

MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE A.C.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The policy applies to:

- All officers, coaches, team managers, technical officials and volunteer helpers working with children on behalf of the Club.

Medway & Maidstone A.C. provides services and activities for children under the age of 18. Our beliefs are:

- Children and young people have a right to enjoy sport, free from all forms of abuse and exploitation
- All children and young people have equal rights to protection from harm
- Everybody has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children
- All children and young people should be encouraged to fulfil their potential, and inequalities should be challenged
- The Club has a duty of care to children and young people who take part in its activities.

Medway & Maidstone A.C. have adopted a Child Protection Policy to meet these beliefs and ensure that:

- The welfare of children is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, gender, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, disability and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- All volunteers working on behalf of the Club have a responsibility to report concerns to the Welfare Officer
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

The policy aims to promote good practice by:

- Adopting child protection guidelines published by UK Athletics
- Disseminating information about the policy and procedures to the membership of the Club
- Providing awareness for all our volunteers that is appropriate to their role
- Empowering all officers, coaches, team managers and officials to make informed and confident responses to child protection issues
- Adopting procedures to respond to allegations or suspicions
- Recognising that coaches, officials and officers are not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has taken place, but have a responsibility to act on concerns through contact with the Welfare Officer and/or the appropriate authorities