Junior Participation Policy (Internal Club Events)

Purpose

To allow junior members (under 18) to safely take part in club events while ensuring appropriate safeguarding, supervision, and fairness.

Eligibility

- Juniors aged 11–17 may take part in internal club events.
- Participation is at the discretion of the club organisers.
- Juniors must be regular runners and capable of completing the distance.

Parental Consent & Responsibility

- A parent or legal guardian must give consent before participation.
- A parent/guardian must:
  - Be present at the event, or
  - Nominate a responsible adult agreed in advance.
- The parent/guardian retains overall responsibility for the junior at all times.

Supervision During the Event

- Juniors must not be left alone before, during, or after the event.
- Where practical:
  - Juniors should start with or near other runners, not in isolation.
  - Consider assigning a buddy runner (adult or experienced member).
- All participants should be made aware when a junior is taking part.

Event Format Adjustments

- Organisers may:
  - Adjust handicap start times to avoid juniors running alone.
  - Offer a non-competitive entry (no official placing/time).
- The aim is safe inclusion, not strict competition.

Conduct & Safety

- Juniors must follow all normal club rules and instructions.
- Extra care should be taken by all runners in:
    - Overtaking
    - Group finishes
    - Shared public spaces (e.g. park users, cyclists, dogs)

Safeguarding

- The club follows basic safeguarding principles in line with England Athletics guidance:
    - Avoid one-to-one unsupervised situations
    - Maintain appropriate behaviour and language
- Any concerns should be raised with the club organiser immediately.

Insurance & Responsibility

- Participation is subject to the club's insurance cover.
- The club and organisers accept no additional liability beyond normal club activities.