**Goulburn Mulwaree Athletics Club Code of Conduct**

Goulburn Mulwaree Athletics believe that all athletes have a right to participate in a safe and supportive environment. The following GMAC code of conduct applies to all athletes, coaches, officials, families and other visitors to our club.

**1.1 Athlete**

1. Show respect to coaches and officials. Any approach to an official should be in a courteous manner. Never argue with an official.
2. Control your temper – no mouthing off, misusing equipment etc
3. Never verbally abuse or sledge other athletes, deliberately distract or provoke another athlete.
4. Do not bully or harm another athlete
5. Do not use bad language or obscene gestures at any time.
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all athletes and officials, regardless or the gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
7. Do not bring the sport of Little Athletics into Disrepute.

**1.2 Adults – Families, officials, and visitors**

1. Never ridicule or yell at an athlete during a competition.
2. Respect the officials’ decisions. If there is a disagreement, always follow the appropriate procedure/s in order to question the decision.
3. Never use violence, threats or abuse in any form.
4. Keep to designated spectator areas and do not encroach on the arena or other competitions sites if you are not officiating.
5. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing coaches, officials or spectators, smoking outside designated areas, being intoxicated or using bad language.
6. Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and/or necessary for the athlete’s skill development.
7. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all athletes and officials, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
8. When officiating, always act fairly and within the competition rules to all athletes, ensuring results are recorded accurately. Two people (usually the recorder and person measuring) should always sign off on the field event sheets.
9. Do not bring the sport of Little Athletics into disrepute.
10. Ensure your child/athlete always has a responsible adult at the field for the whole meet.

**1.3 Breaches of the code of conduct**

1. The principles of natural justice will be observed when making decisions on breaches of the Codes of Conduct in deciding any penalties for such breaches.
2. Any penalties that are imposed are to be appropriate to the seriousness of the breach.
3. Breaches of the code of conduct below should be reported as soon as possible to the club President or Vice President for investigation.
4. Before issuing any warnings, the person breaching the code of conduct will be given an opportunity to defend their behaviour and reply to the alleged breach, after which there will be a decision made as to whether a breach has occurred. The President or Vice President will determine a reasonable time frame which will be given for the reply to be received.
5. If it is found that a breach has occurred, the first breach will be dealt with a formal, recorded verbal warning.
6. In the case of a second breach within a season, a formal written warning will be issued.
7. A further breach within a season will be referred to the Committee for consideration of sanctions which may consist of, but not limited to:

(i) Suspension from a specified number of club nights

(ii) Suspension from the remainder of club nights in the season

(iii) Withdrawal from consideration of club awards for the season

(iv) Expulsion from the club.

(v)If an athlete or family member referred to the committee is related to the committee member, that committee member will be excluded from the decision making process.

1. In the case of an extremely serious breach of the code of conduct, the President may request permission from the Committee to bypass the verbal and written warning and proceed directly to sanctions. If this were to occur, the entire committee (excluding any family members of those about to be sanctioned) would consider appropriate sanctions as listed above in 11.3 (g).
2. Penalties for breaches of the Codes of Conduct that occur at events conducted by the ACTLAA or other state or national bodies that are confined to the day of competition shall be determined by the Carnival Manager. Penalties that go beyond the day of competition shall be determined by the Board of Management and could include banning families from future participation in the sport.

**2 Club coaches code of conduct**

The club coaches primary role is to facilitate the process of individual development through achievement of athletic potential. This role accepts the athlete’ long term interests as of greater importance that short term athletic considerations. To fulfill this role the coach must behave in an ethical manner respecting the following points:

1. Club coaches should act co-operatively with the other club coaches, especially when athletes are training in a number of disciplines with multiple coaches.
2. Coaches must respect the basic human rights, that is the equal rights, of each athlete with no discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, birth or other status.
3. Coaches must respect the dignity and recognize the contribution of each individual. They must ensure that the 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.
4. 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.
5. Coaches must exhibit an active respect for officials, by accepting the role of the officials in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Coaches should never solicit, either overtly or covertly, athletes who are receiving coaching to join their squad.
10. Coaches should have successfully completed a recognised coaching course. Coaches should respect that the gaining of coaching qualifications is an ongoing commitment, achieved through the upgrading of their knowledge by attendance at accredited courses and through practical coaching experience.
11. Coaches should enter into full co-operation with all individuals and agencies that could play a role in the development of the athletes they coach. Coaches also have a responsibility to share the knowledge and practical experience they gain.
12. Coaches should work openly with other coaches, use the expertise of sports scientists and sports physicians, and display an active support of their National Federation and the IAAF.
13. Coaches must respect the image of the coach and continuously maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, reflected in both the manner of appearance and behaviour.
14. Coaches should never smoke while coaching, nor consume alcoholic beverages so soon before coaching that it affects their competence or that the smell of alcohol is on their breath.
15. Where GMAC contributes to the cost of coaching courses for club coaches, a written statement is required from the coach confirming that they will commit to GMAC for at least two seasons.