



## Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers

Walton Athletic Club (WAC) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience for all. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, volunteers and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore members and their parents/carers are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club in accordance with the concerns and complaints process.

As a responsible parent/carer of an athlete aged under 18, you are expected to:

- a. abide by the UKA and the HCAF Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Procedures
- b. abide by the UKA and the HCAF Adult Safeguarding Policy and Adult Safeguarding Procedures
- c. demonstrate respectful behaviour at all times
- d. set a good example and encourage your child to learn the rules of the sport and compete within them at all times
- e. help your child to recognise good performance and not just results
- f. make athletics fun
- g. never force your child to take part in sport if they do not want to
- h. never punish or belittle your child for losing or making mistakes
- i. use correct and appropriate language at all times
- j. inform your child's coach of any allergy, illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration for athletic performance and ensure that any changes in the condition of your child's health are reported to the coach prior to coaching sessions
- k. ensure your child does not take unnecessary valuable items to training or competitions
- l. follow the relevant guidance on social media use and not post on social media any content which is inappropriate or offensive and comply with the Club's Social Media Policy
- m. check the qualifications and licences of people who are coaching or managing your child, or offering a service connected to athletics such as physiotherapy, massage or nutritional advice
- n. know exactly where your child will be and who they will be with at all times
- o. assume responsibility for safe transportation of your child to and from training and competition
- p. return any necessary written consent forms to the club/team manager or appropriate person, including emergency contact and next of kin details, health and medical requirements before your child goes to any away events or trips
- q. provide any necessary medical information and medication that your child needs for training or trips away
- r. report any concerns about your child's (or any other child's) welfare to the Club Welfare Officer or National Welfare Officer. (This does not affect your right to contact your local Social Services or the Police if you feel it is necessary)
- s. in no way undermine, put down or belittle athletes, coaches or practitioners
- t. act appropriately when spectating and not exert inappropriate or undue pressure on your child. (applying inappropriate pressure on children and poor behaviour of adult spectators can sometimes make children drop out of sport). If a parent verbally abuses children, coaches or officials, action will be taken.

### BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents/Carers who breach this code may be subject to disciplinary action and sanction in line with the Club's disciplinary policy, or that of HCAF. Sanctions may include:

- being asked to apologise for behaviour
- a verbal warning
- a written warning
- temporary suspension from attendance at club training sessions or events; or
- in extreme cases, permanent exclusion from the club.

April 2022

(this policy mirrors the UKA HCAF codes of conduct)