



North Shields Polytechnic Club

Code of Conduct

This document sets out the behaviours expected of club members, coaches, volunteers and officials engaging in activities with or on behalf of North Shields Polytechnic Club.

We expect that **all members, volunteers, coaches and officials:**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every member, coach, official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally.
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport in the best interests of yourself, the club and other athletes, including displaying courtesy and good manners towards others.
- Anticipate and be responsible for your own needs including being organised, having the appropriate equipment and being on time.
- Inform your coach of any illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration.
- Avoid abusive and/or aggressive language, and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, including acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse.
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others.
- Respect all athletics venues you attend, including our clubhouse and the track, and leave them (and any equipment) as you found them.
- Do not make any inappropriate use of club assets or facilities e.g. for private gain.
- Report any suspected misconduct by members, volunteers, coaches, officials or other people involved in athletics to the club welfare officers as soon as possible.
- Report any accidents or near misses to the club welfare officers as soon as possible, including any damage to/or damaged equipment to prevent putting others at risk.
- Ensure your club membership and England Athletics information is kept up to date and that you inform the club of any changes to your club affiliation, contact details, emergency contact information and medical conditions.
- Adhere to the club's policies, which are there to protect everyone. These include our Safeguarding Policy, and our Covid-19 Risk Assessments.
- Use the correct channels to direct questions/feedback to trustees i.e. trustees@nspoly.org.
- Anyone who does not follow this Code of Conduct may be given a verbal warning, followed by a written warning, followed by suspension or even exclusion if the situation is deemed to be serious.

In addition, **athletes, especially young athletes and vulnerable adults**, should follow these guidelines on safe participation in athletics:

- Notify a responsible adult if you have to leave during your training session (why, where and if/when you will return).
- Do not respond if someone seeks private information unrelated to athletics such as personal or home life information.
- Strictly maintain boundaries between friendship and intimacy with a coach or technical official.
- Never accept lifts in cars or invitations into homes on your own without the prior knowledge and consent of your parent/guardian. Use safe transport or travel arrangements.
- Report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to your parents/guardian and club welfare officers as soon as possible.

Parents, guardians, and other persons with parental responsibility should:

- Never place undue pressure on children to perform, participate or compete.
- Take an active interest in your child's participation, and attend training or competitions when possible/safe to do so.
- Know exactly where your child will be and who they will be with at all times.
- Never make assumptions about your child's safety.
- Ensure that your child does not take any unnecessary valuable items to training or competition.
- Inform your child's coach of any illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration.
- Provide any necessary medication that your child needs during training sessions or trips, and inform their coach.

- Assume responsibility for safe transportation to and from training and competition.
- Report any concerns you have about your child's or any other child's welfare to the club welfare officers, or UKA welfare officers.

Coaches should adhere to the terms of their coaching licence at all times, and should also:

- Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance.
- Maintain appropriate qualifications/certifications, including obtaining DBS clearance, and updating your licence and education as and when required by UKA.
- Ensure that activities you direct or guide, and your communications during these activities, are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete.
- Ensure that risks to athletes are minimised when delivering training sessions; taking heed of weather conditions, lighting, visibility, surroundings, and the running surface.
- Encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Develop appropriate working relationships with athletes based on mutual trust and respect, especially with those athletes under 18 years or vulnerable adults.
- A coach must strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and do not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationship with athletes can cause significant problems for other team members, raising concerns of favouritism and/or victimisation should the relationship later end.
- In particular, you must not allow an intimate personal relationship to develop between yourself and any athlete aged under 18 years. Any violation of this could result in a coach licence being withdrawn. It is a criminal offence to conduct an intimate relationship with an athlete aged under 16 years. It may also be a violation of your coaching licence to form an intimate personal relationship with a vulnerable adult coached by you.
- It is strongly recommended that you do not allow intimate relationships to develop between yourself and athletes coached by you aged over 18 years.
- Avoid spending time alone with young athletes unless clearly in the view of others to protect both yourself and the young athlete. In special circumstances, for example when coaching high potential young athletes, one to one coaching sessions may form part of the required training schedule. In this circumstance, parental/guardian consent must be sought and obtained prior to sessions taking place. The coach must inform the parent/guardian of the venue for training and an emergency contact number should be provided by both the coach and parent/guardian.
- Avoid taking young athletes alone in your car.
- Ensure that parents/guardians know and have given consent before taking a young athlete away from the usual training venue.

Policy Ratified by: North Shields Polytechnic Club Chair

Date: October 2020

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