



**MT BARKER
DISTRICT
ATHLETICS**

Code of Conduct

The following sets out the minimum expected behaviours and conduct of all Committee members, officials, coached, parents and spectators, and athletes associated with the MBDLAC.

Committee

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children including but not limited to; ability, size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that equipment & facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of participating children.
- Ensure rules, equipment, events & training schedules take into consideration the age ability & maturity level of participating children.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate positive behaviour & skill technique.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment (play down the importance of rewards).
- Avoid allowing programs to become primarily spectator entertainment. Focus on the needs of participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectator.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour & skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials & participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Distribute the Code of Behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches and athletes.

Officials

- Compliment all participants on their effort.
- Be consistent, objective & courteous in calling all infringements.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour & promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure that the “Spirit of the Game” for children is not lost using common sense & not over emphasizing errors.
- Ensure that equipment & facilities meet safety standards & are appropriate to the age & ability of the participants.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which reinforce the principles of participation for fun & enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.



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- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles & the principles of growth and development of children.

Coaches

- Be reasonable in your demands on young athlete's time, energy & enthusiasm.
- Teach athletes that the rules of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Whenever possible, group athletes to give a reasonable chance of success.
- Avoid over coaching the better performing athletes, the "just average athletes need & deserve equal time."
- Remember that children participate for fun & enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation.
- Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing an event.
- Ensure that equipment & facilities meet safety standards & are appropriate to the age & ability of the athletes.
- Take into consideration the maturity level of the children when scheduling & determining the length of training times & competition.
- Develop respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of Officials & Coaches.
- Follow the advice of a GP 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 & the principles of growth & development of children.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, other Coaches or Officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Physical contact with children must be appropriate as required to demonstrate a skill. Permission from the child must be obtained before physical contact and must be ceased immediately if the child appears to be uncomfortable
- When providing one on one support for a child always ensure that it is full view of others.

Parents/Spectators

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing to 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.



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- 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 & honesty in public. Remember, most Officials give their time & effort for your Childs involvement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal & physical abuse at Little Athletics activities.
- Recognise the value & importance of being a volunteer Official and/ or Coach. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for children and deserve your support.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, Coaches or Officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.

Athletes

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an Official. If you disagree ask your Team Manager, Chaperone or supervising adult 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.
- Co-operate with your Coach, Club mates & other participants. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate in Athletics for the "fun of it" & not just to please parents & coaches.

Adapted from SALAA Code of Contact <http://salaa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/11/6.4.-Policy-Code-of-Conduct-Little-Athletics-SA-2015.pdf>