

Tallaght Athletic Club Child Protection Policy

It is the policy of Tallaght Athletic Club to ensure that every juvenile participating in athletics should be able to do so in a fun and safe environment and be protected from neglect and physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

The key principles that underwrite this policy are,

- All juvenile athletes under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document;
- The juvenile athletes welfare is paramount;
- All juvenile athletes whatever their age, culture, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- Coaches and helpers will be provided with appropriate documentation and support to ensure they are able to implement the policy;
- Adults working with juveniles must also be provided protection and be aware of good practice so that they can be protected from wrongful allegations;
- Working in partnership with juvenile athletes and their parents/guardians is essential for the protection of the young athlete;
- Tallaght AC recognises the statutory responsibility of the South Western Area Health Board and their relevant sections to ensure the welfare of children and is committed to working with relevant Child Protection agencies, and where appropriate, to comply with their procedures;

Roles

For effective implementation of this policy all deliverers of athletics must work in partnership, each with a role to ensure the protection of the juvenile athletes in their care.

The role of Tallaght AC will be,

- To Appoint one Childrens Officer;
- To accept that all officers and Committee members have responsibilities in this area and be prepared to respond to any indication of abuse;
- To undertake to amend any bad practice
- To implement as appropriate any recommendations of the Athletics Association of Ireland, the Irish Sports Council and the relevant Health Authorities relating to this area;
- To maintain at all times the confidentiality of the juvenile athlete and the accused.

The role of the Childrens Officer within the club will be;

- To promote among all club members and helpers awareness of good practice and of the of the legal framework within this area;
- Where appropriate, to ensure all club helpers, officials and coaches complete a volunteer reference form,
- To submit all relevant forms to the relevant authorities as appropriate and on request;
- To receive and advise on reports from other club members;
- To initiate action, ensuring all appropriate persons have been advised and contacted.

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- To initiate action, ensuring all appropriate persons have been advised and contacted.

Note

In addition to the above, a code of conduct for athletes, including anti-bullying, guidance for parents/guardians and coaches is presently being developed for approval.

These documents along with our Constitution can be incorporated into a booklet or handout.