



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy 'inclusion' means access for all. 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.

Westbury Harriers embraces diversity and difference and is committed to providing opportunities that are safe, inclusive, accessible and equitable. We want our club to be equally accessible to all members of society, whatever their age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, ethnicity, sexuality or social/economic status.

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 everyone regardless of whether they have a protected characteristic or not.

Our aim is to provide an environment where everyone feels:

- Welcome
- Represented
- Included in decision making
- Able to participate
- Safe and free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and vilification, whether face to face, verbally, in writing or on social media, including through a third party.

Aims

The aims of the Inclusion Policy are:

- To promote the development of knowledge and understanding of disability, equity and inclusion amongst 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.



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- 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.
- To promote close working partnerships with relevant groups and organisations to support the development of inclusive practice within our club.

Commitment

We will;

- Not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- Actively identify and reduce barriers to participation for under-represented groups.
- Consult with expert partners and other organisations to facilitate inclusive practices and remove barriers to participation which could arise as a result of an individual's characteristics.
- 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 encourage people to contact us to discuss their needs and requirements to facilitate inclusion and we will ensure we consider what reasonable adjustments could be made to enable them to participate.
- We will develop the knowledge and understanding of key officials, coaches, leaders and other volunteers, of disability, equity and inclusive practice by providing appropriate guidance and training.

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 not make assumptions and will try to speak to people about the reasonable adjustments they believe might be made to enable them to participate and to discuss how these could be made.



- We will talk to our members, volunteers and individuals involved with Westbury Harriers to understand whether any improvements could be made to our processes, policies and practices.

We will make reasonable adjustments

- We will demonstrate that every effort has been made to enable everyone to participate and that inclusion not exclusion has been the priority.
- If reasonable adjustments are required to make an event/activity accessible, then we will make those reasonable adjustments,
- Where reasonable adjustments are not immediately possible, we will review how those adjustments can be incorporated going forward.

Procedures and Governance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion should be the joint responsibility of the Directors and the Committee.

An Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Panel, comprised of the Welfare Officers and two other Committee members, will meet twice a year to discuss developments and initiatives which are underway or are required to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Any breaches of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy may result in the Club instigating disciplinary procedures against a Club member, in accordance with the Grievance and Disciplinary Policy.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy will be updated in line with legislation, and with reference to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Panel and Committee.

This document should be read in conjunction with Westbury Harriers' policies as follows:

- Grievance and Disciplinary Policy;
- Codes of Conduct;
- Anti Bullying Policy;
- Safeguarding Policies.

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