

# BPSCCA Safeguarding Policy

## Policy Statement

BPSCCA (Bromley Primary Schools' Cross-Country Association) fully appreciates their legal and moral responsibilities to provide a duty of care, to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, religion or belief, sex or gender and sexual orientation.

BPSCCA recognises and endorses the best practice guidance of national governing body, 'UK Athletics', given the former organisation's close working links with Blackheath & Bromley Harriers Athletics Club. We therefore adhere to many of the responsibilities as set out by UK Athletics as well as the formation of our own borne from the expertise of the Senior Organisation Committee:

- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount
- All children have the right to protection from abuse
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All schools involved within the race meetings understand and accept their responsibility to report concerns to a member of the Senior Organisation Committee

In order to meet this obligation we will:-

- Provide and enforce procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of all participants and protect them from abuse
- Provide periodic updating of risk assessment / safeguarding advice to participating schools via pre-race meetings, via website profiling and other communication
- Highlight to individual schools that they undertake their own risk assessments in line with the BPSCCA policies and procedures to account for their own needs including the medical needs of their children participating
- Register each race meeting to the Metropolitan Police Force at <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/e/events-and-processions/> and submit full event plans to the Bromley Safeguarding Group (SAG)
- Liaise with Crystal Palace Park Trust on event management including safeguarding
- Ensure all children who take part in our race meetings are able to participate in a safe and enjoyable environment
- Respect and uphold the rights, wishes and feelings of participants
- Require school staff/volunteers to be aware of and abide by the Safeguarding Policy and associated procedures
- Ensure that all senior committee members are agreed and fully conversant with all aspects of event planning
- Schedule a pre-race meeting with a staff representative from each participating primary school so as to ensure that all organisational details are properly understood and adhered to
- Guarantee on-site risk assessment of the course both several weeks and a day before the race meeting
- Situate volunteered, uniformed marshals to monitor the race from agreed, designated positions on the course thereby ensuring that one is in sight of another and that participants do not veer away from the route especially in wooded areas
- All marshalling points are staffed by two marshals (more where marshalling positions provide more challenge matched to risk assessment such as at the finish)
- Provide marshals with emergency contact numbers and other information so any injuries or incidents can be dealt with quickly and effectively – a marshals' briefing is held and the marshals positioned before the races are started
- Ensure that all senior staff and essential role carriers have easy mobile communication via radios to keep all informed of race progression and notification of any incidents

- Guarantee that emergency services, e.g. EMFS, have access to both map of the course and phone contact details of school managers and key organisational staff on site
- Ensure that all schools are made aware of an Emergency Action plan that is also situated on the website and that shows exit routes and muster points
- Meet within a month of the completion of each race meeting to review quality of practice from the event so as to identify any areas of improvement including the review of the record of any accidents, injuries or incidents
- Respond to any allegations appropriately liaising with the school(s) and other agencies if required
- Review policies regularly especially in the event of updated national guidance / legislation
- Ensure that schools produce photo permission authorisation before pursuing with any post-event publicity that includes image representation of participants
- Ensure that published names of pupils who are race participants or volunteer helpers have permission via their schools

## Best Practice

- To provide everybody with the best possible experience and opportunities in athletics it is important that everyone operates within an accepted ethical framework and demonstrates exemplary behaviour

Best practice means: -

- Being open and conducting all interactions with children; parents and teachers in a public place and with appropriate consent
- Avoiding situations where you are alone with one individual
- If you have to administer support to one individual ensure it is conducted in an open environment, and where appropriate is reported to the organising committee
- Reporting to a member of the organising committee any bullying, harassment, foul or provocative language or controlling behaviour that could upset individuals
- Maintaining an appropriate relationship with children; this means treating people fairly and with respect
- Being friendly and open and ensuring that relationships are appropriate for someone in a position of power and trust
- Respecting all race participants and assisting them with the need to take responsibility for their own development and decision making
- Avoiding unnecessary physical contact with event participants

BPSCCA is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members to abide to these policies and the requirements of the relevant equalities legislation

Links to other Policies:

England Athletics Safeguarding and protecting children in athletics, policy and procedures document

Signed:

