

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

ATHLETES

- Participate in Little Athletics for the **“fun of it”** and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Compete according to the rules.
- Any approach to an official should be in a courteous manner. Never argue with an Official.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other athletes, deliberately distracting or provoking another athlete is not acceptable nor permitted in our sport.
- Be a good sport. Acknowledge all good results, whether they be by your Centre/Club, or the other Centre/Club.
- Any form of cheating is unacceptable.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your Centre/Club as both will benefit.
- Treat all athletes as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another athlete.
- Co-operate with your coach, club mates and other athletes. Without them there would be no competition
- Bad language is not to be used at any time. Substance abuse of any kind is unacceptable

ADMINISTRATORS

- Ensure equal opportunities for participation in athletics are made available to all children within the defined age groups, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of athletes
- Ensure rules, equipment, events and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of athletes.
- Ensure adequate supervision is provided by coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate positive behaviour and skill technique.
- Involve, where appropriate, athletes in the planning leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to the activity.
- Remember that athletes participate for enjoyment, and play down the importance of rewards.
- Focus on the needs of the athletes rather than the enjoyment of the spectators. Avoid allowing programs to become primarily spectator entertainment.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique
- Assist with the development of Administrators.
- Bad language is not to be used at any time. Substance abuse of any kind is unacceptable.

PARENTS

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing, do not force him or her.
- Remember that children are involved in Little Athletics for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus upon the child’s efforts rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his/her ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Teach children an honest effort is as important as victory, so the result of each event is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage athletes always to participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing an event
- Turn defeat to victory by encouraging your child to work towards skill improvement, good sportsmanship and attaining personal best performances.
- Recognise the value and importance of coaches and officials of whom the vast majority are volunteers. If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official’s judgment and honesty in public. Remember, officials give their time and effort for your child’s involvement.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Bad language is not to be used at any time.

OFFICIALS

- Officiate according to the rules, and where subjective judgment is necessary, decide on the basis of what is fair to all athletes.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Commend honest effort, not just performance excellence
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents
- Use common sense to ensure that the Spirit of the Sport is not lost by over officiating.
- Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the athletes
- Encourage the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Co-operate with other officials to discourage improper conduct by spectators.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and rule changes.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words
- Bad language is not to be used at any time. Substance abuse of any kind is unacceptable

COACHES

- Be reasonable in your demands on athletes’ time, energy and enthusiasm
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the children when scheduling and determining the length of training times and selection of events.
- Teach athletes that the rules of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Group athletes according to age and physical maturity whenever possible.
- Avoid over-coaching the better performing athletes — all athletes deserve and need equal time.
- Remember children participate for fun and enjoyment and winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule or yell at children for making mistakes or losing an event.
- Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the athletes.
- Develop athletes to have a respect for the ability of other athletes as well as for the judgment of officials and coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured athlete is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Remember that athletes need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved for effort and skill. Set a good example, not only with your behaviour, but also with dress and equipment
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing athletes, other coaches or officials, smoking or being intoxicated at Little Athletics events

SPECTATORS

- Keep to designated spectator areas and do not encroach on the arena or other competition sites.
- Remember children participate in Little Athletic activities for fun. They are not participating for the entertainment of spectators . They are not small adults
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each athlete. Congratulate all participants upon their performances regardless of the event outcome.
- Respect the officials’ decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach the athletes to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence and verbal abuse in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.
- Show respect for each athlete. Without them there would be no events.
- Encourage athletes to follow the rules and the officials’ decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Bad language is not to be used at any time. Substance abuse of any kind is unacceptable

Cockburn Little Athletics Centre Social Media and Communications Policy

- Our Commitment** Using the internet and electronic communication is essential for communicating with clubs and members. We are committed to communication being appropriate and related to relevant business.
- What We Will Do** When using technology we will ensure that members’ privacy are protected, clear boundaries are maintained and bullying and harassment does not occur.
- SMS and Emails** May be used to communicate business and sanctioned events, however, Text communication should be short and about relevant matters, Email communication will be used when more information is required, Communication about children is through parents, No statements will be made that might bring our sport into disrepute.
- What We Ask Members to Do (“Member” means any Club, Official, Coach or Individual)**
All members are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately, so think about what you want to say before you write it. Remember, an Email, Facebook or Twitter (and any other form of electronic written media) is a written record of your thoughts on a matter and can be used against you later.
Communication (including photos and video):
Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member/clubs/association
Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of members/clubs/association
Should seek to protect the privacy of members
Must not bring the sport, member, club or association into disrepute
Clubs should restrict electronic communication to club matters only
Coaches and others working with children under 18 will direct electronic communication through parents or guardians.
- Non-Compliance**
Any member or club found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate website content or engaged in blogs or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member or club, may face disciplinary action as outlined in our code of conduct. Cyber bullying (e.g., bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or web pages) under certain circumstances is a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the police. The Association, Member or Club can also initiate separate action where there has been a breach of our Member Protection, Privacy or other policies that provide for the protection, safety and welfare of members. Members publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g. Facebook or websites) may be liable for defamation.