**YOUNG PERSON PROTECTION WHILE ON A BORDERS EXPLORATION GROUP EXPEDITION**

**Context:**

The B.E.G. **Policy and Procedures**, **Confidentiality and Data Protection** and **Code of Conduct**, in relation to the protection of children and young people, apply equally to activities abroad as well as in the UK. However, it is acknowledged that if an incident occurs abroad, the process for dealing with it may, in certain respects, differ due to the remoteness of the environment and the need to maintain a safe and viable expedition.

**Possible scenarios:**

Dealing with a reported incident, as defined in the B.E.G. **Code of Conduct** as **‘practice to be avoided’** or **‘unacceptable practice’,** will depend upon who reports it and who is involved. Possible scenarios are:

* A venturer reports an incident in relation to another venturer – Chief Leader or Deputy Chief Leader to investigate and take appropriate action.
* A venturer reports an incident in relation to a leader (or doctor) – Chief Leader to investigate and take appropriate action.
* A venturer reports an incident in relation to the Chief Leader – Deputy Chief Leader to investigate and take appropriate action.
* A third party observes an incident between other members of the expedition – Chief Leader or Deputy Chief Leader to investigate and take appropriate action.

**Action to be taken during the expedition:**

As far as possible, allegations and associated written records will be kept confidential, only involving others where there is a specific need.

Where a third party has reported seeing an incident between two other members of the expedition every effort should be made to protect their anonymity.

In all cases a full written record of the reported incident, evidence gathered and any subsequent action taken will be made. This will be signed and dated by the person investigating the incident.

The Chief Leader, or Deputy Chief Leader will, in consultation with other leaders (as appropriate), make a judgement as to the seriousness of the incident, the strength of the evidence and take one of the following actions:

* No action (the rationale for this decision should be documented).
* Issue a verbal warning.
* Ensure that measures are put in place to safeguard both the accuser and the accused for the remainder of the expedition.
* If both parties cannot be adequately safeguarded, the accused should be instructed to leave the expedition and return home.
* In extreme cases the matter will be referred to the local police force.

**Action to be taken on return to the UK:**

On returning to the UK all documentation will be delivered to the designated B.E.G. Child Protection Officer who will, in line with B.E.G. policies, decide upon what further action is required. This could, in the case of ‘**unacceptable practice’**, involve referral to statutory child protection agencies including the police.

*V 2.0*

*Author: Graham Little, 7 February 2017*