

Tasmanian Little Athletics Association Inc.

Codes of Behaviour

Reference

TLAA By-Law AD18

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Foundation for all sports

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1. Little Athletes' Code of Behaviour

- Compete according to the rules of the Association.
- 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 another athlete is not acceptable or permitted.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your Centre/Club as you will both benefit.
- Be a good sport. Acknowledge 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. Do not discriminate against another athlete or official.
- Co-operate with your coach, clubmates and other athletes. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate in Little Athletics for the “fun of it” and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Any form of cheating is unacceptable.
- Inappropriate and /or bad language is not to be used at any time.

2. Athlete Behaviour on site

- Any unsociable behaviour witnessed by any adult on site, is to be reported to the Chief Site Official immediately.
- The Chief Site Official is responsible for the safety and behaviour of athletes at the site.
- The Referee and/or Arena Manager has the support of the TLAA Board / Centre Executive to remove an athlete from the event if the behaviour of an athlete/s is deemed to be unsociable and or unacceptable. Only the appropriate Referee, Arena Manager, TLAA Board / Centre Executive member has the capacity to exclude athletes from an event.
- It is at the discretion of the Referee and/or Arena Manager to determine if immediate removal is necessary or issue the athlete/s one (1) warning informing the athletes that any further unacceptable behaviour will result in being excluded from the event.
- In the event that an athlete refuses to leave site or follow directions, the Chief site Official should call the parent/guardian to the site to advise of the situation, and ask the parent / guardian to take his/her child from the site. If an athletes parent/guardian is not present then the Arena Manager should be informed immediately and he or she must take control of the situation.
- The Chief Site Official is to report the incident to the Arena Manager and the athlete's club Team Manager / President at the completion of the event for follow up with athlete's parent/guardian.
- Behaviour that constitutes a breach of the TLAA Codes of Behaviour of a serious nature, must be escalated to the TLAA Board / Centre Executive at the earliest opportunity for investigation.

3. Athlete Behaviour at Little Athletics Activities

- Any unsociable behaviour witnessed by an adult at Little Athletics activities, other than during an event which is under the control of a Chief Site Official, shall in the first instance be reported to the Team Manager / President of the athlete's club if at a Centre activity, or to a TLAA Board Member if at a TLAA run activity.
- Any breach of the TLAA code of Conduct that could result in penalties extending past the day of the incident must be escalated to the TLAA Board /Centre Executive.

4. Administrator's Code of Behaviour

- Involve, where appropriate, children in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.
- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in little athletics is made available to all age eligible children, regardless of ability size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of participating athletes.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, events and training schedules take in consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating athletes.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate positive behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember athletes participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectators. Avoid allowing programmes 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.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Distribute the Code of Behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, athletes and the media.
- Assist with the development of Administrators
- Inappropriate and/or bad language is not to be used at any time.
- Consumption of liquor or tobacco within the competition area is forbidden..

5. Parent's Code of Behaviour

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force him or her.
- Remember 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 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.
- Turn defeat into victory by encouraging your child to work towards skill improvement, good sportsmanship and attaining personal best performances.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement 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.
- Do not discriminate against any athlete, parent or official.
- 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.
- Inappropriate and/or bad language is not to be used at any time.

6. Coaches Code of Behaviour

- Be reasonable in your demands on young athlete's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach athletes that the rules of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Do not discriminate against any athlete, parent or official.
- Whenever possible, group athletes according to age and physical maturity. Avoid over-coaching the better performing athletes, the just average athletes need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that children participate for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing an event.
- Remember also 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 and demeanor, but also with dress and equipment.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the athletes.
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the children when scheduling and determining the length of training times and competition.
- Develop athletes to have respect for the ability of other athletes as well as for the judgement of officials and coaches.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principals of growth and development of children.
- Follow 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.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing athletes, other coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or in the grandstand area, or being intoxicated.
- Avoid the use of inappropriate and/or bad language whilst coaching or in the presence of athletes and/or parents.
- Refrain from smoking in the presence of athletes.

7. Spectator Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children participate in Little Athletic activities for fun. They are not participating for the entertainment of spectators. They are not small adults.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from each athlete. Congratulate all participants upon their performance, regardless of the event outcome.
- Do not discriminate against any athlete, parent or official.
- Respect the official's decisions. If you do not agree with an official's decision, 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 abide by the official's decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Inappropriate and/or bad language is not to be used at any time.
- Substance abuse at Little Athletics venues and/or functions is not acceptable.

