



# **Safeguarding Policy**

**THIS DOCUMENT WAS FIRST APPROVED IN APRIL 2006 as a Child Protection Policy. It relates to both young people under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults up to the age of 25.**

**This issue was adopted July 2021**

## **As a responsible Running Club we will:**

Adopt national welfare policies and procedures, adhere to the codes of conduct and respond to any suspected breaches in accordance with the Welfare Procedures

Appoint a welfare officer, and ensure that they have access to appropriate training to act as a first point of contact for concerns about welfare issues

Ensure that all coaches and volunteers operating within the club environment hold the appropriate qualifications and have undertaken the appropriate checks e.g. DBS, licences, qualifications such as massage, sports nutrition etc

Ensure that coaches, technical officials and club officers attend recommended training in welfare and safeguarding and protecting young people as appropriate.

Liaise appropriately with parents/persons with parental responsibility, officials, coaches, sports scientists, national governing bodies and other relevant people/organisations to ensure that good practice is maintained

Ensure that information is available at the club and to all club officers, team managers, coaches and officials regarding contact details for local social services, the police and the NSPCC

Ensure that club officers and volunteers always act responsibly and set an example to others including younger members

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every club member and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally.

Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances

Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others

Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above other considerations including the development of performance

Report any suspected misconduct by club officials, coaches, technical officials or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible

## **Guidelines**

### **1.1 Some physical parameters**

Always work in an open environment – avoid private or unobserved situations and encourage an open environment with no secrets.

Put the welfare of the young person first before winning or achieving.

Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with young people.

Ensure that if any form of physical support is required, it is provided openly. Young people's permission should be sought before giving such support and their parents views should also be considered.

Recognise the developmental needs and abilities of young members, avoid excessive training or competition.

Parental consent must be sought in writing to act in loco parentis if the need arises – this includes consent to any first aid or emergency medical treatment. Keep written records of any injury that occurs along with treatment given.

### **1.2 Some emotional parameters**

Treat all young people equally, fairly with respect and dignity

Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism

Build balanced and supportive relationships based on trust to empower young people to share in decision making.

Make running a fun sport, enjoyable and promote fair play and do not allow young members to violate rules

### **1.3 Practices to be avoided**

Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with young members away from others.

Avoid taking children to your home where they may be alone with you

### **1.4 Practices that should never be sanctioned**

Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

Never allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.

*Tamar Trotters*

Never share a room with a young person

Never allow young members to use inappropriate language unchallenged

Never make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in jest

Never reduce a young member to tears as a form of control

Never allow allegations made by a young member to go unnoticed, unrecorded or not acted upon.

Never do things of a personal nature for a young member that they can do for them-selves including for children/young people who have disabilities.

Never invite a young member to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

### **1.5 Incidents/situations that need to be reported**

If a young person is hurt in an accident

If a young person seems overly distressed in any manner

If a young person appears to act sexually inappropriately

If a young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you or another adult has said or done

### **1.6 Photography and Videoing**

Parents of young people should sign giving permission for photos to be taken and reproduced for club purposes, for example on our social media.

Photographs should on no account be taken in changing areas or of young people who are not appropriately clothed.

The PR officer will notify the main Newspapers of this Policy in writing and direct them to read the terms and conditions on the website.

### **1.7 Bullying (see also bullying policy)**

The club will : -

Take all signs of bullying seriously

Encourage all young people to speak to someone about any concerns in order to help a victim of bullying to speak out.

Ensure that the appropriate Officer investigates any concerns regarding bullying and takes action to ensure that it stops

Ensure that parents of young people are fully involved in the resolution of the bullying.

Ensure that records are kept of all incidents investigated and resolved.

### ***PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT OR POOR PRACTICE ISSUES***

If the matter in the first instance is not considered to be of a safeguarding/child protection nature or if following Local Authority referral it is not considered to be of a safeguarding/child protection nature – the Safeguarding along with relevant committee members will decide whether there are any issues of poor practice to be addressed.

The Committee will consider all the matters pertaining to the situation and decide what action needs to be taken to ensure the issue of poor practice does not arise again.

The Committee may decide that a member of the club cannot be allowed to continue with their membership.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality cannot be kept if information comes to light about potential harm to a young person. If a young person discloses harm or abuse to an adult the adult has to make it clear that they will have to talk to an appropriate Officer in order to ensure the child/young person's safety.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

<b><u>Welfare Officer</u></b>  <b>For reporting any concerns</b>	<b><u>HELEN RALPH</u></b> Home No. 01752 851205 Mobile No. 07968515691
<b><u>Cornwall Council Children and Family Services Department</u></b>	Multi Agency Referral Unit 3 North County Hall Treyew Road Truro TR1 3AY Tel 0300 1231 116
<b><u>Devon and Cornwall Constabulary</u></b>  <b>For Local Referral</b>	0845 2777444
<b><u>Cornwall Partnership Manager (Children, young people and families)</u></b>	Tim Marrion 018722 323338 07973497454  Tim.Marrion@cornwall.gov.uk
<b><u>Cornwall Sports Partnership</u></b>  <b>For Advice and courses Manager - Angela Barnett</b>	Active Cornwall Inny Building Old County Hall Site Station Road Truro Tr1  01872 324324
<b><u>Sports Development Officer</u></b>	

<b>For Advice Caradon – Stephanie Thomas</b>	01579 341055
<b><u>NSPCC - Child Protection in Sport Unit</u> For Child Protection Training / Consultancy</b>	0116 234 7200 <a href="http://www.sportprotects.org.uk">www.sportprotects.org.uk</a>
<b><u>NSPCC</u> For Referral/Advice National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</b>	0808 800 5000 24hrs

<b><u>Childline</u></b> <b>For Advice to Children</b>	0800 1111 <a href="http://www.advocateweb.org">www.advocateweb.org</a>
<b><u>UK Athletics</u></b> <b>For Advice</b>	0870 998 6800
<b><u>Parent Line</u></b> <b>For Advice to parents</b>	01702 559900 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday 12noon – 6pm Saturday