

# Retford Athletic Club

## Child Protection Policy Statement

Children and young people have a lot to gain from Athletics. Their natural sense of fun and achievement can blossom in positive sporting environments. Athletics provides an excellent opportunity for children to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential. However we have a responsibility to ensure that this is undertaken in a safe and nurturing environment.

Retford Athletic Club is committed to maintaining the highest possible standards of child welfare and protection and as such we expect all our coaches, administrators, officials, parents and carers and athletes to abide by this Policy Statement and by the UK Athletics 'Safeguarding and protecting children in Athletics Policy and Procedures document.

1. The welfare of children under the age of 18 is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse. Everyone in Athletics from Club Administrator, Official, Coach, Parent, Friend, even children themselves, everyone can help.
2. The underlying principles with respect to Child Protection are that:
  - The child's welfare is the first consideration.
  - All children, regardless of age, disability they may have, gender, racial, origin, religious belief and sexual identity have a right to be protected from abuse.
  - Children and young people must be treated with integrity and respect.
  - Children and young people's programmes and competitions will be relevant to their stages of development.
3. Retford athletic Club is affiliated to UK Athletics and is committed to following the current UK Athletics' Child Protection guidelines.
4. Retford Athletics Club:
  - aims to create and promote an enjoyable environment, where young people have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat,
  - acknowledge that young people have the right to be treated with respect and for their concerns to be listened to and acted upon.
  - will aim to ensure that junior members have a specific programmes designated for them with adequate supervision from the club's qualified coaching staff.
  - is committed to ensuring that all helpers, whatever their role, abide by this Policy Statement.
  - Uses UK Athletics procedures and documentation for dealing with:
    - Allegations of abuse
    - requests for help and support on a confidential basis,
  - is committed to an equitable recruitment policy for coaches,
  - will emphasise fair play,
  - will work in partnership with the child's home, school and community and when necessary make, use and co-operate with Social Services and/or Police.
- 5 Retford Athletic Club Child Protection Officer is: -
  - Sian Babenko - [m.babenko@btinternet.com](mailto:m.babenko@btinternet.com)