staff and volunteers to receive advisory information outlining good/bad practice and informing them what to do if they have concerns about the behaviour of an adult towards a young person**
- **all coaches, instructors, trainee instructors and leaders should have an up to date first aid qualification**

SECTION 6 – IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING PROCEDURES

6.1 Introduction

If Snowsport Scotland's Child Protection policy and procedures are to be effective, they need to be integrated into current practice and implemented in a planned and staged way.

6.2 Monitoring Strategy

The National Standards systems have been set up to run as external monitoring systems for evidence of successful implementation of the policies and procedures, and for collation of this information from sporting organisations.

Snowsport Scotland acknowledges the need to ensure that it also maintains the following information:

- the number of allegations made and breakdown of 'no case', 'poor practice' and 'abuse' incidence. This information to be monitored by the Lead CPO for the purpose of internal audit and in case of future problems relating to the same individuals or trends in poor practice
- the number of club welfare officers in place□, along with contact details
- feedback from clubs on the implementation of the policy□, as well as information from children and young people on their views and experience of the policies and its implementation
- reports from the disciplinary and appeals panel
- the number of personnel trained in Child Protection awareness
- the number of enhanced Disclosures/CRB checks undertaken

SECTION 7 - USEFUL CONTACTS

Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Welfare Officer

Tel: 0131 445 4151

24hr Mobile: 07811962109

Children 1st Child Protection in Sport Unit Scotland

Children 1st

Sussex House

61 Sussex Street

Kinning Park

Glasgow G41 1DY

www.childprotectioninsport.org.uk

Tel: 0141 418 5674

Fax: 0141 418 5671

Childline UK

Tel - 0800 1111

Central Registered Body in Scotland

Unit 55

Stirling Enterprise Park

Stirling

FK7 7RP

www.crbs.org.uk

info@crbs.org.uk

Tel: 01786 849777

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

National Helpline 0808 800 5000

Police and Children's Services

Please consult your telephone directory for the most relevant local numbers, or for regional numbers please contact the following (as appropriate):

APPENDIX 1

Coaches, Officials and Volunteers Code of Conduct

1. Coaches, officials and volunteers MUST hold an up to date nationally recognised Governing Body license (when appropriate), and operate within Snowsport Scotland's Governing Body's guidelines
2. Coaches, instructors, officials, and leaders must abide by the Code of Ethics and the coaches protocol
3. Coaches, officials and volunteers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of snowsports.
4. Coaches, officials and volunteers must place the well-being and safety of the athlete above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by Snowsport Scotland and hold appropriate insurance cover.
5. Coaches, officials and volunteers must develop an appropriate working relationship with athletes, especially children, based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches, officials and volunteers must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches, officials and volunteers must encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own behaviour.
7. Coaches, officials and volunteers must ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
8. Coaches, officials and volunteers should at the outset clarify with athletes, and where appropriate their parents, exactly what is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect
9. Coaches, officials and volunteers must be able to recognise and accept when to refer or recommend athletes to other coaches or structures. It is the coach's responsibility as far as possible to:
 - (a) verify the competence of the athlete
 - (b) verify the competence and integrity of any other persons or structure to whom they refer the athlete.
10. Coaches, officials and volunteers should cooperate fully with other specialists, e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors or physiotherapists in the best interest of the athlete.
11. Coaches, officials and volunteers should always promote the positive aspects of snowsports e.g. fair play, and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
12. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
13. Coaches, officials and volunteers should be acutely aware of the power that a coach develops with athletes and avoids any intimacy (sexual or otherwise)
14. Coaches, officials and volunteers should avoid situations with athletes that could be construed as compromising and actions that could be construed as being outside their role.

APPENDIX 2

Guidance regarding Physical Contact and other Practical Aspects of Contact with Children in the Context of Snowsports

By its nature, the teaching and coaching of all snowsports disciplines may require some physical contact between teacher and pupil. (In this context the term teacher includes instructors of all grades, coaches, tutors, club helpers and anyone else engaged in the assistance, guidance or supervision of children engaging in snowsports activities). This is accepted as reasonable practice and, whilst not to be overreacted to, should be reviewed on a regular basis by the British Snowsports Child Welfare Working Group. Following principles of good practice will help to ensure that problems and difficulties do not arise.

Many sports, by their nature, require a degree of physical contact between adults and children. Physical contact can be used appropriately to instruct, encourage, protect or comfort. The aims of guidelines relating to physical contact are to provide adults and children with appropriate types and contexts for touching.

Physical contact between adults and children should only be used by appropriately qualified people when the aim is to:

- Develop sports skills or techniques
- Treat an injury
- Prevent an injury
- Meet the requirements of the particular sport, e.g. sports massage

Physical contact should:

- Not involve touching genital areas, buttocks or breasts
- Meet the need of the child and not the need of the adult
- Be carried out by those appropriately qualified to do so
- Be fully explained to the child and, with the exception of an emergency, permission should be sought
- Not take place in secret or out of sight of others

Records of injuries should be fully recorded.

In the early stages of learning in all snowsports disciplines, the student may require help that necessitates physical contact e.g. putting on boots, getting up after a fall etc. The manner and context in which this is done will determine the student's understanding of what is happening. It is expected that the learner's permission will be sought before the teacher takes any action e.g. "May I help you get up?" – offer your hand and let the learner take it rather than grabbing hold of the learner and picking him/her up.

If it is thought necessary to use physical contact to put the learner into appropriate positions the teacher should first review their teaching strategies and look for alternatives. Perhaps moving to more suitable terrain to remove the "fear factor" or using verbal images to which the learner can respond e.g. "like a goal keeper waiting for a penalty". Explanation and demonstration might make physical contact unnecessary. If there is no alternative, ask permission and ensure that touching is done in an appropriate manner. If parents or carers are on site, explain to them and seek their permission. Never use any physical contact in an isolated environment – always be in public view.

Repeated physical contact and in particular with the same student, is inappropriate and may be misconstrued by both the student and observers. Teachers should always consider appropriateness, potential carelessness, unnecessary repetition and context. Think it through and if in doubt – don't.

