

Irvine Running Club

Child /Vulnerable Adults Protection - Code of Conduct for Coaches/Adult Helpers

1. Basis of the Code The policy of Irvine Running Club on child protection for Young Athletes (any person up to 19 years old) which also covers Vulnerable Adults is based on advice and guidance promulgated by Scottish Athletics (SA) ; this can be found at www.scottishathletics.org.uk and accessed via the menu option “clubs/club support/welfare/welfare and child protection.”

2. Child Protection Training Training in protection matters should be given to Coaches/Adult Helpers and subsequently updated three yearly.

3. Club Welfare Officer The Club Welfare Officer (CWO) is:

John McGarry,

19 Gigha Terrace

Irvine KA11 1DJ

Telephone 01294 211930

E mail address johnmcgarry@51talktalk.net.

He should be informed about any concerns regarding child protection matters linked to the Club. He will in turn report immediately to the SA Welfare Administrator Stuart Thomson (0131539 7320) email address welfare@scottishathletics.org.uk.

Any concerns of a criminal nature should be reported immediately to the police by 999. The local Police Station is Irvine Police Office, 25 Kilwinning Rd Irvine KA 12 8RR.

4. Supervision and Applicability Club training sessions for Young Athletes are supervised by qualified SA Coaches and Adult Helpers who have been vetted by Disclosure Scotland; copies of supporting documentation are held by the Club Secretary. This Code of Conduct applies to all adults working with or supervising Young Athletes at the Club. Prior and during training sessions Coaches/Adult Helpers shall have available an Attendance Register together with emergency contact details.

5. Appropriate Conduct The following examples are appropriate forms of conduct:

a. Always putting the care, welfare and safety needs of children first.

b. Avoiding situations where a Coach/ Adult Helper is working alone with a Young Athlete.

- c. Always ensuring that First Aid is administered by people with the relevant qualifications and experience.
- d. Listening carefully to any child who tells you that they are being harmed and reporting this immediately to either the person in charge or the CWO.
- e. Speaking to the person in charge immediately if you are worried about a child.
- f. Never dismissing what a child tells you as lies or exaggeration.
- g. Being aware of and sensitive to the vulnerabilities/disabilities of some children.
- h. Respecting children's rights to be involved in making choices and decisions which directly affect them.
- j. Respecting a child's culture, eg faith/religious beliefs and their right to privacy and personal space.
- k. Responding sensitively to children who seem anxious about participating in certain activities.
- l. Always giving constructive criticism and not negative feedback.

6. Poor Conduct The following examples are poor forms of conduct:

- a. Discussing personal issues about a child or their family with others, where you are concerned about a child protection matter, except with the CWO.
- b. Ignoring allegations of abuse, suspicions of abuse, or trivialising others' concerns about a child.
- c. Making derogatory remarks, gestures or using inappropriate language in front of children.
- d. Allowing a child to be bullied or harmed by anyone whilst involved in Club activities.
- e. Allowing children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.

7. Abusive Conduct The following examples are abusive forms of conduct:

- a. Hitting, pushing or grapping a child.
- b. Engaging in physical contact with a child, unless it is considered appropriate for the activity taking place, but it must not be intrusive or disturbing to the child.
- c. Engaging in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

- d. Allowing yourself or others to touch a child in a sexually provocative way.
- e. Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- f. Forming intimate physical or emotional relationships with a child at the Club
- g. Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home in the context of your Club role.
- h. Harassing or intimidating a child or other adults working with children at the Club.

8. Useful contacts The following are useful points of contact:

- a. Children 1st. Telephone Numbers 0141 418 5674; email address safeguardingsport@childrens1st.org.uk. Their web site is accessible via safeguardingsport@children1st.org.uk.
- b. North Ayrshire Council, Social Services Reception, telephone number 01294 317700; out of hours telephone number 0800 3287758.