



Care and protection of children and vulnerable adults

MGMFC policy is to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults.

All junior members or visiting juniors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times at any club flying site or meeting or function.

The Welfare Officer will be appointed by the committee, or cop-opted with the Hon Secretary and be responsible on advising all club members of their obligations under the act, as described in the BMFA handbook.

The Welfare Officer will act as a contact point and will keep any club instructors or members informed of any bulletins or information issued by the BMFA concerning the training of children or vulnerable adults.

Club instructors who instruct children or vulnerable adults will be asked to participate in the voluntary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) offered by the BMFA.

MGMFC does not undertake to supervise junior members or vulnerable adults other than for the purpose of model aircraft flying, associated pre-flight and post-flight checks.

MGMFC activities do not finish at regular times and therefore parents and guardians keep the responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the junior member or vulnerable person.

If the parent or guardian wishes to leave someone with the club it is their responsibility to make arrangements with a **senior member** of the club to provide supervision in their absence and to arrange a mutually agreed time for collection.

The parent and / or the legal guardian must countersign all membership forms for junior members and vulnerable adults.

Guidance for caring for junior members

Responsibility for junior members is shared between the parents/guardians and club members.

MGMFC rules for junior members

1. Junior members are defined as being 18 years or under.
2. A responsible adult is defined as a senior member or parent or guardian that has the experience commensurate with the type and degree of supervision required.
3. Junior members must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision should be commensurate with the junior members age, maturity, capabilities and level of experience.
4. Junior members under the age of 14 shall not start an engine or fly a model aircraft unless supervised by a responsible adult or unless the junior member holds the minimum of a BMFA Achievement Scheme "A" certificate, or in exceptional circumstances holds the MGMFC proficiency certificate and has been authorised by the club.

5. No senior member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a junior member unless specifically asked to by the junior member's parent /guardian. If requested to do so, he/she is to assume total responsibility whilst the junior member is in their charge.
6. Should any member discover a junior member is unsupervised then they are required to assume responsibility until the situation can be rectified by seeking out the parent/guardian/ nominated supervisor. Any instance of this having occurred should be reported to a member of the committee as soon as possible.

Whilst supervising a junior member senior club members should be made aware of the requirements of "The Children's Act (1989) and avoid placing themselves in any position that could be open to misinterpretation or question. Advice can be obtained from the Welfare Officer or the BMFA