



Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct (May 2022)

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 or coaching sessions.

Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to:

- Always play by the rules.
- Improve their skills levels.
- Appreciate everybody on their group, regardless of ability.
- Maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle with regard to 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 and return the registration/permission and medical consent forms 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 or dietary requirements prior to coaching sessions, games 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.
- 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 competition 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 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 with regard to training sessions:

Balinteer Community School (BCS) (Winter Season)

Tuesday & Thursday: Check-in and collections take place at the grass area next to the school car park. Children must bring their hi vis vest with them each session and dress appropriately for the weather.

Please be aware that after check-in, some groups train on fields in Broadford/Meadowbrook. If your child does not arrive on time (6pm), the group may have already left the check-in area and it will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to bring the child to the group.

Wednesday Groups: Check-in and collections in Hall.

Marlay Park (Summer Season)

Please be aware that Marlay Park is a public park and the training area we use is not enclosed/private. Safety and welfare of children is the responsibility of the parent/guardian until they have been checked in at the check-in location (lower pitch next to tennis courts). In line with Covid Training Protocols, please also be reminded that your child will not be permitted to attend training if the ClubForce invitation has not been accepted.

Collections:

Tuesday & Thursday (6pm to 7pm) 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011. F4Y and Juvenile: At the end of the training session (7pm sharp unless otherwise stated on ClubForce invitation), the safety and welfare of all children reverts to parent/guardian. Children can be collected from the check-in point or from a safe location which you have agreed with your child.

Wednesday (6pm to 7pm) 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 Children **must be collected in person** from the check-in point at the end of the training session (7pm sharp) at which time, safety and welfare of children reverts to parent/guardian.

Irishtown Stadium (Summer Season)

Drop off & Collection for all juvenile groups

Check-in: Safety and welfare of children is the responsibility of the parent/guardian until they have been checked in at the check-in location (Main gate by 5 aside soccer pitches). In line with Covid Training Protocols, please also be reminded that your child will not be permitted to attend training if the ClubForce invitation has not been accepted.

Collections: At the end of the training session (as per the time outlined on ClubForce invitation – see schedule below), the safety and welfare of all children reverts to parent/guardian. Children can be collected from the check-in point or from a safe location which you have agreed with your child.

Current Schedule:

Wednesday (7pm to 8pm) 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Saturday (12 to 1pm) 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Juvenile days and times as per ClubForce invitations

***Note:** Your child's safety and welfare is our priority and this procedure is subject to change by location and season. 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 then 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 Chairman, shall establish an appropriate procedure to deal with the complaint.
- Where the complaint is against the Chairman 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.