Equipping

In the early stages of learning any snowsports discipline beginners may require some help but this should be restricted to what is necessary and appropriate to learning and not be due to the teacher's impatience. The aim is to encourage independence in the learner. Most, except perhaps the very young, will be able to get wrinkles out of socks and pull trousers above the top of boots. Demonstration and explanation will avoid unnecessary physical contact. Where physical contact is unavoidable it should be done in an overt way and with a preceding explanation. Again this should only take place in an open and public environment.

Toilets

In some cases it may be that staff and clients share the same toilets and whilst adults must try to avoid being in toilets alone with children it is sometimes unavoidable, (in a public toilet perhaps, where a child enters after the adult). Young children may need to go to the toilet during a training session and whilst it may be necessary for the teacher to show them where the toilets are, it is not their role to enter the toilet and assist them in any way. Small children should be accompanied where necessary by a parent or carer.

Skiing/Snowboarding

As learners begin to move around on their skis or snowboards, the need for physical contact reduces; other than perhaps helping them up after a fall. This should be done with their consent after an explanation of what is to happen. Throughout their learning however, learners should be encouraged to be independent and not seek help in getting up. Helping learners to their feet can pose a risk of physical injury to both the learner and the teacher and should therefore only be done when absolutely necessary and then very carefully. If learners continually fall, the activity or the terrain should be reviewed and, if necessary changed. If they still continue to fall, the learner should be instructed to take off their skis/snowboard, then stand up and put their skis/snowboard back on.

The teacher should adopt a similar approach of review and revise whenever this type of difficulty arises.

Teaching

In most cases inappropriate physical contact will be the result of poor practice and thoughtlessness rather than deliberate abuse. Teaching techniques should be reviewed regularly, particularly where physical contact is involved, and decisions made regarding the necessity and/or appropriateness of physical contact. It is important that there is no overreaction to physical contact between teacher and learner as it may be both necessary and appropriate to the learner's progress.

First Aid

Where possible, two first-aiders should treat casualties or a first aider accompanied by another adult of the same gender as the casualty. Where the casualty is required to remove clothing this should ideally be done in the presence of a first aider of the same gender unless the well being of the casualty is jeopardised by delaying e.g. in the event of cardiac arrest or a major bleed.

Socialising

One of the great values of snowsports activities is the development of healthy relationships between adults and young people: between teachers and learners. Relationships should be conducted in an open, transparent manner and without singling out any child for special attention.

Whilst some people may feel threatened by the increased awareness and reporting of child abuse, it has given us a great opportunity to review procedures and establish guidance on best practice. Where poor practice is identified it can be eradicated and replaced with best practice. In many

cases, best practice is already happening and a review will serve to validate it. A review should be regarded as a complacency check as times and situations change – it is no longer acceptable to simply assume that something that has always been done should continue to be.

APPENDIX 3

Equity Policy

- Snowsport Scotland, both as a corporate body and in all of its constituent parts, will take positive action and special measures to ensure that no participant (be they competitor, official, coaching scheme member or person in any other capacity) is in any way discriminated against or subject to any form of harassment or abuse by virtue of their age, ethnicity, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, skiing discipline or personal circumstances.
- It is the aim of Snowsport Scotland to ensure that all present and potential members, employees and volunteers receive fair and equitable treatment. It is therefore the aim of Snowsport Scotland to provide all services in a way that is fair and equitable to everyone.
- In pursuance of the policy, Snowsport Scotland may take special measures or positive action in favour of any group that is currently under-represented in its membership, representative body or its workforce. In this, Snowsport Scotland will take account of the following Acts of Parliament:
 - Race Relations Act 1976 (amendment 2000)
 - Equal Pay Act 1970
 - Sex Discrimination Acts 1975, 1986, 1999
 - Disability Discrimination Act 1995
 - Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
 - Human Rights Act 2000
 - UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989, 1990)
- Snowsport Scotland reserves the right to discipline any members, employees or volunteers of Snowsport Scotland who are considered to have practiced any discrimination on the grounds set out in this policy.
- Where selection is made this will be solely on the basis of relevant criteria published in advance and fairly and transparently administered.
- This policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by Snowsport Scotland. Information on its implementation and impact will be provided to employees, members and volunteers.

APPENDIX 4

Guidelines for Transporting Children and Young People

It is important to ensure that all steps are taken to ensure the safe transport of children and young people.

If children are to be transported by coach the following should be considered:

- use a reputable company providing transport and necessary insurance
- ensure sufficient supervisors are on each coach (male and female)
- all participants have a seat and seat belt regulations are adhered to
- parents/carers are issued with detailed information of pick-up and drop-off points and times
- all supervisory staff are issued with all relevant information of passengers e.g. name/contact number, pick-up/drop-off point, name of parent/carer to collect, emergency telephone number
- participants are not to be left unsupervised, i.e. dropped off when a parent/carer is not there

If private cars are used for transport, you should ensure parental consent has been obtained. All vehicles and drivers must be adequately insured.

If using mini-buses then consideration must be given to the relevant legislation, both in the UK and abroad.

APPENDIX 5

Supervision of Children and Young People

Prevention is the most important aspect of supervision of children and young people. From the moment the child arrives at an event, staff and volunteers are acting *in loco parentis* and have a duty of care towards them.

Appropriate supervision ratios and systems for monitoring the whereabouts of children are essential. It must be clear at all times who in the team is responsible for supervision. This is particularly important where events are held on large sites and at residential venues.

A risk assessment should be carried out prior to the event - the key factors to assess include:

- Age of children
- Additional supervision/support needs of some or all participants (for example due to disability)
- Competence/experience of participants for the specific activity
- Nature of activity (for example glacier training sessions will require higher levels of supervision than a dry land fitness session)
- Nature of venue (whether closed and exclusive, or open and accessible to members of the public)

While the risk assessment may well indicate the need for an enhanced level of supervision and staffing for a particular activity, the CPSU suggests that the following guidelines are considered as minimum requirements for any activity:

For events involving children under the age of 8, the supervision ratios are set out in **Out of School Care** (available to download on www.ofsted.gov.uk). For children over the age of 8, experience has shown that a ratio of 1 adult to 10 participants is the minimum required.

