



Code of Conduct – Parents and Guardians (March 2025)

Parents/Guardians have an influential role to play in assisting and encouraging their children to fully participate in the sport of Athletics, whether it is when they are competing or attending training sessions.

Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:

- Always play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody in their group, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle regarding exercise, food, rest and play.

Parents/Guardians should lead by example:

- Adopt a positive attitude to their children's participation in our games.
- Respect officials' decisions and encourage children to do likewise.
- Do not exert undue pressure on your child.
- Never admonish your own child or any other child for their standard of performance.
- Be realistic in your expectations.
- Show approval for effort, not just results.
- Do not seek to unfairly affect a competitive outcome.
- Do not enter the competition or coaching arena unless specifically invited to do so by a coach or official in charge.

Parents/Guardians must:

- Complete the online registration/permission and medical consent process for their child's participation in the Club.
- Inform the coaches, and any other relevant Club personnel, of any changes in their child's medical conditions or requirements prior to coaching sessions, competitions or other related activities.
- Ensure that their child punctually attends coaching sessions, competitions or other related activities and are collected from all activities on time.
- Provide their child with adequate clothing and equipment as may be required.
- Ensure that the nutrition/hydration and hygiene needs of their child are met.
- Listen to what their child may have to say.
- Show approval whether the child wins or loses a competition.
- **Use appropriate and proper language at all times.**
- Never attempt to meet their own needs and aspirations for success and achievement through their children's participation in athletics.

Parents/Guardians should assist the club by:

- Showing appreciation to coaches, volunteers, mentors and DSD officials.
- Attending competitions on a regular basis.
- Assisting in the organising and supervision of Club activities and events as requested.
- Respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person and by treating each one equally regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, cultural background or religion.

Parents/Guardians have the right to:

- Know that their child is safe and to make a complaint if they believe that their child's safety is in any way compromised. (see complaints and disciplinary matters section below)
- Be informed of problems/concerns relating to their child by their coach.
- Be informed if their child gets injured.

Use of Third Party Coaches:

Parents/guardians have the right to employ the services of a third party coach for their Child /DSD Juvenile members. Please note that Garda Vetting, Child Safeguarding training and accreditation, coach registration (with Athletics Ireland or other recognized sporting organization) and insurance will be the responsibility of the parent and NOT DSD AC. Only DSD approved coaches or other coaches approved in advance by DSD are allowed to coach juvenile or vulnerable athletes at club competitions

Parents/Guardians responsibilities regarding training sessions:

Drop off & Collection for all juvenile groups

- Please ensure that children arrive on time for training and are collected at the nominated time. Parents are notified of training schedules including times via the ClubZap App.
- Please accept or decline invitations to training sessions once received. Coaches need this information in advance to plan sessions.

Check-in: Safety and welfare of children is the responsibility of the parent/guardian until they have been checked in by a coach or DSD official at the training location. At the end of the training session (as per the time outlined on ClubZap invitations), the safety and welfare of all children reverts to parent/guardian.

Note: *Your child's safety and welfare is our priority and this procedure is subject to change. Parents/Guardians will be advised of any changes as they arise.*

Complaints and Disciplinary Matters:

Child Welfare

- In dealing with Child Welfare matters, the Club shall follow the [current procedures and guidelines laid down by Athletics Ireland](#).
- The DSD Board shall have the power to discipline any member when it is satisfied there has been any breach of the articles, bye-laws or any rules of the Club or of Athletics Ireland or its affiliated bodies, or where there has been conduct likely to bring the Club or the sport of Track and Field into disrepute.
- The Board may, without limitation, terminate or suspend membership of any person, impose fines, remove recognition of titles won or records achieved, caution or censure any such person or body.

Doping Offences

- In doping offences, the Board may adopt the [Anti-Doping Rules](#) and procedures for the time being of Athletics Ireland, the Irish Sports Council and/or the IAAF.

Matters not involving Child Welfare or Doping Offences.

- All complaints against a member of the Club must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Club.
- On receipt of a written complaint, the Secretary in consultation with the Chair, shall establish an appropriate procedure to deal with the complaint.
- Where the complaint is against the Chair or Secretary, the Secretary will refer the matter to another Board Member and that Board Member shall act as if he or she were the Secretary only in regard to the complaint in question.
- If satisfied that the complaint is properly a matter for the Club, they shall appoint a person or persons to investigate the complaint.
- The investigator(s) shall report to the Secretary who shall bring the report to the Board for consideration.
- If the Board decides that the complaint requires disciplinary proceedings, it will decide upon a fair process to deal with the matter.
- The Board may delegate the exercise of its disciplinary functions to any sub-committee of its members or to any ad hoc committee comprising members and/or non-members.
- The Board may suspend the membership of any person pending the outcome of any investigation or process.
- An appeal shall lie from any decision in a disciplinary matter to an independent appeal panel appointed by the Board.
- Appeals shall be notified in writing to the Secretary within 14 days of the initial decision.
- All powers under this article must be used fairly and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.