ATHLETE HUB

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Effective Date: 23/04/2026
Last Updated: 23/04/2026

Athlete Hub ("**Athlete Hub**", "**we**", "**us**", "**our**") is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable individuals who use the Athlete Hub platform (the "**Service**").

This Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy explains:

- our safeguarding principles,
- the safeguards built into the Service,
- how responsibilities are shared,
- and how safeguarding concerns are identified, managed, and escalated.

This policy applies to **all users**, with particular emphasis on **Junior users (under 18)**.

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

Athlete Hub recognises that:

- sport can present safeguarding risks if poorly managed;
- children and young people are entitled to protection from harm;
- digital systems used by sports clubs must be designed and operated with safeguarding as a priority.

Athlete Hub is committed to:

- safeguarding by design,
- compliance with UK safeguarding and data protection law,
- cooperation with clubs, governing bodies, and statutory authorities where required.

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2. SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Junior athletes (children under 18)
- Adult athletes
- Parents and legal guardians
- Coaches, staff, volunteers, and administrators
- Any other individual accessing the Service

This policy applies **only to the Athlete Hub platform** and does not replace or override a Club's own safeguarding policies.

3. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Athlete Hub operates in accordance with applicable UK safeguarding and data protection principles, including:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018
- Guidance from the NSPCC and national governing bodies

Athlete Hub does not act as a regulated activity provider but supports Clubs in fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities.

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4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Athlete Hub's Role

Athlete Hub:

- provides a digital platform with safeguarding controls,
- designs and enforces technical restrictions,
- logs activity for accountability and audit,
- cooperates with safeguarding investigations where legally required.

Athlete Hub **does not**:

- supervise athletes,
- replace Club safeguarding officers,
- investigate allegations independently unless legally required,
- make determinations about discipline or suitability to work with children.

4.2 Club Responsibilities

Each subscribing Club remains responsible for:

- appointing appropriate safeguarding or welfare officers;
- ensuring compliance with their own safeguarding policies;
- supervising coaches, staff, and volunteers;
- managing disciplinary action;
- reporting safeguarding concerns to relevant bodies where required.

4.3 Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians remain responsible for:

- approving and overseeing Junior use of the Service;
- raising concerns with Clubs or Athlete Hub as appropriate;
- withdrawing consent where they believe use is no longer appropriate.

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5. SAFEGUARDING BY DESIGN (PLATFORM CONTROLS)

Athlete Hub incorporates safeguarding controls directly into platform design, including:

5.1 Junior Account Controls

- Junior accounts cannot self-register
- Activation requires Parent Account approval
- Junior profiles are private and non-public
- Juniors cannot be searched for or discovered

5.2 Messaging and Communication Controls

- Direct messaging is **disabled** for all Junior accounts
- Juniors cannot initiate or receive private messages
- Communications are restricted to authorised Club members
- Clubs may disable messaging platform-wide

5.3 Role-Based Access Control

- Coaches and staff may access information only within their own Club
- Parents may access only their linked Junior’s data
- Cross-club access is technically prevented

5.4 Audit and Logging

- User access and actions are logged
- Account changes and permissions are recorded
- Communication records are retained where enabled

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6. RECOGNISED SAFEGUARDING RISKS

Athlete Hub recognises the following digital safeguarding risks in sport:

- Inappropriate communication with children
- Grooming or boundary violations
- Misuse of athlete data
- Surveillance or pressure through digital tools
- Unsupervised or unmoderated communications

Platform design and policy aim to reduce these risks as far as reasonably practicable.

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7. IDENTIFYING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Safeguarding concerns may arise through:

- user reports,
- parent concerns,
- Club notifications,
- system audit logs,
- external notifications from governing bodies or authorities.

Concerns may relate to:

- inappropriate communication,
- misuse of platform access,
- attempts to bypass safeguards,
- suspected grooming or exploitation,
- inappropriate data handling.

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8. REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

8.1 Reporting to Athlete Hub

Safeguarding concerns relating to the platform may be reported to:

Email: dan@athlete-hub.uk
Subject: Safeguarding Concern

Reports should include:

- nature of the concern,
- individuals involved,
- relevant dates and context (if known).

8.2 Emergency Situations

Where there is an immediate risk of harm:

- emergency services or local safeguarding authorities should be contacted immediately;
- Athlete Hub should be notified as soon as practicable thereafter.

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9. ATHLETE HUB RESPONSE TO CONCERNS

Where a safeguarding concern is identified, Athlete Hub may:

- restrict or suspend user access immediately;
- preserve records and audit logs;
- notify the relevant Club;
- cooperate with governing bodies or authorities;
- take action necessary to prevent continued risk.

Athlete Hub does **not** guarantee to notify individuals where doing so could compromise safeguarding or legal processes.

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10. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Athlete Hub may disclose personal data and records where reasonably necessary to:

- protect children or vulnerable individuals;
- assist a Club's safeguarding investigation;
- cooperate with a national governing body;
- comply with law enforcement or statutory authority requests;
- meet legal obligations.

Disclosures are:

- proportionate,
- lawful,
- limited to what is necessary.

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11. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING

Safeguarding information is handled sensitively.

Athlete Hub recognises that:

- confidentiality must not override child protection;

- information sharing may be necessary to prevent harm.

All disclosures follow data protection law and safeguarding guidance.

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12. TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Athlete Hub:

- designs safeguards into the platform;
- provides policy documentation to Clubs;
- expects Clubs to ensure coaches and volunteers understand appropriate platform use.

Athlete Hub does not provide safeguarding training to Club staff but supports Clubs in meeting their obligations.

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13. BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Breaches of this policy may result in:

- immediate restriction or suspension of access;
- termination of accounts;
- reporting to Clubs, governing bodies, or authorities where appropriate.

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14. REVIEW AND UPDATES

This policy is reviewed periodically to reflect:

- legal developments,
- safeguarding best practice,
- changes to the Service.

Material updates will be communicated via the platform or email.

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15. CONTACT DETAILS

For safeguarding concerns or policy queries:

Athlete Hub
Email: **dan@athlete-hub.uk**
Website: https://athlete-hub.uk