



Child Protection Policy

Version 4.1

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Document Control

Author	Initial Version	New Version	Date	Change Summary
Richard Kerry	3.7	4.0		Document Pack 4.0 update
Richard Kerry	4.0	4.1	09 April 2010	5.1 changed to allow over 18 only clubs

Child Protection Policy

The Gaming Club Network aims to provide as safe an environment as possible for all gamers, to this end we have produced the following child protection policy that all member clubs must agree to conform to.

1.0 Children

- 1.1 The Gaming Clubs that the GCN represents all welcome children to take part in the Hobby.
- 1.2 The Gaming Club Network recommends that children be 12 years of age or older in order to benefit fully from the opportunities the hobby offers. However, we also recognise that younger children may get involved.
- 1.3 Children are a part of our community and need to receive special support and protection.
- 1.4 The Gaming Club Network and all member clubs accepts their responsibly towards children in general, and particularly those with whom we come into direct contact.
- 1.5 All children should be offered equal opportunity to take part in the hobby, except on grounds of health and safety. No discrimination is tolerated on any grounds.

2.0 Child Abuse

- 2.1 Abuse towards children, either physical or psychological is totally unacceptable to the membership of the Gaming Club Network. It will not be tolerated or condoned.
- 2.2 Complaints from or regarding the treatment of children will be treated seriously and given fair investigation by the leaders of clubs and the Gaming Club Network.
- 2.3 Clubs failing to stop or protect against child abuse will not remain a part of the Gaming Network.

3.0 Child Protection

- 3.1 The Gaming Club Network is fully committed to the protection of children from all forms of child abuse.
- 3.2 This Child Protection Policy forms the basis for the protection of children, which is the full responsibility of all club members in every Gaming Club.
- 3.3 The Gaming Club Network is committed to encouraging a protective culture within the hobby to protect children.

4.0 Grievances

- 4.1 The Gaming Club Network provides a Code of Practice for all Gaming Clubs that indicates the proper procedures for the good running of a hobby group.
- 4.2 As part of the Code of Practice, the Gaming Club Network operates a disagreement procedure. This is detailed in the Code of Practice.
- 4.3 In addition, the Gaming Clubs are required to uphold the following Grievance Procedure for issues arising from mental or physical abuse, most notably of children:
 - 4.3.1 Abuse Grievance Procedure
 - 4.3.1.1 Any accusation of abuse between members in a Gaming Club must be referred to the Club Leader.
 - 4.3.1.2 If the Club Leader is unable to investigate the grievance, or if personally involved in it, the must be referred to a GCN Knight.
 - 4.3.1.3 If the grievance is deemed to be real, the matter must be immediately referred to the police authorities for investigation.

4.3.1.4 Members of the Gaming Club will cooperate with the police investigation in any way that is reasonable.

4.3.1.5 Both the accused and the accuser will have their membership suspended until the police investigation and any court proceedings are complete.

5.0 Club Officials Disclosure Checks

- 5.1 All Club Officials must submit themselves for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure checks where the club allows membership under the age of 18.
- 5.2 The full procedures of the CRB Disclosure checks will be held by GCN Officials for general information. They are also available from www.crb.org.uk.
- 5.3 If an official is deemed a threat to children through the Disclosure check they will be immediately be suspended under the Code of Practice.
- 5.4 Officials are allowed to continue their duties during the period during which a Disclosure check is ongoing. They are to be considered in a probationary period.
- 5.5 Probationary officials must always be accompanied by non-probationary officials at meetings until Disclosure check is complete.
- 5.6 Once the Disclosure check clears an official they become a non-probationary official.