

Child Welfare at Skerries AC

Skerries Athletic Club takes this subject very seriously - with the large number of children who train and compete with us, we have to.

Skerries AC is fully committed to ensuring that young people are safeguarded in their participation in athletics. Early experiences of young athletes in our sport needs to be positive and enjoyable, irrespective of their ability, gender, social or ethnic background.

We follow best practice in Child Welfare, and fully adhere to Athletics Ireland's recommended processes in this area. To maintain an open and transparent approach we have adopted AI's policies, codes of conduct, and guidelines as our own, only customising them in order to make them club specific to ourselves.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUNG ATHLETES SKERRIES ATHLETIC CLUB

Children have a great deal to gain from athletics in terms of their personal development and enjoyment. The promotion of good practice in athletics will depend on the co-operation of all involved, including child members of clubs. Children must be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat other children and Leaders with fairness and respect.

Young athletes are entitled to:

- Be listened to and be believed
- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Have a voice in the club
- Participate on an equal basis
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy sport
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say no
- To protect their own bodies
- Confidentiality

Young athletes should always:

- Treat their coaches and other officials in the club with respect.
- Play fairly at all times, do their best and have fun.
- Respect their team members at all times.
- Listen to coaches' instructions during training sessions and at race meetings.
- Respect opponents from your own club and others.
- Participate in training with enthusiasm and ensure their behaviour does not cause disruption to coaches or other children.
- Abide by the rules set down by coaches when travelling to and during competitions and away events.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- Make high standards of fair play the example that others will want to follow.
- Talk to the children's officers (Pam Ericson or Treabhor MacEochaidh) or any of the coaches if they have any problems.

Young athletes should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules.
- Shout or argue with coaches or officials, team mates or opponents.
- Harm team members, opponents or their property.
- Disrupt training sessions by not properly taking part or by not listening to coaches
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another athlete in the club.
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage.
- Keep secrets, especially if they have been caused harm.
- Take banned substances
- Tell lies about adults or other young people in the club.
- Spread rumours

