

Tees Valley Target Spots Club – Safeguarding and Participation Policy

1.Introduction

Tees Valley Target Sports is committed to equality and diversity in the conduct of the life of the club.

Article 2 of our constitution states –

‘Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in target sports on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities may be exercised on a non-discriminatory basis.’

Rule 4E of the Club Rules states -

‘The Club will appoint a Safeguarding Officer with the duty to advise the Committee, and any member running ranges, on their general responsibilities and give advice on specific interventions.

The Safeguarding Officer must:

- know how to recognise the signs of abuse,
- have the confidence to challenge poor practice, and,
- be able to respond appropriately to concerns – including understanding what steps they should take to report and record concerns.

Any person who in applying for membership, or during the course of their membership, has or develops disabilities that require safeguarding or other support is responsible firstly for making the matter known to the Membership Secretary and, secondly, for making their own arrangements to provide all the care/support that they require.

Any child using the Club’s facilities must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or in the case of a youth group the youth leader. Other persons may be appropriate but must fall within the spirit of this requirement.’

This policy provides more detailed but basic guidance in relation to these requirements and is in the form of practical advice about how to behave and what to do in the light of certain circumstances and can be taken on board by every member.

2. Safeguarding Generally

Our Safeguarding Officers are Steve Nicholson, the Club Secretary and such member or members who shall from time to time be appointed by the Committee. The SOs shall be the subject of DBS clearance. Members may consult the SOs on any matter relating to child/vulnerable person issues.

The SOs will undertake training in safeguarding generally to a basic level so that reported incidents and concerns can receive an appropriate level of understanding and processing to the appropriate agencies.

3. Child Protection – General Principles

For the purposes of our club a child is a person under the age of 18 years of age. A young person is a person over 18 and under 21 years of age.

When in charge of the range if one of our child members made you aware of a situation at home or if you see evidence of injuries which are inadequately explained or disclosures are made which rang alarm bells with you, report this immediately. Record what has occurred to cause concerns on an incident sheet and place it in the safe in a sealed envelope marked for the SO.

Report this concern to another instructor running the club that night and to the SO and the Secretary at the earliest opportunity and they can then discuss this matter with club officials and decide how we can deal with this matter internally between parents and club if that is considered appropriate in the circumstances. This must be done without delay. If this is the case this matter should be discussed at the earliest opportunity and a way forward found to overcome any problems so that similar problems can be avoided in the future. Safeguarding issues are important and must be dealt with quickly and effectively. There are numerous cases where substantial harm has occurred because of delays.

If at any point this matter appears to be beyond what TVTS club would normally deal with or there are concerns over the safety of a child, we should raise a concern with social services at once.

4. Child Protection at TVTSC

In drafting this policy, we have had helpful advice and documentation from a variety of sources for which we are grateful This has helped us to devise a policy which matches

the needs of our club. For example, we do not cover sharing rooms, showers etc. but on the other hand our sport is governed by Home Office requirements regarding admission, training and public safety. In fact, safety is our overriding concern and is a thread that runs through all that we do.

Consequently, we have put together the following which constitutes our club's guidance.

Most problems occurring at TVTS will simply be related to a child pointing a gun in an unsafe direction and (rarely) resulting in a complaint when the instructor takes charge of the situation by physically taking hold of the gun or bow etc. to prevent an accident. Physical intervention is necessary on the grounds of safety but must use only enough force and action to prevent an accident. In such a case an incident report form must be completed and forwarded to the Secretary without delay, for the protection of the shooter, the individual taking charge of the situation, other club members and the integrity of the club as a whole. Our only other concerns are regarding the use of toilets and storage areas. Remember, any child can be unpredictable, so our instructors need to be aware of what good practice is when dealing with young shooters and what to do if an incident happens.

At TVTS club parents/guardians should always accompany children when visiting the range so instructors/coaches only work with children in the presence of and preferably through the parent/guardian. Any instructions regarding safe shooting or improving skills/technique are given to both so the child understands what they need to do, and the parent/guardian understands what the instructor is trying to accomplish. For example- if a young shooter lets the barrel point in an unsafe area the instructor may take hold of the rifle to prevent this and the parent/guardian will be fully aware of the instructors' reasons for intervening. The best examples are when the parent is taught to coach the child –so it is the parent physically taking charge of the situation. Our practice is that if the parent steps away from the child they are checked and asked to take charge of their child when shooting. They are not present to observe but to participate in their child's experience.

ALWAYS avoid situations where you are alone with a child member – toilets and storerooms, kitchen or committee room for example. Always make sure that two adults are present, preferably one being the parent.

