**Code of Conduct**

MDLAC has adopted and adheres to the Aussie Sports Code of Conduct as shown below. Within this there is a clearly defined code of behaviour for administrators, officials, coaches, parents and athletes. All persons involved are bound by these codes, which help develop and maintain the highest levels of fair play, sportsmanship and enjoyment in the sport of their choice by our children and all who support them. In the event of inappropriate behaviour occurring that is reported and deemed to contravene the MDLAC Codes of Conduct, the Committee Executive will decide the most appropriate follow up in accordance with our constitution.

**Athletes Code of Conduct**

 Play by the rules.

 Never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask the team manager, chaperone, supervising adult to deal with the matter

 Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other athletes, deliberately distracting or provoking an athlete are not acceptable or permitted behaviours.

 Work equally hard for yourself and/or your Centre. Your Centre’s performance will benefit, so will you.

 Be a good sport, applaud all good results of other athletes whether they are your own Centre or others.

 Treat all athletes as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.

 Cooperate with your team manager, coach & other athletes. Without them there would be no competition.

 Participate for you’re the fun of it, not just to please parents or coaches.

**Coaches’ Code of Conduct**

 Allow all abilities to participate, participation is everything to a young athlete.

 Participation is total, winning is a bonus.

 When providing one on one support for a child always ensure it is in full view of others

 Avoid over-coaching the better performing athletes, the ‘just average’ athletes need and deserve equal time.

 Be reasonable in your demands on young athlete’s time, energy & 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 reasonable chance of success.

 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 mistakes or losing an event.

 Ensure that equipment & facilities meet safety standards & are appropriate to the age & ability of the athletes.

 Take into consideration the maturity level of the children when scheduling and determining the length of training times and competition.

 Develop respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and coaches.

 Follow the advice of a GP when determining when an injured athlete is ready to recommence training or competition.

 Make personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

 Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, by not harassing athletes, other coaches or officials, smoking on the arena or being intoxicated.

 Do not use bad language.

 Physical contact with athletes must be appropriate as require to demonstrate a skill. Permission from the child must be obtained before physical contact and must be ceased immediately of the child appears uncomfortable.

**Officials’ Code of Conduct**

 Compliment all participants on their effort.

 Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling infringements or fouls.

 Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.

 Ensure that the ‘spirit of the game’ for children 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 participation for fun and enjoyment.

 Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.

 Make personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

 Do not use bad language.

**Parents’/Spectators’ Code of Conduct**

 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 efforts 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 on 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.

 Remember children are involved in little athletics for their enjoyment, not yours.

 Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good efforts by all participants.

 Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing an event.

 Respect officials’ decisions and teach children to do likewise.

 If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official’s judgement and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child’s involvement.

 Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

 Recognise the value and importance of being a volunteer. They give 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 under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not permitted.