



# Sheffield Kite Fliers Child Protection Policy

## **Introduction**

The introduction of this Child Protection Policy should be seen as a clear signal by the SKF that it is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children and young people who participate in Traction Kite Activities sports at all levels.

The policy establishes The Association's position, role and responsibilities and clarifies what is expected of other organisations and individuals involved in Traction Kite Activities sports. It very clearly highlights the importance placed by the SKF on the protection of Children, Vulnerable adults and young people.

## **SKF - The Policy**

Every child and young person who takes part in Traction Kite Activities should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in Traction Kite Activities.

We recognise, however, that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken. The SKF recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, vulnerable adults and young people by protecting them from harm whilst participating in SKF traction kite activities.

The SKF offers Traction Kite Activities opportunities for children, vulnerable adults and young people, in doing so the association should provide the highest possible standard of care. No SKF member shall be out of sight of another SKF member with anyone under the age of 18.

Clear practices, procedures and advice will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children, vulnerable adults and young people.

It is essential that those attracted to and participating in Traction Kite Activities are able to do so in a quality, safe and enjoyable environment.

In striving to attain this, the SKF has laid the following objectives:

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children, vulnerable adults and young people who do traction kite activities under the SKF banner, enabling them to participate in traction kite activities in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout all levels of traction kite activities within the SKF.

The key principles underpinning this Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children, vulnerable adults and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Social Services Departments have a statutory responsibility to ensure the welfare of children and young people:

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and shall be reported to the appropriate authorities.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes the Traction Kite Activities sports club / association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by the SKF of:
  - a. notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
  - b. notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, social services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
  - c. any other information which causes the SKF reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children
 whilst the SKF recognises that their flying sites are open areas, the SKF shall suspend the individual from all or any specific SKF traction kite activities and have their membership revoked.
4. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
5. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned.
6. The SKF will not impede any investigation and will provide all assistance possible.

## **Conclusion**

Through confirming this Policy Document, the SKF has indicated its determination to ensure that children, vulnerable adults and young people can participate in all forms of traction kite activity and do so with their safety being of paramount importance.

It is essential that this document is representative of a process of continual improvement in the area of child protection within the SKF.

It is for all adults engaged in traction kite activity to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people in their care.