



Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club

Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding the interests of young people, adults and the club by promoting a safe, healthy and positive environment .

Introduction

Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club provides a service to the surrounding community, in particular to young people, by offering the opportunity to train for, and compete in, athletics. Youngsters gain much from participating within our organisation, not only in the advancement of their physical skills but wider social skills and emotional development. As such parents and children place a duty of trust upon the club, its officers and volunteers, that we believe to be well placed. However, it is essential that we have in place the procedures to ensure that this remains true and to recognise and remedy any failures, or potential failures, within our system of operation.

There are six principles to which the Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club Child Protection Policy adheres:

1. Anyone under the age of eighteen is classed as a young person. Irrespective of their attitudes or apparent maturity all are potentially vulnerable.
2. To promote athletics whilst being mindful of the welfare of all young people and to protect them from neglect, exploitation and abuse.
3. The welfare of the child is paramount and all have a right to expect protection from abuse.
4. All children, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity or creed have equal right to protection
5. Suspicions and allegations are to be acted upon, and investigated by, people qualified to do so. Those with the ability to gather and weigh up information and the knowledge of possible remedies. There is also a duty of care to avoid wrongful accusation.
6. The welfare of youngsters requires that the club work in partnership with parents, school and community and to make use of, and fully co-operate with, social services and/or the police.

Policy;

All people under the age of 18 years are defined as children for the purpose of this policy.

- To provide the procedures necessary to safeguard the interests of the club, children and adults in an environment that is safe, healthy and positive in it's approach to the issues of Child Protection.
- To protect the club from any issues of negligence
- To promote the welfare of all young people under the age of eighteen and to protect them from neglect, exploitation and abuse of any nature, be it physical, racial or any other form of abuse.

- All children regardless of their gender, racial origin, culture, religion, ability and sexual orientation have the right to protection from abuse.
- To ensure that those working with children are fully aware of the definitions of the various forms of abuse and have knowledge of procedures for reporting incidents.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be taken seriously and must be responded to by the Club's child protection officer or in their absence by any officer of the club.
- All such suspicions and allegations should be treated with tactful investigation, communicating with sensitivity and by gathering evidence and weighing it up before taking matters further. At such time it must be remembered that there is a duty of care to ensure that nobody is wrongfully accused of any act(s) of abuse.
- To work with parents/carers, school and community and, where necessary, make use of such external agencies as the police and social services.
- **All coaches, club officers and volunteers who come into regular active contact with children are subjected to a CRB check.**

It is not the responsibility of those in sport to decide that child abuse is occurring. However, we do have a responsibility to refer any concerns.