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1. 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 run or otherwise be involved in the club, whether this is as a participant, coach, leader, official, volunteer or member of staff.

Abbey Runners embraces diversity and difference and aims to provide 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, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, 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 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.

2. 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 event organisers by the provision of appropriate guidance and training. To guide and support the integration of inclusive practice into our core club activities.
- To provide a friendly, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere around club activities for all participants, irrespective of whether they have a protected characteristic or are from an under-represented group.
- To promote inclusion wherever possible and in accordance with the provisions of the Equality Act.
- To adopt inclusive practice when planning events.
- As appropriate, to promote working partnerships with relevant groups and organisations to support the development of inclusive practice within our club.

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3. Commitment

We will;

- Not tolerate discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- Identify and reduce where practicable barriers to participation for under-represented groups.
- As appropriate, consult with expert partners and other organisations to facilitate inclusive practices and remove barriers to participation.
- Ensure under-represented groups are given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of our club.
- Where feasible, 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 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 the opportunity for appropriate guidance and training.

- **We will talk to people**

We will, so far as is reasonably practicable, 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 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.

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Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Document revision history

Rev.	Date	Description of Change	Reviewer	Approver
01	12/1/23	New Document Created	A Ellis	J Salih