The CPSU recommends that whatever the recommended ratio of adults to participants is, a minimum of two adults should be present.

The supervisors must ensure that there is clear guidance on reporting missing participants. As a general rule where a child is reported missing there should be a maximum of 20 minutes before the police are called. This may need to be reduced where a young child is involved.

For residential events, it is recommended that the event coordinator has access to photos of children/young people (attached to their consent form) in the event of their having to report a participant missing to the police.

APPENDIX 6

Photographic/Recording Images

Whilst Snowsport Scotland recognises that publicity and pictures/recordings of children and young people enjoying snowsport is essential to promote the sport and a healthy lifestyle, the following guidelines should be observed.

Key Concerns

The key concerns regarding the use of images of children/young people relate to:

- The possible identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by personal information.
- The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child pornography or illegal website.
- The taking of inappropriate or unauthorised photographs or recorded images of children

Guidelines for Photographic/Recorded Images

Please adhere to these guidelines at all times:

- Ensure parents/guardian/young person have granted their consent for the taking and publication of photographic images.
- All children featured in recordings must be appropriately dressed for the activity they are participating in.
- The photograph or recording should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person and personal details which might make the young person vulnerable, such as their exact address should not be revealed.
- Clubs, coaches and volunteers should be allowed to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid and means of recording special occasions however care should be taken in the dissemination and storage of the material.
- You should not use any images of a child or young persons known to be the subject of any court order or who has denied you their consent.
- Parents and spectators taking photographs/recordings should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming.
- Any instances of the use of inappropriate images should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer or to Snowsport Scotland Lead Child Welfare Officer on 0131 445 4151 or to the Police.

Guidelines for Publishing Photographic/Recorded Images

- If a photograph is used, avoid naming the child or use their first name only. Personal details of children such as an email address, home address and telephone numbers should never be revealed on a website or in print.
- Think about the level of consideration that you give to the use of images in all publications, for example the process used in choosing photographs for a publicity brochure for the club. Apply an increased level of consideration to the images of children used on websites

Use of Photographic/Filming Equipment at Sporting Events

There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of children. All clubs should be vigilant and any concerns should be reported to the Club Child Welfare Officer. All parents and athletes should be made aware when coaches use video equipment as a coaching aid.

OPT OUT FORM (FOR THE USE AND PUBLICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDED IMAGES)

EVENT: _____

I _____ (insert parent/carer full name)

DO NOT CONSENT to the publication of images of

_____ (name of young person)

at this event under the Snowsport Scotland Child Welfare guidelines and I confirm that I am legally entitled to sign this form.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Date: _____

I _____ (name of young person)

DO NOT CONSENT to the publication of my image at this event under the Snowsport Scotland Child Welfare guidelines.

Signature of Young Person: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: (insert details)

Event Organiser: _____

APPENDIX 7

Trips Away With Children - Guidelines For the designated 'Responsible Adult' (Head Coach, Team Leader, Manager and/or Head Instructor)

See also Appendix 5 (Supervision of Children & Young People) and Appendix 10 (Safe Events)

1. As the designated Responsible Adult you have a 'duty of care' as well as a legal responsibility under the Children Act for the safety and well-being of the children at all times. You are responsible for ensuring the child protection policy and procedures are being followed and in the event of an incident will be held to account.
Do not take your responsibility lightly. You are not on holiday, but on duty 24 hours a day.
2. The Responsible Adult will have been vetted according to standard current practice, and should ensure that they are fully aware of Snowsport Scotland's Child Protection Policy. Current advice regarding physical contact with children should be followed (see Child Protection Policy). Adults should be aware of, and abide by, the relevant staff Code of Conduct (that for coaches is included within the Child Protection Policy).
3. The Responsible Adult should ensure that participants have read and understood the relevant Code of Conduct for participants (including the FIS Skiers Code), and should reinforce these rules at every opportunity.
4. Disciplinary measures may at times be necessary, and such procedures must be conducted with fairness. Firm guidelines for behaviour, curfews, rendezvous times, etc. must be laid down clearly to the participants, so that they know what is expected of them at all times. At least two Responsible Adults must be present and involved in any disciplinary matter, and the child must, if at all possible, be represented by an accompanying adult. Participants and parents will have read and signed the relevant Code of Conduct and will be aware of possible procedures and sanctions.
5. Be aware at all times of possible tensions within the group. Snowsport disciplines are individual sports, and the competitive nature may lead to jealousies and to bullying.
6. A staffing ratio of adults to participants of 1:8 is suggested as an acceptable provision, with two as a minimum requirement. If there are participants of both sexes on the trip, the Responsible Adults should include at least one of each gender. At least one of the responsible adults should be trained in First Aid.
7. Boys and girls should be in separate sleeping quarters, and children must not share rooms with adult staff members. An exception may be made in the case of married couples.
8. At least one of the Responsible Adults should be with the children at all times, or at least within very easy reach. The children must *at all times* know the whereabouts of at least one of the Responsible Adults in case of emergency.
9. Where there are organised events for the adults (e.g. race meetings, hospitality events) it is reasonable for *all* the Responsible Adults to attend these *only if the conditions above pertain*, i.e. the children must know how to contact them and be able to do so readily (e.g. in the same building). If this is impracticable, then one Responsible Adult should remain with the children for the duration of the event.
10. The Responsible Adults should lead by example, and reasonable standards of behaviour in respect of alcohol consumption should be upheld by all on the trip. *At least one of the Responsible Adults should maintain complete abstinence from alcohol at a given time* in case of emergency.

11. Insurance documents should be carried by the lead Responsible Adult at all times in case of accident.
12. The lead Responsible Adult should carry, or have access to, extra funds in case of any emergency (e.g. hospital treatment of a child).
13. Finally, participants should be encouraged to make the most of the opportunities in the course of the event – whether in making friends from other areas or nations, identifying and achieving personal goals in the sport (including in competition), or in discovering a little about the regions they are visiting.
14. Further guidance can be found in the NSPCC publication 'Safe Sport Away', published 2001.

