

中國香港小型賽車總會 KARTING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, CHINA

- \circ Member of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC)
- Listed as Tier B Sport by Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) under Elite Vote Support Scheme

• Nation Sport Association with Sporting Power of Karting delegated with authority to govern and adminster kart competitions in Hong Kong in accordance with the International Sporting Code of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile

KARTING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, CHINA CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

(as at 1 April 2023)

1. Introduction

Karting Association of Hong Kong, China (the Association) is fully committed to the safeguarding of children. All children have an equal right to protection regardless of their age, gender, ability, culture, racial origin, religious belief and sexual identity. Child abuse will not in any forms be tolerated.

This policy gives the definition of child abuse, provides guidelines and explains the principles for responding to and handling child abuse incidents, and introduces measures to enhance child safeguarding.

It applies to all persons working for the Association or on the Association's behalf in any capacity, including General Committee Members, Sub-Committee Members, staff members, coaches and volunteers.

2. Definition

- 2.1 Child abuse is defined as any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs the physical / psychological health and development of an individual under the age of 18.
- 2.2 Child abuse is committed by individuals, singly or collectively, who, by their characteristics (e.g. age, status, knowledge, organizational form), are in a position of differential power that renders a child vulnerable.
- 2.3 Child abuse may take the following forms:
 - 2.3.1 **Physical harm / abuse:** This refers to physical injury or suffering inflicted on a child by violent or other means (e.g. punching, kicking, striking with an object, poisoning, suffocation, burning, etc.), where there is definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury has been inflicted non-accidentally.



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- 2.3.2 **Sexual abuse**¹: This refers to forcing or enticing a child to take part in any acts of sexual activity for sexual exploitation or abuse and the child does not consent to or fully understand or comprehend this sexual activity that occurs to him/her due to mental immaturity. The sexual activity may involve physical contact (e.g. inappropriate touching) or non-contact activities (e.g. showing of pornography).
- 2.3.3 **Neglect: Neglect:** This refers to a severe or repeated pattern of lack of attention to a child's basic needs that endangers or impairs the child's health or development (e.g. failing to provide adequate food / appropriate medical care).
- 2.3.4 **Psychological harm / abuse:** This refers to a repeated pattern of behaviour and/or an interaction between carer and child, or an extreme incident that endanger(s) or impair(s) the child's physical and psychological health (including emotional, cognitive, social and physical development) (e.g. shaming as a form of motivation).
- 2.4 Child abuse may take the form of a repeated pattern, multiple incidents or a single but serious incident. An individual incident may also involve more than one type of harm / abuse to the child.
- 2.5 A comprehensive list of possible indicators of child abuse is provided in Chapter 4 "Case Identification, Initial Handling and Reporting" of "Protecting Children from Maltreatment – Procedural Guide for Multidisciplinary Co-operation", which is developed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and is available in the following link: <u>https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/1447/en/Procedural Guide</u> <u>Core Procedures (Revised 2020) Eng 2Nov2021.pdf</u>
- 2.6 Examples of good practice and risky practice when interacting with children while carrying out work or duties for the Association are given at *Appendix I*.

¹ For the purpose of this policy, conduct of a sexual nature which constitutes sexual harassment will also be dealt with as a child abuse incident.



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3. Responding to Child Abuse

- 3.1 A person may become aware of a possible child abuse incident by:
 - 3.1.1 seeing it happen;
 - 3.1.2 hearing it from someone else;
 - 3.1.3 hearing it directly from the child concerned; or
 - 3.1.4 receiving an anonymous allegation.
- 3.2 If a person suspects or becomes aware of a possible child abuse incident, he/she should in the first instance record all the facts using the form at *Appendix II*. The completed form should be forwarded to the respective Child Safeguarding Officer, whose contact details are given in 7.1 below.
- 3.3 The safety, needs and welfare of the child concerned shall be of top priority. A person hearing the incident directly from a child should take the following steps:
 - 3.3.1 Stay calm so as not to frighten the child.
 - 3.3.2 Reassure the child that he/she did the right thing in reporting.
 - 3.3.3 Listen to the child to show that he/she is being taken seriously.
 - 3.3.4 Keep questions to a minimum so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. Only ask questions to clarify what has been said and avoid leading questions.
 - 3.3.5 Inform the child that to help stop the abuse from continuing, what he/she says will be repeated to other people.
 - 3.3.6 If the child needs urgent medical attention, take him/her to a medical professional or call the emergency services immediately.
- 3.4 While it is not the responsibility of a person to investigate or decide whether or not child abuse has taken place, all persons working for the Association or on the Association's behalf have the responsibility to report any suspicion of child abuse.



