**CODE OF CONDUCT: Coaches**

As a responsible Athletics Coach, I will:

 **1. RESPONSIBILITIES – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

* abide by the terms of my UKA coaching licence
* keep my professional knowledge and skills up to date, be appropriately qualified for the activities I lead, and renew my coach licence as and when required by UKA
* ensure I have obtained an acceptable criminal record check
* ensure that activities I direct, or guide, are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete
* be aware of the current national and international regulations on anti-doping in sport
* never try to recruit, either overtly or covertly, athletes who are already receiving coaching
* in circumstances where I need to demonstrate a technique through physical contact, always provide an explanation and seek consent before touching the athlete (never touch an athlete aged under 18 to demonstrate a technique without another adult being present)
* observe the recommended national guidance on coach/athlete ratios
* cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as technical officials, team managers, other coaches, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete

**2. RESPONSIBILITIES – PERSONAL STANDARDS**

* consistently promote positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play)
* never engage in the massage of an athlete under the age of 18 years
* follow the relevant guidance for coaches on social media use and not post on social media any content which is inappropriate or offensive
* be aware that my attitude and behaviour directly affects the behaviour of athletes under my supervision
* avoid swearing, abusive language and irresponsible or illegal behaviour, including behaviour that is dangerous to me or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment, and physical and sexual abuse
* avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as I find them
* not carry or consume alcohol or illegal substances while coaching or attending events directly linked to coaching
* avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to me or others, excluding athletics equipment used in the course of my athletics activity
* challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others and report any suspected

misconduct by other coaches or other people involved in athletics to the club Safeguarding Team as soon as possible

* act ethically, professionally and with integrity, and take responsibility for your actions

**3. RIGHTS**

* provide coaching services without discrimination on grounds of age, gender, sexual, cultural, ethnic, disability or religious preference
* respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and treat everyone equally, regardless of background or ability
* make the athlete’s health and welfare my primary and overriding concern
* respect the athlete’s right to self-determination when deciding who they are coached by
* respect the right of all athletes to an independent life outside of athletics
* report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to the parents/carers and Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible and complete a report of the incident in writing as soon as possible after it happened so it is fresh in my mind.
* never exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
* in no way undermine, put down or belittle other coaches or practitioners, or allow those behaviours to exist within the athletes and groups that I lead / manage – including those behaviours towards other athletes or groups of athletes

**4. RELATIONSHIPS**

* at the outset, clarify with athletes (and where appropriate, with parents or carers) exactly what it is that is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from me
* develop healthy and appropriate working relationships with athletes based on mutual trust and respect, especially with those athletes under 18 years or who are adults at risk
* avoid spending time alone with young athletes (under 18) unless clearly in the view of other adults
* ensure that parents/carers know and have given consent before taking a young athlete (under 18) away from the usual training venue
* maintain strict boundaries between friendship and intimacy with athletes that I am coaching
* not use my position as a licensed coach to incite or engage in sexual activity, inappropriate touching or communication (in person or social media or any other form of verbal or non-verbal communication) with athletes I coach who are aged over 18 years

Print name . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Signature . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Date . . . . . . . . . . . . .