

ESK VALLEY FELL CLUB - WELFARE POLICY

Esk Valley Fell Club (the 'Club') welfare policy has been established to ensure that all members of EVFC promoted events and activities should be able to participate safely, taking into account the inherent hazards of fell running. All runners should be protected from negligence, prejudice and abuse, be it physical, sexual or emotional.

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Athletics "Welfare, Compliance and Safeguarding" documentation (britishathletics.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding).

The document comprises:

- The Club principles for welfare
- A statement of the role of the Club Committee in welfare matters
- Codes of conduct for relevant groups to guide good practice
- References
- Appendices.
 - i) Incident Report Form.
 - ii) Photograph Policy
 - iii) Transgender Policy
 - iv) Anti-Doping Policy

PRINCIPLES

The key principles of this policy are as follows.

- All fell runners whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered as a child for the purposes of the policy. They will be referred to as a child from the perspective of parents and child protection, and as a junior from the perspective of fell running. In all activities and decisions involving juniors **the junior's welfare is paramount.**
- Where children or vulnerable adults are involved in allegations of inappropriate behaviour steps must be taken to ensure that they have appropriate personal support available to them during any investigations.
- Clubs, coaches, race organisers and helpers will be provided (via the FRA or UKA) with documentation and support to ensure they are able to implement the policy.
- Adults working with juniors and vulnerable adults should be aware of and always adhere to good practice.
- Working in partnership with juniors and their parents/carers, as well as vulnerable adults, is essential for the protection of the individual.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Adults working with juniors will be protected from wrongful allegations.
- The Club recognises the statutory responsibility of Children's Social Services departments to ensure the welfare of children and it is committed to working with Local Area Child Protection Committees, and, where appropriate, to comply with their procedures.
- Any investigations undertaken under this policy will be fully documented in writing and available for later scrutiny.

ROLE OF THE CLUB COMMITTEE

In order to ensure the effective implementation of this policy the Club Committee primarily through the Club Welfare Officer, the Junior Coordinator, and the Training Coordinator will ensure the welfare of the juniors and any vulnerable adults.

The role of the Club Welfare Officer on behalf of the Committee is:

- To develop, monitor and review welfare policy, ensuring compliance with UKA welfare policy and to be DBS checked every 3 years
- To promote amongst race organisers, fell runners and helpers' awareness of the policy, of good practice and of the legal framework in this area.
- To encourage and facilitate adherence to the policy and implementation of statutory regulations relating to child protection and other relevant legislation.
- To receive reports on any incidents from individuals, and to advise on queries. Reports may be submitted using an incident report form (see Appendix 1) or advice may be sought in any reasonable form, including written communication.
- To initiate action on reports when appropriate.
 - The Welfare Officer will act in conjunction with the Disciplinary sub-committee where a disciplinary sanction may be required
 - Action may have to be deferred where the police or other stakeholders are involved in the case, until they have completed their investigations.
 - The Welfare Office will monitor the progress of follow up actions by those involved and will provide regular updates to the Club Committee whatever the outcome of the investigation.
 - The Welfare Officer will refer incidents on to the UKA Welfare Officer when escalation is required, for example in matters of safeguarding or media interest.

CODES OF CONDUCT

The Codes of Conduct describe good ethical conduct and practice for fell runners and those groups supporting and developing fell running and managing the sport.

CLUB OFFICIALS, INCLUDING RACE ORGANISERS

You should:

- Consider the well-being and safety of fell runners before the development of performance
- Promote the positive aspects of fell running
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour
- Ensure that all races are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Implement any recommendations of UKA and EA policies in relation to Juniors; Vulnerable and Disabled athletes. Respond to any indication of abuse by being prepared to instigate rigorous and confidential investigations in relation to any allegations; to ensure that all interested parties are given a fair opportunity to comment; that support is available for any children or vulnerable adults involved; prepare written documentation of any investigations and check their accuracy with those involved; inform, in writing, all the parties of the outcome of your investigations
- Maintain confidentiality of any junior or vulnerable adults involved in incidents or cases, unless disclosure is required or recommended as a result of investigations made

ALL FELL RUNNERS

You should:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in fell running and treat everyone equally
- Treat all others with the same respect and fairness that you wish to receive
- Thank those who help you to participate in fell running
- Respect diversity amongst fell runners
- Act with dignity at all times
- Challenge anyone whose behaviour falls below the expected standards of welfare in fell running
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave fell running areas as you find them

JUNIORS

You should:

- At a race notify a responsible adult if you have to go somewhere away from other people
- Use safe transport or travel arrangements
- Tell a responsible adult such, as parents, carers or the Club Welfare Officer, as soon as is reasonably possible if anything makes you concerned or uncomfortable or if you suspect a club mate has suffered from misconduct by someone else
- Not respond if someone seeks private information, unrelated to fell running e.g. home life, if questions make you feel uncomfortable, tell a responsible adult.

