SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This club seeks to promote quality safe sport that will help athletes to become self-directed. This outcome cannot be achieved when abuse occurs. Athletes, coaches, parents and anyone who is affiliated or is a guest at THIS CLUB has a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of abuse.

Specifically, they have a responsibility to:

- Promote positive relationships that respect and accept individual differences and diversity within the whole club community
- Support and promote the development of the Safeguarding Policy
- Actively work together to resolve incidents of bad or inappropriate behaviour when it occurs.

ANY PERSON affiliated with our Federation can expect to:



- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Know that their concerns will be taken seriously and handled in a sensitive manner
- Be provided with appropriate support (for both the victim and the accused, including independent and impartial investigation if necessary)
- Understand that severe cases of abuse can result in suspension or even expulsion from the club and / or federation.

ANY PERSON affiliated with our Federation has the responsibility to:



- Treat other athletes,coaches and all involved in our club with dignity and respect
- Behave appropriately and respect individual differences
- Refuse to abuse and challenge inappropriate behaviour
- Refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being abused or treated inappropriately
- Report any abusive behaviour directed at self or others to the DSO
- Help break down the code of secrecy.

Staff and Volunteers have a responsibility to:



- Model appropriate behaviour in word and action
- Identify signs of abuse and reporting it to the DSO to prevent repeat offences
- Respond quickly and sensitively to abusive reports and report all abusive incidents to the DSO
- Assign consequences for abusive or inappropriate behavior in consultation with the DSO.

Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to:



- Explore their children’s concerns
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse for example, sport or training avoidance, persistent headaches, stomach aches, damaged clothes, bruises, sleep disturbance, etc.
- Contact the club promptly if any abusive behavior is suspected
- Be willing to attend interviews at the club, when appropriate.

The Club has a responsibility to:



- Take seriously, parent concerns about any form of abuse
- Provide students with strategies to respond positively to incidents of abusive behaviour, including the responsibilities of bystanders or observers
- Provide parents, caregivers and young or child athletes with strategies that promote appropriate behaviour, and information on the consequences of abuse
- Communicate to parents and caregivers that they have an important role to play in resolving incidents of abusive behaviour involving their children
- Follow up with appropriate action and document complaints of abuse, harassment, and / or intimidation.
- Ensure ongoing strategies to prevent a behavior
- Ensure that all staff are aware of our Anti-Bullying stance

THE GUARDIAN SPORT
ANONYMOUS REPORTING / INVESTIGATION / TRAINING / CLEARANCES
#SaferTogether

Safeguarding Officer:
MICHELLE VINCENT

Contact Number:
073 265 7546

Email Address:
michelle@downgroup.co.za