

ANNEX E

GUIDE ON CARING FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

It should be noted that any disclaimer concerning the care of any member, particularly Junior members, is unlikely to be acceptable in law.

All Instructors or Members having regular contact with Junior members should have the appropriate clearance to do so.

- E.1. A Junior Member is defined as being under 18 years of age.
- E.2. A responsible adult is defined as a senior member or parent/guardian who has the experience commensurate with the type and degree of supervision required.
- E.3. Junior members must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. The level of supervision is to be commensurate with the junior member's age, maturity, capabilities and levels of experience.
- E.4. Junior members under the age of 14 years shall not start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless they are closely supervised by a responsible adult.
- E.5. No Junior member under the age of 14 years shall fly a model aircraft unless supervised by a responsible adult or the Junior member holds the minimum of a BMFA Achievement Scheme "A" certificate and has been authorised to do so by the Club Committee.
- E.6. No senior member is to be expected to assume responsibility for a Junior member unless he/she has been specifically requested to do so by the Junior member's parent/guardian. If required to do so, he/she is to assume complete and total responsibility for the Junior member whilst he/she is in their charge.
- E.7. Notwithstanding the requirements of Paragraph B.6, should a member discover that a Junior member is unsupervised he/she must assume responsibility for the Junior member's safety in the first instance. The situation should then be rectified as soon as possible by seeking out the Junior member's parent/guardian/nominated supervisor. Any instance of such an occurrence is to be reported to the Committee as soon as possible.
- E.8. Whilst supervising Junior members, senior members should be aware of the requirements of The Children Act (1989) and avoid placing themselves in a position that could be open to misinterpretation or question. A leaflet giving advice is available from the BMFA Leicester Office or from the Club Secretary.
- E.9. **Note to parents and guardians:**
 - E.9.a. SMFC does not undertake to supervise Junior members other than during the actual act of model aircraft flying and associated pre-flight and post-flight procedures, unless specifically arranged. Our activities at the flying site do not finish at a regular time and it is therefore your responsibility to ensure the well being of your child over and above arranging a predetermined collection time.
 - E.9.b. In addition, SMFC has specific rules relating to Junior members and you are required to study them carefully. (See appropriate SMFC document)
 - E.9.c. For applicants under 18 years of age, the membership form must be countersigned by the parent/guardian thereby signifying responsible adult acceptance of the conditions of Junior membership."
 - E.9.d. Finally, caring for Junior members is largely a matter of common sense provided everyone is clear on what is expected of them and a few simple principles are adhered to. It is not a responsibility to be feared but is nevertheless essential if we are to ensure we continue to attract youth into model flying.