



## **MATLOCK CAMERA CLUB VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY**

### **Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Attending Club Meetings**

This document has been prepared using the advice provided by the PAGB concerning Advice on Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults attending Club Meetings (Issue 1 – 17th February 2015 reformatted in 2020).

The intention of this document is to provide a safe environment for the vulnerable individual.

The Camera Club will allow participation and membership of vulnerable individuals aged between 14 and up to 16 years of age provided they are accompanied to club meetings by a parent, guardian, or nominated person. The parent or guardian must put the name of the nominated person in writing to the Club Secretary.

The Camera Club will allow participation and membership of vulnerable individuals aged 16 and up to 18 years of age unaccompanied, provided a parent or guardian has consented in writing to the Club Secretary.

Where age is not the vulnerability then the status of the individual will be discussed with the parent or guardian with two members of the committee. The outcome of that discussion will be agreed in writing, signed by all parties, and retained by the Club Secretary.

Where a vulnerable individual is accompanied by a parent, guardian or nominated person they are responsible for the vulnerable individual before, during and after the club event.

A vulnerable individual should not be left with less than two club members if for any reason the parent, guardian, or nominated person is temporarily unavailable. Preferably the parent or guardian should nominate two other individuals for that period.

The law does prescribe that the showing of indecent or suggestive images to those aged below 18 is illegal. It is therefore a requirement that the club checks with invited speakers that their presentation does not involve the presentation or taking of indecent images. The definition of indecent or suggestive is not clear so for the purposes of this policy it is best to adopt a precautionary approach where anything involving nudes is regarded as potentially indecent.

As images for internal competitions are seen by the internal competition secretary prior to the competitions any image that causes concern as to suitability can be brought to the attention of the committee for suitable action to be taken.

In studio sessions, the permission of the parent or guardian must be sought before an under 18 or vulnerable individual can be photographed.

The vulnerable individual needs protection from sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation and other actions and activities that may be considered harmful. Any suspicion of abuse of a vulnerable individual must be reported to a committee member. The first and most important thing is to arrange for the protection of the vulnerable individual with the cooperation of the parent or guardian with immediate effect until the circumstances can be investigated. The PAGB advice is to deal with the investigation with a small sub-committee.

The club should not use the personal email address of any junior member under 16 years of age. Emails should be done through the parent or guardian. Personal email addresses for those aged 16-18 may be used if the parent or guardian has given consent in writing. If no permission is given, they should be treated as those aged 14–16.