APPENDIX 8

CHILD WELFARE IN THE MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT

Background

Many of the issues and guidance on Child Welfare are common to all sports, and indeed to all school and club environments. There are, however, some situations that are either unique to, or are made more tricky by, the mountain environment in which many of our activities take place. This note gives some examples and is intended to provoke thought and promote best practice. It is not intended to refer to evenings in resorts or behaviour in mountain restaurants, but to the open mountainside, in any part of the world.

Understanding the risks

Children who take part in snowsports, and their parents and guardians, must accept that the mountains are a dangerous environment; accidents in the mountains can lead to injury and, in extreme cases, to death. Coaches, instructors and leaders can minimise these risks through their skills and experience, but risks cannot be eliminated completely. In more dangerous situations, greater care and greater ability are required from all participants.

Clubs should always give clear guidance in advance regarding the type of activity, the level of experience or qualifications of the leader, the remoteness of the location and any other special factors (e.g. glaciated terrain). Children, parents and guardians should ensure, through comparison and discussion with a Club officer, that they have clearly understood the level of risk associated with the activity to be undertaken.

Coaches, instructors and leaders shall be free to refuse to take on the mountain any person (of any age) who appears not to have an adequate understanding of the risks or who does not take precautions appropriate to the prevailing environment. They should satisfy themselves that any child is sufficiently mature to understand the risks and to cope, both physically and mentally, with the conditions that may be encountered.

Group safety

The safety of the whole group is always paramount. Coaches, instructors and leaders must constantly assess factors such as the weather, visibility and snow conditions when determining the activity to be undertaken or route to be followed. Children in particular should always be kept together in a group of manageable size.

There are very few situations in which it is acceptable for the group to be split up (an injury in a remote location might be an exception); generally the whole group must stay with the responsible person for the whole day or session. Where a child must leave the group (for example to visit the toilet), it is preferable for two or more to go together, and they should go no further than is necessary for privacy.

Stress and tiredness

Coaches, instructors and leaders must be alert to signs of cold and tiredness, which may lead to errors of judgement. The same applies to stress caused by a child being stretched beyond his or her limits. Although such stress is not always unhealthy, and is sometimes a necessary part of learning, it can be dangerous if taken to extremes or if combined with other risk factors.

Competition is an essential part of some snowsports activities, and even informal competition can lead to greater enjoyment and motivation. Coaches, instructors and leaders should, however, ensure that this is never harmful and that it would not lead to over-exertion or excessive risk-taking.

An accompanying parent, a sibling or a close friend is more likely to detect signs of stress in a child, and should be encouraged to communicate these to the responsible person. However, they can also be a source of stress, particularly in a competitive environment.

Mountain accommodation

In mountain huts and similar accommodation, shared dormitories are common. Where this is the only option, the responsible person should take particular care over sleeping arrangements. They should avoid leaving a child in a dormitory on their own or with a single adult and also avoid a single adult sharing a room with children

APPENDIX 9

Athletes Code of Conduct

As an athlete and participant in skiing competitions I agree to follow the Athlete's Code of Conduct as given below:

- I will read, understand and agree to the SnowsportGB Drugs and Doping policy
- I will not use prohibited or recreational drugs, as defined by WADA
- I will show respect to coaches and team managers at all times
- I will respect the race officials and volunteers involved in the organisation of the races
- I will show respect to my racing colleagues and other ski team athletes.
- I will not be involved in any bullying or practises that can be deemed as bullying.
- I will demonstrate sporting behaviour with race results and decisions made
- I will act in a manner that does not bring myself or my sport into disrepute at all times during ski races and practice/training sessions
- I will attend and present for prize giving ceremonies should I receive a trophy (unless circumstances do not allow me)
- I will not enter into relationships with other athletes on the Team while on training and race camps.

The harmful effects of smoking cigarettes and the consumption of alcohol are well recognised and can be detrimental to the performance of racers.

Snowsport Scotland actively encourages the non-consumption of these substances, particularly during race events and training.

Athlete's signature _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____
(if under 18 years)

Disciplinary action may be imposed for breach of rules or for reasons of behaviour when such may be deemed of a disciplinary nature by the race organisers. Any action will depend on the type and seriousness of any breach of discipline but will be accompanied by a verbal warning and/or a written warning as necessary. Athletes shall have the right to appeal all such measures, to the race organisers in the first instance, then the Board via the Athletes Representative within three months of disputed disciplinary measure.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

Parents have a very important part to play in the sport. Parents clothe and equip athletes. Parents drive them to and from the mountain and to their races. Parents stand on the hill and encourage, sometimes as race volunteers. Parents make big commitments and sacrifices to support their athletes and respective clubs.

Training Sessions

Training sessions are valuable times for the coach and the skiers.

Parental participation in training sessions can cause a distraction for coaches and skiers. Therefore clubs should normally discourage parents from joining in training sessions. Young skiers will become more independent and better skiers when given “elbow room” on the slope. Adult training sessions should take place separately to the children’s race sessions.

Parent-Coach Communications

It is important that parents communicate with the coaches but this should be at an appropriate time and place after training sessions. The decisions coaches make regarding coaching philosophies, training plans, athlete development and athlete management are the products of experience, careful thought and collaboration. Parents should trust and respect coaches’ decisions regarding programmes and individual athletes. If parents have questions or comments in this area then they should communicate directly with the head coach. Parents should not interfere with programme activities or “take matters into their own hands”.

Competitive skiing requires athletes to develop patience, focus and confidence. The “mental” part of the sport presents challenges for coaches, athletes and parents. It can sometimes be difficult to keep things in perspective on race days. For parents, the urge to coach, provoke and criticise athletes can be almost irresistible. Young athletes will not perform at their best when receiving advice and direction from the “sidelines”.

It is hard for children to remain relaxed, confident and to maintain a love for the sport in the face of unrealistic expectations or criticism for their efforts.

