

# GEELONG WALKERS CLUB INC

## CODES OF BEHAVIOR

### ADMINISTRATOR

- Involve all members in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.
- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of all participants.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, events and training schedules take in consideration the age, ability and maturity level of all participants.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate positive behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Avoid allowing programmes to become primarily spectator entertainment. Focus on the needs of the participants rather than the enjoyment of the spectator.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Distribute the Code of Behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, athletes and the media.

### OFFICIALS

- Compliment all participants on their efforts.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for opponents.
- Ensure that the “spirit of the game” for participants is not lost by using common sense and not over-emphasising errors.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the participants.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principals of growth and development of participants especially children.
- Avoid the use of bad language.

## **PARENTS**

- Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force him or her.
- Focus upon the child's effort rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his/her ability by reducing the emphasis of winning.
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each event is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing an event.
- Remember children are involved with the Geelong Walkers for their enjoyment, not yours.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal abuse at Geelong Walkers Club activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of being a volunteer official and/or coach. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicating.
- Avoid use of bad language.

## **SPECTATORS**

- Remember that the children participate in Geelong Walkers Club activities for fun. They are not participating for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each athlete. Congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the event outcome.
- Respect the officials' decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise.
- Never ridicule or scold an athlete, especially children, for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it with spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.
- Show respect for each participant. Without them there would be no event.
- Encourage athletes to follow the rules and the officials' decision.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicating.
- Avoid use of bad language.

## **COACHES**

- Be reasonable in your demands on young athlete's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach athletes the rules of the sport are mutual agreements which no one should evade or break.
- Whenever possible, group athletes to give a responsible chance of success.
- Avoid over-coaching the better performing athletes, the "just average" athletes need and deserve equal time.
- Remember that children participate for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making a mistake or losing an event.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the athletes.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principals of growth and development of children.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicating.
- Avoid use of bad language.

## **ATHLETES**

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask your Team Tanager to deal with the matter.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other athletes, deliberately provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in our sport.
- Be a good sport, applaud all good results.
- Treat all athletes as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another athlete.
- Co-operate with your coach, club mates and other participants. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate with the Geelong Walkers Club for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents or coaches.
- Avoid use of bad language.