**MANCHESTER AREA CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE (MACCL)**

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**March 2017**

**Background**

MACCL organise five cross country matches each season. MACCL affiliate athletic clubs from the Manchester and North West region so that members of those clubs can take part in cross country events. A different host club which has affiliated to MACCL arranges the venue for each match.

MACCL provide registration facilities and the officials on match day. MACCL have no coaching training or mentoring role for athletes and only provide a league format for the clubs. Therefore MACCL do not require DBS checks in place for their own officers.

The races in each match are arranged in age groups as follows ; U11 Boys and Girls, U13 Boys and Girls, U15 Boys and Girls, U17 Boys and Girls, U20 Men and Ladies, Senior Men and Ladies and Veteran Men and Ladies

MACCL officers are all volunteers. The officials on match day are also volunteers. All officials are graded UK Athletics officials with Health and Safety clearance.

In this policy a **child** and **children** mean a person or people who have not reached their 18th birthday.

In preparing this policy MACCL have reviewed the Policy and Procedures document published by UK Athletics relating to Safeguarding Children in Athletics dated January 2013

**Obligations of MACCL**

The 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

MACCL will promote best practice in their dealings with children

Poor practice is unacceptable to MACCL

**Best practice and poor practice**

Best practice means

* Being open and conducting all interactions with children in a public place and with appropriate consent
* Avoiding situations where you are alone with a child
* Challenging bullying and harassment, foul and provocative language and controlling behaviour that could upset individuals and reduce them to tears
* Never ignoring bullying by parents, coaches or children
* Avoid unnecessary physical contact

Examples of poor practice are

* Shouting at athletes when they are not working hard enough
* Using harassing and discriminatory language
* Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games

**Club responsibilities**

MACCL take seriously the health and wellbeing of all who take part in our sport. Whilst we collectively have a responsibility to safeguard all children it is incumbent on each affiliating club to ensure that they have a published safeguarding policy. Each affiliating club that enters children in MACCL races must have an appointed Club Welfare Officer (CWO) to whom all concerns regarding safeguarding their child members should be reported.

When affiliating to MACCL each season all clubs that enter children must provide MACCL with CWO details.

**Photography**

Photography is only permitted at the match by approval from MACCL. A register of the names and addresses of photographers is maintained at each match venue. No person other than those who have registered with MACCL has consent to take photographs.

**Reporting**

Any person with information of an allegation or concern about the welfare of a child arising during a match organised by MACCL should immediately report this allegation to Stephen Hindmarsh (League Treasurer) who is the person nominated by MACCL to receive such reports. MACCL will report any allegation to the club contact for the club to which the child is a member. MACCL will also report the allegation to UK Athletics

It is not the responsibility of MACCL to determine whether or not abuse has taken place. If there is any doubt about whether or not the alleged behaviour constitutes abuse then the concern must be shared with professional agencies that will be responsible for subsequent action.