

UK PAINTBALL SPORTS FEDERATION CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The UK Paintball Sports Federation recognises that child protection is an essential element of its concerns in promoting the activity of paintballing in all its guises.

The UKPSF itself does not hold or manage paintball competitions or events and hence works through its membership to ensure the importance of child protection is recognised and appropriate measures are in place at member venues.

The UKPSF Code of Practice for Site Operators, as amended at its 2016 Annual General Meeting, requires accredited venues to have a Child Protection Policy (CPP) in place.

The Code of Practice recommends that

- players under the age of 18 are accompanied by two members of staff to ensure appropriate chaperoning;
- at least one of them has undergone a Criminal Records Bureau (DBS) check;
- staff have regard to the potential risk from members of the playing group, as well as from staff;
- staff recognise Child Protection extends beyond physical risks to include psychological risks, for example, bullying;
- staff have an absolute duty to report any issues of concern to their line manager who in turn should notify the appropriate authority, usually the police;

The Code of Practice further emphasises member venues have an absolute responsibility to comply with the law in respect of Child Protection, current and as may be amended.

The UKPSF also has in place a Code of Conduct for Player Members. This Code of Conduct has regard to Child Protection in requiring behaviours that do not put young people at risk of either physical or mental abuse. This Code of Conduct is aimed at players with their own equipment who participate in competitions and other events, such as club events, big games and walk on events. Levels of marshalling (i.e. marshal to player ratios) vary at such events – higher in some instances, such as tournament paintball, lower at others, such as walk-on events. The Code makes it clear that it is the responsibility of all player members to have regard to Child Protection issues, both physical and mental (such as bullying), and to report to the organisers of the event any instances where they think there is a Child Protection issue.

Event organisers and venue operators are further advised to remind players and staff participating in paintballing games of the requirements of their Child Protection Policy.