EBA guidelines for camps & clubs

In order to promote good practice amongst burn camp/club programmes in Europe, the EBA Burn Camp Committee developed guidelines for camps and clubs, to serve as a quality benchmark. These are:

- The Camp/Club will provide support for young burn survivors and their families, towards the recovery from burn injury by facilitating their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation.

- Each Burn Camp/Club will have a written document describing how it is organised, its aims and objectives, committee membership, accounting procedures.

- Each Camp/Club will have an identified Director/Chairperson who should be the contact person for the Camp/Club and should oversee the general running of the Camp/Club and its activities.

- Each Camp/Club will have a general working committee, responsible for organisation, fundraising, management of accounts etc. It is essential that this committee includes staff with professional healthcare expertise from the field of burns care.

- Where the Camp/Club directly involves young people in events/activities, the leadership team will include health professionals trained in the field of burns. Appropriately qualified professionals will be selected as part of the leadership team in order to meet the needs of any young person participating in an event. This may include a range from the following: Doctors / Nurses / Physiotherapists / Occupational Therapists / Social workers / Psychologists / Psychiatrists / Play Specialists / Hospital Teachers.

- Leaders with other relevant skills may be included in Burn Camp/Club programmes e.g. burn survivors / fire service personnel / teachers / youth leaders. Such leaders will be given basic training in skills necessary for the care of young people with burn injuries.

- Any facilities and venues used for Camp/Club events, will fulfil all legal requirements in respect of safety, instructor qualifications and insurance, applicable to the member country.

- Camps/Clubs running activities for young people will have appropriate insurance cover with public liability insurance as a minimum.

- Each Camp/Club will have a child protection policy in line with their National requirements.

- Camps/Clubs will have a policy for ensuring all leaders are checked for suitability for working with young people in line with the requirements of their country.

- There will be a minimum staff to child ratio of 1:3 on burn camp events. On other outings / family events, this may be reduced to 1:4 ratio.

- Each Camp/Club that has been established for a number of years will provide appropriate training and support for suitable burn-injured young people to develop the skills to become Young Camp Leaders.

- Any leader appointed guardian of children at a Camp/Club event will refrain from the use of drugs for the duration of the event.

- Leaders on duty at a Camp/Club event and with responsibility for children/young people will refrain from the consumption of alcohol.

- Camps/Clubs will develop a 'smoking policy', in consultation with the camp/activity venue.

- Each Camp/Club will employ practices that ensure the health and safety of all participants. This will include processes to identify risks and the application of recommendations to minimise risk.

- Each Camp/Club will be a non-profit making body. The Camp/Club will have a policy stating how funds raised and held should be spent and audited. The general principle should be that funds are spent to benefit the young people.

- Camps/Clubs will not exclude any young person from taking part in any camp or activity through his or her inability to pay.

- Each Camp/Club will have mechanisms in place to ensure that appropriate information regarding each child's medical, emotional and behavioural needs will be gathered in advance of any event.

- Each Camp will have mechanisms in place for giving feedback to Burn Services/Burn Consultants regarding individual children's progress at Camp or specific problems identified, where requested or necessary and with appropriate respect to confidentiality.

- Each Camp/Club will formally evaluate their events to demonstrate the value and benefits to those young people participating. Ideally both qualitative and quantitative methodologies will be used.

- Each member organisation will submit to the European Burn Camp Committee a bi-annual report in advance of the EBA Congress summarising its activities.

The EBA encourages all burn camps/clubs in Europe to work towards achieving these guidelines.