



Equality and Diversity Policy

Approved: October 2016

Review: October 2019

1. Introduction

Wales Weightlifting Federation LTD is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and is responsible for ensuring that no job applicant, employee or volunteer receives unlawful less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, colour, disability, ethnic minority, parental or marital status, nationality, religious belief, social status and sexual preference. WW will ensure that there will be open access to all those who wish to participate in the sport and that they are treated fairly.

2. Scope

WW are required by law not to discriminate against our employees and to recognise our legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010. For the purpose of this policy we will refer to the following terms and definitions:

- **Equality** is about equal treatment. It aims to ensure that everyone gets the same opportunities and treatment.
- **Diversity** aims to recognise, respect and value people's differences. It is about valuing everyone as an individual.
- **Equal Opportunities** is about the law and how it is applied in addressing barriers which individuals might face in accessing training, employment and access to services. The law only intervenes when it is clear that legislation is the only way to deal with discriminatory acts.

3. Types of discrimination

- **Direct Discrimination** - this means treating someone less favourably than you would treat others in the same circumstances on certain prohibited grounds. This also includes discrimination based on *perception* of the person or relating to their *association* with a person on the grounds of the protected characteristics.
- **Indirect Discrimination** - this occurs when, although a practice, rule or requirement condition is applied equally to all, it has a disproportionate and detrimental effect on one particular group because fewer members of that group can comply with it. This type of discrimination is unlawful where it cannot be objectively justified i.e. it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- **Harassment** - refers to unwanted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.
- **Victimisation** - this occurs when someone is treated less favourably than others because he or she has raised a claim of discrimination or harassment against WW in the past.

4. Positive Action

WW may take positive action or introduce special measures for any group which is currently under-represented in any aspect of the work done by WW. Positive action is not the same as positive discrimination, which can be regarded as preferential treatment of member of a minority group and is not permitted by law.

5. Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 refers to 9 Protected Characteristics:

- **Age** - discrimination because of their actual or perceived age. For example, a requirement for job applicants to have worked in a particular industry for ten years may disadvantage younger people.
- **Disability** - Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is classified as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. WW are also obliged to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a worker with a disability, including adjustments to working arrangements or physical changes to the premises or equipment.
- **Gender** - discrimination because of their actual or perceived sex. For example, a requirement that job applicants must be six feet tall could be met by significantly fewer women than men. In very limited circumstances, there are some jobs which can require that the job-holder is a man or a woman. This is known as an 'occupational requirement'.
- **Gender Reassignment** - discrimination based on gender re-assignment, whether actual or perceived. This may include implementing a procedure that forces individuals to disclose that they have undergone gender reassignment.
- **Pregnancy and Maternity** - Discrimination as a result of being pregnant or taking maternity or adoptive leave.
- **Race/Ethnicity** - Discrimination on grounds of race, colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origins. For example, requiring all job applicants to have GCSE Maths and English: people educated in countries which don't have GCSEs would be discriminated against if equivalent qualifications were not accepted.
- **Religion, Belief and Culture** - Discrimination because of any religion, religious or philosophical belief, or lack of belief. Whilst WW are not obliged to give employee's time off or facilities for religious observance, but will try to accommodate this whenever possible.
- **Sexual Orientation** - Discrimination because of actual or perceived sexual orientation, including lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals, as well as discrimination against heterosexual people. WW will ensure that all conditions of service, benefits and opportunities are open to all regardless of their sexual orientation.
- **Marriage and Civil Partnerships** - Same-sex couples who register as civil partners have the right to equal treatment with married couples.

We are committed to addressing discrimination against, and to promoting the inclusion of people regardless of these protected characteristics, within WW and its activities. This will be achieved by identifying and removing barriers and making reasonable adjustments where required.

6. Implementation

WW undertakes to do the following:

- a copy of this document will be available to all staff, members and volunteers of WW;
- all employees, members and volunteers have responsibilities to respect, act in accordance with and thereby support and promote the spirit and intentions of this policy;
- we will take measures to ensure that WW's employment practices are non-discriminatory;
- no job applicant will be placed at a disadvantage by requirements or conditions which are not necessary to the performance of the job or which constitute unfair discrimination;
- a planned approach will be adopted to eliminate barriers which discriminate against particular groups; and
- We will ensure that consultants and advisers used by WW can demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity.

7. Complaints

WW's policy on ***Anti-Bullying, Harassment, Victimisation and Discrimination*** * provides a detailed guide to the process of raising concerns or making a complaint of bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination. Concerns can be raised whether you are personally affected by the unwanted actions or as a third party witnessing bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination.

8. Monitoring

WW will regularly monitor and evaluate the policy, practices, procedures and operations on an ongoing basis, and will inform employees and members of the impact of this equality and diversity policy.

9. Responsibilities

The Board will have overall responsibility for the implementation of this equality policy. All employees must also take personal responsibility for translating this commitment into action throughout the organisation.