

Mansfield District Racing Club Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

PURPOSE

This policy outlines how the Mansfield District Racing Club (MDRC) will deliver on its commitments to safeguarding children and young people involved in MDRC race days and racecourse and facility maintenance.

MDRC people are required to abide by the behaviour standards set out in this policy (including by complying with appropriate measures to address risks) and report any behaviours that do not comply with the policy).

Furthermore, the purpose of this policy is to:-

1. Provide a clear statement to MDRC people forbidding child abuse.
2. Work towards an organised culture of child safety within the MDRC.
3. Provide assurance that any and all suspected breaches towards child safety will be reported and investigated as appropriate.

There may be exceptional situations where the policy does not apply (for example in an emergency situation). However, it is critical that where possible, MDRC people seek authorization from the Club's Executive prior to taking action.

DEFINITIONS

1. MDRC people

The MDRC Committee members

All employees, including casual

All directly engaged volunteers and contractors/consultants who are engaged to provide services to the MDRC that involve interaction with children and/or young people.

2. Children and Young People

A person under the age of 18 years.

3. Executive

President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of MDRC

4. Child Abuse

Child abuse includes all forms of physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect or negligent treatment, grooming, commercial (eg financial) gain, exploitation, harassing behaviour such as bullying or other exploitation of a child or young person and includes any actions that result in any actual or potential harm to a child or young person.

Child abuse can be a single incident or taking place over time.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This document should be read in conjunction and supported by the MDRC Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct.

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will be considered a breach of the Policy and may result in investigation, disciplinary action including restriction or suspension of duties or termination of employment.

MDRC Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

All MDRC People Must:-

- Treat all children and young people with respect.
- Ensure that all children and young people are appropriately supervised when assisting the MDRC on race days non-race days.

NB On race days, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to supervise children and young people who are not directly assisting the MDRC.

- Wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working near or with children and young people.
- Limit all interactions with children and young people to the confines of official duties.
- Wherever possible, ensure that all email, text messages and other forms of communication sent to a child or young person are copied to a parent/guardian.
- Ensure that any photograph or film taken of a child or young person is taken in circumstances that are directly relevant to the child or young person's participation in MDRC activities and that the child or young person is appropriately dressed or posed.
- Use best endeavours to complete a risk assessment for any MDRC activity that involves a child or young person.
- Immediately disclose any charges or convictions affecting their suitability to engage with children or young people to MDRC Executive.
- Immediately report any concern for the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, or a suspected breach of the Policy and Code of Conduct to MDRC Executive.

All MDRC People Must Not:-

(in the course of their engagement or employment by the MDRC)

- Engage in any form of sexual behaviour with or in the presence of children or young people.
- Engage in any other form of behaviour that may reasonably be considered to be Child Abuse, including grooming a child or young person.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do themselves.
- Take disciplinary action involving physical punishment or any other form of treatment that could be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating.
- Use language or behaviour that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, intended to humiliate or culturally inappropriate.
- Consume alcohol, illicit drugs or tobacco when working with any children or young people.
- Give a gift to a child or young person without the permission of the MDRC Executive and a parent/guardian.
- Transport any children or young people without the permission of the MDRC Executive and a parent/guardian.
- Arrange contact, including online contact with children or young people outside of MDRC activities or services.
- Use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras or social media to exploit or harass children or access child exploitation material.
- Place any children or young people in an unsafe situation.
Eg. On a roof or high ladder, where electricity is involved, where deep water is present.