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4. Handling Child Abuse

- 4.1 When a report of a possible child abuse incident is received, the respective Child Safeguarding Officer (please refer to 7.1 for details) will pass it to the Executive Manager in the first instance.
- 4.2 The Child Safeguarding Officer / Executive Manager will inform the parents / guardians of the child concerned immediately. The parents / guardians will be advised that the Association will fully cooperate with any investigation and respect their right to report to the Police / SWD.
- 4.3 The incident will be reported to Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) of the Police (hotline: 3661 7100) or Family and Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSU) of SWD (hotline: 2343 2255). The Child Safeguarding Officer will coordinate with the Police / SWD for any support / follow-up.
- 4.4 Depending on the seriousness of the incident and the role of the alleged perpetrator, the Association may take the following steps regarding the alleged perpetrator:

If the alleged	i. If the case is under investigation by relevant
perpetrator is a staff	law enforcement agencies / SWD, the
member of the	alleged perpetrator will be assigned other
Association	duties where he/she would not be in
	contact with children / the informant /
	other parties involved or will be suspended
	from duty without pay according to
	Sections 9 and 11 of the Employment
	Ordinance (Cap. 57).
	ii. If there is insufficient evidence to proceed
	with charges by relevant law enforcement
	agencies or the staff is acquitted from the
	criminal charges, but during investigation it
	was revealed that the staff was involved in
	inappropriate behaviours, the case will be



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		recorded in the staff member's personnel	
		file for record. In addition, his/her case will	
		be subject to a disciplinary review	
		according to part 6 of the Association's HR	
		Policy. Disciplinary sanctions will be given	
		subject to the outcome of review. If after	
		review, it is found that the staff member is	
	suitable to return to work, he/she will be		
	offered support and training, as		
	appropriate.		
	iii.	If the alleged perpetrator is found or pleads	
		guilty, he/she will be dismissed.	
If the alleged	i.	If the case is under investigation by relevant	
perpetrator works for		law enforcement agencies / SWD, the	
the Association on a	alleged perpetrator will be assigned other		
voluntary basis (e.g.	duties where he/she would not be in		
General Committee	contact with children / the informant /		
Member, Sub-	other parties involved or will be suspended		
Committee Member,	from his/her role.		
coach, official and	ii.	If there is insufficient evidence to proceed	
volunteer)		with charges by relevant law enforcement	
		agencies or the alleged perpetrator is	
		acquitted from the criminal charges, but	
		during investigation it was revealed that	
		he/she was involved in inappropriate	
		behaviours, his/her case will be subject to a	
	disciplinary review according to sections 35		
		to 42 "Articles of Association" of the	
		Association. Whether the alleged	
		perpetrator could return to his/her role and	
		complete the remaining tenure will be	
		subject to the final decision of the General	
		Committee.	
L	I		



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	iii. If the alleged perpetrator is found or pleads
	guilty, his/her appointment will be
	terminated.
If the alleged	The Association will report the incident to the
perpetrator is not	relevant law enforcement agencies / SWD for
directly related to the	handling and follow their subsequent advice on
Association	any follow-up steps.

- 4.5 A flow chart on handling possible child abuse incidents is provided in *Appendix III* for reference.
- 4.6 In case of an anonymous report, the Association shall refer the incident to the Police / SWD for advice.