RACE/EVENT DAY DO'S FOR PARENTS

- Nutrition and clothing are just as important as wax. A nutritionally balanced breakfast, healthy snacks and water or still drinks should be available. Ensure that in all the turmoil of race day children have a light lunch or small snacks throughout. Weather is unpredictable, an extra neck warmer, gloves, goggles and socks are recommended.
- Arrive at the race/event in good time. A hurried athlete is a stressed athlete and that is the worst ingredient for race day. Check with the coach on the previous day with regards to time and meeting place.
- Skis should be tuned and waxed the night before.
- Try to avoid the "Finish" or result board. This sends the message that race time and results are the single most important thing.
- Think before speaking to athletes – what may seem helpful to an adult can be seen as criticism to a child. Leave technical advice and comments to the coaches; parents should create a positive environment, welcoming smiles and perhaps a good joke! Children should be aware that parental disappointment is *for* them and not *in* them.
- Try to support all athletes. A compliment from someone else's parent/carer could be the key to a child's best day.
- Relax and enjoy the day!
- Leave course inspection to the coaches. Coaches will have worked on specific things with each athlete and are able to pinpoint what that athlete needs to be thinking about. Too much information or a change of focus on race/event day can have a negative effect.
- Parents should normally stay away from the "Start" area. An athlete needs to be able to focus on the race and this can often be hard when parents are present. Again, each coach is very aware of what each child should be doing in preparation for his/her run.
- Whether watching the race/event or back in the "lodge", keep negative comments about other children, coaches or the running of the race to yourself. Racers will quickly pick up on these comments, use them as excuses and will carry them around for the rest of the day.
- Video plays a key role in the development of ski racers, but it has a specific time and place. Athletes tend to focus on what they have done wrong after watching video and so watching their first run is not a positive thing. Athletes can also be given different information or a new focus from what a coach has been working on with them.
- Keep video analysis at home relaxed, short, positive and fun. Give athletes the chance to watch it alone and give their own feedback.
- Last but certainly not least coaching is done during training. Race/event day is where all the information on technique, inspection, line tactics, psychology and sportsmanship from training sessions should come together. It is often said, "If you didn't bring it with you, you won't find it here".

Give positive guidance, support and understanding and then stand back and watch the athletes develop.

APPENDIX 10

SAFE EVENTS

Each event must have a Child Welfare Officer who is responsible for

- Child welfare
- Child Safeguarding
- Duty of care to participants and to all involved in the organisation

The event Welfare Officer's core responsibilities are to

- Provide and promote a welfare plan
- Aim for best practice, but at least ensure that minimum standards are met, i.e. in terms of recruitment, selection and training of staff.

He/she must:

- Ensure that all staff who provide services to the event are appropriately qualified and have been subject to safeguarding checks in advance. If not, then it is imperative that they do not have unsupervised contact with participants.
- Collect written evidence that all staff and volunteers have completed appropriate Child Protection training*. (Staff in direct contact will need more in-depth training).
- Ensure a complaints/disciplinary procedure is in place and implemented for participants and staff working at the event

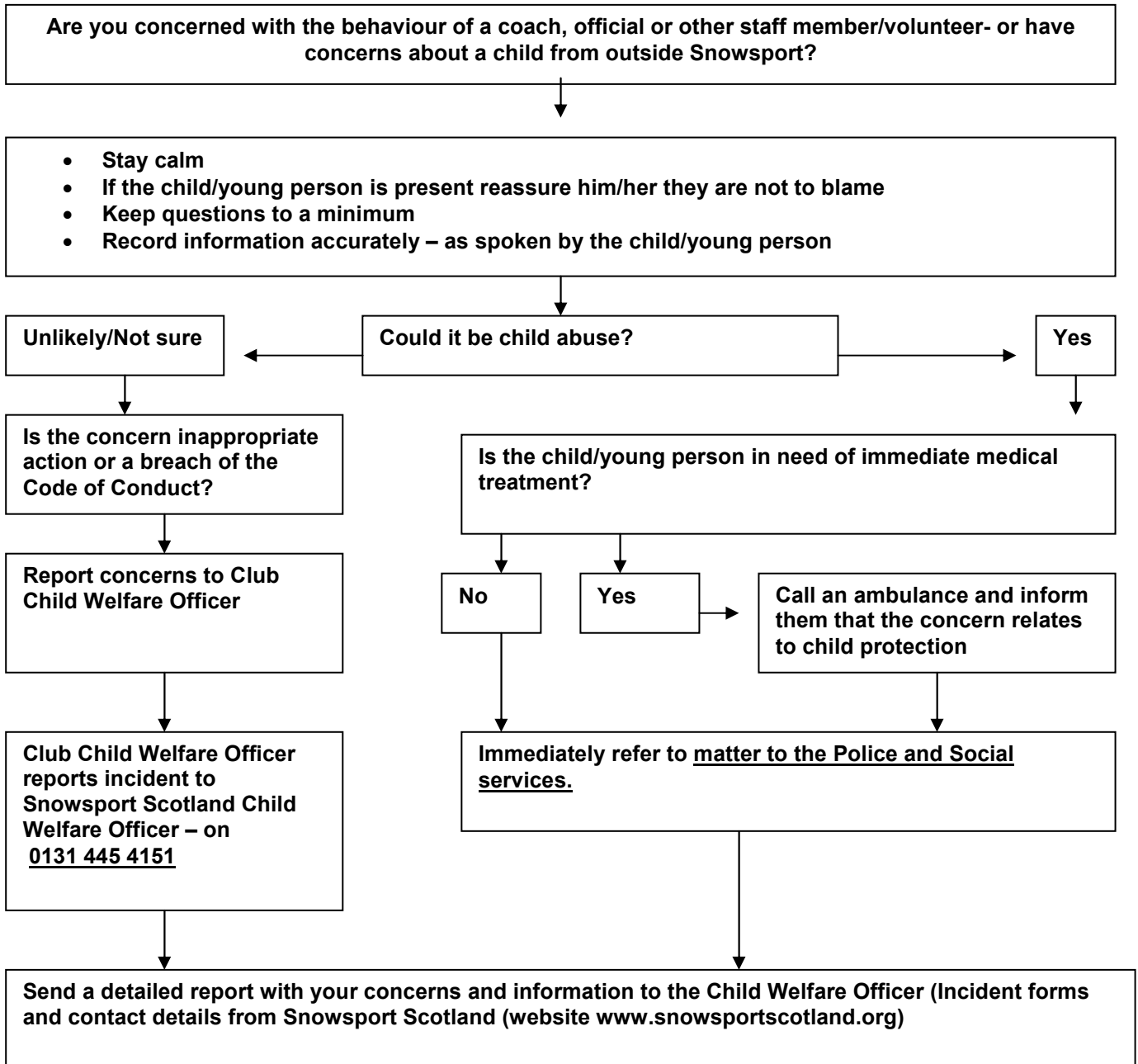
Minimum Learning Requirements & Safeguarding Checks for staff involved in an event

