



WEST SUFFOLK ATHLETICS CLUB

EQUITY POLICY STATEMENT



The club recognises the need to strive for equality in all of its activities with regards to members, volunteers, coaches, officials and club supporters. We have an active committee consisting of elected members voted in by the 'forwarding and seconding' motion at our AGM meeting, to which all members and many parents/guardians are invited. Within the committee structure are at least two under 20 representatives, whose views and opinions are used to gain an insight into the true feelings of the junior members.

Incidents of prejudice of any form are not acceptable at any level within the club, be it at committee, coaching sessions, or amongst athletes or volunteers. The club is proud of its wide appeal and support membership application from all sections of the community.

To broaden our membership base the club has developed involvement within schools in the area and foster the belief that if a large number of participants try our sport we are likely to attract a reasonable percentage to become club members. Our welcome also extends to a free 'taster session' for anyone interested in beginning athletics. The club also offers a trial period of one month where people are able to attend club training for £2 per session before deciding whether to commit to join the club.

The club is also promoted and aims to attract new members through the club website. West Suffolk Athletics Club provides competitive opportunities for all members, and competition which is appropriate for their age, experience and ability. If there are any problems or concerns any members/parent/guardian are welcomed to approach a committee member/welfare officer with the aim of resolving the problem.

West Suffolk Athletics Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

- Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them.
- It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
- The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.