**HART ROAD RUNNERS CHILD WELFARE POLICY**

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Although an adults-only club, as part of its work organising running events, Hart Road Runners acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and UK Athletics requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport organised by Hart Road Runners in a safe and child centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in competitions.

Hart Road Runners acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Hart Road Runners will:

* promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
* ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
* ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
* ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
* prevent the deployment of unsuitable individuals; and
* ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Hart Road Runners running events. Failure to comply with the policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in

dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and UK Athletics.
* as a result of any other significant change or event.

(Last reviewed May 2020)