

Information & Welcome Pack

Chester le Street & District AC

2024/2025



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Welcome Message

Dear Parent/Carer/Athlete,

On behalf of Chester le-Street & District Athletics I would like to welcome you to the club and provide you with some information about our activities.

The club provides opportunities for young people (minimum age 8) and adults of all ages to receive coaching and compete in local, regional and national events. All coaching is provided by a team of qualified volunteer coaches who have trained and have had the necessary background checks to enable them to coach all age groups.

We welcome parents to all training and competitions and value your support. We are keen to try and involve parents in the club and hold regular open meetings where you can meet club members and find out more about the club.

This pack contains lot of information about the club but if you have any further questions please speak to one of the committee.

Philip Corless
Club Chairman

About Our Club



Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club was formed in 1977 by Kenneth Wright, Bob & John Tinkler and Derek Reay who had previously been members of Elswick Harriers. Since that time it has provided opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in athletics and compete in local, regional and national competitions.

Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club is affiliated to England Athletics, the National Governing Body for Athletics in England.



Useful Info



- Training Sessions

Training sessions take place at the Riverside Sports Pavilion, Chester-Le-Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30pm to 7:30pm (All year with a two week break over Christmas). During the track and field season extra coaching may be offered on other days (please ask coaches for details)

It is sometimes necessary to cancel training sessions due to inclement weather or coach availability. Any cancellations will be notified via the clubs social media platforms.

- Transport

Arrangements should be made for you or your child to travel to and from training sessions and competitions. We appreciate if children can arrive promptly and are collected promptly at the end of the session, if they are not making their own way home. If you are going to be late picking your child up, please contact your child's appointed coach and let them know.

- Kit

Winter training kit should consist of warm/waterproof top and long tracksuit bottoms, hat and gloves. Summer training kit consists of shorts vest/t shirt. Spiked running shoes are allowed for training but please ensure you also bring trainers along to the session.

If you are to represent the club in competitions you must have a club vest. Please see a member of the committee to order.



Membership & Costs

Membership

After a trial period (4 weeks) all athletes are required to join the club if they wish to continue to attend training. This allows the club to register the athlete with the national governing body (England Athletics) while makes them eligible to compete for the club and be covered by EA PL insurance.

There are 4 categories of membership and annual fees are due in April each year. 2024/2025 fees are:

- Senior Membership £60
- Junior Membership £50
- Under 11 Membership £30
- Associate Membership (Competitions only) £40
- Family Membership (1 Adult + 2 Juniors) £125

Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website

Other Costs

In addition to the annual membership fees, there is a session fee payable at each training session attended. This covers the cost of access to the track & facilities.

For 2024/2025 this cost is £3 (juniors) / £4 (seniors)

Meet The Committee

All committee members are volunteers and are elected at the AGM every March. The Committee meets every two months. For any questions about the club please speak to one of the committee.



Phil Corless

Chairman



Paul Burdon

Secretary / Treasurer



Suzanne Jones

Fixtures Secretary



Julie Whitley

Membership Secretary



Greg McPeake

Publicity Officer



Tracy McPeake

Welfare Officer



**Paul & Margaret
Smith**

Coaching Coordinators



Claire Lines

Volunteer Coordinator



Welfare Policy



- Introduction

This policy and the accompanying procedures are based on the 'Safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults in athletics Policy and Procedure document 2009' produced by the governing body for athletics i.e. UK athletics. The policy has been written to support the wider concerns for the welfare of all people taking part in athletics who participate in activities organised by the Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club.

- Policy Statement

Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club:

- Believe that everyone involved in athletics should thrive, enjoy safety, security and protection from abuse, maltreatment or misconduct and that every individual involved in club events and programmes is responsible for upholding this belief.
- Recognise that they have a responsibility to ensure the highest standard of care to all children and vulnerable adults involved in club activities.
- Accepts that it has a moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children and vulnerable adults, safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse.
- Will respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children and vulnerable adults taking part in athletics.
- Will train and supervise its coaches and volunteers to adopt best practice in all equality issues, to safeguard and protect young people and vulnerable adults from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.

