



Newham and Essex Beagles Athletics Club

Child Safeguarding Policy

Child Safeguarding Policy

England Athletics Affiliated Club

1. Policy Statement

Newham and Essex Beagles AC is committed to ensuring that all children and young people participating in athletics are able to do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable **environment**, free from abuse, harm, bullying or exploitation.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in line with:

- UK Athletics (UKA) Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The Equality Act 2010

The welfare of the child is paramount.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all children and young people under the age of 18 who are involved in:

- Training and coaching sessions
- Competitions and events
- Travel, and overnight stays
- Social activities and online engagement

It applies to:

- Coaches, Team Managers and officials
- Volunteers and club helpers
- Committee members and club officers
- Parents, carers and guardians while involved in club activities

3. Key Definitions

Child / Young Person

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Abuse

Abuse may be a single act or a series of acts and can include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying and harassment, including online abuse

4. Principles of Safeguarding Children

Newham & Essex Beagles Athletic Club is guided by the following principles:

- The child's welfare is the primary concern
- All children have the right to be protected from harm
- Children should be listened to and taken seriously
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- All concerns will be acted upon

5. Club Safeguarding Roles

Club Welfare Officer (LWO & WO)

The club will appoint a trained **Lead Welfare Officer & Welfare Officer** who:

- Acts as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Promotes best safeguarding practice within the club
- Receives, records and reports concerns in line with UKA procedures
- Liaises with UK Athletics and statutory agencies where required

LWO & WO Name and Contact Details:

N Hepburn
nebvicesecretary@gmail.com

B Willson
bwillsonnebmembers@gmail.com

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Club Committee

- Ensure safeguarding policies are implemented and reviewed annually
- Support the Club Welfare Officers
- Promote a safeguarding culture within the club

Coaches, Officials and Volunteers

- Follow the UKA Code of Conduct
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- Attend safeguarding training as required
- Report any safeguarding concerns immediately

Parents and Carers

- Support the club's safeguarding approach
- Share relevant information that may impact a child's welfare
- Treat all members with respect

Young Athletes

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Have the right to speak out if they feel unsafe
- Respect others within the club

7. Safer Recruitment and Working Practice

The club will:

- Follow UKA safer recruitment procedures
- Ensure appropriate DBS checks are in place
- Use qualified and licensed coaches where required
- Promote clear codes of conduct
- Ensure supervision ratios are appropriate
- Manage changing rooms, transport and photography safely

8. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

If a child safeguarding concern arises:

1. **Listen carefully** and take the concern seriously
2. **Reassure** the child but do not promise confidentiality
3. **Record** the concern accurately using the child's own words where possible
4. **Report immediately** to the Club Welfare Officer

If a child is in immediate danger:

- Call 999
- Contact the local authority children's social care
- Inform UK Athletics as soon as possible

9. Reporting to UK Athletics

All safeguarding concerns relating to children must be reported:

- To the Club Welfare Officer, and
- To the UK Athletics Safeguarding Team, in line with UKA reporting procedures

UK Athletics will determine whether referrals to statutory agencies are required.

10. Allegations Against Club Personnel

Any allegation against a coach, official, volunteer or club officer will be:

- Taken seriously
- Managed in accordance with UKA safeguarding and disciplinary procedures
- Reported immediately to UK Athletics

The welfare of the child will remain the primary concern throughout the process.

11. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- Information will be shared on a need to know basis
- Records will be stored securely
- GDPR and UKA data protection guidance will be followed

Confidentiality will not be maintained where it would place a child at risk.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Newham and Essex Beagles AC is committed to:

- Providing equal opportunities for all children
- Challenging discrimination, bullying and harassment
- Creating an inclusive environment regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or background

13. Policy Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with changes to UKA guidance or legislation

Last Review Date: February 2026

Next Review Due: February 2027