

BARCOMBE BONFIRE SOCIETY

POLICY ON UNDER 18's IN THE SOCIETY

We welcome Young People to the Society; however, we feel it is appropriate to have a policy in place so everyone understands the expectations and responsibilities that the Society's members (both over and under-18) have to each other.

FOR CLARITY AS AT 04/04/2023

RA = Responsible Adult = this is either a child's legal guardian or a person that has been nominated by the child's legal guardian to be responsible for that child, at a BBS activity, in the absence of the legal guardian. This person can change over time. The person that the child's legal guardian has nominated to be the YP's Responsible Adult must have accepted this role.

YP = Young Person = a person under 18 that is a Society member

Please consult the web page or the Facebook page to find out who are the current Chairman, Executive Committee and Directors.

This is a working document and is subject to change, please refer to the web page and Facebook page for the most up to date version of this document.

JOINING IN SOCIETY ACTIVITIES – expectations of the YP and their Responsible Adult

- **The over-riding expectation is that a YP will ALWAYS attend ANY Society event or activity with a Responsible Adult**
- Any YP helping at a Society event or activity must be a member of the Society (if they are not, they will not be covered by insurance)
- If a different person from usual will be acting as the Responsible Adult at a Society event or activity; make sure that the leader of the activity knows who it is.
- Responsible Adults should be aware that, during Society events or activities, it is possible that only one Society member adult may be alone with one or more YP. This should only happen following discussion and agreement between all parties.

YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Minimum age for YP to attend a committee meeting is 15.
- Parental consent to attend Committee meetings is required.
- The committee preference is that the YP is, or has been, a Rookie.
- The YP's Responsible Adult must accompany the YP to all committee meetings.
- The YP and the Responsible Adult must both be members of the Society.
- The Responsible Adult must be a Committee Member.
- Expectation is that the "usual" RA will be the RA nominated on the membership form.
- The reason for allowing YP to attend committee meetings is to give them experience of what happens behind the scenes to put on Bonfire Night.
 - There is no expectation for them to take on any of the workload, however they can if they have agreement from the committee member and their RA.
 - The exception to the above is the Rookies co-ordinator/ liaison role which can be either an adult or a YP.
- The YP will not be able to vote on the committee.

- The YP should be treated with the same respect as all committee members and behave accordingly.
- The Chairperson can exclude YP from committee meetings if the item to be discussed is inappropriate to their age.
- No YP can make a decision on behalf of Barcombe Bonfire Society.

JOINING THE COMMITTEE

To be eligible to join the Committee an individual must be 18.

BECOMING A CAPTAIN

To be eligible to be a Captain an individual must be 18.

SOCIAL MEDIA

What is written below only relates to social networking platforms which are run by selected members of the society i.e., approved channels that members of the committee have set up and maintain for the purposes of communication and promotion of the Society and its activities. These include but are not limited to: BBS Chat WhatsApp group, BBS Committee WhatsApp group, BBS Facebook Page, BBS Facebook Group for active members and the BBS website.

- Parental consent is required for a YP to be included in the BBS Chat WhatsApp group and any other distribution lists.
 - The record of parental consent is to be held by the Secretary.
- A YP will not be added to BBS Committee WhatsApp group.
- Guiding principles are
 - Any Society Group Chats that include a YP should always have at least two adult members of the Society on them.
 - Group chats are the Society's preferred method of communication. Direct messaging a YP is not permitted.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- If the YP has any issues or questions that they feel they can't bring up at committee, they should speak to:
 - Their Responsible Adult, and/or
 - The Safeguarding Liaison to advocate for them.
- The channels for the Responsible Adult and/ or Safeguarding Liaison are:
 - The designated member of the Executive Committee (Chairman).
 - If unresolved, the directors of the company. Their decision is final.

VERSION CONTROL

Changes to this document should be agreed by vote at committee meetings.

Version	Reason for update	Updated by	Updated on
One	Creation	Mel Lundin	4 th April 2023