



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Parents, coaches and officials by example of behaviour, have an enormous influence on our children. All participants in Little Athletics should form an accepted pattern of behaviour. If Little Athletics is to be enjoyed by all in the spirit of 'Family, Fun and Fitness', then the co-operation of all parents, coaches and officials is of primary importance. The Codes of Behaviour set out below are published by VLAA

Stipulation by the minister of Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community
- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behaviour
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

This Code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

Refer to the link for a brief video on the code

<http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/web9/dvcsrv.nsf/AllDocs/C341E38AE01A30E1CA2576D6001DC972?OpenDocument>

PARENTS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force him or her
- 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 that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each event is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing an event.
- Remember children are involved in Little Athletics for their enjoyment, not yours.
- 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, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse at Little Athletics activities.

- Recognise the value and importance of being a volunteer official and/or coach. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Avoid use of bad language.
- In all Little Athletic activities PARENT PARTICIPATION is ESSENTIAL in running of events. When you, the parent, register your child with the Croydon Centre, you agree to your child taking part in Little Athletic activities and you also agree that you will act as an official at Centre competition and championships, Regional and State meetings.
- All committee must have a current working with children's check and provide the results to the centre executive

LITTLE ATHLETES' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask your Team Manager to deal with the matter.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other athletes, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in our sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your Centre/Club. Your Centre/Club's performance will benefit
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good results whether they be by your Centre/Club, opponent or the other Centre/Club
- Treat all athletes as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another athlete
- Cooperate with your coach, clubmates and other participants. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate in Little Athletics for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches
- Avoid use of bad language

OFFICIALS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

In keeping with "Fun, Family and Fitness"....

Ensure that the 'spirit of the game' for children is not lost by using common sense and not over-emphasising errors. In field events try and ensure all athletes get at least one recordable try in.

- Complement all participants on their efforts
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure that the "spirit of the game" for children is not lost by using common sense and not over-emphasising errors.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the participants.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children
- Avoid the use of bad language

SPECTATORS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- Remember that children participate in Little Athletics activities for fun. They are not participating for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each athlete. Congratulate all participants upon their performance 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 children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, officials or athletes.
- Show respect for each participant. Without them there would be no events.
- Encourage athletes to follow the rules and the official's decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing athletes or officials, not smoking or being intoxicated within the sporting complex.
- Avoid use of bad language.