GOOD PRACTICE -Everyone involved in shooting is encouraged to demonstrate good behavior in order to protect children, and to protect themselves, other members and the club against allegations. The following are common-sense examples of how to create a positive environment within shooting:

Examples of Good Practice

- Treat all children equally and respect their dignity.
- Avoid swearing, smoking and drinking alcohol in front of child members.
- Involve parents at all times, e.g., to supervise their children on the firing point and around the range.
- Maintain a safe, appropriate distance in your dealings with children and deal with both parent and child so both understand what is happening and why.
- Always work in an open environment (e.g., avoid private or unobserved situations).
- Never lay a hand on a child, for example putting your hand on their shoulder or an arm around them. Maintain a safe working distance such that you can intervene by pointing a gun downrange, but NEVER hold the person.

REMEMBER: Although any physical contact requires a level of agreement, safety must NEVER be compromised. Physical restraint of the firearm is acceptable, physical restraint of the individual unless they try to enter the danger area inappropriately, is unacceptable.

NSRA Safeguarding Document

At present we have very few children and young people attending our club facilities and they are always accompanied. The NSRA have produced their own safeguarding document reflecting the extensive interest by young people in traditional smallbore shooting discipline at the Lord Robert's Centre. We should consider it more fully if interest in this type of shooting grows in our club and area and we begin to host unaccompanied young people.

5. Older Persons and Vulnerable Adults - General Principles

As with children and young people the club is committed to safeguarding our older and vulnerable members but always with safety as our overriding concern.

The demographics of our club are such that we have many older members (i.e. over 55 years of age) and a smaller number of members with disabilities. The impact of age and disability vary in their nature on the ability of the member to participate in our sport independently and safely. In this section we provide guidance in relation to the management of these issues.

Older Members

Regarding older members, we have a range of physicality issues which we need to be aware of and to manage in a supportive way without compromising safety. Instructors and range officers need to be vigilant in managing these safety issues whilst treating members/shooters with respect. Appropriate support may be given to low level issues of agility and acuity. Sometimes physical intervention may be necessary which should be applied to redirecting or taking hold of equipment i.e. firearm or bow etc. Physical intervention involving touching the individual should always be avoided unless in response to immediate danger to persons or property. Always seek to ensure that you involve another supervising member who is then able to corroborate the necessity of your action.

If a safety concern arises which an instructor/range officer is concerned about, an incident report form should be completed and forwarded to the Secretary. If any member observes any behaviour or event which they think is not right, they should inform the Secretary.

Vulnerable Adults

As a club we are committed subject to our overriding obligation to safety to making our sport available to all. Every probationary member must undertake and achieve an appropriate level of competence before they can be considered as a full member and permitted to participate in club activities independently. There is a six-month assessment process which tests out whether a probationer can fulfil these requirements. It must be noted that we are not resourced or qualified to act as a respite or activity provider for disabled persons.

Appointment of Supporters

Acting reasonably, those members who have supervision of probationary members may conclude in the light of a circumstances that a probationer is a vulnerable person and will only be able to participate safely with the assistance of a supporter. In those circumstances a supporter must be appointed, and the supporter must at all times assist the probationer and undertake the club's standard training processes. If at the conclusion of the training process the committee upon advice conclude that the vulnerable person probationer can participate safely with the assistance of their supporter, then the probationer and supporter may be approved as full members. All membership processes except the requirement for a subscription will apply to the supporter.

Safeguarding Adults

When in charge of the range, if in respect of one of our vulnerable adult members you see evidence of injuries which are inadequately explained or disclosures are made which ring alarm bells with you, report this immediately. Record what has occurred to cause concerns on an incident sheet and place it in the safe in a sealed envelope marked for the SO.

Report this concern to another instructor running the club that night and to the SO and the Secretary at the earliest opportunity and they can then discuss this matter with club officials and decide how we can deal with this matter internally between supporter and club unless that is considered to be inappropriate in the circumstances. This must be done without delay. If this is the case this matter should be discussed at the earliest opportunity and a way forward found to overcome any problems so that similar problems can be avoided in the future. Safeguarding issues are important and must be dealt with quickly and effectively. There are numerous cases where substantial harm has occurred because of delays.

If at any point this matter appears to be beyond what TVTS club would normally deal with or there are concerns over the safety of a vulnerable adult, we should raise a concern with social services at once –

Middlesbrough BC

Report abuse or neglect of an adult

You should report abuse or neglect to the adult social care team.

Phone: 01642 065070

Email: adultaccessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk

(Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm)

At any other time, contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01642 524 552.

Children's social care

Office hours contact Middlesbrough 01642 726004

Out of hours contact Middlesbrough 01642 524552

Email MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Redcar and Cleveland BC

If you, or the person you are concerned about, is in immediate danger please call 999.

Report a safeguarding concern

To report a safeguarding concern, you can call 01642 771500. Outside office hours please call 01642 524552.

Alternatively, you can report your concern by email at: **AccessAdultsTeam@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk**

If you are worried about a child or teenager, please contact **Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)** on **01642 130 700** or by email at **RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk**

David K Hart
Secretary
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