



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ULTRARUNNERS

IAU Safeguarding Policy

Aligned with World Athletics Standards and Guidance

Aims and Objectives

The International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) is devoted to protecting all members of the ultrarunning community, promoting ultradistance running competitions, and fostering a culture of safety, respect, and inclusivity in every event and activity. The aims and objectives of this safeguarding policy are:

- To uphold the highest standards of safeguarding as established by World Athletics and ensure their consistent implementation across all ultrarunning activities.
- To protect children, young people, and adults at risk from all forms of harm, abuse, and exploitation within the sport.
- To provide clear procedures for reporting, investigating, and responding to safeguarding concerns promptly, appropriately, and confidentially.
- To empower national federations, athletes, coaches, and officials with training, resources, and guidance to recognise and act upon safeguarding issues.
- To maintain an environment where everyone, regardless of background or identity, feels safe, valued, and supported.
- To actively promote ultradistance running competitions that are safe, accessible, and inclusive for all participants.
- To continually review and improve safeguarding measures in response to changing best practices, feedback, and regulatory developments.

Purpose and Commitment

The IAU is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of safeguarding, guided by the World Athletics Safeguarding Policy, World Athletics principles, and its specific advice to member federations. Our objective is to foster a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all participants, with special attention to children and adults at risk, throughout the global ultrarunning community, while promoting the positive values and growth of ultradistance running competitions.

World Athletics Principles and Code of Conduct

The IAU affirms its commitment to the core principles and code of conduct of World Athletics, which underpin this safeguarding policy:



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- **Integrity:** All participants shall act honestly and ethically, prioritising the welfare of others and the reputation of the sport.
- **Respect:** Respect for all individuals, regardless of background, ability, or identity, is paramount. Discrimination, harassment, or abuse is not tolerated.
- **Fairness:** Ensure equal treatment, opportunities, and access for all ultrarunners and stakeholders.
- **Responsibility:** Take personal and collective responsibility for safeguarding, reporting concerns, and supporting those affected.
- **Transparency:** Maintain openness in procedures, decision-making, and communication related to safeguarding matters.
- **Collaboration:** Work actively with federations, athletes, coaches, and officials to promote safe and ethical ultradistance running environments.

World Athletics requires all organisations, officials, and participants to adhere to a comprehensive code of conduct, including:

- Treating everyone with dignity and courtesy; avoiding any behaviour that causes harm, distress, or discomfort.
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns or breaches of the code of conduct promptly and responsibly.
- Maintaining confidentiality and respecting the privacy of individuals involved in safeguarding incidents.
- Participating in training and awareness initiatives related to safeguarding and ethical conduct.
- Supporting an environment where ultradistance running is promoted in a safe, fair, and inclusive manner.

Scope

This policy extends to all IAU members, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff, as well as anyone involved in or representing the IAU at events, competitions, or activities. It encompasses every form of harm, including physical, emotional, sexual, psychological abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Guiding Principles

- The well-being and rights of children and adults at risk are paramount at all times.
- All participants are entitled to protection from harm, regardless of race, gender, ability, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation.
- Any safeguarding concern will be addressed in a timely, confidential manner, following legal obligations and World Athletics protocols.



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- There is zero tolerance for any abuse, bullying, or harassment within IAU activities.
- Promotion of ultradistance running competitions should always be accompanied by appropriate safeguarding measures.

Responsibilities

IAU officials, event organisers, coaches, and volunteers are required to know and comply with this policy and uphold its standards. In accordance with World Athletics guidance, federations must ensure robust safeguarding procedures, including designating safeguarding roles, conducting risk assessments, and providing ongoing training for all personnel. Additionally, all ultradistance running competitions promoted by the IAU must integrate these safeguarding standards to guarantee participant well-being.

Procedures for Reporting and Managing Safeguarding Concerns

1. Safeguarding concerns should be reported immediately to the appointed IAU Safeguarding Officer or event safeguarding contact.
2. The Safeguarding Officer will respond to the concern in line with World Athletics procedures, ensuring confidentiality and thorough documentation.
3. When required, concerns will be escalated to external authorities, such as law enforcement or child protection agencies, as advised by World Athletics guidance.
4. Support and safeguarding provisions will be made for individuals affected by any incident.

Training, Awareness, and Support for Federations

The IAU will offer regular safeguarding training that meets World Athletics standards and incorporates guidance for federations. All stakeholders will be equipped to recognise and respond effectively to safeguarding issues. Educational materials, codes of conduct, and best practice policies will be distributed and made accessible to federations, athletes, and officials. Promotion of ultradistance running competitions will be accompanied by awareness campaigns on safety and inclusivity.

Monitoring, Review, and Federation Support

This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect legislative changes and updated World Athletics guidance to federations. The IAU encourages federations to provide feedback and collaborate in developing enhanced safeguarding measures, especially as they pertain to ultradistance running competitions.

Contact Information

To report concerns or for further information, please contact the IAU Safeguarding Officer at safeguarding@iau-ultramarathon.org or follow the reporting procedures outlined by World Athletics and your national federation.



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Glossary of Terms

- **Safeguarding:** Actions, policies, and procedures to protect individuals from harm, abuse, or exploitation, especially children and adults at risk.
- **World Athletics:** The international governing body for the sport of athletics, setting standards for safeguarding and providing guidance to federations.
- **Federation:** A national or regional athletics governing body affiliated to World Athletics or the IAU.
- **Child:** Any person under the age defined by national law, commonly under 18 years of age.
- **Adult at risk:** Any person aged 18 or over who may be vulnerable to harm, abuse, or exploitation due to their circumstances (including disability, age, or social situation).
- **Abuse:** Any action that causes physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual harm to another individual.
- **Bullying:** Intentional, repeated actions that cause distress, intimidation, or humiliation to another individual.
- **Harassment:** Unwanted behaviour that offends, intimidates, or threatens another individual, including discriminatory or sexual harassment.
- **Reporting procedures:** Steps and processes for notifying designated officers or authorities about safeguarding concerns.
- **Safeguarding Officer:** An individual designated by the IAU or federation to handle safeguarding concerns and oversee the policy implementation.
- **Risk assessment:** The process of identifying, analysing, and mitigating potential risks to safety and wellbeing in the context of ultrarunning activities.
- **Ultradistance running competition:** Organised running events that exceed the traditional marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres, promoted by the IAU and governed by strict safety and inclusivity standards.

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