Welfare Policy



- **Policy Statement (Cont...)**

- Require coaches and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults to adopt and abide by the Club's Welfare Policy and Procedures, including its Code of Conduct, and to submit themselves for checking through the Criminal Records Bureau.
- Will not permit photographs, video or other images of children and vulnerable adults to be taken without the consent of the parents/carers and children.
- Will follow the guidance for the use of photographs issued by UK Athletics.
- Will respond to any allegations appropriately and implement appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

- **Aims**

The aims the Club in relation to the Welfare Policy are to:

- Ensure the highest possible standards of safety and welfare for all children and vulnerable adults engaged in athletics activities and events organised by the Club.
- Embed a process of continuous improvement in its ongoing work with children and vulnerable adults in athletics.
- Work with its partners to ensure that quality assured training is offered to all coaches and volunteers engaged in club programmes for children and vulnerable adults.
- Adopt and promote good practice in the welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults, and other athletics personnel.
- Demonstrate ethical standards of leadership and behaviour in all its work.

Welfare Policy



- Principles

The main principles underpinning this policy are:

- **Safety** – the welfare of the child/vulnerable adult will always be paramount
- **Equality** – the right of everyone involved in athletics to equitable treatment, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, ability, sexual orientation or social background, will be upheld
- **Responsiveness** – all allegations or suspicions of abuse or violations of children's or vulnerable adult welfare will be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately and speedily.
- **Consent** – those with parental responsibility will be consulted if it becomes necessary to invoke the procedures within this policy.
- **Compliance with the statutory system** – Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club will operate within the law and in partnership with UK Athletics, Social Services Departments, Police Child Protection Units, and other relevant agencies in order to ensure compliance with this policy.
- **Fairness** – the human rights of coaches or volunteers facing allegations will be embodied in club procedures.

Code of Conduct Coaches



Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club Code of Conduct for Coaches & Volunteers

You must:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child/ vulnerable adult and treat everyone equally, regardless of background or ability.
- Place the welfare and safety of children/vulnerable adult above the development of performance. · Develop appropriate working relationships with children/vulnerable adults based on mutual trust and respect.
- At the outset, clarify with children, vulnerable adult, their parents or carers, exactly what is expected of them and what they can expect from you.
- Adopt safe training activities appropriate to the age, stage of development and capacity of the children/vulnerable adult.
- Avoid critical language or actions, such as sarcasm, that undermine an athlete's self esteem. · Be aware that any physical contact with a child/vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted.
- Ensure that parents/carers know about and have approved in advance if taking a child/vulnerable adult away from the normal training venue.
- Not spend time alone with a child/vulnerable adult unless clearly in the view of others.
- Avoid transporting a child/vulnerable adult alone in your car.
- Never invite a child/vulnerable adult alone to your home.
- Work in same sex pairs if supervising a changing area.
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour or language by others.
- Report any suspicions of abuse or suspected misconduct by others, including coaches or volunteers.
- Report any accidental injury, distress or misunderstanding or misinterpretation. A report of such incidents should be given to the Child Protection Officer and parents/carers notified.

Code of Conduct Coaches



Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club Code of Conduct for Coaches & Volunteers (Continued...)

You must:

- Consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance.
- At all time promote the positive aspects of athletics and never condone violations of the rules. · Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
- Operate within the club's policies and procedures including full co-operation with the Club's Welfare Officer.

I agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Code of Conduct Parents



Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club

Code of Conduct for Parents/People with Parental Responsibility

You agree to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete, coach, technical official and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- Cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as coaches, technical officials, team managers and representatives of the governing body in the best interests of the athlete
- Consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- Never place undue pressure on the athlete to perform, participate or compete
- Take an active interest in your child's participation
- Attend training or competitions whenever possible
- Know exactly where your child will be and who they will be with at all times
- Never make assumptions about your child's safety
- Ensure that your child does not take any unnecessary valuable items to training or competition
- Inform your child's coach or team manager of any illness or disability that needs to be taken into consideration for athletic performance
- Provide any necessary medication that your child needs for the duration of trips or training
- Assume responsibility for safe transportation to and from training and competition
- Return any necessary written consent forms to the club/team manager or appropriate person, including next of kin details, health and medical requirements before your child goes to any away events or trips

Code of Conduct Parents



Chester-le-Street & District Athletics Club Code of Conduct for Parents/People with Parental Responsibility (Continued...)

You agree to:

- Report any concerns you have about your child's or any other child's welfare to the Club Welfare Officer, Regional, National or UKA Welfare Officers.
- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing, abusive language and irresponsible behaviour
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Be aware that your attitude and behaviour directly affects the behaviour of your child and other young athletes
- Avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them

I agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Thank You

Contact Us

Email

chesterlestreetathletics@gmail.com

Website

www.chesterlestreetathletics.com