



# The Mini Seven Racing Club Safeguarding and Social Media Policy

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICIES**

The Mini Seven Racing Club (The M7RC) is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club.

1. The M7RC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.
2. The M7RC confirms that it adheres to the Motorsport UK Safeguarding Policy and its procedures, practices and guidelines. The M7RC will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations and without fail report concerns as required by the policy and procedures.
3. As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.
4. The key principles of this policy are as follows:
  - a. The welfare of the member is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration.
  - b. Club events and activities for members will follow and adhere to the Motorsport UK "Race with Respect" values and the Motorsport UK Under 18 Policy.
  - c. All participants, regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to be protected from abuse or harm.
  - d. All allegations, suspicions or concerns of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
5. The M7RC recognises that all children have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice. The M7RC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved, in whatever capacity, at the M7RC.
6. The M7RC will implement and comply with the Motorsport UK Code of Conduct.
7. The M7RC will appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to deal with any issues concerning Safeguarding and Child Protection and notify this person to all members.



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8. The M7RC CSO is Amanda Proctor (email: [safeguarding@mini7.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@mini7.co.uk)). If you witness or are aware of an incident where you are concerned the welfare of a member has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the M7RC CSO. If at any time you are not able to contact the M7RC CSO and the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
  - o Contact the Safeguarding Officer of the organizing club or promoter of the specific event where the incident has taken place.
  - o Contact the Motorsport UK Lead Safeguarding Officer 01753 765 071 or e-mail [safeguarding@msauk.org](mailto:safeguarding@msauk.org).
  - o Contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
  - o Call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)
9. The M7RC will follow Motorsport UK guidance and ensure that anyone that meets the eligibility criteria for a Disclosure check (DBS, or PVG in Scotland) does not act in this capacity until a satisfactory check has been returned.
10. The Club will ensure that all its members, whether they are parents (under 18), competitors or officials, will comply with all guidance and best practice as issued by Motorsport UK. In summary, the following points are considered as best practice to create a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.
  - o Adults should display high standards of personal behaviour and refrain from pursuits considered unhealthy and be good role models.
  - o Employees and volunteers should avoid working in isolation with children and out of sight of parents or other volunteers.
  - o Adults should not drink alcohol excessively while responsible for children.
  - o Adults in a position of trust should avoid smoking in the presence of children.
11. The following are not acceptable and will be treated seriously by the M7RC and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the M7RC, Motorsport UK or Statutory Agencies if relevant.
  - o Providing alcohol to children, vulnerable adults or allowing its supply.
  - o Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
  - o Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
  - o Using obscene or foul language.
  - o Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
  - o Sharing the same immediate accommodation with children or vulnerable adults when away at events (excluding parents or guardians).



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## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES**

The M7RC has a responsibility to promote the safe and responsible use of social networking and to raise awareness for everyone involved in motor sport of the potential risks and to promote best practice.

Users of social media should be aware that comments that bring the M7RC, its officials or members (including competitors) into disrepute will lead to disciplinary action that may result in suspension, cancellation or refusal to renew membership (please refer to the by-Laws of The Mini Seven Racing Club).

Furthermore, comments which bring motor sport at any level into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting, may be referred to Motorsport UK and lead to disciplinary action before the National Court, which may result in substantial fines or bans from participation in the sport.

Comments that include a reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability may attract a severe disciplinary sanction. Comments can also attract civil and criminal action.

### ***General guidance on use of social media***

- These are public forums, so treat them as such.
- Participants and organisations are strictly responsible for any posting on their accounts.
- Re-posting or inappropriate content represents an endorsement of that content and can also result in disciplinary action.
- Do not use abusive, derogatory, vulgar or sexual language and do not post anything that you would not say face to face.
- Do not criticise or imply bias in M7RC or Motorsport UK officials on social media platforms.
- Deleting or apologising publicly for an improper posting does not prevent disciplinary action being taken.
- Consider appropriate moderation or security/visibility of social media accounts.
- Clubs can also be liable for third party comments and postings made in their website forums or on their Facebook pages.

### ***Safeguarding aspects of social media use***

In sport, there are additional risks. Inappropriate pressure can be exerted by adults on children or there may be inappropriate criticism of a child's performance. An official or volunteer position can carry with it a level of authority, and engender a level of trust, that facilitates the control of a child.

- When communicating by phone, where possible officials should speak to the parent of a child.
- Officials should avoid communicating with children by text or on-line at any time, on any matter, unless there is an immediate risk to the welfare of that child which can be lessened by such contact.



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- If a club or official needs to communicate motor sport related information to children by email, it should use email groups comprising email addresses given by parents. It is inadvisable for an official to communicate by email on a one-to-one basis with a child; if replying to an email from a child the parent should be copied in to the response.
- Officials should not communicate with children through social networking sites. Officials should not be "friends" with the children that they work with.
- Social media pages representing under 18s should be set up and monitored closely by the parent/guardian responsible for the young person.
- If there are mechanics or driver coaches who are under 18, these requirements must be adhered to.

It is impossible to address every issue or cover every scenario you might encounter when communicating with children and it is appreciated that different ages will need to be treated differently. However, in all cases the above guidelines should be considered when determining the most appropriate method of communication in any given circumstances.

Further advice and information may be found on the Child Exploitation and Online Protection, part of the National Crime Agency, website.

## **SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS**

### **Club Safeguarding Officer – Amanda Proctor**

safeguarding@mini7.co.uk

### **Motorsport UK Safeguarding Officer**

safeguarding@motorsportuk.org

### **NSPCC**

www.nspcc.org.uk

### **Child Line**

www.childline.org.uk

## **Policy approved on behalf of the Directors of The Mini Seven Racing Club**

### **Jeffrey Parish**

**Director**

**27 November 2021**

### **Reviewed/updated**

22 January 2022

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