



Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Athletics

Policy and Procedures Document

Issued by: Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club

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Our Safeguarding Policy

Policy Objective

Everyone who takes part in athletics is entitled to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. To ensure this Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club is committed to establishing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure a safe and fun athletics environment for all children who choose to participate. Our objective is to build a safer future in athletics for all children under the age of 18 years

All children are entitled to a duty of care and to be protected from abuse. Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club fully accept their legal and moral obligations to provide a duty of care, to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or belief, sex or gender and sexual orientation. We are committed to devising, implementing and updating policies and procedures to promote best practice when working with children and to ensure that everyone in the sport understands and accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children from harm and abuse. This means taking action to report any concerns about their welfare. It is not the responsibility of athletics to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, this is the domain of the child protection professionals.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015

- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All individuals involved in athletics should understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential to promoting young people's welfare.

In order to meet our obligation to children we will:

- Provide and enforce procedures to safeguard the well-being of all participants and protect them from abuse.
- Ensure all children who take part in athletics are able to participate in a safe and fun environment.
- Respect and uphold the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Recruit, train and supervise all club members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves from false allegations.
- Require all members to adopt and abide by the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and the relevant grievance, investigatory and disciplinary procedures.
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate complaints, child protection, disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Review policies regularly.

Adults and children sharing sessions

The club accommodates athletes of all ages and both adults and children will share the facilities. Key considerations need to be addressed within this policy in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the younger athletes within this environment.

Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club aim to reduce any risks and fulfil our duty of care to all of our athletes. In doing so, we will:

- Ensure that child athletes are supervised by a suitably qualified adult at all times.
- That all adults who have direct responsibility for the welfare of children in their care have an enhanced DBS Disclosure.
- This will include any staff member who remains in the clubhouse throughout the athletics meetings.
- Before sending a child to the clubhouse, either for disciplinary procedures, for treatment of minor injuries or illness, coaches should try to ensure that an appropriate adult is in attendance.
- During events away from the club, we will endeavour to ensure that children will also be supervised by an appropriate adult when parents cannot attend.
- All adult and older athletes will behave in a manner that sets a positive example for their younger counterparts and recognise the importance of role models for aspiring athletes.
- There should be no inappropriate language used around the younger athletes and this will include swearing and sexualised language.
- Any inappropriate behaviours will be dealt with immediately and accordingly.

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