

# Non-Recent Abuse Policy

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V 0.1	Head of Safeguarding Linda Medlicott	21/05/2020		29/07/2020
This policy will be reviewed annually or when there is a legislative change or review due to lessons learnt or best practice guidance.				

MOTORSPORT UK ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Trading as Motorsport UK

Registered in England and Wales

Company Number 01344859

Registered Office

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## Introduction

Motorsport UK is the national membership organisation and governing body for four-wheel motorsport in the UK, representing competitors, volunteers, clubs, and fans.

Motorsport UK recognises its legal and moral duty to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people and adults by seeking to protect them from all forms of neglect and abuse. Motorsport UK is committed to do everything they can both to recognise and report abuse quickly and appropriately. This is to keep children and adults safe, and to take the necessary measures to prevent such abuse from happening in the first place.

In relation to non-recent abuse, (also known as historic abuse), there are many ongoing investigations and inquiries - criminal and otherwise in institutions across the UK e.g. Operation Hydrant and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

### All staff must:

- be aware of and know what to do if they receive a referral about non-recent abuse
- know what to do when safeguarding concerns arise
- understand what Motorsport UK expects of them in terms of their own behaviour
- know how to prevent harm to children
- know how to recognise potential child abuse concerns
- know how to recognise potential abuse of adults at risk

This policy and procedure applies to all staff, volunteers, Groups, and participants.

This policy is endorsed by the Motorsport UK Board of Directors.

**Please note:** The terms 'child' or 'young person' describe a person under the age of 18.

## 1. Definition

Non-recent abuse is an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by on behalf of someone who is 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old. Allegations can be made by:

- an adult, making an allegation of abuse when they were under 18 years of age, that occurred at least one year before it was reported
- a child making an allegation of abuse that occurred at least one year before it was reported
- an individual who reports an allegation, on behalf of another child or adult, that occurred at least one year before it was reported

## Terminology

Motorsport UK-Recognised Group (**'Group'**) (a defined term in the General Regulations) includes all Recognised Clubs, recognised Groups, regional centres of Motor Groups and recognised Regional Associations.

**Participants** means all and any but not limited to Entrant Competitor Coaches UK affiliated schools' instructors, academy members, volunteers, teams employees and anyone attending a venue licenced by Motorsport UK for a Motorsport UK Permitted Event and / or involved in motorsport falling under the territory of Motorsport UK whether or not they are Motorsport UK members.

## 2. Why is the policy important?

In recent years, there have been increasing reports of child abuse in several institutions e.g. in BBC premises, the NHS, in children's homes, religious institutions and in schools. Allegations of sexual offending involving children have been made against people in prominent positions in public life e.g. those in the media. Those with experience in this specialist field believe there are likely to be further victims who have not felt able to come forward for the following reasons:

- fear of reprisals
- the degree of control exercised by the abuser
- shame or fear that the allegation may not be believed
- unable to before but now aware that the abuser is being investigated for a similar matter.

An allegation of this nature can be received by any individual working for Motorsport UK. Non-recent abuse allegations could be made against relatives, friends, carers, people in public prominence and/or a position of trust, or any other person who currently has, or previously had contact with children, young people or adults at risk. Disclosures normally, but not always, take place when the victim is no longer in circumstances where they consider themselves at risk from the perpetrator. When an allegation is received action must be taken because:

- the alleged abuse may not have been an isolated incident. It might be current and be perpetrated by the same person or someone else
- it comes to light that the non-recent abuse is part of a wider setting of institutional or organised abuse
- there is a probable likelihood that a person who abused a child/ren in the past may still be doing so
- the perpetrator may still be working with or caring for child/ren
- criminal prosecutions may still take place even though the allegations are historic in nature and may have taken place many years ago.

