

# ELMBRIDGE ROAD RUNNERS

## **Safeguarding Policy**

July 2021

This document sets out the Club's arrangements for safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults. This is rarely required – our runners are generally over 18 and indeed, our constitution only refers to adult runners: there are still occasions when younger runners join us for a period.

The Club will appoint a Safeguarding Officer who should ideally be a member of the Committee and must in any event be DBS-checked. The Club priority is to protect any vulnerable runner whilst at the same time protecting other members of the Club.

The Club will only accept children/vulnerable adults if they are accompanied by a parent/carer/responsible adult – a family member or similar – who can ensure that the controls are adequate and in place. Any child/vulnerable adult must be accompanied by their parent/carer/responsible adult at all times when taking part in the Club night run.

### **Risk Analysis**

The main practical concern is ensuring that the runner isn't dropped by the group s/he's running with, much the same as with any new runner. Ideally all our runners would need no reminder of this but we can't be 100% certain, so we have run leaders to ensure this does not occur.

The other risk is that s/he is open to inappropriate behaviour in the shower/changing/toilet facilities. The risk has two potential impacts: firstly, and most obviously that inappropriate behaviour might occur; secondly, that unfounded allegations might be made, which would put the Club and its members at risk. Here, the presence of the adult/carer/responsible adult in the changing room with the child/vulnerable adult is our most effective control.

The Club is not aware of any other situations where a child/vulnerable adult will be isolated with any Club member other than in a public area.

### **Resolution**

We will therefore adopt the following simple measures to cover these risks in collaboration with the parent/carer/responsible adult:

For the first issue, the parent/carer/responsible adult must ensure that on every run, they run at all times with child/vulnerable adult during that run.

For the second, the parent/carer/responsible adult must ensure that the child/vulnerable adult only uses the facilities when he or she is present.

*The Safeguarding/ Welfare Officer can be contacted on [welfare@err.club](mailto:welfare@err.club)*