

Mississauga Track and Field Club

Code of Conduct and Club Policies

September 15, 2018

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mississauga Track and Field Club's (MTFC) goal is to provide our athletes with an environment that will enable them to achieve their potential. To achieve this goal, parents, athletes, and coaches are expected to follow general rules and principles while at practice, meets, and while traveling. Our Code of Conduct applies to all Members of MTFC, which includes athletes, families, coaches, and volunteers. This policy applies to conduct at any MTFC activities, programs and events and includes conduct in activities in any way related to MTFC and/or its members.

All Members of the Club, including athletes, parents and legal guardians, and coaches, are advised that as a Member you are agreeing to support and adhere to this and other policies, rules, regulations, by-laws and constitution of the Club.

All Directors, Coaches, Athletes, and Parents or Legal Guardians are Expected To:

- Behave in a manner that is respectful and courteous to others.
- Refrain from the use of demeaning or belittling language.
- Refrain from the use of abusive or confrontational approaches to athletes, coaches, meet officials, or parents.
- Work in a spirit of cooperation.
- Act in a manner that will bring commendation to MTFC, its members and themselves.
- Bring any concerns to the attention of your coach, or if needed, a member of the Board in order to facilitate resolution.

All MTFC Athletes are Expected To:

- Comply at all times with the bylaws, policies, rules and regulations of the IAAF, Athletics Canada and Athletics Ontario.
- Participate in a spirit of fair play and honesty.
- Act in a manner that will bring credit to the MTFC and themselves.
- Arrive at practices and meets at the times designated by their respective coaches.
- Know their training schedules.
- Respect an individuals' dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
- Athletes are required to compete in the official Club Uniform.
- Be attentive to their coaches and to follow coaching directives and suggestions.
- Display a positive and consistent work ethic.
- Display a positive and respectful attitude, and behaviour, toward other athletes, parents, coaches and officials.
- Athlete must adhere to and support the Athletics Ontario Drug Use and Doping Control Policy, and agrees to abide by the rules and procedures of Athletics Canada, Athletics Ontario, and the Club.

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All MTFC Coaches are Expected To:

- Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
- Remember that competition should be healthy and enjoyable for all.
- Serve as role models to athletes, both in terms of technique and strategy, and in terms of behavioural expectations in and out of competition.
- Ensure that the health, well-being and development of the athletes take precedence over wins and losses.
- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for training and competition.
- Maintain a professional demeanour in their relationships with athletes, officials, colleagues, and parents.
- Follow safe training and conditioning techniques.
- Demonstrate an understanding of growth and developmental stages of their athletes.
- Encourage success for the athletes in and out of competition; including encouraging continued commitment to academic achievement.
- Insure athletes uphold the rules of Athletics authorities and the spirit of such rules.
- Communicate and cooperate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
- Educate athletes about nutrition, safe and healthy weight loss or gain, and healthy eating behaviours.
- Encourage the independence and self-determination of developing athletes to accept responsibility for their own decisions, conduct and performance.
- Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development.

POLICIES

1. Personal Information

The Club is required to collect personal information for Members and Registered Participants. All personal information collected by the Club will be kept confidential and used for the management and operation of the Club.

However, the Club is also required to provide some personal Member and Registered Participant information to:

- The City of Mississauga as a Registered Group – Affiliated Sport Provider.
- Athletics Ontario for athlete registration.
- Competitive Meet Coordinators for athlete event entries.

The Club shall obtain the consent of Members and Registered Participants or their legal guardian before providing their personal information to the City of Mississauga or others.

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2. Concerns or Complaints

If an athlete or a parent has a concern or complaint regarding a Member, policy or procedure, the Club asks that you discuss the issue with the coach in a non-confrontational manner in a private setting. If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, please contact the Club President or Vice-President to discuss your concern.

If a discussion with the Club President or Vice-President does not produce a satisfactory resolution, then a Complaint should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board. The Board will review all written complaints and appoint a Committee of three Directors to review the complaint and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will review the Committee's recommendation, and the Board's decision will be final and binding on all parties.

3. Competition Fees

Athletes who have been selected and entered in a meet and who have been so notified must reimburse the Club for the entry fee if they do not compete, except when they are unable to do so because of illness, injury or unexpected emergency.

4. Trial Membership

Athletes will be permitted to train with the Club for a maximum of two (2) consecutive practices before being required to register with the Club as a Regular Member. However, before training with the Club, all athletes must register as a non-competitive athlete with Athletics Ontario in order to obtain appropriate insurance.

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Fair Play Code for Parents and Legal Guardians

The Club's Fair Play Code is provided as a guide to parents and legal guardians for encouraging and enhancing your child's enjoyment of their participation in the Club and in sports.

1. I will remember that my child participates in sport for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
2. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to respectfully and appropriately resolve conflicts.
3. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of an event or meet.
4. I will help my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
5. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good performances by both my child's club members and their opponents.
7. I will never question the officials' judgment or honesty in public. I will express my concerns to my child's coach who will then deal with the situation appropriately.
8. I will support all efforts to remove verbal, emotional, and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
9. I will respect and show appreciation for the coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child, understanding that I have a responsibility to be part of my child's development.
10. I will directly communicate my encouragement and concerns, should any arise, using the following guidelines:
 - i. I will approach my child's coach after practice (not before or during) to discuss the concern or arrange a convenient time to talk.
 - ii. If the issue is not resolved, the coach and I will contact the Club President or Vice President to discuss the concern.
 - iii. I realize that talking and complaining about the situation to anyone else will magnify the problem, rather than resolve it.
11. I will be accepting and patient with my child's individual stages of development and the way in which he/she learns.