

# **CUAC WELFARE POLICY 2023-24**

## ***(Reviewed August 2023)***

### **Aims**

The Cambridge University Athletic Club regards the health, safety and welfare of all members to be of paramount importance. The fundamental basis for our welfare policy is the desire to treat our athletes' responsibly and with respect and to support them in their pursuit of both their academic and sporting goals. The Club recognises that welfare is not just about safety on the pitch but covers the full breadth of Club activities from training and competition through to socials and our media presence.

To this end, the Cambridge University Athletic Club aims to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that policies, procedures and practices are in place to maintain a safe and healthy environment and promote a positive club culture, not only for its members but also for other people and organisations that may be affected by the activities of the Club.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Everyone Involved in the Club**

Everyone involved in the club regardless of whether they are a participant, committee member, coach, volunteer or spectator is expected to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and values of others
- Operate within the rules of the sport and respect the decisions of officials, making all appeals through the appropriate formal process and respect any final decisions ●
- Treat facilities, staff and students at the University of Cambridge and other institutions with respect and abide by any rules that may apply
- Be aware of how their actions may be perceived by others
- Conduct themselves in a reasonable manner relating to offensive language and temperament
- Refrain from any form of bullying or harassment of others
- Not act in any way that is, or could be deemed as, discriminatory. Discriminatory behaviour may include giving different treatment to an individual or group based on a protected characteristic, such as: race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or any other status protected by law
- Not condone, or allow to go unchallenged, any form of bullying, harassment or discrimination if witnessed. It is not the responsibility of club members to judge whether or not a welfare violation has taken place but it is their responsibility to act

on any concerns that they may have

- Refrain from the use of and involvement with illegal or prohibited substances at all times
- Not act in an unlawful manner

### **The Club Committee**

Overall responsibility for the management of welfare within CUAC rests with the Committee. As such, the Committee will aim, as far as is reasonably practical, to:

- Create, promote and maintain an equitable, safe and positive environment for all club members to participate and/or compete in their sport.
- Develop, implement and monitor policies, procedures and codes of conduct that are suitable for the club environment and that these are well publicised and/or formally endorsed by the relevant individuals and/or governing bodies.
- Ensure that there is at least one competent Welfare Officer designated within the club to take the lead role in dealing with welfare matters;
- Ensure that there is at least one competent Safety Officer or person designated within the club to take the lead role in health and safety policies, procedures and practices.
- Ensure that coaches, instructors, officials and other student athlete support services provided, or endorsed, by the Club are at a suitable level for the activities that they run and the skills and abilities of members.
- Support Whistle Blowing and take steps to ensure members feel able to raise concerns without fear of negative repercussions;
- Ensure that confidentiality is maintained in relation to concerns and referrals, and information is only shared on a genuine 'need to know' basis;

### **Club Welfare Officers:**

**Shani Wright**      [shw46@cam.ac.uk](mailto:shw46@cam.ac.uk)

**John Cunneen**      [jmc228@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jmc228@cam.ac.uk)

The role of the Club Welfare Officer is to promote welfare centred practices within the club environment, provide a confidential, initial contact point for members in relation to welfare

concerns and signpost individuals to relevant University, College and Community support systems when required. The role holder will:

- Assist the club in developing policies and procedures that prioritises equality and the ongoing welfare of club members. This should include welfare and equality policies.
- Work with the Club Committee to ensure that Codes of Conduct are in place for club staff, volunteers, coaches and competitors.
- Be a confidential point of contact for any issues concerning welfare within the Sports Club environment, e.g. poor practice, selection policy concerns, training/competition pressures from captains, coaches or other members, potential/alleged bullying or harassment.
- Ensure that all incidents are reported correctly and referred, in accordance with the Club Welfare Policy and, where appropriate, Disciplinary Policy.
- Keep up to date with referral routes available to students within the University, College and local area and signpost members accordingly.
- Act independently and in the best interests of members of the club, putting their needs above that of others and the club itself.
- Be in attendance at Club Committee Meetings to advise on welfare matters. • Ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a 'need to know' basis and that information is only shared on a genuine 'need to know' basis;

Please note that it is **NOT** the role of the Club Welfare Officers to provide individual counselling support to club members. The Colleges work in close partnership with the University to provide the very best pastoral and welfare support to students and, as part of that partnership, individuals such as College Tutors and Senior Tutors have formal welfare roles and responsibilities and, as such, are better placed to provide guidance and support to students on non-sport specific welfare matters.

The University Counselling Service can provide individual counselling support for students in a range of areas, including anxiety, depression, academic related issues and relationships. In addition, Mental Health Advisors, working in the Counselling Service, can provide support and guidance to students who are in crisis or who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties. There are also a range of self-help guides, resources and information for students available on the University Counselling Service website at:

<https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk/>

## **Club Policies and Procedures**

The Cambridge University Athletics Club recognises the importance of having clear policies and procedures in place to support student welfare. Club Members should ensure that they read and adhere to the following policies and procedures.

### **Policies**

Support and guidance for students will be provided by the welfare officer, who will be available to contact directly, either in person or through e-mail.

- Were it necessary, the welfare officer will be able to direct each student towards the appropriate support resource, were it to be through college, university services, the National Health System or various emergency care systems.
- Vigilance is key to the timely identification of welfare problems. Despite relying primarily on being contacted, the welfare officer will reach out to all members of the club, such that help is made readily available. His/her e-mail address will be circulated at least termly, and he/she will often engage with athletes.
- Information on the importance of adequate nutrition, recovery and mental well being will be regularly publicised through e-mails and at club meetings.
- The Welfare Officer has a duty of confidentiality. Only with explicit consent of the individual will content be shared.
- The welfare officer will undertake a workshop organised by the University sports service and lead by the Student's Union Advice Service at the start of every academic year to ensure appropriate training. • The welfare policy will be reviewed at least annually.

The Sports Service has a number of staff available to support Clubs in setting up a positive welfare culture supported by clear policies and procedures. The Sports Service Welfare Officers are also available to students if they feel unable to speak to their Club Welfare Officer or College Tutor regarding sports related matters.