

6.3 Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Virtus is committed to promoting the rights of children and vulnerable adults, which includes the right to protection from abuse, throughout its membership and all activities.
- 1.2 Disabled people can be more vulnerable to abuse and Virtus advocates that all its member organisations and events promote the welfare of participants.
- 1.3 The primary responsibility for Protection rests with member nation staff and officials (in respect of membership), and with local organising committees (in respect of events). However, Virtus retains the right to investigate and take measures where it is believed that good practice is not being upheld, or where abuse has been alleged and not satisfactorily acted upon.
- 1.4 Virtus retains the right to prevent access to any event or activity by any individual determined to be a risk to children and/or vulnerable adults.

2 RECOMMENDED GOOD PRACTICE

- 2.1 Member nations and event organisers organising activities, hosting events or competitions sanctioned by Virtus, must:
 - a) have published policies and procedures in respect of the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
 - b) take all possible steps to ensure that event staff, officials, coaches, volunteers and support workers are carefully selected, trained and supervised at all times. Where possible, a background check should be conducted.
 - c) follow any national statutory child and vulnerable adult protection procedures
 - d) include a statement on protection issues in the event information pack
 - e) select venues, particularly with respect to accommodation, that are consistent with good practice
 - f) ensure that staff team size is adequate for athlete team size, and should include both male and female staff where a mixed team exists.
 - g) develop safe practices designed to reduce the risk of abuse, particularly in respect of travel, accommodation and intimate personal care. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i ensuring children and adults, or males and females, do not share rooms (unless for a specific medical or care reason)
 - ii ensuring that athletes are placed in the same area of accommodation as their support staff
 - iii ensuring that detailed procedures exist regarding intimate personal care and medication
 - h) conduct a risk assessment of the activity should be undertaken to identify appropriate management and limit risk
 - i) ensure that procedures exist to investigate and respond to alleged or actual abuse
 - j) provide clear information for participants, parents, staff and volunteers about the guidelines that will be used following alleged or suspected abuse
 - k) ensure that complaints processes are available and accessible to children and vulnerable adults
 - l) uphold the principles of confidentiality

SECTION 6: CODES

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3 KEEPING AND SHARING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Notwithstanding confidentiality (point 2.1l above) where alleged or actual abuse occurs, Virtus will keep records and reserves the right to share these with appropriate and relevant organisations. This includes, but is not limited to, member organisations, other sporting organisations and/or the police and other legal authorities in line with its data protection and information sharing policy.