



Blaydon Harrier and Athletics Club

Health and Safety Policy

Statement of intent

This is the health and safety policy of Blaydon Harrier and Athletics Club. The Club accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and other relevant legislation and guidelines. We are committed, so far as is reasonably practicable, to promoting and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all persons to whom we owe a duty of care. This includes athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, parents, spectators, visitors and any person who may be affected by our activities.

The club believes that a positive health and safety culture complements our values of enjoyment, inclusion and performance. We will allocate appropriate resources and prioritise high standards to support this commitment.

Responsibilities for health and safety

1. Overall responsibility for the implementation and discharge of this policy lies with the Club Committee.
2. A competent Health and Safety Coordinator will be appointed (elected or co-opted) onto the Committee.
3. The day-to-day responsibility for putting the policy into practice lies with the Committee, supported by members or co-opted individuals as appropriate.

Responsibilities will be discharged via:

- Conducting and reviewing risk assessments of venues, activities and proposed events.
 - Implementing actions arising from assessments.
 - Monitoring and investigating accidents, near misses and hazards.
 - Undertaking periodic spot checks and reviews.
 - Maintaining equipment and ensuring safe storage and use of substances.
 - Ensuring first aid provision and emergency procedures are in place and communicated.
4. All club representatives, including coaches, officials, athletes and volunteers, are expected to:
 - Co-operate with the Club on all health and safety matters.
 - Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others.
 - Use equipment safely and responsibly.
 - Report all hazards, concerns, accidents, incidents or near misses to an appropriate official.

Arrangements for health and safety

Blaydon Harrier and Athletics Club adopts the Health and Safety Executive's *Plan, Do, Check, Act* approach.

Plan

- Appoint a competent person to act as the Health and Safety Coordinator.
- Maintain and communicate this Health and Safety Policy.
- Develop an action plan for health and safety improvements.
- Establish clear procedures for risk assessments and investigations.
- Create systems to monitor and report on health and safety issues.

Do

- Carry out regular risk assessments of facilities, training sessions and events.
- Review risk assessments periodically and before introducing new activities.
- Ensure actions identified in risk assessments are implemented.
- Inspect and maintain equipment regularly.
- Ensure all activities are supervised appropriately.
- Maintain emergency and first aid arrangements.
- Provide training and guidance, including from England Athletics, for coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Engage with athletes and parents to explain health and safety protocols, particularly where specific needs exist.

Check

- Review the implementation of health and safety measures regularly through committee meetings.
- Undertake spot checks to assess how procedures are followed.
- Investigate any reported incidents or near misses proportionately.

Act

- Learn from incidents and feedback, both within the club and from external sources such as England Athletics.
- Take timely action to address any identified weaknesses.
- Review training needs to ensure those with responsibilities are competent in their roles.
- Ensure this policy is reviewed annually and updated as needed, with revised versions made available to members.