

Ambleside Athletics Club – Junior Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of Ambleside Athletic Club (AAC) that everyone who takes part in the activities promoted by the club does so safely, taking into account the inherent risks involved in fell running. The club recognises that all children and young people have the right to be cared for, protected from harm and abuse, and to participate in a sporting environment which is safe, and in which their rights are respected, and their needs met. Children and young people should get the help they need, when they need it, and their safety is paramount.

This safeguarding policy applies to children and young people; the club has a separate safeguarding policy for adults. This policy should be read in conjunction with the club '**Code of Conduct for Junior Runners, Parents and Club Coaches**'

<https://www.amblesideac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Code-of-Conduct-for-Juniors.pdf>

Objectives

The key objectives of this policy are to demonstrate the club's responsibility to:

- keep children and young people safe by valuing, listening to and respecting them
- promote the wellbeing of children through opportunities to take part in athletics safely
- put in place policies and procedures to promote the wellbeing and protection of children
- recruit, train and support all our staff and volunteers to prioritise the safety of children who take part in our activities

Key principles

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child for the purposes of this policy. They will be referred to as a child from the perspective of parents and child protection and as a junior from the perspective of fell running.

- The welfare of children is the primary concern.
- The protection and wellbeing of all children in our care is everyone's responsibility.
- A child, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- A child has the right to express views on all matters that affect them, should they wish to do so.
- A child's rights and opinions should be respected and promoted.
- The best way to promote the wellbeing, health and development of a child is to work in partnership with the child, parents/carers and other relevant organisations.

Implementation

The club will:

- adopt this Junior Safeguarding Policy
- implement the guidelines, procedures and regulations related to this policy
- appoint at least one Club Welfare Officer
- safely recruit volunteers/staff in accordance with club volunteer recruitment guidance
- promote safeguarding best practice in all aspects of club activity
- ensure all volunteers, officials, coaches, athletes and parents agree to and sign the relevant code of conduct for their role

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- accept that all office bearers and committee members have a responsibility for safeguarding children's wellbeing and protecting them from harm, and are prepared to respond to any concerns of abuse or poor practice
- challenge and change poor practice
- implement any recommendations of UK Athletics or EA relating to this policy area
- promote an environment where all concerns can be raised without fear of victimisation or reprisal
- ensure that everyone volunteering or working with children at their club attends a relevant child safeguarding training course every three years.

Role of the AAC Junior Welfare Officer

- To help the club adhere to relevant best practice in children's welfare
- To ensure that all coaches, leaders and other volunteers have an in-date Disclosure and Barring Service certificate.
- To respond to suspected breaches of this Safeguarding Policy and to advise and support all volunteers on how to respond appropriately in accordance with best practice.
- To report any concerns about child abuse to **'Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub'** on 0300 373 2724 or the **police** immediately.
- To report any concerns about child abuse to both the UKA Welfare Officer and the EA Welfare Officer and inform them what action has been taken.
- To have attended appropriate Safeguarding and Protection Children Training.

Link to: Fell Running Association Incident Report Form

References:

UK Athletics – Child Safeguarding Policy, Reviewed 30 April 2021.

England Athletics Club Welcome Pack Template. This document provides codes of conduct for athletes and all groups supporting athletes and running athletics.