

# THE BRITISH TENTPEGGING ASSOCIATION

The British Tentpegging Association is the Governing Body for Mounted Skill at Arms in Great Britain and is an affiliated Member of the International Tentpegging Federation



## Child Protection Policy

**‘Child’ refers to junior members who are aged under 18 years of age.**

### Policy Aims

- To identify how the British Tentpegging Association (BTA) provides junior members with the opportunity to participate in mounted skill at arms in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To introduce good practice and raise awareness of welfare issues.
- To provide peace of mind for parents and guardians of junior club members.

### Policy Principles

The BTA takes the responsibility of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in its care very seriously.

Safeguarding encompasses many aspects of the Association including training and competitions: wherever a child's welfare could be compromised. Child protection is one very important aspect of safeguarding.

All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, language or ethnicity
- Gender or sexuality
- Age
- Health or disability
- Political or immigration status

The BTA recognise that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. Children will not learn effectively unless they feel secure. We wish to provide a safe and secure environment at events organised by us.

The BTA committee are committed to fostering an ethos which:

- Encourages and supports parents/carers and works in partnership with them;
- Listens to and values children;
- Ensures all trainers are aware of signs and symptoms of abuse, know the correct procedure for referring concerns or allegations;
- Maintains a safe environment for all children;
- Exercises their duty to work in partnership with other agencies and to share information with them in accordance with legislation (Children Act 2004)

Statements about or allegations of abuse or neglect made by children will always be taken seriously and acted upon by referral to the official bodies e.g. Police/local social services of the child's regular home address.

As an association, The British Tentpegging Association will operate within the guidelines provided by the BEF (British Equestrian Federation) with regards to child welfare issues. It is not the responsibility of club members to decide that child abuse, bullying or harassment is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns through liaison with the association's Child Welfare Officers. These are currently Jem Pearce ([btachildwelfare@hotmail.com](mailto:btachildwelfare@hotmail.com)) and Sarah King ([btasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:btasecretary@hotmail.com))

### **Child Welfare Officer**

- The British Tentpegging Association's committee includes three Child Welfare Officers (CWO) who will act as a first point of contact for any member, parent or guardian who has a concern about child welfare and protection
- The CWO will have appropriate training concerning the procedures for referring any concerns;
- The CWO will liaise with the relevant organisations (e.g. social services) with regards to child welfare issues as appropriate;
- The CWO will work with BTA members when necessary to promote good practice with regards to junior members.

### **Codes of Conduct for Safeguarding Junior Members**

- The Codes of Conduct are aimed at recognising and encouraging good practice and a positive attitude to its younger members;
  - The Child Protection policy including the Codes of Conduct will be reviewed and developed as appropriate by the BTA committee;
  - Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is either accompanied by a responsible adult at all BTA events;
  - Parents and carers are responsible for arranging transport for their child to and from any competition, training event or other activity run by the BTA;
  - If children are competing abroad, parents and carers need to make sure that the children have adequate travel insurance;
  - Parents and carers will be given full travel information in advance before the trip commences;
- The BTA advises that all BTA-endorsed coaches obtain their own DAB check

### **Disclosures**

- Should any member, parent or carer have cause for concern relating to child protection they should discuss these with the BTA CWO as soon as possible.
- All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, initially by the CWO and then through liaison with outside agencies as appropriate (e.g. social services, police).
- The BTA's CWO recognises it is an agent of referral and not of investigation; no action will be taken knowingly which might undermine a criminal investigation. Investigating agencies are Children's Services (previously known as Social Care and Health) and the Police.
- The Association's Child Welfare Officers, can be contacted in confidence via email, using the form available on the committee page at [www.britishtentpegging.com](http://www.britishtentpegging.com) or approached in person at an event.

### **Use of Images/Video**

- The BTA will seek permission to use photos or videos of junior members from riders and their parents or carer and, where appropriate, in writing. The BTA membership form includes a section for members to give consent of photo/video use. This can be completed by the child's parent/guardian for members under 18 years old.
- When using photos of junior members, these individuals will not be identified by name in accompanying reports unless permission is given.

Scoresheets and event results are displayed on the association's website following events. Any member who would prefer their name not to appear should contact the Child Welfare Officer at the event, who will inform the Co-Opted Website Officer(s).