



Parent and Legal Guardian Code of Conduct

Summary

Our goal at the Durham Dragons is to create a positive environment for all athletes, regardless of ability, one where all athletes feel safe, are encouraged to try their best and to achieve their full potential. In so doing, athletes develop strong character that will help them both on the track and throughout their lives.

Policy review

Durham Dragons Athletics board members will review this policy on an annual basis.

Code of conduct signing

This code of conduct must be signed by one parent and/or legal guardian upon registration and whenever requested by the Durham Dragons Athletics after that time. Only one Code of Conduct is required for all minor athletes under the care of the parent and/or legal guardian.

Parents and guardians of Durham Dragons athletes play a key role in creating this environment. As such, it is expected that parents and guardians of Durham Dragons athletes will:

- 1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of athletics, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.**
- 2. Support athlete health, safety and mental well-being**
 - a) Not force their child/dependent to participate in track. If their child/dependent does not wish to do track, should be encouraged find a different sport or activity for them to do. Parents should understand that kids who are forced into an activity rarely enjoy and stay in that activity.
 - b) Understand that Durham Dragons' coaches will always place an athlete's long-term best interests, physical and emotional well-being ahead of winning.
 - c) Have an understanding of long-term athletic development. For an athlete to achieve their full potential in any sport they must be in that activity for the long game, but in such a way that is appropriate for their age and physical and emotional maturity. Durham Dragons believes young athletes should not specialize in any one sport or event.
 - d) Help their child/dependent maintain a healthy balance between their participation in track, other sports, their schoolwork, friendships, family life etc.
 - e) Lead by example and encourage their child/dependent to be respectful, show good sportsmanship and abide by the rules.
 - f) Teach their child/dependent that honest effort is as important as victory so that the results of each race are accepted without undue disappointment.



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- 3. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of Durham Dragons Athletics. This includes:**
 - a) Treating fellow associates, coaches, athletes and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of athletics and the spirit of such rules.
 - b) Acting as ambassadors for the club and the sport, always demonstrating respect, sportsmanship and a positive attitude towards their own child/dependent, and their child/dependent's coaches, competitors, teammates, officials, volunteers and other coaches, clubs and athletes.
 - c) Refraining from public criticism of fellow associates, coaches, athletes and athletic clubs, especially when using social media, speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
 - d) Abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, recreational marijuana and/or vaping products while in the presence of athletes and discourage its use.
 - e) Never providing under-age athletes with alcohol or advocating or condoning the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances, classes or methods.

- 4. Coach and Parent/legal guardian relationship**
 - a) Let the coaches do the coaching. An athlete's performance suffers when they receive inconsistent instruction. Parents must not undermine their child/dependent's training or competition by attempting to coach them. Parents must leave it to the coaches to provide the instruction and give their child/dependent space when they are training or competing, helping their child/dependent to learn independence.
 - b) Go to their athlete's specific coach if there is a concern and observe the "24 Hour" rule when providing communication to the coach staff. If the concern is not resolved, parents should notify the Board through the procedure outlined in the Durham Dragon's Complaints and Discipline policy.



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5. Supervision

Coaches	Associates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Refrain from asking coaches to transport their child/dependent to/from practices and/or meets. (Note: Exemptions can be made if requests are submitted and approved by the SafeSport Committee, for example: athlete's parents are unable to consistently bring them to practice and coach can/is willing to transport them to/from.)● Refrain from asking coaches to assume legal guardianship for their child/dependent (exemption - Durham Dragon Board approved training camps or team building events).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide documented permission (email, text message and/or hard copy communication) if a request is made for an associate to transport a minor athlete.● Using the SafeSport committee's permission form, provide documented permission for an associate to assume legal guardianship for and/or share overnight accommodations with vulnerable individuals. The completed permission form must be filed with the SafeSport sport committee prior to transport and/or sharing of overnight accommodations occurs.

6. Communication

- a) Agree to be included in all communication (e.g., electronic, telephonic) with vulnerable individuals (athletes under 18). (Note: Exemptions can be extended for extenuating circumstances, e.g. athletes lost or requiring immediate help during a meet, practice or other team event.)
 - b) Agree that some non-personal communication between coaches and vulnerable individuals (e.g., coaches and athletes under 18) may take place electronically (e.g., by texting) and that this type of communication is now considered to be commonplace by Athletics Ontario.
7. Ensure all financial commitments are made on time (unless prior arrangements are made) and contact the club administrator with any concerns regarding meeting financial obligations.
 8. Abide by requirements set out in Durham Dragon's policies (as applicable).



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In the case of any dispute regarding this policy or the terms of which, or any disciplinary default whereby a parent acts outside this code the dispute will be brought to the attention of the Durham Dragons Athletics Board of Directors with the intent to be resolved amicably at the discretion of the Board.

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in disciplinary discussion, disciplinary action and sanctions up to and including removal of my child from the team.