

Harrogate Harriers & AC

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. Harrogate Harriers & AC is run by volunteers with limited financial resources and reasonable adjustments and amendments need to be within the scope of the running club, but our aim is to work with members to meet their needs where possible.

Harrogate Harriers & AC embraces diversity and difference and is committed to providing opportunities that are safe, inclusive, accessible, and equitable. We want our club to aim to be equally accessible to all members of society, whatever their age, disability, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or social/economic status within what the club can provide.

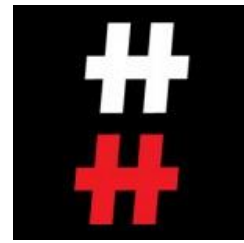
We will develop a focus on inclusion, not exclusion, and ensure that we provide appropriate advice to members and volunteers to ensure that as many individuals as possible can participate.

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.



Aims

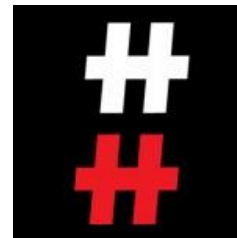
The aims of the Inclusion Policy are:

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

Our Commitment:

Harrogate Harriers & AC will:

- **Not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.**
- Aim to actively identify and reduce barriers to participation for under-represented groups.
- Intend to consult with expert partners and other organisations to facilitate inclusive practices and remove barriers to participation.
- Try and ensure under-represented groups are given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of our club and respond to feedback from visitors and members.
- Aim to provide opportunities for all in coaching, officiating and leadership positions.



We will try and 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 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 aim to 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 try to make reasonable adjustments:

- We will aim to demonstrate that efforts have 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 investigate how to make those reasonable adjustments. This may not always be possible, but we will investigate options to try and promote inclusion.

Feb 2023

