

## Codes of Conduct

We hope that all parents will take the time to read this Code of Conduct with their children before signing the attached sheet. The code recognises our commitment that the early experiences of all our members are positive and enjoyable, irrespective of their ability, gender, social or ethnic background. Our priority is at all times the well-being and safety of the child. The code is extracted from ***Athletics Ireland's Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children in Athletics*** which Clones Athletic Club adheres to both in policy and in practice.

### Policy Statement

Clones Athletic Club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in our club. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. All athletes have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept. Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and leaders/coaches with fairness and respect.

## Code of Conduct for Young Athletes

### Young athletes should always:

- ✓ Treat Sports Leaders, coaches, managers and club officials with respect
- ✓ Play fairly at all times, do their best
- ✓ Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- ✓ Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- ✓ Abide by the rules set down by team managers, including when travelling to away events
- ✓ Behave in a manner that avoids bringing athletics or Clones AC into disrepute
- ✓ Talk to children's officer if they have any problems
- ✓ Be listened to, be believed, be safe/feel safe, participate on an equal basis, protect their own bodies, be
- ✓ happy, have fun and enjoy sport
- ✓ Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- ✓ Get help against bullies

### Young athletes should never:

- ✓ Cheat
- ✓ Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- ✓ Shout or argue with coaches, officials, team mates or opponents
- ✓ Harm team members, opponents or their property
- ✓ Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another athlete
- ✓ Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- ✓ Take banned substances
- ✓ Keep secrets, especially if they have been caused harm
- ✓ Tell lies about adults / young people or spread rumours

## Guidelines for Parents

Clones Athletic Club believes that parents should:

- ✓ Be a role model for their child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with coaches, officials and organisers
- ✓ Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the competition or training their child is participating in
- ✓ Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- ✓ Always recognise the value and importance of the volunteers who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for their child. Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of officials, coaches, organisers or other athletes
- ✓ Encourage their child to participate within the rules. Teach their child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all they can to encourage good sportsmanship
- ✓ Set a good example by applauding other participants. Encourage mutual respect for individual competitors, team mates and all participants in specific events.
- ✓ Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms

## Parents Code of Conduct

- ✓ I will respect the rules and procedures set down in Clones Athletic Club's Codes of Conduct
- ✓ I will respect my child's team-mates, leaders (managers, coaches, officials, judges), and parents, as well as all athletes, parents and coaches. I will encourage my child to treat other participants, coaches, selectors, officials and managers with respect
- ✓ I will give encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child, his/her team-mates, their opponents or the officials
- ✓ I will respect my child's leader(s) & coaches and support his/her efforts
- ✓ I will respect the officials and their authority during sessions and events
- ✓ I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language

Parents are at all times encouraged to get involved in the activities of the club (fundraising, organising events, training, etc). This demonstrates to the young athletes that their parents are interested in their participation. Parents who wish to get involved in coaching must be willing to undertake appropriate training and to apply for Garda Vetting.

### Please retain this sheet

Parents and children should acknowledge that both of you have read this Code of Conduct by signing the attached sheet and returning to club officials at the next training session. A full copy of the AI Code of Ethics is available on request or can be downloaded from [Athletics Ireland AAI » Child Welfare & Club Development](#)