

The Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon (SLMM)

Children's Safeguarding Policy

Approved by Stephen Ross and Roger Smith on 17/04/2023

Updated JFW 07/05/2025 Updated JFW 27/06/2026

The Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon (SLMM) abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

We recognise that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work that we do and in all of the decisions that we take. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We recognise that as a competitive sport, there are additional pressures present that could potentially result in bullying.

Purpose:

SLMM will protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who take part in our activities from harm.

This policy covers children over the age of 14, and under 18, who take part in the SLMM . These children will always be accompanied by either their parent or legal guardian and for the purposes of this event will not be divided into age sub-categories due to the physical demands and nature of the sporting event. Under normal circumstances throughout the race, they would run and camp with their parent or legal guardian. Parents and guardians sign a responsibility agreement as part of the registration process.

We will ensure that staff and volunteers are fully aware of the principles that guide our approach to child protection and training will be provided for relevant staff. All activities will be risk assessed to incorporate the necessary safeguarding principles.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the SLMM including volunteer staff and contract workers. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Definitions:

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Adult at Risk:

- An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- Is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Child and Adult Abuse: Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives.

There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

And due to the nature of the sport;

- Competitive Bullying

Safeguarding children: Safeguarding children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Legal Framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

The SLMM will, at all times, have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults. At all our events, staff will implement measures to ensure safeguarding.

Outline of the event

The Saunders Mountain Marathon takes place from a base and competitors race to a remote overnight camp on the Saturday and then back to the base on the Sunday. Runners are self-sufficient in that they must carry sufficient equipment to be self-reliant (within their running pairs) whilst running and at the over-night camp. Kit checks are performed against a published list and a disclaimer is signed as part of registration.

There is no formal spectating at a mountain marathon, but this policy covers any possible interaction with the public enroute or at the base or overnight camp.

Training and Awareness:

The SLMM will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its volunteers. Safeguarding officers will undergo appropriate training and event-specific information will be distributed to all other staff and volunteers. It will be the role of the safeguarding officers to manage safeguarding at events.

Volunteer training will (as a minimum) include the following aspects:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
- Recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

It is the role of the safeguarding officers at all SLMM events to manage the safeguarding procedures. They will be responsible for the distribution of information and all other staff and volunteers. Each event or activity will be individually risk assessed, which will help to form the basis of the information to be distributed. The safeguarding officers will be the point of contact on the day and all staff / volunteers should report any concerns directly to them.

It is the role of the safeguarding officers at all SLMM events to manage the safeguarding procedures. They will be responsible for the distribution of information to, and for the behaviour of, all other staff and volunteers. Each event or activity will be individually risk assessed, which will help to form the basis of the information to be distributed. The safeguarding officers will be the point of contact on the day and all staff / volunteers should report any concerns directly to them.

All safeguarding courses attended are designed specifically for sporting events by the NSPCC and UK Athletics.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

SLMM expects all volunteers to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection. SLMM hold no data. All data are stored and handled by SIEntries. However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.**

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made (see incident report at end of risk assessment).

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Safe Recruitment & Selection:

SLMM is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them. All staff working directly with children, must have completed relevant CRB process and must also have the relevant experience and qualifications for the activities they are leading. All activities are subject to risk assessment.

Social Media:

All volunteers should be aware of the SLMM social media policy and procedures. Under no circumstances should images, data or information be shared on social media without explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities. A disclaimer is signed at registration and forms part of the photographic consent policy.

Whistleblowing:

It is important that both staff and volunteers at SLMM have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing within their

organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or volunteer. There is a requirement by SLMM to protect whistleblowers.

Important Contacts:

Lead for Safeguarding

Name: Julie Ferris (Planner SLMM 2026)

Qualifications: Data protection and GDPR for staff
British Orienteering: Introduction to Safeguarding and Protection
NSPCC Safeguarding Training: Safer Sports Events Training
DB - enhanced

Safeguarding team

Name: Roger Smith (Director SLMM)

Qualifications: NSPCC Safeguarding Training: Safer Sports Events Training
DB - basic

Name: Helen Wilson

Qualifications: NSPCC Safeguarding Training: Child protection in Sport and Physical
Activity Training
DB – enhanced

Name: Iain Fraser

Qualifications: NSPCC Safeguarding training: Safer Sports Events Training
DB basic