5. Principles of Handling Child Abuse

The Association shall handle suspected incidents of child abuse based on the following principles:

- 5.1 Fairness: Enquiries and complaints should be handled in a just and impartial manner to ensure that the person reporting the incident (the informant), the alleged perpetrator, the child concerned and his/her parent(s) / guardian(s) are fairly treated, and that all parties have the chance to present their evidence.
- 5.2 **Confidentiality:** Assurance should be given to the informant and the child concerned that their identity and the information they provide will be kept confidential and will only be disclosed to relevant parties handling the incident (e.g. the Association's staff, General Committee, SWD, the relevant law enforcement agencies, etc.), the alleged perpetrator and the child's parent(s) / guardian(s) on a need-to-know basis.
- 5.3 **Promptness:** Child abuse incidents should be handled promptly because all parties concerned are under pressure. The Association pledges to deal with incidents without any delay.



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- 5.4 **Transparent procedures:** The procedures for handling child abuse incidents should be made known to all persons related to the Association.
- 5.5 Protection: Informants, witnesses and the child concerned should be protected against victimization, including retaliation and discrimination. Victimization means being treated less favourably after reporting an incident or acting as witness.
- 5.6 Avoiding conflict of interest: If the staff member who handles the enquiry / child abuse incident is closely related to the informant, the alleged perpetrator, the child concerned or his/her parent(s) / guardian(s) (e.g. relatives), or the alleged perpetrator is the person-in- charge of child abuse incidents, the incident should be handled by another person.
- 5.7 **Discretion:** Empathy shall be shown to the feelings of the child concerned (e.g. avoid asking the child to repeat his/her story to multiple parties, appoint investigators of the same sex to interview the child, etc.) to ensure that the child would not be unnecessarily distressed or humiliated. Child abuse incidents should be handled discreetly such that related parties would not be unnecessarily distressed.

6. 6. Measures for Child Safeguarding

- 6.1 **Awareness:** The Association shall ensure that all persons working for the Association or on the Association's behalf are aware of the high standards of behaviour and conduct expected of them in child safeguarding through the following means:
 - 6.1.1 Uploading this policy onto the Association's website for stakeholders' reference;
 - 6.1.2 Requiring all persons working for the Association or on the Association's behalf in any capacity to sign an undertaking to comply with this policy;
 - 6.1.3 Providing regular training to staff members who have contact with children to enhance their awareness of child safeguarding;



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- 6.1.4 Collaborating with the SWD, Plan International or other relevant organizations to provide seminars or workshops on child safeguarding to stakeholders on a need basis; and
- 6.1.5 Encouraging Affiliated Clubs and Teams to formulate a policy on child safeguarding and to make reference to the International Olympic Committee's Toolkit on "Safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sport".
- 6.2 **Prevention:** The Association shall take the following precautionary measures when employing staff:
 - 6.2.1 Making every effort during recruitment to understand candidates' attitude towards child safeguarding (e.g. asking screening questions during interviews, conducting background checks, etc.);
 - 6.2.2 Requiring all potential employees (including all coaches) who need to be in contact with children or mentally incapacitated persons at work to apply for the Sexual Conviction Record Check before offering an appointment; and
 - 6.2.3 Requiring potential employees (who need to be in contact with children or mentally incapacitated persons at work) from outside Hong Kong to provide proof issued by their previous country / region of residence to the effect that they do not have any criminal conviction records against sexual offences.
- 6.3 **Reporting:** The Association shall ensure that all persons working for the Association or on the Association's behalf are clear on what steps to take where suspicions or concerns arise regarding child abuse. Furthermore, the Association shall cultivate a culture where all persons feel that they can openly discuss issues related to child abuse without fear of retribution.



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7. Other Relevant Information

7.1 The Association has appointed a Child Safeguarding Officer and the contact details are given below:
Address: Room 1030, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Telephone: (852) 2504 8293
Email: karting@hkolympic.org
Job Position: Sports Executive (Admin)

7.2 The Policy shall be reviewed in due course. The latest version was reviewed on 1 April 2023.



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Appendix I

Child Safeguarding Policy – Code of Conduct

Examples of good practice and risky practice when interacting with children while carrying out work or duties for the Association are given below:

