

Junior Section Charter

Introduction

Joining the Junior section of the Stratford upon Avon Athletic Club is an important step in a young persons Athletic career, therefore, when becoming a Junior member, the youngster and parent/guardians should be aware of the Club's objectives and the obligations for the person joining.

The club works very closely with Stratford upon Avon District Council and the schools in South Warwickshire to develop athletics in the area.

Objectives

The club is committed to:

- give basic instruction in all the Athletic disciplines where equipment, environment and safety allow
- provide every member with the opportunity to participate in all forms of Athletic activity to:
 - enable them to reach their potential
 - ensure every member's contribution, irrespective of ability, will be valued
 - encourage all members to attain a general level of fitness
 - achieve success in Athletic competitions
 - provide a good social environment for youngsters
 - meet established standards of Athletic achievement

Welfare Statement including Child Protection Policy

As an athletic club we are committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to practice athletics.

We will do this by:

- Recognising that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse
- Ensuring that all our staff and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions and allegations of abuse, providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concern they may have
- Appointing a Child Protection Officer who will take specific responsibility for child safety and act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the Child Protection Officer or appropriate external authorities

- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy annually at the relevant committee meeting

Arrangements should be made for your child to travel to and from training sessions and competitions. We appreciate it if your children can arrive promptly and are collected on time. If you are going to be late picking your child up, please contact the respective Age Group Leader and let them know.

For the safety of your child it is important that the club is informed of any medical condition or allergies that may be relevant should your child fall ill or be involved in an accident whilst at the club and an emergency contact number.

Equity Policy

This 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.

Standards for Athletes

On joining the club, members will be expected to:

- abide by the club standards and policies
- strive to achieve individual potential
- take pride in being a member of the club
- respect the coaching staff and helpers
- listen & learn from the coaching staff and helpers
- respect other club members & those from other clubs
- attend training sessions regularly & take part in club events when invited e.g. Heart of England League and Club Championships
- show due regard to the safety of others and to oneself
- show impeccable behaviour when representing the club and at training
- wear the club T Shirt/Sweatshirt/vest at club associated activities/events

Any sport can potentially be dangerous, therefore, the behaviour of our athletes is important both during training and competition. The club prides itself on running the club in an open, friendly manner, however, if an athlete shows a lack of discipline e.g. unsafe behaviour, bullying, bad language, back chat to coaches or helpers etc, we try to correct the situation within the group immediately. A repeat of any similar behaviour will mean having a discussion with the parent/guardian and a further repeat of the bad behaviour will mean the athlete will be asked to leave the club.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers

We welcome and actively promote parental involvement in the running of the club and as such we have adopted the following policy:

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with Coaches, helpers and officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept Coaches, helpers and officials' judgments.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Use correct and proper language at all times.