

ERR Club Safeguarding Policy – for the protection of children and vulnerable adults

updated Dec 2016

This document sets out the club's arrangements for safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults. This is rarely required – our runners are generally over 18 and indeed, our constitution only refers to adult runners. There are still occasions when younger runners join us for a period.

The club will (as the need arises) appoint a Safeguarding Officer who should ideally be a member of the committee and must in any event be DBS-checked. The club priority is to protect itself as well as the vulnerable runner. In what follows, male gender is used for convenience.

The club will only accept children/vulnerable adults if they are accompanied by a responsible adult – a family member or similar – who can act as the responsible adult in ensuring that our controls are adequate and in place. The responsible adult does not need to be a runner.

Risk Analysis

The main practical concern is ensuring that the runner isn't dropped by the group he's running with, much the same as with any new runner. It would be very unkind and perhaps unsafe to leave him to find his own way back. Ideally all our runners would need no reminder of this but we can't be 100% certain.

The other risk is that he is open to inappropriate behaviour in the shower/changing/toilet facilities. The risk has two potential impacts: firstly and most obviously that inappropriate behaviour might occur; secondly that unfounded allegations might be made, which would put the club and its members at risk. Here, the presence of more than one person in the changing room is our most effective control.

The club is not aware of any other situations where a minor/vulnerable adult will be isolated with any club member other than in a public area.

Resolution

We will therefore adopt the following simple measures to cover these risks in collaboration with the responsible adult:

For the first issue, the responsible adult must ensure that on every run, one runner verbally agrees to stick with the child (etc) during that run.

For the second, the responsible adult must ensure that the child only use the facilities when there are 2 or more others in the room.

For 2016 and until further notice, the Safeguarding Officer is Stephen Ind (DBS check updated November 2016).