



Forth Valley Orienteers

Orienteering at the Heart of Scotland

DRAFT FVO Child Protection Policy

- **Effective from 1st September 2006**

1. FVO acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to the Scottish Orienteering Association's child protection policy.

2. Key principles of the SOA child protection policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.

We acknowledge that every child or young person participates in orienteering should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

FVO recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3 FVO has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that SOA child protection policy applies to everyone in orienteering whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

4 We endorse and adopt the SOA child protection policy. To this end FVO has appointed a Child Protection Officer. FVO requires an Enhanced Disclosure in respect of any adult helping or coaching club juniors and who has a "child care" position as defined under the Acts¹. Such Enhanced Disclosures may be obtained via the club Child Protection Officer.

5. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of FVO guidance will be sought from the SOA. It is noted and accepted that FVO and the SOA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via Enhanced Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

6. This Policy will be reviewed further in 2006 as FVO's understanding of the requirements of the Child Protection legislation develops.

¹ The Acts – especially the Police Act 1997 and the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003