

**GUILDFORD ARCHERY SOCIETY:
THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY'S "PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND
VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY"**

1) Introduction

a) GNAS has issued their policy to all registered clubs with the recommendation that the principles and procedures in it be adopted by all clubs, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and participants. GAC adopted the policy wholesale at our AGM on 30 January 2004.

Children are defined as under 18's, our junior members. Vulnerable adults are those who, as a result of disability or handicap, may be unusually susceptible to power or influence exerted upon them by adults.

b) The AGM confirmed that the following statement be published to all Club members, parents and other interested parties as the opportunity arises:

"Guildford Archery Club believes that when dealing with children and vulnerable adults, their welfare should always be of paramount importance. We are committed to providing an environment where young people can learn and participate in a sport free from harassment and abuse. All those people working with children have a moral responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare. This Club has therefore adopted the GNAS Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy to ensure peace of mind for both adults and children."

c) The current CPO can be found on the Contacts page.

The CPO is not a policeman but an advisor who is designated by the Club to deal with child protection and welfare issues and is registered as such with GNAS.

However, any member with concerns about behaviour he or she has witnessed or had reported to them should notify the CPO or Deputy **in confidence** so that the matter can be recorded and investigated as necessary.

2) Good Practice for Club Members

A copy of the full Policy and Guidelines is available in the Armoury hut, along with an Accident and Incident Record Book in which details of any accidents or injuries, and the treatment given, can be recorded. The Club collects necessary details of, and parental consent to the provision of coaching and first aid to, its junior members as the juniors join or re-subscribe to the Club, until they reach age 18.

Separate, and more detailed, guidance will be provided for Club coaches. The following notes are for the benefit of Club members who are in the company of junior archers at Club shoots, or who help at "Have a Go" and similar participation events where parents may not always be present. Members should:

a) Provide good role models for any children who may be observing your conduct, particularly with regard to safety procedures and etiquette, and encourage them to act appropriately. If it is necessary to correct behaviour at or near the shooting line, do so in a controlled, constructive and dignified manner.

b) Expect that children will normally be supervised by their parents or by one or more pre-arranged mentors acting "in loco parentis". Junior coaching sessions will normally be organised to ensure that at least two non-shooting adults are

present to supervise. Unsupervised children will not be admitted to Club shoots or tournaments.

c) If you are assisting a child in an unofficial coaching capacity (at the field or a Have a Go) and it is necessary to touch or handle them to do so:

- Undertake all such actions in the open;
- State your intentions in advance and ask their permission;
- Work from their front or side, not from behind

d) Unless you are a child's parent or close relative, **never** –

- Spend a lot of time with one child away from others
- Take children alone on car journeys
- Take children to your home

e) In any capacity as a GAC member, never –

- Strike a child or engage in “rough and tumble “ games
- Engage in any inappropriate form of touching
- Use profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged or unreported

Thank you for your help and co-operation in implementing this important policy.

GAC Management Committee