| Staff | Roles & Responsibilities | CRBS check Disclosure | Child Protection Awareness training* |
|--|---|---|---|
| Welfare Officer (1 per 100 participants) | Responsibility for implementation of event welfare plan | Yes | Yes |
| All staff in direct contact with participants | | Yes | Yes |
| All named race/event officials | | Yes | |
| All event and support staff not in direct contact | Responsible for servicing the event | Must ensure no unsupervised contact with participants | |
| Drivers | | Yes | Suitable, valid driving licence; relevant insurance |

*Safeguarding and Protecting Children

APPENDIX 11

REPORTING OF CONCERNS



APPENDIX 12A

LEAD WELFARE OFFICER

JOB DESCRIPTION

General

Every organisation should designate a person or persons to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children.

The sports organisation's Child Protection policy and procedures should include the name of this person, his/her role and responsibilities and how he/she can be contacted. The person designated should ensure that he/she is knowledgeable about Child Protection and that he/she undertakes any training considered necessary to keep him/herself updated on new developments.

The role of the Lead Welfare Officer is to:

- establish contact with the senior member of Children's Services staff responsible for Child Protection in the organisation's catchment area
- provide information and advice on Child Protection within the organisation
- ensure that the organisation's Child Protection policy and procedures are followed and particularly to inform Children's services/health board of relevant concerns about individual children
- be aware of Children 1st and CPSU contact details and information sources and to be familiar with local procedures
- ensure that appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing, under confidential cover
- liaise with social services (social work services, Scotland) and other agencies, as appropriate
- keep relevant people within the organisation, particularly the Chairman, informed about any action taken and any further action required, for example disciplinary action against a member of staff
- ensure that an individual case record is maintained of the action taken by the organisation, the liaison with other agencies and the outcome
- advise the organisation of Child Welfare training needs

Responsibility

The Lead Welfare Officer is responsible for acting as a source of advice on Child Protection matters, for coordinating action within the organisation and for liaising with health and social services departments and other agencies about suspected or actual cases of child abuse. He/she may also be responsible for implementing Child Protection training within the organisation.

APPENDIX 12B

CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

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JOB DESCRIPTION

It is good practice for all sports organisations, however small, to identify at least one person to be responsible for dealing with allegations or suspicions of abuse.

Each club should have a designated person who should be supported in their role by an officer within their governing body or sports organisations. Everyone in the organisation should know who this is and how to contact them. If you are organising an event or competition away from home it is also advisable to nominate a designated person for that activity.

The role of the Club Welfare Officer person is to:

- receive information from club staff, volunteers, children or parents and carers who have Child Protection concerns and record it.
- assess the information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining more information about the matter as appropriate
- consult initially with a statutory Child Protection agency, such as the local social services department or health board, or Children 1st, to test out any doubts or uncertainty about the concerns as soon as possible
- make a formal referral to a statutory Child Welfare agency, e.g. Social Services department or the police, without delay. It is NOT the role of the club to decide whether a child has been abused or not. This is the task of the Social Services department and the police who have the legal responsibility, or Children 1st/CPSU who also have powers to investigate Child Welfare concerns under the Protection of Children(Scotland) Act 2003. It is, however, everybody's responsibility to ensure that concerns are shared and appropriate action taken
- report the concerns to the national Governing Body

The designated person should be aware of the local statutory Child Protection network and the existence of local inter-agency Child Protection procedures.

The designated person needs to be aware of the relevant contact numbers and addresses of the statutory agencies in their locality. If concerns arise, for example, when away on a competition or training camp, contact should be made with local agencies whose details will be in the telephone directory. Social Services departments have an out-of-hours duty team who can be contacted at any time.

It is also important for the designated person to have received the appropriate level of training in Child Protection.

For information about relevant training contact the 0141 4185674 or visit www.cpinsport.org.uk. A list of useful contact numbers is in **Section 7**.

APPENDIX 13

Dealing with Media Enquiries

1. Why you need a media strategy

Child abuse is an issue which will generate media interest. Snowsport Scotland's member groups are developing a comprehensive training and certification programme for those working with young people in snowsports. It is, however, imperative that each club/school has an effective strategy for dealing with media enquiries.

It is important that you handle any initial enquiries in a way that will not aggravate the situation or generate negative publicity. It is also important to be aware of legislation that prevents the naming of children and young people in the media.

Snowsport Scotland is committed to investigating all allegations.

2. Be prepared

- Each Club should record contact details for access to a Press Officer or representative who will handle media enquiries. Please contact Snowsport Scotland (0131 445 4151) for assistance in this regard.
- If you know of an allegation of child abuse, it is important to be prepared in advance for potential publicity;
- Contact Lead Child Welfare Officer at Snowsport Scotland office (0131 445 4151) and give ALL the facts. Don't hide anything or pretend the situation is not as serious as it is or might become. The press can put a large headline on even the smallest story and it is important that Snowsport Scotland is aware of all the details.

3. What to do when approached or contacted by a journalist

- A journalist may hear of an alleged case of abuse from a source or directly from a relative or acquaintance of the alleged victim;
- They are likely to approach the Club or coach/official and ask for their response. It is worth remembering that the journalist may already have the story mapped out in his/her own mind, so what you say, and how you say it, is important;
- Make sure you clearly hear the name of the journalist and the media they are working for. If necessary, ask them to repeat it and write it down;
- Make sure you fully understand what the journalist is asking you. Ask them to repeat a question if necessary. You may be aware of the incident concerned but not always;
- Do not say 'No comment' - it makes you sound guarded and as if you have something to hide;
- Take contact phone number where they can be easily contacted and find out when their deadline is;
- Contact Snowsport Scotland and discuss the matter and to formulate an appropriate response;
- Snowsport Scotland will then respond to the journalist and inform you of that response.

