



# Welsh Airgun Association

## Cymdeithas Gwnaer Cymru

### Equality Policy

#### 1. Policy Objectives

- 1.1 The Association is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and is responsible for ensuring that no job applicants, employees, consultants, Directors, members, volunteers or participants (referred to in this document as "Stakeholders") are unlawfully discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation (referred to in this document as "Protected Characteristics").
- 1.2 In addition the Association recognises that we live in a diverse society and will endeavour to ensure that all Stakeholders are given the same opportunities regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.
- 1.3 The Association will encourage partner organisations, including member clubs and associations, suppliers, sponsors and customers, to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this Equality Policy.
- 1.4 The Association recognises that, in some cases, to further the principle of equality, an unequal distribution of resources may be required. If appropriate and proportionate, the Association will consider positive action or may introduce special measures to assist any group with a Protected Characteristic which is currently underrepresented within any group of Stakeholders.

#### 2 Purpose of the Policy

- 2.1 The Association recognises that individuals (and/or certain groups in our society who share one or more Protected Characteristics) may not have been able to participate equally and fully in sports related activities or the management and organisation of sport.
- 2.2 This Policy has been produced to try to prevent and address any unlawful discrimination or other unfair treatment, whether intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, against Stakeholders that may preclude them from participating fully in sports related activities or the management and organisation of sport.

#### 3 Legal Requirements

- 3.1 The Association is required by law not to unlawfully discriminate against its Stakeholders and recognises its legal obligations under, and will abide by the requirements of, the Equality Act 2010, and any equivalent legislation (as amended) in any UK jurisdiction, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man and any later amendments to such legislation or subsequent equality related legislation that may be relevant to The Association.
- 3.2 The Association will seek advice each time this Policy is reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect the current legal framework and good practice.

## 4 Discrimination, harassment, bullying and victimisation

The Association recognises the following as being unacceptable:

- 4.1 *Unlawful discrimination* which can take the following forms:
  - 4.1.1 **Direct Discrimination:** treating someone less favourably than you would treat others because of a Protected Characteristic.
  - 4.1.2 **Indirect Discrimination:** applying a provision, criterion or practice which, on the face of it, applies equally to all but which, in practice can disadvantage individuals with a particular Protected Characteristic. Such requirements or conditions are lawful only if they can be objectively justified.
- 4.2 **Harassment:** engaging in unwanted conduct relating to a relevant Protected Characteristic or unwanted conduct of a sexual nature where the conduct has the purpose or effect of violating the recipient's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the recipient, or any other individual affected by such conduct. The Association is committed to ensuring that its Stakeholders are able to conduct their activities free from harassment.
- 4.3 **Bullying:** the misuse of power or position to criticise persistently or to humiliate and undermine an individual's confidence.
- 4.4 **Victimisation:** subjecting someone to a detriment because he or she has in good faith taken action under the Equality Act 2010 (or equivalent legislation) by bringing proceedings, giving evidence or information in relation to proceedings, making an allegation that a person has contravened the Equality Act 2010 (or equivalent legislation) or doing any other thing for the purpose of or in connection with the Equality Act 2010 (or any equivalent legislation).
- 4.5 The Association regards discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation, as described above, as serious misconduct. All complaints will be taken seriously and appropriate measures including disciplinary action may be brought against any Stakeholder who unlawfully discriminates against, harasses, bullies or victimises any other person.

## 5 Reasonable Adjustments

- 5.1 When any decision is made about an individual, the only personal characteristics that may be taken into account are those that are consistent with any relevant legislation and are relevant to the substance of the decision being made.
- 5.2 The Association recognises that it has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled persons. The Association will consider all requests for adjustments and where possible will accommodate reasonable requests and will work with disabled Stakeholders to implement any adjustments that will enable them to participate more fully in sports related activities or in the management and organisation of sport.

## 6 Transgender Athletes

Target shooting is considered to be a gender affected sport under the Equality Act 2010. See The Association Gender Reassignment Policy (WAA-052).

## 7 Responsibility, implementation and communication

7.1 The following responsibilities will apply:

- 7.1.1 The Board of The Association is responsible for ensuring that this Equality Policy is implemented, followed, and reviewed when appropriate. The Association Board is also responsible for ensuring that this Equality Policy is enforced and any breaches are dealt with appropriately.
- 7.1.2 The Association will ensure that equality is included as an agenda item at Board meetings when appropriate and that the Board takes equality issues into consideration when making decisions.
- 7.1.3 The Chairman has the overall responsibility for the implementation of this Equality Policy.
- 7.1.4 A member of staff may be designated as the Equality Officer by the Chairman, and will have the overall day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of this Equality Policy and for achieving any equality related actions resulting from it. The Equality Officer's work programme will be amended to reflect this. If required, an internal and/or external equality group will be created to provide additional support.
- 7.1.5 All Stakeholders have the responsibility to respect, follow and promote the spirit and intentions of this Equality Policy Individual work programmes for The Association staff will be amended to include equality related tasks where appropriate

7.2 This Equality Policy will be implemented immediately following Board approval.

Implementation requires the following actions:

- 7.2.1 No applicant for any post (including job applicants, consultant advisers and suppliers) will be placed at a disadvantage by requirements or conditions which are not necessary to the performance of the job or which constitute unlawful discrimination.
- 7.2.2 Directors and consultants (including contractors, advisers and, where appropriate, suppliers) to the Association will be required to abide by this Equality Policy and it will be referred to in any agreements or contracts issued by the Association which will be regularly reviewed by the Association.
- 7.2.3 All volunteers will be required to abide by this Equality Policy. This includes the Association volunteers, individual members, clubs and other affiliated organisations. The policy will be referred to in documentation relating to these which will be regularly reviewed by the Association
- 7.2.4 Participants will be required to abide by this Equality Policy. It will be referred to in documentation relating to participation which will be regularly reviewed by the Association.

7.3 This Equality Policy will be communicated in the following ways:

- 7.3.1 The Policy will be highlighted in all employee and volunteer inductions;
- 7.3.2 A copy of this Equality Policy will be publicly available for participants and all Stakeholders on request to the Secretary.
- 7.3.3 This Policy will be reviewed to maintain alignment with the Welsh Target Shooting Federation's Policy. Following consultation, a notice of the changes being made will be publicly available and a direct communication will be sent to all those who contributed to the consultation process (subject to Data Protection provisions).

## 8 Monitoring and Evaluation

This Equality Policy will remain in force until it is amended, replaced or withdrawn. The Association Equality Policy is written to reflect the Welsh Target Shooting Federation's Policy within the functions of the Association.

## 9 Complaints Procedures

- 9.1 To safeguard individual rights under this Equality Policy, any Stakeholder who believes they have suffered inequitable treatment within the scope of this Equality Policy may raise the matter in the first instance through the Chairman of the association.
- 9.2 Appropriate disciplinary action may be taken against any the Association Stakeholder who violates this Equality Policy under the relevant the Association disciplinary procedures.
- 9.3 An individual raising a grievance or complaint will not be penalised for doing so unless it is untrue and not made in good faith.
- 9.4 As with all grievances, complaints and disciplinary procedures, there will be the right of appeal as set out in the relevant procedure

### Review date

This policy will be reviewed no later than April 2025, or sooner, in the event of legislative changes or revised policies and best practice.