

Staffordshire County Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

FAQ's – Parental Consent Forms

Parental Consent Forms – now incorporated into a Membership Renewal Form for Clubs use at their REGULAR MEETING PLACE

Why do we need Parental Consent?

The key with Parental Consent really is that the parents know where their child is and the activity they are participating in, every time they are with YFC and that the Club Officers (responsible adults) are holding a consent form containing details for each member 17 and under, participating to say that the parent has consented to them being there and taking part.

What happens if an event changes at the last minute?

If the activity does change it is important to let parents know via text, phone call, email and to ensure that they have received the message and are happy with the alternative activity. For those members who are attending, it would be expected that those parents will respond. It is advised that the Club devises an action plan of who will do this.

What if we cancel the activity?

Again, it would be obvious and expected that a Club would make communication with all members to state that the YFC event is cancelled. In the case of 17 and under members, contact should also be made with their parents/guardians as per the details on their Parental Consent Form. Should a group of members then decide to continue the evening on a Non-YFC basis, i.e. turn it into a social at a local pub, then Club Officers (responsible adults for the evening) must ensure that those 17 and under are not dropped off or that they are taken home safely by a senior member, with the parents consent if they are already there.

Does the parental consent relate to all activities or just those away from our usual meeting place?

The membership form for 18/19 now has parental consent incorporated into it. This relates to all activities on your Club Programme at the regular meeting place – your club programme MUST be printed and issued in a timely manner with as much details as possible.

For any activities such as trips and visits away from the usual meeting place, it is advised that all clubs use a Permission Slip for any members aged 17 and under.

For any Club Discos/Social Events, a separate Parental Consent Form should be asked for on the night, recorded and checked carefully by the responsible officer.

What is the best way for a club to manage the forms?

With regard to holding the consent forms, as long as the Club Officers keep the forms safe and stored appropriately it is fine for officers to hold duplicate copies of these forms encase one officer is unable to make it to a Club night. It's an idea to keep spare consent forms with these forms encase a parent can complete one when dropping a child with you (if they haven't already provided one).

What happens if a member turns up to a club night without their permission slip? Are they then not allowed to take part?

In the case of a 17 or under member who has no form, the officers can call the parent and complete the form verbally with them so that they have emergency contact details, medical info etc and have spoken to the parent to make them aware of the activity. In the case of a current member who has completed a form previously for the last club programme, a quick call to their parent to confirm no details have changed would be fine and then ensure an updated form is present for the next meeting/activity.

How do we deal with a new member aged 17 or under who turns up for the first time to see what YFC is all about?

It is fine for new members to attend without consent to a meeting. It is suggested that when the parent drops the member off, the Club Officers talk to them and take a contact number for them. Alternatively if they come along with someone else, or just “walk in” then a quick call to their parents to check that they are aware that their child is there is recommended.

If a member turns 18 within that membership year do they then stop having to get forms signed?

Yes, the Parental Consent Forms only apply to members who are aged 17 and under at the time of the event/activity.

How long do we retain the forms for?

Indefinitely. Records of all paperwork relating to Safeguarding must be stored appropriately and not destroyed. This can be stored at the YFC Office if you prefer at the end of your club term.

Are Parental Consent Forms needed for County Activities?

Yes Parental Consent Forms will be requested for Competitions and Social Events and it is the responsibility of the member concerned to ensure that they bring it to the activity, completed and signed.

Where can I get a Parental Consent Form from?

A Template will be available to download from the County Website.

For the detailed version of the Safeguarding Policy, please contact our County Office on 01785 248645 or email the County Designated Safeguarding Officer, Julia Taylor on organiser@staffyoungfarmers.org.uk