



SWANLEY AND DISTRICT ATHLETIC CLUB

Child Protection Policy

Statement.

Swanley and District has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in the club from harm. All children have the right of protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The club will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in the club through adherence to the child Protection guidelines adopted by Uk Athletics.

Policy Aims

The aim of the club Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- Providing children and young people with the appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club.
- Allow all staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific protection issues.

Promoting Good practice

Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgment about the appropriate action taken.

Good practice guidelines

All personnel should be encouraged to demonstrate behaviour in order to promote children's welfare and reduce the likelihood of allegations being made.

Responding to allegations or Suspicions

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in the club in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate officer or the appropriate authorities.

The club will assure all staff/volunteers that it will fully support and protect anyone, who may in good faith reports his/her concerns by reporting that a colleague is or may be abusing a child.

Where there is a complaint against a member of the club/ staff/volunteer there may be three types of investigation:

- A criminal investigation
- A child protection investigation
- A disciplinary or misconduct investigation

The results of the police and child protection investigation may well influence and inform the disciplinary investigation but all available information will be used to reach a decision.

Actions if there are concerns

Poor practice ;

- The designated Club Child protection officer will deal with it as a misconduct issue.
- If the matter has been handled inadequately and the concerns remain it should be reported first to the committee and if still not resolved to UK athletics.

Suspected abuse;

- Any suspicion should be reported to the club child protection officer who will take steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child at risk.
- The club child protection officer will refer the allegation to social services department who may refer it to the police.
- The parents/carers will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from social services.
- The club Child protection officer should notify UK athletics welfare officer.
- If the clubs child protection officer is the subject of the suspicion/allegation the report must be made to a committee member who will refer the allegation to social services.

Confidentiality

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis.

Action if bullying is suspected

If bullying is suspected, the same procedure should be followed as set out in responding to allegations.

- Take all signs of bullying seriously
- Encourage all children to speak and share their concerns. Create an open environment

- Investigate all allegations and take action to ensure victim is safe.
- Keep records of what is said
- Report any concerns to the committee.
- Keep a written record of action taken.

If you are worried about sharing concerns about abuse you can contact social services or the police or the NSPCC Child protection helpline on 0808 800 5000 or Childline on 0800 1111