5. The follow-up

Allegations of child abuse are rarely one-day stories, so be prepared for more phone calls and media enquiries. Just because one response has been given does not mean that the media will not have more questions in the future.

Follow the same procedure as before and contact Snowsport Scotland.

6. 'Off the record'

Journalists like nothing better than going 'off the record'. They use this tool to get more information but with the undertaking that they will not publish what you say. Do not speak off the record in any situation involving Child Protection issues.

APPENDIX 14

CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT DISCLOSURE FORM

Have you?

- Reassured the young person
- Been honest and not made promises you cannot keep
- Explained why you may have to tell other people in order to stop what's happening
- Avoided closed questions and asked as few a questions as possible
- Encouraged the child to use their own words

Your Name

.....
...

Your Position

.....

Name of person reporting the concern

Young Person's Name

Young Person's address:

.....
.....

Parent's or guardian Name & Address:

.....

Your Observations:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Exactly what the young person said to you:

.....
.....
.....

Any action you have taken so far:

.....
.....
.....

Intended Action:

.....
.....

.....
.....

.....
.....

Signature: Date:

.....

**REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY.
DO NOT DISCUSS WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THOSE THAT NEED TO KNOW**

APPENDIX 15

CHILD PROTECTION: STATEMENT OF DECLARATION

Snowsport Scotland fully accepts its legal (Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003) and moral obligations to provide a duty of care to protect all children. Snowsport Scotland is committed to ensuring that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/orsexual identity should be able to participate in snowsports in a fun and safe environment
- All reasonable steps are taken to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All Snowsport Scotland employees/volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults a recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility and are provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and Child Welfare procedures
- Working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children.

For all staff and volunteers working with, or in the company of children and young people:

| Your surname | First name | Date of Birth | Ski club | Your role at this event |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | |

| |
|--------------------------|
| Address: |
| Post code: |
| Telephone number: |

I confirm I have read and agree to abide by the Statement above and

I confirm that I have not been convicted, cautioned or reprimanded, or have any pending prosecutions against Children, Young persons or Vulnerable adults. I have not been disciplined/sanctioned for offences against Children, Young persons or vulnerable adults in any other organisation.

This position is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, and all convictions, including 'spent' convictions, must be notified.

Signed: Date:

APPENDIX 16

Sample Application Form

Post of:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Title: | Surname: | First Name: |
| Sex: M/F | National Insurance Number | Any previous names by which you may have been known: |
| Address: | Postcode: | Tel No: |
| Date of Birth: | Place of Birth: | |

Post for which applying: _____

Relevant experience, qualifications and training:

Career/involvement in sport (with dates)

I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by Snowsport Scotland's Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. I also confirm that I agree to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure, and am happy for further information to be sought from the statutory bodies (police and Social Services) if appropriate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please supply the names and addresses of two people (not relatives) who will provide references regarding your experience of, and suitability for, working with children and young people (e.g. previous employers):

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Name: | Name: |
| Address: | Address: |
| Position: | Position: |
| Tel No: | Tel No: |

APPENDIX 17

Sample Reference Form

..... has expressed an interest in children's snowsports and has been asked to send us references.

The role they are interested in involves access to children and /or vulnerable adults. As an organisation committed to safeguarding children we are keen to gather references and to know whether you have any concerns about the applicant's involvement with children.

If you are willing to complete the rest of this reference any information you share will be treated in confidence in accordance with relevant legislation.

How long have you known this person?

In what capacity do you know them?.....

Do you think this person is suitable to help in children's snowsports?

Yes

No

If yes, could you comment on their skills, ability and relationship with children and young people?

.....
.....

If no, can you say why?

.....
.....

| | Poor | Good | Excellent |
|--|------|------|-----------|
| Able to stay calm with children and young people | | | |
| Able to motivate children and young people | | | |
| Coaching skills | | | |
| Administration ability | | | |
| Trustworthiness | | | |
| Reliability | | | |

Do you have any other information which would give cause for concern for this person to work with children?

.....
.....
.....

About you

Do you have a role in children's snowsport? If yes, please briefly describe what you do.

.....
.....
.....

Your name

.....

Your address

.....
.....
.....

Thank you - please return this form to:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

APPENDIX 18

Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS)

The CRBS enables employers of private, paid and voluntary organisations in Scotland to undertake checks related to an applicant's suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults. Access to the CRBS is available to all organisations working with children and young people, either directly as registered bodies or through 'umbrella' organisations.

Snowsport Scotland is registered with the CRBS and is entitled to use their Criminal Records Unit to obtain Disclosure checks on Snowsport Scotland employees and volunteers. There is a fee incurred for all staff disclosures, but checks are completely free for volunteers working with our organisation.

All individuals working with/having regular contact with children should undertake an **enhanced disclosure** CRB check covering children and vulnerable adults.

Snowsport Scotland's CRB Policy is as follows:

General principles

As an organisation using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure service to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust, Snowsport Scotland complies fully with the CRB Code of Practice regarding the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosures and Disclosure information. It also complies fully with its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosure information and has a written policy on these matters, which is available to those who wish to see it on request.

Storage and access

Disclosure information should be kept securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

Handling

In accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997, Disclosure information is only passed to those who are authorised to receive it in the course of their duties. We maintain a record of all those to whom Disclosures or Disclosure information has been revealed and it is a **criminal offence** to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.

Usage

Disclosure information is only used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Retention

Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made, we do not keep Disclosure information for any longer than is necessary. This is generally for a period of up to six months, to allow for the consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints. If, in very exceptional circumstances, it is considered necessary to keep Disclosure information for longer than six months, we will consult the CRB about this and will give full consideration to the data protection and human rights of the individual before doing so. Throughout this time, the usual conditions regarding the safe storage and strictly controlled access will prevail.

