

FARNBOROUGH WARGAMES SOCIETY

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Protection of Children Act 1999 sets out certain requirements for organisations that care for children. The following has been extracted from the Department of Health's "A Practical Guide to the Act for all Organisations Working with Children".

The Act defines "child care organisation" to mean an organisation:

- (a) which is concerned with the provision of accommodation, social services or health care services to children or the supervision of children;
- (b) whose activities are regulated by or by virtue of any prescribed enactment, and
- (c) which fulfils such other conditions as may be prescribed.

There are many other organisations outside of the "regulated" sectors as set out above which also "care" for children in one way or another. These organisations range from the smaller voluntary organisations through the "uniformed" youth activities (Scouts, Guides, Cadet Forces etc) to national and local youth clubs and religious organisations and incorporate the whole range of sporting and leisure activities undertaken by children.

Whilst the provisions of the Protection of Children Act 1999 are not made mandatory for these organisations it is the Government's hope that they will take advantage of the scheme to its fullest extent so as to ensure that they provide a comparable level of safety to children in their care as that afforded within the regulated child care sector.

The Act defines "child care position" as one which

- (a) is concerned with the provision of accommodation, social services or health care to children or the supervision of children; and
- (b) is such as to enable to holder to have regular contact with children in the course of his duties.

Both (a) and (b) must apply when considering the implications of the provisions of this Act. A "child care organisation" MUST and any "other organisation" MAY refer names of persons who occupied such positions or seek checks on persons they propose to appoint to such positions. Only posts which meet this definition come within the scope of the Act.

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Farnborough Wargames Club has members aged 14 and over. Some of those members are children. However, those individuals are equal members of the Club in their own right and are not under supervision of any other Club member or any member of the Club's committee.

Farnborough Wargames Club does welcome visits from non-members, including those aged under 14. Visitors aged 14 and above are not subject to supervision. However, it has been and remains a requirement that all individuals under 14 are accompanied by an adult. That requirement negates the need for the Club to provide supervision. The parents or guardians of visitors under 14 remain responsible for ensuring that their child is properly supervised.

The definitions of "child care position" do not, therefore, apply.

Farnborough Wargames Club may exclude any member or visitor, regardless of age, whose behaviour brings, or could bring, the Club into disrepute.