

Athletics Ireland
19 Northwood Court
Santry
Dublin 9

Dear Ms. Smith T.D.,

Please find herewith the response from Athletics Ireland to the invitation to submit written evidence on the elimination of abuse directed towards referees, officials, and players in sport.

1. Athletics Ireland is the National Governing Body for Athletics in Ireland. Athletics Ireland's Head Office is based at Northwood Court, Northwood Business Campus, Santry, Dublin 9. Athletics Ireland is a company limited by guarantee with approximately 35 employees and approximately 2,500 volunteers across 350 clubs with a total membership of 56,000. For further information, please see our website at www.athleticsireland.ie
2. The frequency of abuse of sports leaders fulfilling their duty at track and field competitions is low in athletics. When it does occur, it tends to come from overzealous parents or spectators. Whenever incidents occur, they are dealt with locally by the club and referred to the National Complaints and Disciplinary Officer for Athletics Ireland.
3. The organisation manages any complaints or disciplinary issues through its robust process as linked here: <https://www.athleticsireland.ie/juvenile/child-welfare/complaints-and-disciplinary-process/>
4. This process follows the principles of fairness and natural justice in all cases that come before it. It sets out how athletic clubs should implement and manage complaints and disciplinary cases and when such cases should be escalated to the National Complaints and Disciplinary Officer.
5. Athletics Ireland delivers mandatory code of ethics training and child safeguarding training to all sports leaders in their clubs. This includes codes of conduct briefing on what is acceptable behaviour for parents, spectators, sports leaders, and children.

These codes set out the behaviour expected of each group and how they should conduct themselves when attending training sessions and competitions.

6. Anti-racism campaigns are conducted regularly via print and social media. Athletics Ireland has produced a video supporting these awareness campaigns. It can be viewed at the following link.

<https://vimeo.com/oneproductionsreview/review/649922558/e990a1df06>

7. Overall behaviour is good amongst those involved in the sport of Athletics. Issues are dealt with at a local level in the first instances and our complaints and disciplinary process invoked where required.

Yours Sincerely

Kieron Stout

National Children's Officer

Athletics Ireland