

NEWCASTLE FRONTRUNNERS

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



1. Background to this Policy

Newcastle Frontrunners (NFR) is a growing club with an increasingly active membership and a diverse programme of events. This policy applies to all club members and visitors at club events; these include training, races and club socials. NFR believes that no individual should experience abuse of any kind and we are committed to practise in a way that protects each person. Definitions of abuse include, but are not limited to, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and financial abuse (See appendix 1). This document should be read alongside and is supported by NFR's Code-of-Conduct Policy.

2. Vulnerable individuals

Club Members

We recognise that any group of individuals may contain some who are more vulnerable to abuse, but there is a particular recognition of the risks LGBT people may face to their welfare. The degree of vulnerability may change over time, and club members should inform a committee member of any significant change in their circumstances or wellbeing, either physical or mental, which may impact on their susceptibility to abuse or ability to participate in NFR activities.

Young People under 18

The minimum age for membership of NFR is 16. The minimum age for participation in an NFR training event is 11. Children younger than 11 cannot attend NFR training sessions but may attend club socials when accompanied by an adult member. At all times, a child younger than 16 must remain in the custody of the member who brought them and this member must act in place of the parent at all times.

3. General Guidance

All people who hold positions of responsibility within NFR will be subject to enhanced disclosure and barring service vetting; this includes all run leaders, coaches and committee members.

Reporting Concerns

An NFR member can report a potential safeguarding issue to any member of the committee and this will be communicated to the NFR Secretary in their role as Welfare Officer. At all times, the concern will be treated in confidence with the privacy and dignity of those involved being paramount. Should the safeguarding concern apply to the Welfare Officer, the concern should be reported to the Chair of NFR who will assume responsibility for addressing it.

Investigation

The Welfare will investigate the as soon as is practical and within no later than 7 days of receiving notification. This will consist of an initial examination of the concern and they will, in discussion with at least two other committee members, determine what response is required. If the Welfare officer is not available, responsibility for investigating the concern will be delegated to the Chair of NFR.

Responses

NFR is an LGBT-friendly running club and recognises its limitations as such. Whenever a safeguarding issue is deemed significant, appropriate external bodies such as the Local Authority Safeguarding Team and the Police will be notified. When a safeguarding issue is deemed to be less serious, the matter will be examined as described in the NFR Code-of-Conduct policy.

4. Useful Contacts

Newcastle City Council

Adults – Community Health and Social Care Direct – 0191 2788377 (8am – 5pm) Out of Hours – 0191 2787878

Children – Initial Response Team – 0191 2772500, Emergency Duty Team – 0191 2787878

Northumbria Police Newcastle Communities Engagement Team is Janine Turnbull (janine.turnbull.3827@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

5. Review

NFR welcomes comments and suggestions from members to highlight areas where we can improve. This policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

Appendix 1

Definitions of Abuse

There are different forms of abuse or neglect:

- **Physical abuse** - being hit or slapped, being given the wrong medication on purpose, being locked in somewhere, tied up or force fed.
- **Sexual abuse** - being touched or kissed when it is not wanted, being made to touch or kiss someone else, being made to watch pornography, being raped, getting something (e.g. gifts or money) as a result of performing sexual acts which a person could not or did not consent to.
- **Emotional abuse** - being threatened, not being given choices, being bullied, being deliberately left alone for a long time, being tormented.
- **Financial abuse** - having money or personal property stolen, being tricked out of benefits, someone borrowing money and not paying it back, being bullied into letting other people use credit cards or cheques.
- **Neglect** - not being given enough to eat or drink, being left in dirty or wet clothes, being given the wrong medication or not being given medication at all, someone not calling a doctor or nurse when help is needed.
- **Discriminatory abuse** - ignoring religious beliefs, making comments or jokes about a person's disability, race or sexuality, not providing food to meet dietary requirements.
- **Organisational abuse** - repeated instances of poor care or treatment in a service.
- **Domestic abuse** - abuse perpetrated by someone who is, or has been, a family member or intimate partner.
- **Self-neglect** - when a person is unable to look after themselves meaning that their health, wellbeing or safety is affected.
- **Modern slavery** - when a person is forced to work for no money, they may be owned or controlled by an employer or moved from different areas or abroad.

Last review: January 2017