



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Version 2
February 09

Regia Anglorum Child Protection Policy

This document sets out the Child Protection Policy of Regia Anglorum, hereafter known as the Society, or 'Regia'.

The Society is a medieval re-enactment society which stages battle and living history displays around Britain.

Regia is not a youth organisation and does not provide specific activities for children.

Relevant Sections of Society Rules

Code of Law Version 6 as amended 7 Dec 2008

4B. Types of Membership

iii. Junior Membership. . Any eligible person of the age of sixteen to eighteen years may apply for Junior Membership of Regia through the local group that operates in his area. A successful applicant may participate in any activity deemed suitable by his group leader. **Junior members will be in the legal care and protection of their group leader at Regia events, unless one or more of their parents or legal guardians are present***

iv. Combatant Junior Membership A Junior member may apply to engage in combat after his sixteenth birthday with the permission of his group leader and his legal guardian(s). Such permission must be given in writing after the legal guardian(s) have attended at least one Society or local group training session. A combatant Junior Member at a Regia event must have satisfied the Society Training Officer that he is capable of and competent in combat. He must carry a black shield to indicate his status

v. No Junior Member shall participate in the government of the Society. Junior Members are ineligible for Society or group office.

vi. Family Membership. Children below the age of sixteen years of full adult members of the Society are eligible for Family Membership of Regia through the local group that operates in their area. A membership form must be completed by or for them and lodged with the Society Membership Officer. Parents, legal guardians or persons acting *in loco parentis* are entirely responsible for the safety and good conduct of the child, and that the child is dressed and equipped in the authentic costume of Regia's period.

NB: * Given that the presence of a given GL cannot be guaranteed at a specific event, the last sentence in iii above (in bold) is to be deleted from the CoL, and should be disregarded with immediate effect.

NB. The Membership Officer has ruled that from 24/3/09 the practice of recruiting Junior Members independently of their parents will cease. This will have the effect of

ensuring that parental responsibility will be exercised by a member of Regia over each Family and Junior Member

CoL R3Civ

The repeated use of foul or blasphemous language by a member of the Society in such contexts as may connect him with the Society, particularly when in the hearing of a minor or minors, the general public, or the Client or the Client's agent or representative may be dealt with by means of immediate removal of the member from the display areas, followed by such action as a quorate Emergency HW shall determine. Such an EHW may be immediately convened

Living History Exhibit (LHE) Regulations Version 1.0 Spring 2002

4. Conduct on the L.H.E

viii. Children on the L.H.E are the sole responsibility of their parents/guardians.

National Battlefield and Training Policy

1.9 Junior Combatants

It should be noted that Junior Combatants (between 16 and 18) must follow the appropriate guidance as given in the code of law.

Junior Combatants are identified by a shield faced entirely in black – and **MUST** carry this at all times in the combat.

When fighting a Junior Combatant you should avoid shield barging and similar practices.

NB The custom of allowing 14-16 year olds to engage in battle-practice/training sessions at Society level is to cease, by ruling of the MTO

NB Evidence of Combatant Junior status is to be provided in the membership book by signature of the relevant GL and a person holding parental responsibility, and stamped by the MTO, or one of his Deputies.

Scope and general notes

These guidelines cover Regia Society and Local events, carried out under Regia's insurance. They do not cover private events, or events organised by other groups. They cover the interactions of Regia members with Regia members under the age of 18 and with members of the public under the age of 18 during displays.

All members of Regia are required to be aware of, assess, and manage any risks inherent in the activity they are performing, whether to themselves, other Regia members or to members of the public.

Guidelines for Dealing with Family and Junior Members.

Family Members (Under 16's) are always to be accompanied at events by a person holding parental responsibility. Persons holding parental responsibility are advised that their duty of care extends over their children at all times, as it does outside Regia events.

Junior Members (16-18 yr olds) may attend Society events by themselves. Members of the Society who may find themselves in a position of authority over Junior Members (e.g. Officers, line commanders, etc.) are reminded that they have a specific duty not to exercise undue influence over them.

During the course of an event, children may not be under the supervision of a person holding parental responsibility at all times, so Society members may be interacting with children when a responsible adult is not present. This makes it essential that the following guidelines are followed.

It is not advisable to be alone with a minor in private. Always work in an open environment and maintain an appropriate distance.

Treat all children with respect for their dignity.

In cases of injury or distress, the minor should be returned to a person holding parental responsibility as soon as possible.

Do not encourage children to do anything they do not wish to do.

Any concern about a minor's welfare should be addressed, in the first instance, to the person holding parental responsibility over the child. Where criminal activity is suspected, then the police should be called.

Guidance for Dealing with Young Members of the Public

Whilst issues of child protection regarding visitors to an event are largely the responsibility of the Client, as Regia members interact with the public, some regard needs to be paid to this issue. In general, children will be accompanied by people holding parental responsibility, but we cannot guarantee that this is the case.

The barrier rope necessarily divides us from the public on the LHE, and there is no need for any members of the public to pass the rope. It is perfectly acceptable for members of the public to handle or use display items, under supervision if necessary, however, there shall be no display involving children of the public under Regia's aegis – if it is done at the Client's behest, then child protection issues are the Client's responsibility, although our own guidelines are also to be followed.

Where the public are invited on to the battlefield at the end of a military display, then particular regard should be taken of any children present. If physical contact is impossible to avoid because of an activity e.g. trying on armour, the nature of the contact should be explained to and agreed by the participant before it takes place.

The above guidelines have been compiled after consulting:

English Heritage 2004, 'Child Welfare and Safety Policy Guidelines',
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/doc/Child_Welfare_and_Safety_Policy_Guidelines.doc

National Museum of Wales 2005, 'Child Protection Policy',
<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/344/>

Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland, 2005 'Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy'

NHS Executive 'The Protection of Children Act. 1999. A Practical Guide to the Act for all Organisations Working with Children'