

Rothwell Harriers & A.C. Safeguarding Adults in Athletics Policy

Policy Objectives

The aim of this policy is to ensure protection from, and the prevention of, the abuse of vulnerable adults. As a UK Athletics affiliated club we have a legal and moral obligation to provide a duty of care, to protect all adults at risk of abuse and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Everyone who takes part in athletics is entitled to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. To ensure this Athletics in the UK which encompasses UK Athletics Limited, England Athletics Limited, Welsh Athletics Limited, Scottish Athletics Limited and Athletics Northern Ireland is committed to establishing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure a safe athletics environment. Best practice in athletics benefits everyone the sport's governing bodies, coaches and officials, teachers, parents, carers and athletes. Most importantly, it ensures that adults at risk of abuse who choose to participate in athletics have a safe and fun experience. Our objective is to build a safer future in athletics for all adults at risk of abuse

Duty of Care

Rothwell Harriers & A.C. and its coaches, volunteers and club officials, have a duty of care to safeguard vulnerable adults when they are participating in athletics activities under their auspices.

This policy is in line with UKA Steering Group guidance with a view to promoting the adoption of good and consistent safeguarding practices to ensure that vulnerable adults have a safe experience.

Key principles

- The welfare of the adult is paramount.
- All adults have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All organisations and individuals involved in athletics understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

We will as a club follow the six guiding principles of safeguarding as set out in the Care Act 2014 namely:

- Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. "I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens."
- Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs. "I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."

- Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. “I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed.”
- Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need. “I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.

The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected.

We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all adults and will act appropriately and report concerns whether these concerns arise within UK Athletics for example regarding inappropriate behaviour of a coach, or in the wider community.

All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with UK Athletics Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.

Guidance & Legislation

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within the UK and legislation and Government Guidance and have been developed to complement the Safeguarding Adults Boards policy and procedures, and take the following into consideration:

- The Care Act 2014.
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.
- Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- The Human Rights Act 1998.
- The Data Protection Act 1994, 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

Definitions

- Adult at Risk is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect. • In recent years there has been a marked shift away from using the term 'vulnerable' to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse.
- Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. See section 5 for further explanations.
- Adult is anyone aged 18 or over.
- Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress. The starting assumption must always be that a person has the capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they lack capacity (MCA 2005).

Confidentiality

The right to privacy and dignity of any vulnerable adult will be respected at all times and protection of all confidential information is recognised as good practice. In every situation it will be assumed that a person can make their own decisions unless it is proven that they are unable to do so.

The sharing of information must be strictly on a need to know basis

Informed consent should be obtained as far as is possible

No assurances of absolute confidentiality should be given and should not be confused with secrecy as this may hinder the safeguarding objective of making people safe.

Alerting

Everyone reading this document must regard himself or herself as an alerter.

Alerting or raising a concern about abuse means:

- ✓ Recognising signs of abuse/ongoing bad practice
- ✓ Responding to a disclosure
- ✓ Reporting a concern, allegation or disclosure
- ✓ Recording initial information
- ✓ Working strictly in accordance with anti-discriminatory practice.

As an alerter you are:

- ✓ Not being asked to verify or prove that information is true
- ✓ Required to log your concerns and report them to an appropriate person or organisation

Only the Police have the responsibility to establish whether a criminal offence has been committed.

Alerting Procedure

This procedure applies to any concern, allegation or disclosure in any setting.

In an emergency you must dial 999 for either the police or an ambulance

In all cases of concern, allegations or disclosure you should advise and assist the vulnerable adult to contact the Adult Social Care Services for the Local Authority where they live. Social Care services details can be found on your area's County Council website.

Do not undertake to keep any disclosure of abuse confidential. It is important to explain to the vulnerable adult before a disclosure that you may have to discuss the information given with a person in a more responsible position than yourself.

The welfare of the vulnerable adult is paramount.

Good Practice Guidelines

Recognising signs of adult abuse:

- ✓ Thinking about what you see and asking yourself if it is acceptable practice
- ✓ Working strictly in accordance with antioppressive practice
- ✓ **Taking seriously what you are told** ☑ **Being alert to hints, signals, non verbal communication that could indicate abuse**

Responding to disclosure

If someone makes an allegation or discloses to you :

DO

- Stay calm and try not to show shock
- Listen carefully
- Be sympathetic
- Tell the person that:
 - They did the right thing in tell you
 - You are treating the information seriously
 - It was not their fault
 - You may have to pass the information on to more responsible persons
 - Inform UKA welfare team
 - Write down what the person said to you as soon as possible

DO NOT

- ✓ Question the person about the incident
- ✓ Ask the person who, what, why, where when questions, this is the role of the police
- ✓ Promise to keep secrets
- ✓ Make promises that you cannot keep
- ✓ Contact the alleged abuser
- ✓ Be judgemental
- ✓ Gossip about the incident

When in doubt seek the advice of the UKA Welfare team

Reporting

- ✓ Record your concerns in writing making a note of the date, time your concerns and the circumstances surrounding them, as well as anything that has been said.
- ✓ Contact your Club welfare Officer or your council adult protection team within social services or social care department or the local police.
- ✓ Be prepared to provide the following details:- Your name, address, telephone number and your role
- ✓ Include as many details about the vulnerable person as you can. You must not however disclose confidential information such as the person's diagnosis or gender orientation unless it is relevant to the situation.
- ✓ What you have been told or observed about the person
- ✓ What the vulnerable person has said in response to any suspicions or concerns you have had.
- ✓ The action you have taken so far
- ✓ When you make the referral agree with the person you are making the referral to what the persons carers will be told by whom and when.

Social care or the police will advise you on what to do next, including whether the carers should be involved. Social care will then take responsibility for ensuring that appropriate enquires are made.

**Reviewed and amended by Terry Lacy March 2021 in line with UKA Guidance issued 2019
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