

**Wallsend Harriers & Athletic Club**

**Child Safeguarding & Welfare Policy**

**Introduction**

Wallsend Harriers & AC are committed to ensuring a safe athletics environment for all. We believe that everyone involved in athletics should enjoy their participation and development in a safe environment, with protection from abuse, ill treatment and/or misconduct. Every individual involved in athletics events and programmes is responsible for upholding this belief.

**Policy Statement**

Wallsend Harriers & Athletic Club:

* accepts the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for all people (including children) within the sport, safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse;
* respects and promotes the rights, wishes and feelings of people taking part in athletics including young people, disabled and/or vulnerable adults;
* ensures its club officers and volunteers are carefully selected and adopt best practice in all equality issues, to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations;
* requires club officers and volunteers to read, adopt and abide by the Welfare & Safeguarding Policy;
* responds swiftly and appropriately to any allegations and implements the relevant investigatory, disciplinary and appeals procedures;
* reviews the effectiveness of this Welfare & Safeguarding Policy and activities each year at the Annual General Meeting;
* require coaches, team manages and committee members complete relevant safeguarding trainings and encourage officials to do so as well.

The role of the club is to:

* appoint or identify two club welfare officers who will take specific responsibility for welfare issues and act as the main point of contact for individuals;
* support the club welfare officers in attending any local or regional course held by the appropriate organisations on the practical implementation of the policy;
* accept that all officers and committee members have responsibilities for upholding the policy and procedures and for responding to any suspected breaches of it;
* ensure that, if the club learns that a volunteer has been convicted of abuse, then it will refuse help from that person who has been so convicted;
* implement appropriate recommendations from UKA relating to welfare and/or child protection;
* through the club welfare officers, or a member of the committee in the absence of the club welfare officers, inform local Children’s Services without delay if a concern about child abuse is identified;
* if the concern is about any of the club welfare officers, then the person with concerns or being informed of them should immediately contact the local Children’s Services or the police and then inform the UKA Welfare Officer;
* ensure that contact details for Children’s Services, the police and NSPCC are made available to all club organisers, coaches and officials;
* maintain confidentiality of the those disclosing, those accused of misconduct and any alleged victims;
* for general misconduct cases (non-welfare) appoint a disciplinary panel, operate this in accordance with the England Athletics Serious Misconduct Concern Flowchart;
* refer disciplinary cases in relation to athletics welfare to the UKA welfare team;
* refer other disciplinary cases to a panel as appropriate.

The role of the club welfare officer is to:

* be independent of the club’s committee;
* implement the Safeguarding & Welfare Policy on behalf of the club;
* receive and advise on reports or disclosures from club members;
* initiate action, ensuring that all appropriate persons have been contacted;
* keep the confidentiality of information on any matters referred but make them available to the UKA Welfare Officer, Children’s Services or the police as necessary;
* maintain up to date knowledge of welfare and child protection issues with support from UKA;
* refer all media enquiries about suspected or reported abuse or poor practice to UKA;
* ensure staff/volunteers/officials undertake appropriate safeguarding training.