

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Clubs - occasional visits

Occasionally, I would like to take my grandchild / niece / nephew or a friend's child with me when I attend a club meet. Can I do this?

Yes, providing it is permissible within the club's rules. Also, be clear to have the consent of the child's parent / carer and inform them of the activities and arrangements. You will have a duty of care for that particular child.

2. Prospective members

a. A prospective member of our club wants to bring their child on a club meet. Is that permissible?

Yes, providing it is permissible within the club's rules. The MCofS recommends that, for insurance purposes, the club / membership secretary keeps a list of guests and declares them to the MCofS in your club return as soon as they become members of the club. MCofS requires that guests must be registered with the MCofS if they attend more than 2 club meets. The MCofS Child Protection Policy does not need to be adopted unless the child subsequently becomes a member and attends meets unaccompanied by a parent / carer or nominated adult.

b. We are asked if we can take young people on our meets. Is this OK?

Yes, providing it is permissible within the club's rules. If the young person is accompanied by a parent / carer or nominated adult who is expected to join the club after a period of being a guest, or if one of your existing members will be nominated by a parent, then the MCofS Child Protection Policy does not need to be adopted.

3. Nights away from home

Note: Clubs allowing nominated adults to bring a child to a meet involving a night away from home should require that adult to obtain written consent from the child's parent.

May a parent or carer or nominated adult who accompanies a child, make decisions about the sleeping arrangements that might be available for that child?

The club should make relevant information available about sleeping arrangements in advance of the meet. A parent or nominated adult, and the child, should confirm that they are happy with the arrangements prior to the meet taking place. Club members may need to adjust their plans to cater for children.

If the parent, carer, nominated adult or child is unhappy or dissatisfied with sleeping arrangements, it is best that alternative arrangements are found, or that the child does not go on the trip.

Club officers have a duty of care, for example to make parents / nominated adults and children aware of known hazards and risks, and should advise other meet participants that there are children on the meet.

4. Supervised groups at club huts, with young people amongst the group

In a situation in which a school or youth group is allowed access to a club hut, what action should be taken regarding members of the club which owns the hut and who may also wish to use the hut?

There are two possibilities:

- a. When a hut is hired out to a group such as a school or a youth group, the club which owns the hut has a duty of care, and the hut booking secretary should inform fellow members who may wish to use the hut that the hut is occupied by such a group. It is also reasonable to expect group organisers to give adequate notice so that club members may be informed in good time. Certain huts may have suitable accommodation for both a large group and a separate room for members of the club which owns the hut.*
- b. When a group of parents or adults looking after children want to hire a hut, again the club which owns the hut has a duty of care, and the hut booking secretary should inform fellow members who may wish to use the hut that the hut is occupied by such a group. The adults accompanying each child will be able to make decisions about the sleeping arrangements for the child or children they are responsible for.*

The hut booking secretary may decide on behalf of the club that it is appropriate for fellow club members to use the hut at the same time as a group including children. The hut booking secretary should inform the group taking the children that members of the club will have access to the hut, and it is appropriate for members of the club to know that a group including children will be using the hut on specified dates.