8. Official's Code of Behaviour

- Officiate according to the rules and where subjective judgment is necessary, decide on the basis of what is fair to all athletes.
- Commend honest effort not just performance excellence. Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Encourage the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all competitors.
- Do not discriminate against any athlete, parent or official.
- Ensure that the 'spirit of the sport' for children is not lost by using common sense and not over officiating.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the participants.
- Publicly encourage rule changes at the appropriate place and in the appropriate manner 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.
- 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. Inappropriate and/or bad language is not to be used at any time. Any form of substance abuse is inappropriate whilst involved in Little Athletic activities.

9. Codes of Health Behaviour

- Little Athletics understand the harmful affects of smoking on health, fitness and performance in sport, and as a result has adopted the following Code of Behaviour.
- **Coaches and Officials** are reminded of their responsibilities as 'role models' particularly with juniors, and are asked to refrain from smoking whilst associated with our sport.
- **Premises** and playing areas should be declared "Smoke Free Zones". Smoking permitted only where a special smoking area is designated.
- **Visiting Participants, Coaches and Officials** are also asked to respect our Codes of Behaviour.
- Smoking is prohibited from the arena and grandstand areas of all competitions conducted under the rules of the TLAA.

10. Disciplinary Procedure

- All incidents must be investigated by the TLAA Board / Centre Executive, or their nominee, and must include hearing from all persons involved including application of the principles of natural justice.
- A record of all incidents, investigation findings, relevant statements and copies of correspondence must be kept in accordance with the TLAA record keeping procedures, and in adherence to the State Archives Act.
- The TLAA Board / Centre Executive must determine the appropriate penalties for any breaches of the TLAA Code of Conduct in accordance with TLAA By-Lawand communicate these in writing to the affected parties.
- Any penalties must be communicated verbally and in writing to the individual and or an athletes' parent or guardian at the earliest opportunity and must contain the reasons for the penalty together with details of the appeals procedure.
- Any penalties for breaches of TLAA Codes of Behaviour at a Centre level that extend beyond the day of the incident, must be communicated in writing to the TLAA.

11. Penalties for Breaching of Codes of Behaviour

The principles of natural justice are to be observed when making decisions on breaches of the Codes of Behaviour and any penalties for such breaches.

Any penalties that are imposed are to be appropriate to the seriousness of the breach.

Penalties for breaches of the Codes of Behaviour that occur at events conducted by the TLAA that are confined to the day of competition (for example, suspension from one or more events) should be determined by the Arena Manager.

Penalties that go beyond the day of competition should be determined by members of Board of Management present at the track plus the Arena Manager and the Track and Field Referees.

Below are penalties which shall be applied by Centres and the TLAA for breaches of the codes of behaviour. All penalties imposed by Centres/Clubs that involve suspensions that extend beyond the day on which the breach occurred must be notified to the TLAA Office.

Note: The guideline penalties below are recommended minimum only.

Athletes	1st Offence	2nd Offence
Abusive/Threatening Language	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Disrespect for rules	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Willful breach of Policy	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Physical Abuse	2 week ban from competition	4 week ban from competition
Discrimination	2 week ban from competition	4 week ban from competition

Parents/Officials	1st Offence	2nd Offence
Abusive/Threatening Language	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Disrespect for rules	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Willful breach of Policy	1 week ban from competition	2 week ban from competition
Physical Abuse	2 week ban from competition	4 week ban from competition
Discrimination	2 week ban from competition	4 week ban from competition

Any breach of conduct not covered by any of the above, will be reviewed by the TLAA Board / Centre Committee independently, and an appropriate penalty will be determined.

Centre personnel requiring assistance with the application of this policy are encouraged to contact their centre/and or state Member Protection Information Officer in the first instance.

12. Appeals Process

An individual may appeal any penalties applied by a Centre or the TLAA.

TLAA Process

- Appeals must be lodged with the TLAA within 48 hours of the penalty being applied.
- Appeals will be heard by a panel made up of three (3) members of the Tasmanian Little Athletics Board of Management.
- If the above process does not result in a satisfactory outcome for all parties, an independent mediator may be brought in to hear the appeal.
- The findings of the appeals mediation are final.
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Centre Process

- Notification of an appeal must be given in writing to a member of the Centre Executive within 48 hours of receiving the suspension notice.
- The appeal will be heard at a Centre committee meeting and consist of the following:
- Presentation to the Centre Committee of the facts and evidence obtained from the investigation by the Executive
- Details of the grounds of appeal put by the suspended person, parent/guardian or their nominated representative (note: the suspended person shall have the opportunity of attending the Centre meeting to discuss in person, the suspension, and the details of the appeal).
- A discussion on information presented at the appeals process by committee members only
- A secret ballot to determine whether the suspension is upheld or overturned
- Notification of the result of the ballot to the appellant
- If the above process does not result in a satisfactory outcome for all parties, the suspended person may lodge an appeal with the Tasmanian Little Athletics Association. The findings of the appeal with the TLAA will be final.