

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to protect all individuals, especially children and vulnerable adults, from harm, abuse, harassment, bullying and neglect.

At Valley Striders AC, we aim to:

- provide a safe environment where children, young people and adults can take part in athletics and running at all levels.
- ensure that everyone (coaches, run leaders, club officials, volunteers, parents/carers and the athletes themselves) understands that they have a role to play in keeping others safe and should know what to do if they have any concerns.
- provide qualified and experienced run leaders and coaches.
- encourage all members to read and follow the relevant codes of conduct, which set out minimum standards and expectations.
- promote the welfare of all involved with the club.

John Hussey is our Lead Welfare Officer and can be contacted with any concerns relating to adults (18 years +) and young adults (aged 14-17 years). Hannah Corne is our Welfare Officer for the Junior section of the club and can be contacted with any concerns relating to junior athletes (aged 13 and under). Any matters raised with either of them will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially. This does mean that there may be occasions when issues are being dealt with and other club members will not be aware.

Reporting a Concern

If you believe a child, young person or an adult is in immediate danger you should call the emergency services on 999. To report concerns relating to a child or young person, you can also ring the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 to report immediate risks.

If the matter is not of immediate concern, it should be raised as soon as you are able with John Hussey or Hannah Corne:

John Hussey Email: welfare@valleystriders.org.uk

Hannah Corne Email: welfare@valleystriders.org.uk

Ensure you keep a record of your concern and how you responded to it.

All Health and Safety incidents should be reported using this form:

[Online Health and Safety Incident Reporting | UK Athletics](#)

Other useful contacts

Contact details for organisations working to safeguard children and young people can be found here:

- [Concerned about a child? | Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership \(leedsscp.org.uk\)](https://www.leedsscp.org.uk)
- Children's Social Work Services: 0113 2224403
- [One minute guide: Duty and Advice Team \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk)
- Leeds City Council Duty and Advice team: 0113 376 0336
- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (for reporting risks or for general enquiries and advice)
- Childline: 0800 1111 (for use by children to report worries and concerns)

Further information

As a club we abide by the UK and England Athletics' policies, procedures and guidelines in the pursuit of the best possible safeguards for protecting children and adults in our club and the wider community. These documents can be found below:

- [Online Health and Safety Incident Reporting | UK Athletics](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Child Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Adult Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Child Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Adult Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Safeguarding Regulations](#)

- [UK Athletics guidelines for the use of photographic & video images of children/young people under the age of 18](#)

CODES OF CONDUCT

The UK Athletics (UKA) and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAF) Codes of Conduct set out national standards of conduct for all clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers and athletes in the sport. The 2021 revised codes take account of developments in national policy, guidance and practice.

The club, every club member and anyone undertaking a relevant role must agree to abide by the codes of conduct either when they join the club, as part of the membership application process, or when they renew their club membership or UKA licence.

What are the codes of conduct?

The purpose of a code of conduct is to clarify:

- what behaviours are acceptable and unacceptable
- the standards of practice expected
- the basis for challenging and improving practice.

The codes are therefore a guide for individuals and clubs to think about, and monitor, how they and others conduct themselves in their roles. The codes let everyone know what they can expect from the club, coaches and volunteers, but also what standard of behaviour is expected from club members, athletes and parents/carers.

For all clubs, the codes are an important part of monitoring and improving the behaviour and practice of its members. Adopting and communicating clear codes of conduct is an important element in delivering the standards for child wellbeing and protection in sport.

There is a code that the club has adopted for Safeguarding and Welfare. There are separate codes for different roles within the club: Coaches, Officials, Volunteers, Athletes aged 18 or older and Parents or Guardians. Children and young people (aged less than 18) have their own codes of conduct and should be clear about the club's expectations in terms of acceptable behaviour and conduct.

Document Links

- [UK Athletics and HCAF Club Safeguarding Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Coaches Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Senior Athletes Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Children and Young People \(Under 18 Years\) Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Parents/Carers Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Technical Officials Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Volunteers Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Athletics and HCAF Club Welfare Officer Code of Conduct](#)

- UK Athletics and HCAF All Codes of Conduct Booklet