



# **Nieuw Bos Cycling Club**

## **Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy**

# Contents

1. Nieuw Bos Principle Statement
2. Scope
3. Why these policies are needed
4. Policy Statement
5. Good Safeguarding Practice
6. Final Summary

## **1. Nieuw Bos Principle Statement**

Everyone who participates in cycling with the club is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment. All events and associated individuals must follow the policies defined in this document. Nieuw Bos is committed to helping everyone in cycling accept their responsibility to safeguard children from harm and abuse and support them to do so. This document sets out the procedures you need to follow to protect children and what you need to do if you have any concerns.

## **2. Scope**

These policies apply to all riders, coaches, volunteers, employees and anyone involved in club business / events, whether or not they are Nieuw Bos members. All these people have a duty of care to safeguard the welfare of children and prevent their abuse.

## **3. Why these policies are needed**

Abuse can occur in many situations including the home, school and the cycling club. We know that some individuals will actively seek access to children through sport in order to harm them.

#### **4. Policy statement**

Nieuw Bos is committed to:

Making the welfare of children paramount. This means that the need to ensure that children are protected is a primary consideration and may override the rights and needs of those adults working with them

Enabling everyone whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity to participate in cycling in a fun and safe environment

Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings

Taking seriously all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse and responding swiftly and appropriately to them in accordance with current procedures

Ensuring that all members or employees who work with children are appropriate for that role and responsibilities and provided with relevant training

Requiring all its member clubs, events and commissions to accept responsibility for the welfare of the children in their care in accordance with all policies and procedures, and to incorporate these in their constitutions

Recognising that children and families from minority group backgrounds may face barriers to accessing help and reporting concerns in respect of safeguarding issues

## **5. Good practice**

### **5.1 Introduction**

It can be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental. It is not the responsibility of any individual involved in cycling to make judgements regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, however, all personnel have the responsibility to recognise and identify poor practice and potential abuse, and act on this if they have concerns.

### **5.2 Good practice**

The role of a coach / mentor enables that individual to potentially develop a close relationship with a child. All personnel have a responsibility to maintain high standards of practice.

Nieuw Bos strongly advises that coaches / mentors of junior cyclists (cyclist under the age of 16):

- Are a British Cycling member
- Are bound by the British Cycling Code of Conduct (BC Website SG 1.1)
- Have completed Safeguarding and Protecting Children training
- Are suitably educated in Child Protection.

Everyone should:

Conduct a risk assessment before undertaking any cycling related activities

Aim to make the experience of cycling fun and enjoyable

Promote fairness and playing by the rules

Not tolerate the use of prohibited or illegal substances

Treat all children fairly and preserve their dignity; this includes giving more and less talented members of a group similar attention, time and respect commensurate with their needs

Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own development and decision-making

Always be publicly open when working with children:

Avoid coaching sessions or meetings where a coach / mentor and an individual athlete are completely unobserved

Keep parents informed about the content and nature of any communications you have directly with their children including emails and text messages

Try to avoid one on one situations in changing rooms. If children need to be supervised / helped try to involve parents, carers other members.

Maintain an appropriate and open environment, with no secrets.

Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people.

Maintain a safe and appropriate relationship with cyclists. It is inappropriate for coaches / mentors and others in positions of trust to have an intimate relationship with a child under 18 years.

This could be a criminal offence, an 'abuse of trust' as defined by the *Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000*

Be an excellent role model by maintaining appropriate standards of behaviour

Gain written (email) parental consent, to act in loco parentis for the administration of emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises

Be aware of any medical conditions, existing injuries, disabilities and medicines being taken. Informing the Welfare Officer in a timely manner to keep a written record of any injury or accident that occurred, together with details of any treatment given

Ensure that someone with appropriate training in and current knowledge of emergency first aid is available

Gain written parental consent for any travel arrangements where appropriate.

Gain written parental consent where an activity includes an overnight stay.

The main factors to consider are:

For a short day trip this may amount merely to details of transport, pick up and return points and times, competition or venue details, team leader or coach contact details, emergency contact details for parents, costs, dietary requirements (if relevant) and any other special requirements or medical details. Strict instructions should be given to parents regarding the drop off and return locations and times.

**Transport** points to consider include vehicle type (public transport, minibus, coach or private car), any special requirements for cyclists with disabilities, length of journey, competence of driver, number of drivers, journey time, distance, stopping points, supervision during journey (ideally one adult to drive and one adult to supervise) and legislation regarding seat belts.

**Supervision** the member or volunteers organising the trip will have the duty of care to act in loco parentis for the duration of the trip. Anyone working in a supervisory role will be appropriately vetted to ensure their suitability to work with children in line with British Cycling's *Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy*.

**Emergency Procedures** The team leader or coach should know how to contact emergency services and have access to at least a basic First Aid box. Those in charge of children have a duty to ensure that they are kept safe and healthy and should not hesitate to act in an emergency and to take life saving action in an extreme situation. All adults working with the group should be briefed on the reporting procedure should an emergency occur.

**Insurance** All registered members of British Cycling are covered for public liability and personal accident cover during cycling activities under British Cycling's policy. Passengers travelling by motor vehicle should be covered by law by the insurances required under the *Road Traffic Act (1988)*.

## **6. Everyone involved in cycling**

Everyone involved in cycling has a duty to act if they have a concern about a child. There are a variety of actions that can be taken. As a minimum the person concerned should contact the club welfare officer or the British Cycling SLO for help and guidance on how to progress their concerns.