



## **District Sports Whistleblowing Policy**

District Sports is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability. If a member of staff discovers evidence of malpractice or wrongdoing within the organisation they can disclose this information internally without fear of reprisal.

### **Our Whistleblowing policy is intended to cover concerns such as:**

- Financial malpractice or fraud
- Failure to comply with a legal obligation
- Dangers to health and safety or the environment
- Criminal activity
- Improper conduct or unethical behaviour

### **Raising a concern**

Ideally the staff member should put his or her allegations in writing, setting out the background to the situation, giving names, dates and places where possible and the reason why they are concerned about the situation.

In the first instance concerns should be taken to the organisation's director, Tom Pugh. If, due to the nature of the problem, this is not possible, concerns should be raised with the organisation's admin and finance officer, Lucy Adkins.

If this person or body is unwilling or unable to act on the concern, the staff member should then raise it with:

- Ultimately, with the police (if a crime is thought to have been committed). If the member of staff is still uncertain about how to proceed with the concern, he or she can contact the whistle-blowing charity PCAW (Public Concern at Work) for advice.

### **Responding to a concern**

Initial enquiries will usually involve a meeting with the individual raising the concern, and will decide whether an investigation is appropriate and, if so, what form it should take. If a concern relates to issues which fall within the scope of other policies, it will be addressed under those policies. If the initial meeting does not resolve the concern, further investigation is required. The appropriate person will investigate the concerns thoroughly, ensuring that a written response can be provided within ten working days where feasible, or if this is not possible, giving a date by which the final response can be expected. The response should include details of how the matter was investigated, conclusions drawn from the investigation, and who to contact if the member of staff is unhappy with the response and wishes to take the matter further.

Email – admin@districtsportssouth.com

Mobile – 07858 904422

Website – www.districtsportssouth.com



**Rights and responsibilities of the whistle-blower**

All concerns will be treated in confidence and the organisation will make every effort not to reveal the identity of anyone raising a concern in good faith. At the appropriate time, however, the member of staff may need to come forward as a witness.

If a member of staff raises a concern in good faith which is then not confirmed by the investigation, no action will be taken against that person.

If the investigation concludes that the member of staff maliciously fabricated the allegations, disciplinary action may be taken against that person.

This policy was adopted by: District Sports	Date: May 2026
To be reviewed: July 2027	Signed: Tom Pugh

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