**Child Protection and Wellbeing Policy**

**Hartfell Hill Running Club**

**Introduction**

This policy and procedures outlines what child protection and wellbeing is and what to do if you have a concern.The Safeguarding Adults policy, for those over the age of 18, is covered in a separate document**.**

**Policy statement**

This club is fully committed to safeguarding, promoting and supporting the protection and wellbeing of all children in our care. We recognise our responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. We embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of all children and young people.

All individuals within the organisation - athletes/members/volunteers/coaches/support staff - have a role and responsibility to help ensure the safety and welfare of children.

Hartfell Hill Running Club accepts that we are required to fulfil our duty of care, which means that we must do everything that can be reasonably expected of us to help safeguard and protect people from harm, and to act when we suspect that someone is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.

**Underpinning Principles and Definitions**

* For the purpose of this Policy this club recognises a child to be someone under the age of 18 however in Scotland a child is recognised as someone under the age of 16
* A child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of sporting activities
* The protection and wellbeing of all children in our care is everyone’s responsibility
* A child, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity has the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse
* A child has the right to express views on all matters that affect them, should they wish to do so
* A child’s rights, wishes and feelings should be respected and promoted
* The best way to promote the wellbeing, health and development of a child is to work in partnership with the child, parents/carers/guardians and other relevant organisations

**Safeguarding**

* protecting children from maltreatment;
* preventing impairment of children's health or development;
* ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
* taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

**Different Types of Abuse**

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

* provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
* protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
* ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers);
* or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

**Club Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer**

This club’s Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO): …………..

The Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer will be available to speak to all club members when they have any concerns, issues or complaints regarding the safety, well-being or conduct of club members or volunteers.

Page 3 of this Policy lays out the procedure for contacting the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer or another club member if you have any concerns.

**Safe Recruitment and Safeguarding Training**

We want to make sure that all of our volunteers and staff have the right skills and qualities to create a safe environment. All staff and volunteers will be subject to safe recruitment procedures and will also be updated with any relevant legislation, policies and procedural changes. Appropriate training will also be identified and offered, including safeguarding adults training.

**Communication**

This club will communicate this Child Protection and Wellbeing Policy to all staff, volunteers, members and partner organisations. Everyone at the club will be made aware of the policies and procedures in place to protect children in our care and to promote their wellbeing.

**Confidentiality**

All reports and logs (including personnel records) will be kept securely and confidentially according to the Club’s Data Protection Policy and Confidentiality Policy until or unless it is necessary to share this material with relevant agencies. Information will be shared by the Club on a “need-to-know” basis only.

**Procedure**

**To Keep Children Safe in Our Club We Will:**

* Promote the wellbeing of children through opportunities to take part in sport safely
* Put in place policies and procedures to promote the wellbeing and protection of children
* Appoint a club Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer
* Recruit, train and support our sports volunteers/staff to prioritise the wellbeing of children who take part in our activities and protect them from harm
* Require the sports volunteers/staff to adopt and abide by the child protection policy and procedures including the Code of Conduct for working with children
* Respond to any child wellbeing or protection concerns in line with our policy and procedures.
* Monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the child protection and wellbeing policy and procedures regularly

**Implementation**

This Policy must be followed by all club members, volunteers and staff of the Club and must be promoted by all of its members, staff and volunteers. Failure to follow it will be treated as a very serious matter.

**Child Safeguarding Concerns**

**Ways that abuse might be brought to your attention**

There may be times when you are concerned that there is either a risk of harm, or an actual harm being perpetrated on a child or young person, who the organisation is working with, or who is known to someone we are working with.

* a child might make a direct disclosure about him or herself
* a child might make a direct disclosure about another child
* a child might offer information that is worrying but not a direct disclosure
* a member of staff might be concerned about a child’s appearance or behaviour or about the behaviour of a parent or carer towards a child
* a parent or carer might make a disclosure about abuse that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering
* a parent might offer information about a child that is worrying but not a direct disclosure.
* you may be concerned of a potential abuse based on physical, emotional, behavioural indicators.

**Talking to a child/young person who has told you that he/she or another child is being abused**

If a child or young person has spoken to you about abuse, it may have been very difficult for them to have taken the risk of confiding in you. They may fear that you won’t believe them, or they may have been threatened with something bad happening to themselves or someone they love if they tell someone.

If the abuser is a trusted adult, many people feel frightened of what may happen to the abuser, and yet they also want the abuse to stop. They are likely to have complicated and confusing feelings which will heighten their anxiety.

* Reassure the child/young person that telling someone about it was the right thing to do.
* Tell him/her that you now have to do what you can to keep him/her (or the child who is the subject of the allegation) safe.
* Do not try to investigate or quiz the child. Let the child tell his or her whole story, making sure that you are clear as to what he/she is saying by using open questions. Remember that an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation, so don’t do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, such as asking the child leading questions or attempting to investigate the allegation yourself.
* Even if you are shocked by what he/she is telling you, try not to show it.
* Do not trivialise or minimise any aspect of abusive behaviour or make negative comments about the alleged abuser.
* Ask the child what he/she would like to happen as a result of what he/she has said, but don’t make or infer promises you can’t keep.
* Let the child know what you are going to do next and who else needs to know about it. Remind the child/young person that their confidentiality cannot be kept in this instance because either they or someone else is at risk of harm.
* Give the child/young person the ChildLine phone number: 0800 1111.
* Helping a child/young person in immediate danger or in need of emergency medical attention:
  + If the child is in immediate danger and is with you, remain with him/her and call the police.
    - Non-Emergency Contact 101
    - Emergency Contact 999/112
  + If the child is elsewhere, contact the police and explain the situation to them.
  + If he/she needs emergency medical attention, call an ambulance and, while you are waiting for it to arrive, get help from a first aider where possible.

You also need to contact our Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer ………………. on (insert telephone number) to let them know what is happening.

Once any immediate danger or emergency medical need has been dealt with, follow the steps set out in section 4 below.

If you cannot contact someone within the organisation or feel that your concerns are not being dealt with properly you can contact the Adults Social Care Team in your Local Authority.