Ambleside Athletics Club – Adult Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Most adults are able to live their lives safely and free from harm. However, for some, there may be times when, for a variety of reasons, their ability to keep themselves safe and protect their wellbeing and rights is compromised.

AAC will safeguard adults by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe. We will develop a culture of zero tolerance of harm to adults, which necessitates:

- the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk
- knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself
- being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

AAC has a separate policy for Junior Safeguarding

Policy

AAC are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

AAC acknowledge that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and we are committed to the prevention of abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved in our sport. We recognise that abuse may take many forms including; physical, sexual, neglect, psychological or financial.

AAC recognises that health, wellbeing, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. Our club recognises that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We also recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

AAC will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation procedures.

Any action taken by AAC will be prompt, proportionate and include and respect the voice of the adult concerned.

This policy applies to all members of the club, regardless of level of participation or role.

Commitments

To implement this policy AAC will ensure:

- all members of the club are aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the safety or wellbeing of an adult
- any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with this policy
- the wellbeing of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to
- any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm
- confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Privacy Notice.
- cooperation with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult

- all relevant club members are fully aware of their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults, and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding adult training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role
- the use of safe appointment practices and continual assessment of the suitability of volunteers holding positions of responsibility in order to prevent reliance on unsuitable individuals
- a sharing of information with the appropriate bodies about anyone found to be a risk to adults; for example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Police, Local Authority/Social Services
- the inclusion of a risk assessment when planning activities and events as to the safety of all adults from abuse, exploitation and neglect
- this policy is reviewed on a three-yearly basis by the AAC committee, or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Code of Conduct

AAC members should:

- abide by the club Safeguarding Policy
- respect the rights of all others involved in fell running and treat everyone equitably
- uphold the same sporting values away from sport as when they are engaged in fell running
- promote positive aspects of the sport and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances
- anticipate, and be responsible for, their own needs, including having the appropriate equipment and being punctual
- inform their coach of any other coaching that they are seeking or receiving
- act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- in no way undermine, put down or belittle other runners, coaches or practitioners
- never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- challenge and report inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- not misuse or abuse sporting equipment and venues
- act ethically, professionally and with integrity, and take responsibility for their actions.
- recognise that they are bound by the UKA Anti-Doping Regulations

Reporting a concern

If a club member has a safeguarding concern about themselves or another person then they should report it. If the concern is about another individual, it is not their role to follow up in any other way; they should simply report it.

Under normal circumstances the concern should be reported to the Club Adult Welfare Officer, unless the situation is dangerous or medical assistance is required, in which case the emergency services should be called. An alternative channel of reporting is available via UK Athletics via email at safeguarding@uka.org.uk.

Much more detailed Adult Safeguarding Reporting Procedures can be found here: https://www.englandathletics.org/clubhub/resource/adult-safeguarding-procedures/

References

UK Athletics and HCAF Adult Safeguarding Policy. 30/4/21
UK Athletics and HCAF Adult Safeguarding Procedures. 30/4/21
UK Athletics and HCAF Senior Athletes Code of Conduct. 17/3/23