Rochdale Harriers & A.C.

Juniors' Behaviour and Attendance Policy

Any capitalised terms used in this document which are defined in the Club's constitution shall have the same meaning as in the Club's constitution.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity on the standards of behaviour expected from our junior Members and describe how Junior places at training may be suspended or removed as a result of bad behaviour or persistent, unexplained absences.

The England Athletics Code of Conduct

The Club expects all junior Members to comply with the England Athletics Code of Conduct: Children and Young People (under 18 years) ("the Code of Conduct"). This is available on the England Athletics Website.

Behaviour & Attendance

The Club has only a limited number of places available for training junior Members. Demand for these places significantly exceeds availability. If a junior Member has a poor attendance rate, their absence may may be depriving a more committed youngster of a valuable place. Planning training sessions is more complicated when the numbers attending fluctuates significantly from week-to-week. Also, where a junior Member behaves badly at training, their presence can be disruptive, demotivating and deprive a more committed youngster of a valuable place at training.

We understand that junior Members and their families have busy lives and other commitments. Issues may crop up, sometimes at the last minute. To help us with our session planning, we would be grateful if parents/guardians would inform the Head Coach (currently Nick Barton) as soon as possible if a junior Member is unable to attend a training session.

With these factors in mind, the policy on Juniors' attendance and behaviour includes the following:

A junior Member's place at training will be removed and offered to another junior on our waiting list if any of the circumstances (a), (b) and (c) arise:

(a) the junior Member misses more than 4 training sessions in any 8 week period without letting the Head Coach know in advance and/or without providing a reasonable explanation for their absence;

(b) the junior Member gives the impression that they are not interested in the training or that they would rather not be there;

(c) the junior Member is disruptive, rude, racist, bullies, uses bad language, belittles other junior Members, is preoccupied with an electronic device, is persistently late, is disrespectful or misbehaves in any other way.

Generally the junior's Membership of the Club (and England Athletics where relevant) will not be affected by the above. They will be placed on the juniors waiting list until such time as a place becomes available and the Head Coach decides that they are ready to return to training. If the Head Coach decides that a junior Member's behaviour warrants it, he may use the Club's Disciplinary and Appeals procedure to take action, which may include termination of membership. In any case, there will be no refund of any fees paid to the Club.

This policy was approved by the Committee on 8th June, 2026.