

THANET ATHLETICS CLUB

Child Protection & Vulnerable Adult Policy



Thanet Athletics Club aims to provide young people and vulnerable adults with the best possible experience and opportunities in Track & Field and also Sportshall Athletics.

Thanet Athletics Club fully accepts its obligation to provide a duty of care to protect all young people (Childrens Acts 1989 & 2004) and vulnerable adults, and to safeguard and promote their welfare, irrespective of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief and sexuality or social/economic status.

Thanet Athletics Club is working towards and will continue to work towards ensuring that:

- All young people who take part in all forms of athletics pursuits should be able to participate in a fun and safe environment.
- The welfare of young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and children have the right to protection from abuse,
- All reasonable practical steps are taken to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings,
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Thanet Athletics Club will implement suitable suspension, complaints, disciplinary and appeals procedures and adopt the appropriate procedures as set by England Athletics and UK Athletics (NGB)
- All coaches, event organisers and volunteers are carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities and provided with guidance and training in safe guarding, good practice and protection procedures,
- Everyone knows and accepts their responsibilities and works together: parents, athletes, coaches, team managers, volunteers and professional staff,
- A Child Protection & Welfare Officer is appointed who will act as the first point of contact for concerns about the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that all relevant members who have regular supervisory contact with children or vulnerable adults undertake an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure.

Enhances CRB Disclosure

All adults who have regular supervisory contact with young people or vulnerable adults must undertake an Enhanced CRB disclosure within eight weeks of their appointment to a position. These adults will include; all coaches, volunteers and Club administrators.

Positions of Trust

All adults who work with young people/vulnerable adults are in a position of trust, which has been invested in them by the parents/carers, the sport and the individual. This relationship can be described as one in which the adult is in a position of power and influence by virtue of their position.

All those within the organisation have a duty to raise concerns about the behaviour of coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators and professional staff which may be harmful to the young people/vulnerable adults in their care, without concern for their own position.

Coaches & Volunteers must:

- Never allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Never allow a child/vulnerable adult/adult to go unchallenged if they; use inappropriate language, smoke or drink alcohol in front of you,
- Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, or make sexually suggestive comments, even in fun.
- Never spend excessive amounts of time alone with a child/vulnerable adult away from the others. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the person responsible for the child/vulnerable adult.

If any of the following incidents should occur, you should report them immediately to another colleague, make a written note of the event and inform parents/carers of the incident:

- If you accidentally hurt a Club member in your care.
- If a child/vulnerable adult seems distressed in any manner.
- If a child/vulnerable adult appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- If a child/vulnerable adult misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

Terms and Abbreviations

The following terms and abbreviations are used in this document:

- Anyone under the age of 18yrs is considered to be a child/young person.
- A vulnerable adult is a person over 18 who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness.

For further information or advice please contact:

England Athletics, Wellington House, Starley Way, Birmingham International Park, Solihull B37 7HE. Tel: 0121 7817271, Fax: 0121 7817371

Additional concerns please contact:

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), 3 Gilmour Close, Beaumont Leys, Leicester. LE4 1EZ. Telephone: 0116 234 7278, Web: www.thecpsu.org.uk

Written by James Bridge, Phil Pittock and Sarah Hart on 19th February 2010

Agreed by Management Committee on 25th February 2010