



Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Joining Ivanhoe Robins Junior athletic Club is an important step in a young person's athletic career.

As an athletics club we are committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to practice athletics.

As an athletics club we take our responsibilities very seriously and all our coaches through their coaching license have signed up to a welfare policy. We have also not only written our own concise policy statement, but we also adopt the UK Athletics Safeguarding Children Welfare Policy and Procedures. These can be downloaded from:-

<http://www.englandathletics.org>

or by asking our Welfare Officers, Nick Rowles or Alison Haywood to make these available.

Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club works to:

- Safeguard the welfare of the young people we work with by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- Support the creation of an environment where young people are listened to and are encouraged to talk about themselves, their lives, and any concerns they may have.

Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletic Club recognises:

That children and young people suffer abuse when they are:

Physically abused	Actual or bodily injury or failure to prevent injury.
Sexually abused	Actual or likely sexual exploitation.
Emotionally/Psychologically abused	Persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection affecting emotional or behavioural development. This can take the form of bullying and/or verbal abuse.
Neglected	Persistent or severe neglect or failure to protect from exposure to danger.

Disabled People

There have been a number of studies which suggest people with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse. Various factors contribute to this, such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, isolation and a powerlessness to protect themselves, or inadequately communicating that abuse has occurred. Children from ethnic minorities, who may also be experiencing racial discrimination, may be doubly powerless. Ivanhoe Robins recognise this issue and endeavor to safeguard the welfare of disabled children and children from ethnic minorities within all their activities.

Behaviour Statement

1. We will always –

- Ensure all volunteers at our club are aware of these guidelines.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Provide an example we wish others to follow.
- Try to ensure that another adult is present when we are in the company of young people (ideally mixed genders).
- Respect a person's right of privacy.
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- Be aware that someone might misinterpret your actions and your comments, no matter how well intentioned.
- Recognise that caution is required particularly in sensitive moments, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement, grief or abuse.
- Be aware of the possible implications of physical contact with young people.
- Ensure that all coaches and volunteers are DBS verified.
- We will contact our Welfare Officer, Nick Rowles when we are in doubt over any child protection issues.

2. We will never –

- Permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying).
- Jump to conclusions.
- Allow themselves to be drawn into any inappropriate attention seeking behaviour by young people (eg tantrums, crushes).
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to any individual.
- Make sexually suggestive comments about or to a young person, even in fun.
- Rely upon just our good name to protect us.
- Believe 'It could never happen to me', either dealing with abuse or being accused of committing abuse.

Action Statement

If you suspect or are told that a young person is being abused

- You must always refer issues to the Club Welfare Officer (or in their absence, the Head Coach and / or Chairperson).
- Write down the facts, as you know them. Copies of our incident form will be held by our Welfare Officer, Nick Rowles who will also be keeping a safe log of any incidents.
- Ensure that the young person is given the opportunity to talk to you, or an independent person.
- Listen to the young person without interruption, and do not ask questions about what you may suspect.
- Do not approach a suspect abuser yourself.
- Provide support as appropriate.
- Accept as face value what the young person says.
- Do not pass judgement on what is said, but do try to alleviate any fear or guilt, which the young person may have.
- Make it clear that you can offer support but that you must pass on the information.

Administrative procedures to support our Child Protection Policy.

- All Coaches and volunteers will complete and submit a Disclosure and Barring Services verification form.
- More information, advice or for concerns on safeguarding children can be found on www.lrsb.org.uk or by contacting Leicestershire County Council Social services on 0116 305 0005 or email childrensduty@leics.gov.uk
- The process of implementing the policy is the responsibility of the Committee and all the volunteers.