ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Version 1.0. 1st March 2024

Finch Coasters Running Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of adults at risk and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. Finch Coasters is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and EA (England Athletics) / ARC (Association of Running Clubs) requirements.

An adult at risk is an individual aged 18 years and over who: (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs) and (b) is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and (c) as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Finch Coasters subscribes to the UK Athletics and the four HCAFs (Home Country Athletics Federations) policy:

- Everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect, regardless of age, ability, disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.
- We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.
- We collectively acknowledge that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and we are committed to the prevention of abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved in our sport.
- UK Athletics and the four HCAFs recognise that health, wellbeing, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience.
- We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.
- We recognise that there is a legal framework within which sports need to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support, and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves.
- We will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.
- Actions taken by UK Athletics and the four HCAFs will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding, ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

Finch Coasters Running Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with EA and ARC guidance. The post holder will or has attended a suitable course to provide training. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns for the welfare of any vulnerable person. The CWO will be

familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns and following safeguarding policy. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.