

OVERTON HARRIERS CHILD PROTECTION POLICY – Sept 05

POLICY STATEMENT

In line with the Amateur Athletic Association of England (AAA), Overton Harriers and Athletics Club (OHAC) are adopting a Child Protection Policy. It is the policy of OHAC to safeguard the welfare of all children participating in the activities of the club by protecting them from neglect and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child for the purpose of this document.
2. The child's welfare is paramount.
3. All children regardless of age ability, gender, culture, language, racial origin or religious belief and /or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
4. All allegations and suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
5. Working in partnership with children and their parents/carers is essential for the protection of the child.
6. OHAC recognises the statutory responsibilities of Social Services to ensure the welfare of children and it is committed to working with Local Area Child Protection Committees and to comply with their procedures.

DEFINITIONS

The term abuse is used to describe ways in which , through the misuse of power by adults or peers, children may be harmed.

*** Neglect:**
food, clothes

e.g. Failure to meet a child's basic needs (e.g.).

Constantly leaving a child alone and unsupervised. Failure to be aware of, or ignore, an injury and failure to arrange for its treatment.

* **Physical Abuse:** e.g. When adults physically hurt or injure a child,

give them alcohol, inappropriate drugs or other substances.

* **Sexual Abuse:** e.g. Abuse by males and/or females to gratify their own sexual desires. In sport this may be the result of coaches or older performers involving young performers in any form of sexual activity (e.g. sexual language, touching or relationships).

* **Emotional Abuse:** e.g. Persistent lack of affection.

Constant over-protection. Constant verbal abuse. Criticism, bullying by coaches, parents or peers. Coaches failing to respond to the child's efforts and/or progress.

ROLES

For effective implementation of this policy all officials of OHAC (including officers, helpers and coaches) must work in partnership, each with a role to ensure the protection of children in their care. With the exception of the CPO, only members who have prolonged unsupervised contact with children would require CRB checking.

THE ROLE OF THE OHAC IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. To appoint a Child Protection Officer.
2. To accept that ALL officers, committee, helpers and coaches have responsibilities in this area and be prepared to respond to any indication of abuse.
3. To vet all persons employed in a "child care" position as defined in the Protection of Children Act 1999 and against the Protection of Children Act List.
4. To supplement this Policy with guidance and procedures.
5. To be ready to amend bad practice.
6. To implement any recommendations of our Home Country Governing body and UK Athletics relating to this area.
7. To maintain CONFIDENTIALITY of the child and the accused.

ROLE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

1. To ensure all OHAC helpers, officials and coaches to be employed in a “child care” position are vetted via the Criminal Records Bureau and complete an application form.
2. To receive and advise on reports from other OHAC members.
3. To keep records of such reports.
4. To initiate action, ensuring all appropriate persons have been contacted.
5. To attend training courses.
6. To organise and issue briefing material on CP policy and procedure to OHAC members, coaches and helpers.
7. To report to the Executive Committee on a regular basis.
8. To obtain reports and comments from officials, coaches and helpers on the ease of implementation of the policy.

ROLE OF THE OHAC OFFICIALS, COACHES AND HELPERS

1. Abide by the OHAC CP policy at all times.
2. To read any briefing material supplied by the CP officer and attend briefing sessions when asked to do so.
3. If a performer wishes to talk about someone’s behaviour they find disturbing, listen carefully and make a note of what was said as soon as possible after the event.
4. Report concerns to the CP officer.
5. Maintain confidentiality- both of the child and the accused. Only share information on a need to know basis and if it will help the performer.
6. Always put the welfare of the performer first.
7. Treat all young/disabled performers equally, and with respect and dignity.

MONITORING OF THE POLICY

It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to monitor the policy by:-

1. Receiving regular reports of cases brought and their outcome **from the CP Officer.**
2. Receiving details of comments from officials, coaches and helpers on a regular basis about the ease of implementation and the effect of the policy. These shall be obtained by the CP officer and reported to the Executive committee at each committee meeting.
3. Revising the policy as and when necessary