Disposal

Once the retention period has elapsed, we will ensure that any Disclosure information is immediately destroyed by secure means, i.e. by shredding, pulping or burning. While awaiting destruction, Disclosure information will not be kept in any insecure receptacle (e.g. waste bin or confidential waste sack). We will not keep any photocopy or other image of the Disclosure or any copy or representation of the contents of a Disclosure. However notwithstanding the above, we will keep a record of the date of issue of a Disclosure, the name of the subject, the type of Disclosure requested, the position for which the Disclosure was requested, the unique reference number of the Disclosure and the details of the recruitment decision taken.

POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS

As an organisation using the CRBS Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Snowsport Scotland complies fully with the CRB Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.

Snowsport Scotland is determined to make all efforts to prevent discrimination or other unfair treatment against any of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background that does not create risk to children and vulnerable adults.

We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.

A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.

Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to a designated person within Snowsport Scotland and we guarantee that this information is only to be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

The nature of the position allows Snowsport Scotland to ask questions about the entire criminal record. We ask about "unspent" as well as "spent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

We ensure that all those in Snowsport Scotland who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.

We make every subject of a CRB Disclosure aware of the existence of the CRB Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.

We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment. **Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with Snowsport Scotland.** This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.

CRBS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is a CRB Disclosure?
- How do I apply for a Disclosure?
- What sort of Disclosure do I need?
- What information will I be required to show and include on my Disclosure form?
- Who will receive my Disclosure?
- Can I challenge the information on my Disclosure?
- How long will my Disclosure be valid?
- I already have an Enhanced disclosure is it valid?

What is a CRB Disclosure?

A CRB Disclosure is a document that contains information held by police and government department that can be used by employers and voluntary organisations to make recruitment decisions.

A CRB Disclosure offers Snowsport and all those involved in the sport the means to check the background of applicants to ensure that they do not have a history that would make them unsuitable for posts.

A CRB Disclosure will provide details of a person's criminal record including convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer. It will also contain details from lists held by the Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills.

How do I apply for a Disclosure?

Application forms can be obtained from the Snowsport Scotland office.

Once you have received your form follow the instructions, showing your identification to your recruiter/signatory and filling in the relevant parts. Snowsport Scotland will then submit the form to CRBS.

What sort of Disclosure do I need?

Snowsport Scotland only conducts Enhanced Disclosures. An Enhanced Disclosure includes an additional check against local Police Forces.

Local police records may contain additional information that might be relevant to the position sought.

What information will I be required to show and include on my Disclosure form?

In completing the form you are required to include:

- Your full name, and any other name that you may have been known by
- Details of addresses you have lived at
- Your date and place of birth
- Your national insurance number
- In addition you will be required to provide photographic identification documents including items such as your passport and/or driving licence

The ID will be seen by a Snowsport Scotland signatory who will validate the information and send the application to CRBS for checking and certification

Who will receive my Disclosure?

You (the applicant) will receive your Disclosure form in the post once the check has been completed.

The turn around time for CRB Disclosures to be returned is around 6-8 weeks although some can be shorter as well as considerably longer.

A copy of your CRB Disclosures will also be returned to Snowsport Scotland's Registered lead signatory. Your Club will **NOT** receive a copy of your Disclosure although they are advised to ask to see your completed Disclosure.

Can I challenge the information on my Disclosure?

Yes, if you think that any information on your Disclosure is incorrect please contact the CRB Dispute Line on 0870 90 90 778

You should also contact Snowsport Scotland Lead Signatory to inform them which aspect of your Disclosure you are disputing.

How long will my Disclosure be valid?

A Disclosure is only valid on the day that it is issued. However if you remain employed, or in a permanent role with the same club or organisation, then you may not need to undergo another CRB check for three years. If however, you move role club, or organisation you may well be required to complete another CRB Disclosure.

Snowsport Scotland normally requires its staff/volunteers/officials to agree to undergo an enhanced disclosure every three years.

I already have an Enhanced check from another organisation. Do I need to complete another Check?

The risks are that someone produces a Disclosure with no convictions of any relevance even though they are still a risk to children, because additional information will not be shown

Snowsport Scotland is also aware that some bodies have not completed identity checks in line with recommendations and that there is also the possibility of falsified Disclosures.

Most organisations, including sports bodies and social services departments in local authorities, will only accept their own Disclosure because of the risks described above.

Snowsport Scotland recognises that some people already have Disclosures but since March 1st 2005, following advice from the Home Office and the Criminal Records Bureau, Snowsport Scotland will no longer accept Disclosures from any other organisation.

For more information on CRB checks:

Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS)

Unit 55
Stirling Enterprise Park
Stirling
FK7 7RP
Tel: 01786 849777
Email: info@crbs.org.uk

DISCLOSURE FORMS

Can be obtained from the Snowsport Scotland office. Tel: 0131 445 4151 or email info@snowsportscotland.org

APPENDIX 19
Relevant Legislation, Guidance & Publications

Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003

www.opsi.gov.uk/scotland/acts2003

Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000

www.hms0.gov.uk

Data Protection Act 1998

www.legislation.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980029.htm (the Act)

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ccpd/dpu98news.htm (overview)

Human Rights Act 1998

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/hract/hramenu.htm

Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2000

www.hms0.gov.uk/acts/en/2000en44.htm

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

www.un.org

Our Duty to Care

www.volunteering-ni.org

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

www.the-stationary-office.co.uk/doh/worktog.htm

Safeguarding Children in Employment

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-04217-2006>

What to do if you are worried about a child

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4061303.pdf

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2006/60047--h.htm>

Publications

Safe Sport Away: a guide to planning

Available from the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit - Tel: 0116 234 7278 Email: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk

Code of ethics and conduct for sports coaches

SportscoachUK - www.brianmac.demon.co.uk/ethics.htm

Sportscheck: a step by step guide for sports organisations to safeguard children

E mail: info@cpinsport.org.uk

Safe Sports Events

E Mail: info@cpinsport.org.uk

Time to Listen

E mail: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk