

NEW VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME UNDER ISA AND CRB CONTROLS

BACKGROUND

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) was established as a result of the Bichard Enquiry, which followed the Soham murders, that recommended that all those who work with vulnerable groups should be registered.

The VBS is a partnership of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). CRB are responsible for application and monitoring features. ISA are responsible for decision making and maintenance of two barred lists (for each of England and Wales and Northern Ireland) covering the children's and vulnerable adult's sectors.

NEW BARRED LISTS

Establishing the new barred lists will streamline the current process of recording individuals who are barred from working with children and vulnerable adults and the system of disqualification orders operated by the criminal justice system, eventually all this information will be contained in the two lists.

A barred person will be committing an offence should they seek employment or a volunteering opportunity in a regulated activity

REGISTRATION

Once the VBS is fully implemented it will mean that anyone who wants to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults in a regulated activity will legally be required to register with the ISA. It will be an offence for anyone to begin regulated activity without first being registered with the ISA.

It will be an offence for an employer to hire a person in regulated activity without first confirming their ISA registration. They will eventually be able to check an individual's registration status on line. Anyone (not just an employer) who knowingly allows a barred person to engage in a regulated activity will be committing an offence.

PHASED INTRODUCTION

There is a timetable for the phased introduction of the registration process from July 2010 onwards. The timetable applies to employees and volunteers.

- *From July 2010:* ISA-registration is possible for new workers, those changing roles to take on regulated activity and those changing roles whilst working in regulated activity;
- *From November 2010:* ISA-registration is mandatory for these workers;
- *From April 2011:* existing employees with no CRB check must apply for ISA-registration and
- existing employees with CRB checks begin to apply for ISA-registration, starting with staff whose CRB checks are the oldest.
- *By 2015* registration process fully implemented.

HOW WILL THE REGULATIONS AFFECT SHOOTING CLUBS?

THOSE THAT MAY BE AFFECTED

The regulations apply to all sporting organisations with members who may be children or vulnerable adults. Therefore it is very likely that some shooting clubs will be affected though it will certainly not apply to every club.

DO YOU RUN A REGULATED ACTIVITY?

To determine if these regulations will apply to your club / organisation you will need to decide if your club activities constitute a “regulated activity” as defined under the Scheme.

If your club maintains a junior section, or runs regular activities or competitions or training sessions for young shooters and the frequency of activities is **once a week or more**, this is regarded as a “regulated activity” and those adults involved in supervising and training will need to register with the ISA.

If however a child simply comes to your club with a parent/guardian to shoot on an occasional basis with the adult club members and there are no special arrangements for junior training or supervision then this would not be regarded as a “regulated activity”.

It is the frequency (once a week or more) and the specific nature of the activity (e.g. junior training night), which are important in deciding if the regulations will apply.

***Note:** The government recently accepted Sir Roger Singleton's report which recommended that the frequency definition should be relaxed to 'once a week or more' (or four or more days in a 30 day period, or overnight). This change should help many clubs who might otherwise have been caught by the original definition for a frequent activity.*

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

All NRA affiliated clubs with children or vulnerable adults must either have their own Child Protection policy or adopt the NRA policy. The NRA policy and guidance will shortly be available on line at www.nra.org.uk

Clubs should appoint a Child Protection Officer who should undergo a CRB check. All coaches and instructors who work in a regulated activity will need to register with the ISA, and clubs will also need to consider whether this should include all or some of their RCOs. It is not currently a legal requirement for coaches and instructors who are presently working with children to have a CRB check. However the ISA registration process will include a CRB check.

A coach or instructor who does not choose to register with the ISA may not take part in a “regulated activity” but may of course continue to work with the adult shooters in the club.

The NRA will set up a contract to handle requests for CRB checks from members of NRA and its affiliated clubs. Club Child Protection Officers, coaches, club instructors and trainers currently working with children will be able to apply through the NRA for a CRB check. The cost for a CRB check via the NRA will be of the order of £20-£30 depending on membership status.

ISA registration can be completed later for those who have already had a CRB check as shown in the timetable for phased introduction. The exact procedures to be followed for ISA registration are not yet known but the cost for ISA registration is expected to be around £60.