



LONGFORD ATHLETICS CLUB

Disciplinary Action and Appeals Policy

Longford AC will ensure that it has adequate disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in place.

The investigation of suspected child abuse is the responsibility of the Statutory Authorities and should not be undertaken by Club Children's Officers/ Designated Liaison Person's or other organisation/club Sports Leaders. The standard reporting procedure outlined in the Statutory Authorities guidelines will be followed by Longford AC and adhered to by its members.

Longford AC will convene a Disciplinary and an Appeals committee as required to address issues that are governed by this policy. These Disciplinary and Appeals committees will consist of members as prescribed in the document below.

Longford AC have a code of conduct reflecting a child centred ethos. This is drawn-up, widely disseminated and applied to all Sports Leaders and members.

Longford AC, on receiving a complaint, will appoint a disciplinary committee to resolve problems relating to the conduct of its members. This includes bullying.

The complaint must be in writing to the secretary or Club Children's Officer and should be responded to within 5 working days.

- The committee should consist of a representative from the Management Committee, the Club Children's Officer and ordinary registered members of the club.
- If the complaint involves suspected abuse or a criminal offence the children's officer/designated person will be consulted and the disciplinary committee disbanded. The statutory authorities will then be informed.
- The disciplinary committee should review any relevant paper work and hold any necessary meetings with all parties to proceed with complaints into any incident of suspected misconduct that does not relate to child abuse. It should, as soon as possible, inform the Management Committee of the progress of the disciplinary process. This should be done within 10 working days.

- The disciplinary committee should furnish the individual with the nature of the complaint being made against him/her and afford him/her the opportunity of providing a response either verbally or in writing, but usually at a meeting with the disciplinary committee.
- Written confidential records of all complaints will be safely and confidentially kept. These records will be handed over to the incoming officers in the event of the election of new officers.
- Where it is established that an incident of misconduct has taken place, the disciplinary committee should notify the member of any sanction being imposed. The notification should be made in writing, setting out the reasons for the sanction. If the member is under 18 years of age, correspondence should be addressed to the parents/ carers.
- If the member against whom the complaint was made is unhappy with the decision of the disciplinary committee s/he has the right to appeal the decision to an appeals committee (independent of a disciplinary committee). Any appeal should be made in writing within an agreed period after issue, usually 10 days of the decision of the disciplinary committee. The chairperson of the appeals committee should be a member of the Management Committee. The appeals committee should consult with the Club Children's Officer in relation to issues of child welfare and codes of conduct.
- The appeals committee have the power to confirm, set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee.
- If any party is not satisfied with the outcome the matter can be referred to the Governing Body.

Note: efforts to resolve the issue at local level should be exhausted before the National Governing Body is engaged in attempts to resolve the matter.