

SHA Equality Policy

Incorporating our approach and commitment to promoting and ensuring Diversity, Inclusion and Equality across our sport (supersedes former Equality Policy)

Version: 0.4

Adopted on: 2019.03.26

Last reviewed on: 2021.01.27

Next review date: 2022.01.27

Foreword

The Scottish Handball Association welcomes everyone to be part of their organisation regardless of their personal background and will promote an environment that is equitable and will not tolerate discrimination. It will endeavour to ensure that all individual members and clubs in membership of the governing body have commitment to a culture of Sporting Equality that promotes these values in their organisation.

Signed
Iain McKinven
Chair

Policy Statement

The Scottish Handball Association endorses the principle of Sporting Equality and will strive to ensure that everyone who wishes to be involved in Handball, whether as participants, team members, volunteers, coaches, office-bearers in clubs or those within the Scottish Handball Association:

- has a genuine and equal opportunity to participate to the full extent of their own ambitions and abilities, without regard to their age, sex, gender identity, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation; and
- can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to enjoy their sport without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment or abuse.

Legal obligations

The Scottish Handball Association is committed to avoid and eliminate unfair discrimination of any kind in Handball and will under no circumstances condone unlawful discriminatory practices. The organisation takes a zero-tolerance approach to harassment. Examples of the relevant legislation and the behaviours in question are given in the Appendix.

Positive action

The principle of Sporting Equality goes further than simply complying with legislation. It entails taking positive steps to counteract the effects of physical or cultural barriers – whether real or perceived – that restrict the opportunity for all sections of the community to participate equally and fully.

The Scottish Handball Association will therefore seek to institute, support or contribute to appropriate measures or initiatives that enable access to Handball and participation in associated activities by people from any group that is under-represented in the sport or has difficulty accessing it.

Implementation

The following steps will be taken to publicise this policy and promote Sporting Equality in Handball:

- A copy of this document will be published on the Scottish Handball Association Website.
- The Scottish Handball Association Chair will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the policy is observed.
- The Board will take full account of the policy in arriving at all decisions in relation to activities of the Scottish Handball Association
- The Scottish Handball Association will collaborate fully with any surveys or other initiatives designed to assess the level of participation of different sections of the community in Handball and will take account of the findings in developing measures to promote and enhance Sporting Equality in Handball.
- The Scottish Handball Association will provide access to training for all of its Executive Committee Members to raise awareness of both collective and individual responsibilities. All Scottish Handball Association National coaches will be trained in accordance with the Equality Policy.
- It will be a condition of Scottish Handball Association membership that member clubs:
 - formally adopt this policy, or produce their own Equality Policy in terms that are consistent with it; and
 - take steps to ensure that their Committees, members, and volunteers are trained and behave in accordance with the Equality Policy, including where appropriate taking disciplinary action under the Club's constitution; and
 - ensure that access to membership is open and inclusive
 - support such measures and initiatives that Scottish Handball Association may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy.
- It will be a condition of Scottish Handball Association membership that members
 - commit to act in accordance with this policy; and
 - support such measures and initiatives that Scottish Handball Association may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy.

Responsibility, Monitoring and Evaluation

The board will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy.

The board will review all Scottish Handball Association activities and initiatives against the aims of the policy on an annual basis, and the Chair will report formally on this issue at the AGM.

The Board will review any measures or initiatives that the Scottish Handball Association may institute or take part in to promote and enhance Sporting Equality in Handball and will report their findings formally to the AGM.

The Board will review the policy itself at intervals of no more than three years, (or when necessary due to changes in legislation) and will report with recommendations to the AGM.

Complaints and compliance

Scottish Handball Association regards all of the forms of discriminatory behaviour, including (but not limited to) behaviour described in the Appendix as unacceptable, and is concerned to ensure that individuals feel able to raise any bona fide grievance or complaint related to such behaviour without fear of being penalised for doing so.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee, member or volunteer who violates the Scottish Handball Equality Policy.

Any person who believes that they have been treated in a way that they consider to be in breach of this policy by a member club, individual member of the Scottish Handball Association, should first complain to that person or club. If this does not resolve the matter, or in the case of allegations of discriminatory behaviour against Scottish Handball Association itself, the person should follow the Complaint procedure on www.scottishhandball.com

The investigation will be conducted impartially, confidentially, and without avoidable delay. Any person or organisation against whom a complaint has been made will be informed of what is alleged and given the opportunity to present their side of the matter. The outcome of the investigation will be notified to the parties in writing and reported to the Scottish Handball Association Board.

If the investigation reveals unacceptable discriminatory behaviour on the part of an individual member or member club the Board may impose sanctions on that person or organisation in line with the Scottish Handball Association Articles of Association or relevant disciplinary policy. Where the violation of the Equality Policy by way of harassment, victimisation or discrimination amount to a criminal offence, the appropriate authority will be informed.

In the event that an individual or organisation associated with Scottish Handball Association is subject to allegations of unlawful discrimination in a court or tribunal, the Scottish Handball Association will cooperate fully with any investigation carried out by the relevant lawful authorities and, subject to the outcome, may consider taking action as above in relation to the matter concerned.

Signed on behalf of Scottish Handball Association Board

Iain McKinven (Chair)

DATE

26/01/2021

APPENDIX – Relevant legislation and forms of unacceptable discrimination

Legal rights

Discrimination has been legally defined through a series of legislative acts, including the Race Relations Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Equality Act 2006.

In April 2010, the Equality Act 2010 received Royal Assent. The Equality Act 2010 is a new law which harmonises where possible, and in some cases extends, protection from discrimination. It applies throughout the UK and came into force in October 2010.

Discrimination refers to unfavourable treatment on the basis of particular characteristics, which are known as the 'protected characteristics.' Under the Equality Act 2010, the protected characteristics are defined as age (employment only until 2012), disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status (employment only), pregnancy and maternity, race (which includes ethnic or national origin, colour, or nationality), religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation.

Under the Equality Act 2010, individuals are protected from discrimination 'on grounds of' a protected characteristic¹. This means that individuals will be protected if they have a characteristic, are assumed to have it, associate with someone who has it or with someone who is assumed to have it.

Forms of discrimination and discriminatory behaviour include the following:

Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination can be described as less favourable treatment on the grounds of one of the protected characteristics.

Indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision, criterion or practice is applied to an individual or group that would put persons of a particular characteristic at a particular disadvantage compared with other persons.

Discrimination arising from disability

When a disabled person is treated unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and this unfavourable treatment cannot be justified, this is unlawful. This type of discrimination only relates to disability.

Harassment

Harassment is defined as unwanted conduct relating to a protected characteristic that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity, or which creates an intimidating or hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person.

¹ The exception to this is pregnancy and maternity, which does not include protection by association or assumption – a woman is only protected from discrimination on grounds of her own pregnancy.

Victimisation

It is unlawful to treat a person less favourably because they have made allegations or brought proceedings under the anti-discrimination legislation, or because they have helped another person to do so. To do so would constitute victimisation.

Bullying

Bullying is defined as a form of personal harassment involving the misuse of power, influence or position to persistently criticise, humiliate or undermine an individual.

