



**Knutsford Tri Club  
Safeguarding Policy Statement**

This policy seeks to ensure that Knutsford Triathlon Club (KTC) undertakes its responsibilities with regard to protection of children and vulnerable adults whilst participating in any activities organised by the club. This policy statement is in line with government guidelines, and the British Triathlon Federation safeguarding policy.

KTC proactively aims to provide an inclusive, positive and safe experience for its members irrespective of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

KTC pledges to continually seek ways to improve the safety and well being of all members participating in triathlon training. By doing this, KTC recognises that all of its members have a shared responsibility to raise any concerns related with safeguarding.

**Definitions**

A **Child** is anyone who has not reached his or her 18th birthday. 'Children' therefore means children and young people throughout. The fact a child has reached 16 years of age, living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody, does not change his or her status or entitlement to protection under the Children Act 1989.

**Children with a disability** may be more vulnerable and at greater risk of all forms of abuse. The presence of multiple disabilities increases the risk of both abuse and neglect. Some of the common factors that can lead to increased vulnerability include social isolation, communication and learning difficulties or disability, lack of understanding of boundaries, need for assistance with personal care and more likely target for bullying and abuse. Children with disabilities have the same rights to protection as any other child and clubs working with these children need to be especially alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and have strategies in place to ensure all children are able to raise concerns.

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The definition of a **vulnerable adult** is set out in the government recommendation 'No Secrets' (2009) and 'The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act' (2006) It refers to adults who are at risk from learning disability or mental health issues as well as adults who are at risk due to specific circumstances they may find themselves in, e.g. sexual or racial discrimination, domestic abuse, sexual or commercial use, forced arranged marriages etc.

KTC is aware of the need for policies to apply to all members, regardless of age as well as the coaches, volunteers and guests.

**Abuse** is defined as a "Violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person/s" The main forms of abuse are;

1. Physical abuse – hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, restraint.
2. Sexual abuse – rape, sexual assault, sexual acts without consent or pressured into consent.
3. Psychological abuse – emotional abuse, threats, humiliation, intimidation, coercion, isolation, harassment.
4. Financial abuse – theft, fraud, exploitation.
5. Neglect and acts of omission – ignoring medical needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social and educational needs.
6. Discriminatory abuse – racist, sexual, disability.

### Procedures

As part of our safeguarding policy, KTC will ensure:

1. Safe recruiting and vetting of all coaches.
2. Clear codes of conduct.
3. Clarity about rules and regulations.
4. Robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
5. A transparent complaints procedure.
6. A whistleblowing process that upholds supportive and open responses to concerns.
7. Access to external help and support for the complainant and others involved.
8. That confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.

KTC acknowledges and adheres to the guidance in the British Triathlon's guide for coaches 'Safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults', and we recommend that this is read by all coaches and parents, a copy is available by contacting BTF or KTC coaches.

All coaches, committee members and parents should be aware of the contact procedures should the need to report or raise a safeguarding concern arise.

Any person with information of a disclosure, allegation or suspicion about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, be it poor practice or possible abuse, should report this immediately and as appropriate either to any member of the KTC Committee.

A designated welfare officer is available for support if concerns are raised. A formal meeting with the complainant and others involved may be appropriate to determine the course of action. If deemed necessary, further escalation (BTF) or the signposting to outside support

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(e.g. Samaritans, Citizen's Advice etc.) will be offered in order to resolve the situation and ensure safety of all parties involved.

If there is genuine threat to safety or there is/has been a criminal offence, KTC has a legal obligation to inform agencies which will provide expert support and appropriate follow-up. If immediate risk of harm is identified, consent is not required and best interests must take priority.

KTC has a duty of care to the alleged victim and accused. It is not the responsibility of KTC or any of its individuals to interview, investigate or determine outcomes in cases of abuse. It is a moral and legal obligation for KTC to refer such matters to relevant agencies. This may include the police or other statutory agencies.

Not all matters of concern will require a formal approach. Often mediation and discussion is all that is required. It is also recognised that concerns can be raised whereby no further action is necessary. In these cases, the welfare officer will provide a confidential statement of the circumstances, discussion and outcome that will be held on file. This will be kept for the purpose that if any further complaints arise concerning the same person/people, KTC will have all the information to make a decision regarding course of action. The recorded information will be stored appropriately and not made public.

### **Monitoring**

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

1. Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
2. As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and British Triathlon.
3. As a result of any other significant change or event.

### **Useful Contacts**

**KTC Welfare Officer: Grace Crawford:** [welfare@knutsfordtriclub.co.uk](mailto:welfare@knutsfordtriclub.co.uk)

**British Triathlon's Lead Child Protection Officer (LSO):** 01509 226 159.

**NSPCC:** 0808 800 5000

**NPSCC:** Textphone service 0808 100 1033

**Childline:** 0800 1111

**Childline:** Textphone service 0800 400 222

**MENCAP:** 0808 808 1111

**Knutsford Police:** 101

**Cheshire East Social Services:** 0300 123 5010

**Cheshire East Youth Support Service:** 01270 686923

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Reviewed: October 2022