

SS Athletics Child Protection Policy



Please refer to the UKA welfare and safeguarding guidance documents for more detail:

<https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/guidance-documents-and-policy/>

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive SSAthletics services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of SSAthletics, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies are essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practices through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
 - Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
 - Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/fororganisations]
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
 - Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
 - Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Expectations for coaches when working with young athletes and children

- Be respectful of all athletes
- Place welfare and safety of the athlete above development and performance
- Be appropriately qualified, update coaching licenses when required
- Have a valid UKA DBS
- Ensure training is appropriate for the age and ability for the athletes
- Ensure expectations for athletes, parents, and other coaches are outlined before the session
- Promote positive behaviours and expectations
- Avoid spending time alone with young athletes away from the view of others to protect yourself and the athletes. Unsupervised one to one coaching should not take place with young athletes, and parental consent should be obtained before any additional training takes place outside the normal coaching periods.
- Ensure relationships between coach and athlete remain professional. Ensure relationships are respectful, and all athletes are treated equally and fairly
 - Coaches **MUST NOT** develop intimate relationships between themselves and an athlete under the age of 18
 - Coaches **MUST NOT** form intimate relationships with athletes they coach or supervise over 18 years of age
 - Coaches should **AVOID being** alone with an athlete under the age of 18 or who is otherwise vulnerable.

Coaches should:

- Act professionally with dignity, courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid inappropriate or irresponsible behaviour or language
- Challenge inappropriate language and behaviour of others

- Avoid carrying or consuming items that could be dangerous to yourself or others (e.g. alcohol, weapons, drugs)
- Avoid language or behaviour that could undermine an athletes self-esteem or motivation
- Ensure athletes remain within sight of coaches, or ensure adequate arrangements are in place for keeping athletes safe when training takes place off-site or not within the immediate vicinity of SSAthletics coaches. E.g. consider; medical issues, injury, members of the public, roads, ability of the athletes, precautions are taken to prevent athletes becoming lost etc.
- Ensure parents have given consent before taking young athletes away from the track
- Coaches **MUST** report any concerns regarding the welfare of children, parents or other coaches
- Coaches **MUST** report any suspected misconduct by other coaches or other people in involved in the Club
- Avoid inappropriate or irresponsible behaviour or language
- Challenge inappropriate language and behaviour of others
- Avoid carrying or consuming items that could be dangerous to yourself or others (e.g. alcohol, weapons, drugs)
- Avoid language or behaviour that could undermine an athletes self-esteem or motivation
- Ensure athletes remain within sight of coaches, or ensure adequate arrangements are in place for keeping athletes safe when training takes place off-site or not within the immediate vicinity of WGEL coaches. E.g. consider; medical issues, injury, members of the public, roads, ability of the athletes, precautions are taken to prevent athletes becoming lost etc.
- Ensure parents have given consent before taking young athletes away from the track
- Coaches **MUST** report any concerns regarding the welfare of children, parents or other coaches
- Coaches **MUST** report any suspected misconduct by other coaches or other people in involved in the Club

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This policy was last reviewed on: 1/01/2021 [this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for safeguarding in your organisation, for example the safeguarding lead on your board of trustees].

Kerri Edwards

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