

**Blackrock Athletic Club Juvenile Section.
Reporting Policy**

We believe that the welfare of the child is paramount and recognise that all children have the right to be safe and that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations. Young athletes have the right to be kept safe from harm, and it is the responsibility of their parents and guardians to make sure that they are protected.

Blackrock AC is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people who participate in our activities. We shall take all practical steps to protect young people from discernible forms of abuse - from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

Reporting of Abuse

If a young person has a concern or wishes to report possible abuse they should talk to a responsible adult that they can trust. This could be a parent, another family member, a teacher or someone involved who will listen. A young athlete may wish to discuss their concerns or seek advice in confidence from their Club Coach, Children's Officer or another trusted person in the Club. The names and numbers of the Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Person are on the noticeboard and the website.

The Club has appointed a Designated Person who on behalf of the Club is responsible at an initial stage for dealing with any concerns relating to the possible abuse of children as reported to club members or made known to them.

This appointment forms an essential part of the Club's Child Welfare and Protection strategy to ensure that in so far as is practically possible we provide a safe environment for children, young people and also for the adults who assist our underage members at events and competition.

The Club is committed to taking appropriate action where allegations or suspicions of abuse are made known to us and to sharing such information with the relevant statutory authorities in accordance with legislation and relevant guidelines. The Designated Person will deal with any such onward reporting as required by the guidelines and legislation.