



Club inclusion policy

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy 'inclusion' means access for all. It means recognising differences between individuals / groups and providing opportunities for them to participate in athletics and running regardless of those differences, whether this is as a Member, participant, coach, leader, official or volunteer.

WAC embraces diversity and difference and is committed to providing opportunities that are safe, inclusive, accessible and equitable. We want our club to be equally accessible to all members of society, whatever their age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality or social/economic status. We will develop a focus on inclusion, not exclusion, and ensure that we provide appropriate advice to members and volunteers to ensure that everyone can participate as fully as possible.

The Inclusion Policy is intended to promote a change in attitudes and perceptions and to improve opportunities for everyone to participate at our club. We will seek to ensure that we comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the characteristics protected by it (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity) and encourage our members to do so. We will seek to include everyone regardless of whether they have a protected characteristic or not.

Our aim is to provide an environment where everyone feels:

- *Welcome*
- *Represented*
- *Included in decision making*
- *Able to participate*
- *Safe and free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and vilification.*

Aims

The aims of the Inclusion Policy are:

- To promote the development of knowledge and understanding of disability, equity and inclusion amongst our participants, leaders/coaches, officials, volunteers and competition/event organisers by the provision of appropriate guidance and training. To guide and support the integration of inclusive practice into our core club/group programmes and activities.
- To contribute towards growing and sustaining numbers of people from under-represented groups participating within our club.
- To promote inclusion within Athletics wherever possible and in accordance with the provisions of the Equality Act.
- To adopt inclusive practice within our competition and events.

Commitment

We will;

- Not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- Aim to encourage everyone to participate.
- Make inclusion not exclusion our priority
- Seek to identify and reduce barriers to participation for under-represented groups.
- Consult with other organisations to facilitate inclusive practices and remove barriers to participation.
- Provide opportunities in coaching, officiating and leadership positions.
- Consider how our Club is promoted.
- Encourage people to contact us to discuss their needs and requirements to facilitate inclusion and consider what reasonable adjustments could be made to enable them to participate.
- Develop the knowledge and understanding of key officials, coaches, leaders and other volunteers, of disability, equity and inclusive practice by providing appropriate guidance and training.

Drafted by EA

Adopted and slightly adapted by WAC February 2021