



Lingfield Running Club

Inclusion Policy

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy 'inclusion' means access for all members. It means recognising differences between individuals / groups and providing opportunities for them to participate in Athletics and Running regardless of those differences, whether this is as a participant, coach, leader, official, volunteer or member of staff.

LINGFIELD RUNNING CLUB embraces diversity and difference and is committed to providing opportunities that are safe, inclusive, accessible and equitable.

We will develop a focus on inclusion, not exclusion, and ensure that we provide appropriate advice to members and volunteers to ensure that everyone can participate as fully as possible.

The Inclusion Policy is intended to promote a change in attitudes and perceptions and to improve opportunities for everyone to participate at our club.

We will seek to ensure that we comply with the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the characteristics protected by it (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity) and encourage our members to do so. We will seek to include all runners, regardless of whether they have a protected characteristic or not.

Our aim is to provide an environment where all members feel:

- Welcome
- Represented
- Included in decision making
- Able to participate
- Safe and free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and vilification.

Aims

The aims of the Inclusion Policy are:

- To promote the development of knowledge and understanding of equity and inclusion among our participants, leaders/coaches, officials, volunteers and competition/event organisers by the provision of appropriate guidance and training. To guide and support the integration of inclusive practice into our core club/group programmes and activities.
- To contribute towards growing and sustaining numbers of people from under-represented groups participating within our club.



- To promote inclusion within Athletics and Running wherever possible and in accordance with the provisions of the Equality Act. The chairperson is typically the most senior official role in a club and fulfils a range of duties dealing with overall management of club affairs. The chairperson leads the club to achieve their vision, short-term and long-term goals.
- To adopt inclusive practice within our competition and events, where practicable.

Commitment

We will;

- Not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- Actively identify and reduce barriers to participation for under-represented groups.
- Ensure under-represented groups are given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of our club.
- Provide opportunities for all in coaching, officiating and leadership positions.

There are a number of measures that we will take to ensure that we are working under the guidance of the Policy and within the requirements of the [Equality Act \(2010\)](#).

We will provide a welcoming environment

- We will think positively about how we can include people rather than focusing on potential barriers to participation.
- We will consider how our club/group is promoted. For example, by providing information in formats which are accessible and by using appropriate imagery.

We will talk to people

- We will, so far as is reasonably possible, consult with relevant groups and with prospective individuals about their needs and requirements.

We will make reasonable adjustments

- We will demonstrate that every effort has been made to enable members to participate and that inclusion not exclusion has been the priority.