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# Avon Valley Runners – Lost Child Policy for Road Races

This policy outlines the procedures to be followed in the event that a child becomes separated from their parent or guardian during any road race organised by Avon Valley Runners (AVR). The safety and welfare of children is paramount, and this policy ensures a swift and secure response to such incidents.

## Scope

This policy applies to all AVR organised races where children may be present, including spectators, participants, and volunteers under the age of 18.

## Identification of Lost Children

Any child who appears lost, distressed, or separated from their guardian should be approached calmly by a designated AVR volunteer or marshal. The child should be asked for their name and any information about their parent or guardian.

## Securing the Child

The child should be escorted to the Race HQ or designated Lost Child Point. At no time should the child be left alone or taken away from the event site. Two adults should remain with the child at all times.

## Designated Personnel

The Race Director or Club Safeguarding Officer will be notified immediately. These individuals are responsible for coordinating the response and ensuring the child’s safety until reunited with their guardian.

## Communication Protocol

An announcement may be made via the event PA system, avoiding the use of the child’s full name. Volunteers will be alerted via radio or WhatsApp group. If the guardian cannot be located within 30 minutes, the police will be contacted.

## Reuniting with Guardian

The guardian must provide identification and confirm details before the child is released. A record of the incident will be logged, including time, personnel involved, and outcome.

## Safeguarding Considerations

All interactions with the child must be conducted in line with AVR’s safeguarding policy. Physical contact should be avoided unless necessary for safety. Volunteers must not take photographs or share information about the incident.

## Review and Training

This policy will be reviewed annually and included in volunteer training materials. All race directors and marshals will be briefed on lost child procedures prior to each event.