

# **TADCASTER HARRIERS**

## **CLUB EVENT PARTICIPATION & VOLUNTEERING GUIDELINES**

### **Running Club Event Participation & Volunteering Guidelines**

#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the club-organised races, Tadcaster 10 and Tadcaster's York & District Road League race, are safely and successfully delivered through the collective support of club members. As a volunteer-led organisation, the club depends on member involvement to stage events for the benefit of the clubs reputation, finances and the wider running community.

#### **2. General Principle**

All club-organised races are delivered by volunteers. In the first instance, club members are expected to support the delivery of club races by volunteering rather than participating as runners.

Members are encouraged to view volunteering at club events as a core part of club membership and contribution.

#### **3. Member Volunteering Expectation**

For each club-organised race:

- An initial call for volunteers will be circulated to all members.
- Members are expected to prioritise volunteering over entering the race.
- Volunteer roles may include (but are not limited to): course marshals, registration support, baggage management, water stations, start/finish support, timekeeping assistance, and course set-up/take-down.

#### **4. Members Wishing to Race**

If a member wishes to enter and run in the Tadcaster 10 or Tadcaster Harriers York & District Road Race League race:

- They must arrange for a suitable volunteer to take their place.
- The substitute volunteer must:
  - Be over 18 (unless otherwise agreed by the Committee),
  - Be physically capable of carrying out the assigned role,
  - Comply with all event safety and briefing requirements.
- The member must notify the Event Director or Committee in advance with the volunteer's details.

Entry may be declined if sufficient volunteer support is not secured.

#### **5. Priority and Fairness**

Where volunteer numbers are limited:

- Priority to race entry may be given to members who:
  - Have regularly volunteered at previous club events,
  - Have fulfilled other volunteering commitments for the club (for example run leading/coaching, fundraising/organising charity events for our charity of the year, assisting the Committee with projects, baking for RunandTalk evenings etc). The club relies on help and assistance not just for the Tuesday and Thursday nights but for a number of events including handicap races. There are a number of roles that people perform as a volunteer that are often not seen by the wider club, or
  - Are potential Team and Individual Contenders.
- The Committee reserves discretion to balance participation fairly across events.

## **6. Committee Discretion**

The Club Committee retains the right to:

- Set minimum volunteer numbers required before member entries are confirmed.
- Refuse or defer entry where volunteering requirements are not met.
- Make reasonable adjustments in exceptional circumstances (e.g. injury, medical conditions, significant prior volunteering contribution).

All decisions will be made in the best interests of the club and event safety.

## **7. Culture and Spirit**

The club promotes a culture of shared responsibility. By working together to deliver events, members help ensure:

- The financial sustainability of the club,
- The safety and reputation of our races,
- Continued opportunities for members and the wider community to participate.

Volunteering is not simply an obligation but an integral part of club membership