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**Stevenage & North Herts Guidelines for Changing Coaching Groups**

**Changing Coaching Squads School Years 4 -6**

* School Year’s 4 and 5 train on a Monday Evening 6.30-7.30pm and can start when they are 9 years old. Movement to train on a Tuesday and/or Thursday as Year 6 should take place on the first Thursday in September or when the athlete next attends so that room in the Year 4/5 Squad for new athletes joining during the summer is maintained.
* School Year 6 train on a Tuesday and/or Thursday evening. Movement to event specific squads as Year 7 should take place on the first Thursday in September or when the athlete next attends so that room in the Year 6 squads is maintained for those moving from Year 5 or new through Induction. This will ensure that athletes are settled in their new squads before the annual rest period organised individually by Squad Coaches and get the fortnights rest they should have as competing athletes. Athletes who are unsure about which event specific squad they wish to move to should be encouraged to try out Squads during the summer holidays when Squad numbers are lower.
* Movement on the first Thursday in September should be communicated to Club Members by email at the end of July and notices given to Non-Members at the same time. This will ensure all parents and athletes are aware of the procedures and all Squad Coaches know when to expect movement.

If any athlete wishes to move to another coaching group, please follow the protocol below:

*Please note at SNHAC we would like to ensure that all our athletes and coaches are happy during their time at the club and we would like to ensure that good practice is ensured when moving groups within our club. We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our athletes.*

*In addition, we feel that good communication is vital to the smooth running of SNHAC. Finally, please also remember that all of our coaches are volunteers.*

***Before committing to a change of groups/coaching, we recommend a trial period or trial session with the new group/coach. This can be for as long as you require to make your decision. It is asked that you let your current coach know of your intention to partake in a trial with a new coach before the first session ensues. Your current coach will be supportive in this decision.***

* **Athletes & Parents –** There may be a number of reasons for your decision to change coaches, but please remember that your current coach has put in time for you, and out of respect to them, it is requested that you communicate your thoughts to them. Should there be a new discipline that you wish to try, your current coach may be able to recommend an alternative coach for you to train with. We would hope that they will then speak with the new coach as to your specific needs. Please DO NOT move groups without prior consent. If in the unlikely event that communication has broken down with the coach, please can you inform our Welfare Officer who will help you with the transition to another coach. (If this is the case, then issues will be dealt with confidentially)
* **Parents –** Please make sure that your child is comfortable with the change.
* **Coaches –** Please encourage development of your athletes. If you feel it is the right time for the athlete to change group, please do speak with the alternative coach before moving them over. Please also ensure that the athlete wants to move and explain to them your rationale.
* **Future Coach –** If approached by a parent/athlete, please direct them to talk to their current coach first, or a welfare officer should this not be possible. When this has been done, contact the current coach to discuss the athletes needs. Respect what the former coach has done for the athlete, if technique changes need to be made, do so without degrading the former coach’s method.
* **All –** Need to be respectful of the previous coach or athlete and we would discourage negative conversations. If an athlete has chosen to move to another club, please still respect our athletes and treat them as if they were still a club member (they may decide to come back one day!)
* **Coaches/Parents –** Please pass on any relevant information; medical, injury, contact details etc, to the new coach.