Airienteers lost child/vulnerable adult policy

**Aim**

The aim of this policy is to provide a safe method of reuniting a lost child/vulnerable adult with its parent/carer or responsible adult. Whilst the risk of a child/vulnerable adult being handed over to an unsuitable adult is low, it is a possibility that must be considered.

**Location of child**

A lost child/vulnerable adult may be found wandering around the assembly area or in the car park or out on an orienteering course.

**Where to keep the lone child/vulnerable adult**

A lost uninjured child/vulnerable adult found in assembly or the carpark should be taken to the Enquiries point and placed in the care of 2 adults known to the organising team.

A lost uninjured child/vulnerable adult found out on a course should be offered help to finish the course if he/she is keen to do that and it seems appropriate, otherwise he/she should be taken to enquiries via download and managed as above.

A lost, injured child/vulnerable adult should be taken to the first aid point and assessed/treated by the First Aider in the presence of another adult known to the organising team. The First Aider will need to consider whether treatment without parental/carer consent and in the absence of a familiar adult is appropriate. When the child/vulnerable adult is fit, he/she should be escorted to the Enquiries point by the First Aider and the 2nd adult and placed in the care of two adults as above. If the child/vulnerable adult needs to remain at First Aid, another adult will need to be called over so that the first aider is able to attend to other casualties while the child remains in the care of two adults. A record of any injury sustained and treatment given should be made and a copy given to the parent/carer when re-united.

**Information gathering**

The two adults at enquiries/first aid should where possible, determine the child/vulnerable adult’s name, age, address, and other relevant details e.g. where and when he/she last saw Mum/Dad/carer.

**Finding the parent/carer**

The Organiser should be informed immediately about a lost child/vulnerable adult and should make every effort to find the parent/carer as soon as possible.

**Handover of the lost child/vulnerable adult to parent/carer**

The child/vulnerable adult shall only be handed over to an adult and preferably the parent/carer. It must be obvious that the child/vulnerable adult recognises the adult. The name and address of the adult and its relationship with the child/vulnerable adult should be noted along with the time of handover.

If there is some doubt about the identity of the adult and/or the relationship with the child/vulnerable adult, then it will be necessary to ask the adult for verification of their identity. The Organiser should be involved.

If there is concern about the identity of the adult and the relationship with the child/vulnerable adult, officials should refuse to hand over the child/vulnerable adult and the police should be called.

**Report**

A full incident report should be made and filed with British Orienteering and relevant Stakeholders where appropriate.

Sue Stevens, Airienteers Welfare Officer

Policy adopted by Airienteers committee 13th June 2019