

Forest of Dean AC

Safeguarding and protecting Children in Athletics Policy

Created in conjunction with

UKA, EA



Policy and Procedures Document

1 Policy Statement:

Forest of Dean Ac, under their legal obligations from EA, UKA, fully accepts their legal and moral obligations to provide a duty of care, to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or belief, sex or gender and sexual orientation.

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All individuals involved in athletics understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to the Welfare Officer

In order to meet this obligation, Forest of Dean AC (as will all other athletics bodies by law) will:

Adhere to the rules as defined by England Athletics, UKA and NSPCC Standards for Safeguarding and protecting Children in Athletics. This is also required to ensure compliance with The Children's Charter.

Specifically, the Forest of Dean AC will:

- Provide and enforce procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of all participants and protect them from abuse
- Ensure all children who take part in athletics are able to participate in a safe and fun environment.
- Respect and uphold the rights, wishes and feelings of children
- Recruit, train and supervise all, be they: Coaches, Junior Coaches, Volunteers, Officials, Committee Members, and ensure that they adhere to best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves from false allegations.
- Ensure that all Volunteers have :
 - a) complete a DBS or Self Declaration Application form as appropriate,
 - b) read, understood and signed a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct
 - c) Undertaken an induction which includes discussion of the equity policy, emergency evacuation procedures and volunteer policy.

- The Forest of Dean AC, require all Coaches, Junior Coaches, Volunteers, Officials, Committee Members, to adopt and abide by their Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Codes of Conduct, and the relevant grievance, investigatory and disciplinary procedures
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate complaints, child protection and appeals procedures
- Review policies regularly

d) **Best practice, poor Practice and Abuse**

Within the Forest of Dean AC, it is paramount that everyone involved with the Junior Athletes operates within an accepted ethical framework and demonstrates exemplary behaviour.

The following policy will define what constitutes:

Best practice:

Adopting best practice, means that you are not only ensuring the child's welfare, but you are protecting yourself from possible wrongful allegations. Children very rarely make up false allegations. If they do, it is usually because they are confused, covering up for someone else's behaviour and hoping that their action might scare the real abuser into stopping.

- Ensure that all conversations and interactions with a child / children are in a public place and with appropriate consent.
- Never allow yourself to be alone with a child or children
- **Never** travel alone with a child or group of children – always have 2 adults, one female and one male.
- **Never** share a room or changing facilities with a child
- **Always challenge** and address any bullying, harassment, foul or provocative language, controlling behaviour that could upset individuals, or reduce them to tears. **Never, under any circumstances are Coaches or officials or Volunteers to speak to Junior Athletes using expletives.**
- All Forest of Dean Ac Coaches, Officers, or Volunteers are never to ignore bullying by parents, coaches or other Junior Athletes.
- Always listen to and support the person being bullied.
- Always maintain an appropriate relationship with children, which means treating people fairly, with respect and avoiding favouritism

- Remain open and friendly at all times and ensure that appropriate relationships are maintained depending on age of Athlete.
- Respect all athletes, help them to take responsibility for their own development and decision making
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact. Only in certain circumstances is this perfectly acceptable and ONLY then if consent has been obtained with BOTH athlete and their parent / guardian
- Being qualified and insured for the coaching / activities that you are undertaking and that your licence remains valid.

Poor practice

The following are examples of poor practice and should be avoided:

- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay
- A coach shouting comments at athletes when they are deemed to be not working hard enough or are appearing to behave in an inappropriate manner or disregarding instructions.
- A coach using harassing and discriminatory language such as 'you run like a girl'
- A coach engaging in an intimate relationship with his/her athletes
- A group of athletes ganging up on a new athlete and refusing to talk to him/her
- A coach taking a group of children to a weekend camp on his / her own.
- A coach travelling alone to event with other Junior athletes.

Reporting procedures for concerns:

- 1 Parents: To telephone the Club Welfare officer on 07957 2490047, or email: welfare@fodac.org.uk
- 2 Any junior Athlete under 18 years of age: To speak to the Club Welfare Officer in person, or via their parent
- 3 The Club Welfare Officer will then arrange to meet with parties concerned to discuss the concern and liaise with Head Coach, committee or EA / UKA as appropriate.

I hereby confirm that the Forest of Dean AC Safeguarding and protecting children in athletics policy will be upheld and adhered to by all committee members, trustees and members.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of the Forest of Dean Athletic Club:

Name: (capitals): _____

Role within Trustees: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Club Welfare Officer: _____ (Name in Capitals)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

