

Mornington Peninsula Athletic Club

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mornington Peninsula Athletic Club expects all members to comply with the Code of Conduct. Appropriate action may be taken in the case of any breaches of the Code of Conduct. Mornington Peninsula Athletic Club will ensure that all athletes, coaches, spectators, parents, officials and administrators are not prone to sexual abuse, neglect, physical abuse or emotional abuse. They will ensure that all persons are included, protected and not discriminated against in any manner.

Mornington Peninsula Athletic Club is registered as an Incorporated Association as protection for its Committees and its Members

Administrators' Code of Conduct

- Involve members in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to the activity.
- Administrators must respect the basic human rights, that is, the equal rights of each athlete with no discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, colour, religious belief or activity, national or ethnic origin, parental status or status as a carer, family or carer's responsibilities, marital status, pregnancy or potential pregnancy, breastfeeding, age, disability or impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, personal association or physical features.
- Administrators must respect the dignity and recognize the contribution of each individual. This includes respecting the right for freedom from sexual harassment, including but not limited to: physical contact such as kissing or fondling, requests for sexual favours, intrusive questions of a sexual nature, sexual intercourse under threat of a detriment, sexual jokes and innuendo, the sending of offensive emails of a sexual nature, offensive phone calls of a sexual nature, requests that a person wear sexually provocative clothing, or the displaying of pornography.
- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of age, ability, size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of participating children.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, events and training schedules take in consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating members.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate positive behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that members, particularly children, participate for enjoyment and / or fitness. Play down the importance of rewards.
- Avoid allowing programmes to become primarily spectator entertainment. Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectators.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Make available the Code of Conduct to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, athletes and the media.
- Hold a current Working with Children Check.
- Avoid use of bad language.

Officials' Code of Conduct

- Compliment 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" is not lost by using common sense and not over-emphasising errors.
- Officials must respect the basic human rights, that is, the equal rights of each athlete with no discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, colour, religious belief or activity, national or ethnic origin, parental status or status as a carer, family or carer's responsibilities, marital status, pregnancy or potential pregnancy, breastfeeding, age, disability or impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, personal association or physical features.
- Officials must respect the dignity and recognize the contribution of each individual. This includes respecting the right for freedom from sexual harassment, including but not limited to: physical contact such as kissing or fondling, requests for sexual favours, intrusive questions of a sexual nature, sexual intercourse under of a detriment, sexual jokes and innuendo, the sending of offensive emails of a sexual nature, offensive phone calls of a sexual nature, requests that a person wear sexually provocative clothing, or the displaying of pornography.
- 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.
- Hold a current Working with Children Check.
- Avoid use of bad language.

Parents' Code of Conduct

- 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 children in setting realistic goals related to his/her own 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 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 judgement and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
- Support all efforts to remove all verbal and physical abuse at Athletics activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of being a volunteer official and/or coach. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, parents, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Avoid use of bad language.

Spectators' Code of Conduct

- Remember that members participate in Athletics activities for fun and fitness. They are not participating for the entertainment of spectators, 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, coaches, officials or athletes.
- Show respect for each participant. 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, parents, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.
- Avoid use of bad language.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

- Coaches must respect the basic human rights, that is, the equal rights, of each athlete with no discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, colour, religious belief, political belief or activity, national or ethnic origin, parental status or status as a carer, family or carer's responsibilities, marital status, pregnancy or potential pregnancy, breastfeeding, age, disability or impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, personal association or physical features.
- Coaches must respect the dignity and recognise the contribution of each individual. This includes respecting the right for freedom from sexual harassment, including but not limited to: physical contact such as kissing or fondling, requests for sexual favours, intrusive questions of a sexual nature, sexual intercourse under threat of loss of employment or other employment related detriment, sexual jokes and innuendo, the sending of offensive emails of a sexual nature, offensive phone calls of a sexual nature, requests that a person wear sexually provocative clothing, or the displaying of pornography.
- Coaches must ensure that practical environments are safe and appropriate. This appropriateness must take into consideration the age, maturity and skill level of the athlete. This is particularly important in the case of younger or less developed athletes.
- Coaches must acknowledge and respect the Rules of Competition. This respect should extend to the spirit as well as to the letter of the rules, in both training and competition, to ensure fairness of competitive opportunity between all athletes.
- Coaches must exhibit an active respect for officials, by accepting the role of the officials in providing judgement to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.
- Coaches must accept final responsibility for the performance and conduct of the athletes they coach, while at the same time encouraging the independence and self determination of each athlete by their acceptance of responsibility for their own decisions, conduct and performance.
- Coaches must assert a positive and active leadership role to prevent any use of prohibited drugs or other disallowed performance enhancing substances or practices. This leadership by coaches includes education of the athletes of the harmful effects of prohibited substances and practices.
- The coach must acknowledge that all coaches have an equal right to desire the success of the athletes they coach - competing within the rules. Observations, recommendations and criticism should be directed to the appropriate person outside the view or hearing of the public domain.
- Coaches must never solicit, either overtly or covertly, athletes who are receiving coaching to join their squad or change their coaching situation without first involving the current personal coach or coaches.

- The coach must acknowledge and recognise that all athletes have a right to pursue their athletic potential, including when an athlete's development would benefit from a change of coaching situation. The coach should ensure that, in these cases, any formation of a coaching partnership or transfer to another coach is actively explored with the athlete, whose decision is supported.
- Coaches should hold recognised coaching qualifications. Coaches should respect that the gaining of coaching qualifications is an ongoing commitment, achieved through the upgrading of their knowledge by attendance of accredited courses and through practical coaching experience. Coaches also have a responsibility to share the knowledge and practical experience they gain.
- Coaches must respect the image of the coach and the reputation of the Association and continuously maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, reflected in both the manner of appearance and behaviour, so that they do not bring Coaching or the Association into disrepute.
- Coaches must never smoke while coaching or in the presence of athletes, nor consume alcoholic beverages so soon before coaching that it affects their competence or that the smell of alcohol is on their breath.
- Coaches must enter into full cooperation with all individuals and agencies that could play a role in the development of the athletes they coach. This includes working openly with other coaches, using the expertise of sports scientists and sports physicians and displaying an active support of their National Federation and the IAAF.
- Hold a current Working with Children Check
- Avoid use of bad language.

Competitors Code of Conduct

- 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, coaches, parents 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 Club. Your Club's performance will benefit.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good results whether they are 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 officials, coaches, club mates and other participants. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate in Athletics for the "fun of it" and / or fitness and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid use of bad language.

Queries and Complaints

- If you have a query regarding this Code of Conduct or consider that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred then please contact the President or Secretary of the Club. The President, Secretary or any committee member of the Club may lodge a complaint of their own initiative if they have reason to believe that a member has breached this Code of Conduct.
- If a complaint is filed, the Club will determine the appropriate way of dealing with it, which may include without limitation instigating the disciplinary process in Clause 18 of the Rules of the Club.