

Wetherby Runners Athletics Club

Child Protection Policy

Aim of the Policy

Our aim is to create an environment in which the young athlete (child) and their parent(s), guardian, responsible adult, carer, closest relative; can feel confident that our Athletics Club is providing a safe, enjoyable and wholesome setting for all participants in the sport of athletics.

As a club, we can support and offer advice to every athlete, coach, helper, official and officer of the club in order to protect them from neglect, exploitation and abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse against young athletes will be responded to, and followed up appropriately in accordance with this policy and those laid out by UK Athletics Child Protection and Athlete Welfare guidelines and procedures. Further information on safeguarding children is available on the UK Athletics web page <http://www.englandathletics.org/athletics-clubs/i-help-to-run-a-club/welfare-everyones-responsibility/welfare>.

Key Principles

1. All people under the age of 18 years are defined as children for the purpose of this policy.
2. All children regardless of their gender, racial origin, culture, ability, religious belief and sexual orientation have the right to protection from abuse.
3. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and will be responded to by any officer of the club, who through the Club's child protection officer will refer the matter to UK Athletics who has responsibility for contacting the Social Services Department where the child lives. If the incident happens during an evening or weekend then the club should inform the police immediately then inform UK Athletics on the next working day.
4. All coaches and officers who come into active contact with children will required to have a valid 'enhanced' Disclosure and Barring Service check.
5. Club coaches, parents and helpers will observe and follow the 'Code of Practice for people working in Athletics with children' wherever practicable.

Code of Practice for people working in Athletics with children

- Avoid when possible, situations when you and an individual child are alone.
- Avoid physical contact. Teach techniques by demonstration.
- Coaches are expected to hold appropriate qualifications recognised by UK Athletics. Otherwise they must work under the direct supervision of a qualified coach.
- Adults should never over-criticise young athletes, or use language or actions which may cause children to lose self-esteem or confidence.
- Coaches and adults should not take unrelated children to their (i.e. the coach or adults) home. Permission must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian for car journeys. The presence of a further person should be sought. It is sensible to seat any child in the rear of the car.
- Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in all conversations; so coaches and adults must not give children a promise or expectation of confidentiality.
- When using facilities such a school premises for training the health and safety/child protection policies of the premises will be followed and no child will be left unsupervised on the premises.

Actions to be taken by Club Welfare Officer of Wetherby Runners Athletics Club, or in their absence, any officer of the club.

1. Advise the child that you will not be able to maintain confidentiality.
2. Listen to the child rather than question him/her.
3. Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
4. Make a note of what is said, taking care to record the time, date, setting and people present.
5. Complete the Referral form (see below).
6. Any person with a suspicion or allegation of child abuse shall report to the Club Welfare Officer or any club officer who should, without delay, refer the matter to the UK Athletics Welfare administrator (telephone 0121 713 8450, email childprotection@uka.org.uk). If the incident happens during an evening or weekend then the club should inform the police immediately then inform UK Athletics on the next working day.
7. The person reporting the suspicions or making the allegations must be prepared to speak to the Social Services to clarify their concerns.
8. Any person suspected of abusing a child should not be approached by another member of the Club concerning the abuse issue.
9. Other Club officials should deal with matters if the person who would otherwise deal with the matter is compromised by a relationship or friendship with the person against whom the suspicion has emerged.
10. Any child, parent or person is encouraged to contact the Social Services or the police local to them, directly, without referring the matter to the Child Protection Officers of the Club.
11. Any coach or member of the club who has been accused of abusing a child will be suspended by the Club "without prejudice" pending the investigation.
12. Any serious incident occurring on school premises is shared with the School Lettings Service / Leeds City Council

Definitions of Child Abuse

- **Physical Abuse**. Occasions when adults or other children deliberately inflict injuries upon a child, or knowingly do not prevent such injuries. This could include the nature of the intensity of training or competition. Offering alcohol or drugs.
- **Emotional Abuse**. Where adults or other children fail to show due care or attention or threaten, use sarcasm, taunt or shout at a child causing them to lose confidence, self-esteem and become nervous or withdrawn.
- **Neglect**. Where adults fail to provide help and care to the child. This also includes leaving a child without proper supervision or placing the child at risk of injury.
- **Sexual Abuse**. Where adults or children use children to fulfil their sexual needs.
 - The coach, volunteer, official or Officer of the Club may be placed in a position of trust by the child who may feel able to disclose incidents which have occurred at school or at home. These must be taken seriously and referred immediately to the Social Service Department. It may not be safe for the child to return home.

Wetherby Runners Club Safeguarding Officers

Richard Davey (Level 2 child protection trained)

Jo Davey (Level 3 child protection trained)

Revised Sept 2018

Your name and contact details: _____
Your position: _____
Your knowledge of and relationship to the child
Child's name: _____
Child's address: _____
Child's date of birth: _____
Date(s), time(s) and location(s) of incident(s): _____
Nature of the concern/allegation: _____
Observations made by you or to you (e.g. description of visible bruising, other injuries, child's emotional state etc): NB Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay
Exactly what the child said and what you said (Remember, do not lead the child– record actual details. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):
Actions Taken so far:
External agencies contacted:

Police Yes No If yes, which: _____

Date and time: _____

Name and Contact number: _____

Details of advice received: _____

Children's Social Care Yes No If yes, which: _____

Or Local Authority Designated Officer

Date and time: _____

Name and Contact number: _____

Details of advice received: _____

UKA LCPO Yes No If yes, which department: _____

Date and time: _____

Name Role and Contact number: _____

Details of advice received: _____

Other (e.g. NSPCC, Children 1st) Yes No If yes, which: _____

Date and time: _____

Name and Contact number: _____

Details of advice received: _____

Print name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Remember to maintain confidentiality (on a need to know basis)-only share if it will protect the child. Do not discuss the incident with anyone other than those who need to know.

A copy of this form must be sent to: Athletics Welfare, PO Box 332, Sale. M33 6XL

Email: childprotection@uka.org.uk Telephone: 0161 223 4246.