



Welfare at York Triathlon Club v1.2 May 2024

Safeguarding Policy Statement

York Triathlon Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of its members*. York Triathlon Club is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the [British Triathlon Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Procedures for Triathlon England](#).

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of its members are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all members have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at York Triathlon Club in a safe environment.

Safeguarding Policy

York Triathlon Club will:

- Build safe and welcoming environments and a safeguarding culture where members treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Appoint a Welfare Officer to provide advice and guidance.
- Promote and prioritise the British Triathlon Safeguarding Policy and Home Nations procedures.
- Safely recruit, train, support and supervise coaches and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect members from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Ensure robust systems are in place to manage safeguarding concerns or allegations and respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about alleged poor practice or suspected or actual abuse in line with this policy and Home Nation Procedures.
- Accurately record and safely store confidential information of all complaints, concerns and safeguarding cases.
- Monitor all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual abuse to continuously improve the support and guidance developed by the Club.
- Provide an environment where the views of members are sought and welcomed on a range of issues
- Ensure that confidentiality is maintained appropriately and in line with the best interests of members.
- Ensure all papers relating safeguarding matters are held in a safe and secure manner
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation, published and accessible to members.
- Assess risk and emergency evacuation ahead of relevant activities, producing documentation for each which will be checked and signed off by the Club's Welfare Officer
- Store information and keep records centrally and safely.

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed using relevant procedures and may ultimately result in exclusion from the club

Consistent with our Code of Conduct, members of York Triathlon Club must show kindness and respect to all members.

Monitoring

The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport, the BTF, councils and/or Home Country Sports as a result of any other significant change or event

Reporting a Welfare Concern

All members have a duty to raise the concern with a Club Welfare officer to ensure that matters are appropriately managed and recorded by the club.

Chris Bates (Welfare Officer) Email: welfare@yorktriclub.co.uk Telephone: 07973349491

It is not the member's responsibility to investigate concerns. If the concern does not require immediate action, it should be reported in writing to the Club Welfare Officer at the email address above.

If the York Triathlon Club Welfare Officer is unavailable and you have strong concerns over the immediate safety of a club member then you should call 999.

Concerns can be raised with Club Coaches, however, please be aware that Coaches also hold a duty of care and may share concerns to the Club Welfare Officer or the Welfare Team at British Triathlon.

All concerns shared will be treated in the strictest confidence.

All concerns must be reported within the same working day

If faced with concerns about the welfare of an adult

- Stay calm and reassuring
- Don't make promises of confidentiality
- Keep questions to a minimum

Further information and support in relation to wellbeing in general can be accessed at:

<https://www.yorkmind.org.uk/> or <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Further guidance on reporting concerns at British Triathlon can be found here: <https://www.britishtriathlon.org/britain/documents/safeguarding/2021/triathlon-england-safeguarding-and-protecting-children-reporting-procedures.pdf>

Safeguarding Adults and Adults at Risk

In the case of an adult, the starting assumption must always be that an adult has the capacity to make a decision and has the right to do so unless it can be established that they lack capacity.

Definition: an “adult at risk” is an individual aged 18 years or over who:

(a) has needs for care and support, or is more vulnerable due to an infirmity or disorder than adults who are not so affected;

(b) is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect; and

(c) is unable to safeguard or protect themselves from those risks.

Concerns in relation to Adults at Risk should be reported to York Triathlon Club’s Welfare Officer following the procedures above for reporting a concern.

The British Triathlon Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy can be found here:

[Adults at risk – British Triathlon](#)

The role of York Triathlon Club Welfare Officer is to:

- Act as the first point of contact for individuals who have questions or concerns regarding safeguarding
- Ensure that all club coaches and relevant officers have received appropriate training/ qualification.
- Receive, record and forward to the Lead Officer of the Home Nation any concerns that are expressed to you.
- Keep confidential records of all related documents.
- Ensure that the club has a safeguarding policy and that this is followed and accessible to all.
- Be familiar with national safeguarding and other relevant policies
- Maintain York Triathlon Club’s Code of Conduct/ Anti-bullying Policy, Complaints Policy and Staff/ Coach Recruitment Policy.
- Ensure that, where events are formally organised by the Club and published for formal sign-up, that risk management and safeguarding processes have been carried out.

*”members” include all those associated with the Club and its practice, including athletes, coaches, volunteers and those who govern (committee)