Go	od Practice	Risky practice	
A A	Interact with children in a professional way directly related to one's work or duties. Communicate with children (including through electronic means) in a transparent	Interact with children in an overfamiliar way not directly related to one's work or duties (e.g. oversharing personal information).	
	and accountable manner. Use supportive language and tone.	Communicate with a child in a private and excessive manner.	d
	Be responsive to a child's needs and arrange activities that are suitable to	Humiliate or intimidate a child (e.g. shouting or swearing).	
	children's age and capability. Treat all children equally and with respect and dignity.	Neglect a child's needs (e.g. assigning inappropriate activities or training loads and requiring children to participate whe injured or unwell).	n
A	Keep activities open to observation. Touch should be age-appropriate and only	Discriminate against children's gender, ranses sexual orientation and ability.	ce,
	with the necessary amount for coaching, training, safety or medical needs.	 Unnecessarily spend excessive amounts of time alone with a child away from others 	
	Gain written parental consent for any away trips or activities.	(e.g. transporting a child alone in a car, entering a child's room / place of residend alone, inviting a child to one's home / pla of residence alone, etc.).	



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Good Practice		Risky practice	
	Ensure that if mixed-gender children are taken on away trips, they are always accompanied by staff members of both genders.	 Touch a child unnecessarily (e.g. touching on the face, chest or bottom, kissing and tickling). Engage in questionable behaviours, such 	
A A	Respect the trust of children and maintain appropriate boundaries and relationship with them. Teach children the safety rules and ensure	 Allow children to use inappropriate language or bully others unchallenged. 	
۲ ۲	that they understand the given instruction. Ensure a suitable staffing ratio of adult to	 Give and receive inappropriate gifts. Take pictures with personal devices or in 	
~	children in activities. Ensure the activities' equipment is fit for purpose, safe to use and placed	 changing rooms and toilets. Fail to record and act upon allegations of abuse made by a child. 	:
~	 appropriately. Ensure surrounding environment is appropriate and safe for children's activities. Correct the inappropriate behaviours of 	Expose children to extreme weather conditions without ensuring adequate clothing or hydration.	
À		Encourage the use of drugs or harmful substances to enhance performance.	
	immediately if there is possible safety risk.	Hit, assault or physically discipline children in ways that are abusive.	en
	Be attentive to children's physical needs and offer rest time, water break and toilet break.	Expose children to inappropriate materia such as pornography and violent pictures and videos.	
		Be under the influence of alcohol and drugs.	



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Goo	Good Practice		Risky practice	
\triangleright	Create and maintain an open culture and	A	Be alone with a child in a changing room or	
	inform children of what they can do if they		toilet.	
	encounter problems or difficulties.			
		\succ	Leave venue with a child or children	
\triangleright	No contact online between adult and		unsupervised.	
	children outside the virtual activities to			
	avoid grooming ² of children.			
\triangleright	Ensure security setting are set to private			
	and invite-only on the chosen platform for			
	virtual activities.			
\triangleright	Respect children's right to privacy and			
	confidentiality.			

² Sexual grooming refers to designedly establishing a relationship / an emotional connection with a child by various means for gaining his/her trust with an intent to sexually abuse him/her (e.g. communicating with a child through mobile phone or the Internet).



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Appendix II

Allegation of Child Abuse Report

Person reporting the incident (informant)			
Name of informant:	Role of informant:		
Contact details of informant:	Report time & date:		
Child concerned (victim)			
Name of victim:	Date of birth / age of victim:		
Contact details of victim:	Name of parent / guardian (specify relationship):		
Details of the incident(s)			
Date / time (or frequency):	Location:		
Name of alleged perpetrator:	Role of alleged perpetrator:		
Description of the incident(s):			
 External parties contacted (if applicable): Social Welfare Department Police Medical professional / emergency services Others: 	Advice provided by the external parties contacted (if applicable):		



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Signatures:					
Informant	t Child Safeguarding Officer Ex				
Name:	Name:	Name:			
Date:	Date:	Date:			

Follow-up actions (to be completed by respective Child Safeguarding Officer)		
Actions taken:		
Prosecution:		
Case Result:		
Disciplinary Review /		
Result:		
Action:		



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Appendix III

Karting Association of Hong Kong, China Flowchart on Handling Possible Child Abuse Incident

The Association should play a monitoring role on the case and report to the General Committee