### **3. How to comply (procedure)**

This procedure must be followed and a referral to other agencies will be necessary in the following circumstances:

- a) allegations of child abuse involving persons in public prominence and/or people in a position of trust
- b) allegations of child abuse which took place historically where there may have been a failure within an organisation to protect children
- c) allegations of child abuse involving persons who are likely to be active and other children may be at risk

Motorsport UK will take all allegations of non-recent abuse seriously by taking appropriate action. All allegations of non-recent abuse must be reported to Motorsport Head of Safeguarding Linda Medicott. When receiving information about non-recent abuse The Head of Safeguarding will seek to obtain where possible the following:

- name and contact details of the person making the allegation. If a member of the public wishes to remain anonymous this should be respected, but this does not apply to professionals or staff working for or on behalf of Motorsport UK
- name of the individual who the allegation is about and any other identifying information, including location
- name of any children involved
- date and time of when the alleged abuse occurred
- key information about the nature of the non-recent abuse allegation
- establish, where possible, if the alleged perpetrator is still working with or caring for children
- establish whether other agencies are involved.

This information will be stored securely within Motorsport UK's recording platform *My-concern* and stored in line with Motorsport UK's GDPR policy.

All allegations of non-recent abuse will be reported to the appropriate statutory agencies: Police and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

#### **4. Related policies**

Motorsport UK Safeguarding Children policy

Motorsport UK Speak Up Speak Out policy

Motorsport UK Complaints policy

Motorsport UK GDPR policy

## 5. Effects of non-recent abuse

The effects can be short term but sometimes they last into adulthood. If someone has been abused as a child, it's more likely that they'll suffer abuse again. This is known as re-victimisation.

The long-term effects of abuse and neglect can include:

- emotional difficulties like anger, anxiety, sadness, or low self-esteem
- mental health problems like depression, eating disorders, self-harm or suicidal thoughts
- problems with drugs or alcohol
- disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories
- poor physical health
- struggling with parenting or relationships.

## 6. What if I am a survivor of non-recent abuse?

It is never too late to report abuse you have experienced. But you don't have to report it to anyone if you don't want to. And no one should pressure or force you to do anything you don't want to.

Some people report non-recent abuse to stop the offender abusing other children. Some find that reporting gives them a sense of closure and helps them to start moving on.

If you do decide to report, you can speak to the Police about what happened to you. You can report abuse to the Police no matter how long ago it happened. You can start by calling 101 and briefly explaining what you're calling about. They'll make sure you're put through to the right team who can support you.

It's normal to be anxious about reporting and worry about what might happen. If you don't feel comfortable contacting the Police or want to find out more about your options, you can contact us. We're here to support you, no matter your worry. Call us on 0808 800 5000, email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or fill in our online form.



## 7. Support available

**NAPAC** is the National Association for People Abused in Childhood. NAPAC's trained staff speak with survivors of any type of childhood abuse over the phone, exploring the options available to them such as support groups and counselling to help empower callers to move forward. Calls are confidential, free from UK landlines and mobiles and can be made anonymous.

NAPAC also supports family members, friends and professionals who are helping someone who was abused, advising them as to who else can help.

**Supportline**, we offer confidential emotional support to children, young adults and adults by telephone, email and post. We work with callers to develop healthy, positive coping strategies, an inner feeling of strength and increased self-esteem to encourage healing, recovery and moving forward with life.

We also keep details of counsellors, agencies and support groups throughout the UK.

## 8. Reporting Contacts

Police call: 101

Motorsport UK Head of Safeguarding

Linda Medicott call 07851 248672

[Linda.medlicott@motorsportuk.org](mailto:Linda.medlicott@motorsportuk.org)

NSPCC helpline call 0808 800 5000

NSPCC email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

## 9. Support Contact

NAPCA – Due to Covid-19 they are currently unable to provide support calls however are available for support by email via their website by following this link <https://napac.org.uk/contact/>

Support line: call 01708 765200

Support line: email [info@supportline.org.uk](mailto:info@supportline.org.uk)