ADULT FELL RUNNERS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES VULNERABLE OR DISABLED

You should:

- Make yourself aware of the various policies that exist for your benefit – See UKA and EA links in the References section below
- Anticipate, in advance, any specific support that you may need in relation to this policy e.g. having personal support available to you in any discussions

PARENTS/CARERS

You should:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in fell running and treat everyone equally
- Consistently promote positive aspects of fell running, such as fair play, and never condone rule violations.
- Be familiar and aware of the people who are coaching or managing your child
- Take an active interest in your child's participation
- Attend training and races whenever possible
- Ensure that your child does not take unnecessary valuable items to training or races
- Know where your child will be and who they are with
- Provide consent to activities, contact details, and relevant medical information when asked to the Race Organiser/Club/Coach/Junior Coordinator,
- Inform your child's Coach or Club Junior Co-ordinator of any illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration for fell running
- Provide any necessary medication that your child needs for the duration of any trips
- Report any concerns you have about your child's or any other child's welfare to the Club welfare officer (This does not affect your statutory right to contact your local Children's Social Services or the police if you feel it is necessary)
- Be aware that your attitude and behaviour directly relates to the behaviour of your child and other young athletes.

- Never make assumptions about your child's safety.

COACHES

You should:

- Place the welfare and safety of the fell runner above the development of performance
- Make sure you are appropriately qualified for activities that you coach and update your licence and education as and when required by UK Athletics
- Ensure that activities you direct, coach or guide are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual fell runner
- Review your coach training documentation on welfare at intervals, including factors that promote welfare and factors that undermine welfare, and reflect on your own performance in this area as a coach maintaining best practice where possible
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every fell runner and treat everyone equally, regardless of background or ability
- Clarify with fell runners (and where appropriate their parents or carers) exactly what is expected of them and what runners are entitled to expect from you
- Develop working relationships with fell runners based on mutual trust and respect
- Encourage and guide fell runners to accept and take responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport, such as fair play, and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Avoid all behaviours that provide a bad example to others (e.g. abusive language, racism, bullying, harassment, physical or sexual abuse)
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour or language by others
- Avoid the development of intimate relationships between yourself and athletes coached by you
- Avoid spending time alone with a junior unless clearly in view of others
- Report any accidental injury, distress or misunderstanding or misinterpretation (including if a junior or vulnerable adult appears to have been sexually aroused by your actions). A brief written report of such incidents should be submitted to the appropriate Welfare Officer as soon as possible and parents/carers notified. An incident report form is available
- Report similarly any suspected misconduct by other coaches or other people involved in fell running.

REFERENCES

UK Athletics – Welfare, compliance and Safeguarding

www.uka.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/

UK Athletics – Transgender Policy

www.uka.org.uk/media/news/2016-news-page/august-2016/03-08-16-transgender-policy/

UK Athletics – Anti-Doping Guidance and 'Clean Athletics'

www.uka.org.uk/cleanathletics

England Athletics – Disability Athletics

www.englandathletics.org/disability-athletics

JUNIOR AND VULNERABLE ADULT INCIDENT REPORT FORM

(Please use additional sheets if required and attach any evidence if necessary)

	Person reporting the incident	Person recording the incident
Name		
Role in Fell Running		
Address and telephone number		
Location of incident (if relevant)		Date of incident
Name of any individual(s) who dealt with the incident at the time.		
Nature of incident and any details relevant to it:		
Signed (Person reporting the incident)	Signed (Welfare Officer or equivalent)	
Date:	Date:	
Action taken as a result of the incident		
Signed (Welfare Officer)		
Date:		

The completed form, (or an e-mail containing the relevant information), must be submitted to the Club Welfare Officer (welfare@eskvalleyfellclub.org) within 7 days of the accident or incident. In many cases it will be necessary also to inform the UKA and the Welfare Officer will advise.

APPENDIX 2

POLICY ON PHOTOGRAPHS and THEIR PUBLICATION

Many fell races occur on Open Access land, where restriction of personnel is impossible to enforce or patrol. There is a possibility that people will take photographs of any person competing in a fell race. These could be published, online e.g. Facebook, Picasso albums or webpages or in publications. There is a distinction between photographs taken of juniors and those of seniors.

Good practice recommends:

1. No junior runner is directly identified, apart from their name
2. Parents and spectators should be aware of who is taking photographs
3. Parents should be aware that naming other juniors on a public website should only be done with permission of the athlete / athlete's parents.

Photographers:

Good practice recommends:

1. No photographs should be taken that are liable to cause offence to the junior athlete
2. No photographs should be taken of any athlete changing
3. Commercial photographers should carry verifiable identification to state who they are and who they are working for
4. If publishing albums on the internet a disclaimer should be visible allowing pictures to be taken down if unwanted or for child protection purposes

APPENDIX 3

TRANSGENDER POLICY

The Club upholds and follows the UKA Policy for Transgender Competitors (see References above).

It should be noted that the Club has a zero tolerance policy towards all bullying and harassment, including towards LGBT (lesbian/gay/bisexual/trans-sexual) individuals. Reports of such incidents will be taken extremely seriously by the Welfare Officer and the Club Disciplinary Committee.

APPENDIX 4

ANTI-DOPING POLICY

The Club upholds and follows the UKA Anti-Doping Policy (see References above). The Club does not condone the use of any performance-enhancing drugs by fell runners, unless the treatment is required to treat a medical condition.

The Club does not at present require anti-doping testing in any Championships or open Fell Races and does not maintain records of therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs). This policy may change at any time.

Fell runners who are in competition in other disciplines (including track and cross-country) should be aware that they may be drug-tested as part of those competitions and should make themselves aware of the likely testing procedures.