

Edgeworth Little Athletics Centre (ELAC)

Parent and Spectator Conduct & Safety Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the expected standards of behaviour and safety responsibilities for parents, guardians, and spectators involved with Edgeworth Little Athletics Centre (ELAC). It aims to foster a positive, safe, and enjoyable environment for all athletes, volunteers, and families.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all parents, guardians, spectators, and volunteers participating in ELAC activities and events.

3. Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents and spectators play a vital role in supporting athletes and ensuring a respectful and encouraging environment. All adults involved with ELAC are expected to:

- Encourage Participation and Effort Support children's participation if they are interested. Focus on effort, skill development, and achieving personal bests rather than solely on winning.
- Promote Positive Sportsmanship Never ridicule or criticise a child for mistakes or losses. Applaud efforts and performances of all athletes, regardless of their placing.
- Lead by Example Be a role model in behaviour and attitude. Applaud good performances, support the rules, and respect all participants.
- Respect Officials and Volunteers Raise concerns respectfully through appropriate channels. Do not question officials' judgement publicly. Recognise that most officials and coaches are volunteers who give their time to support your children.
- Discourage Abuse Actively support efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all sporting activities.
- Support a Child-Centred Environment Remember that athletics is for the children's enjoyment and development—not for the entertainment of spectators or for adult competition.
- Abide by Alcohol and Behaviour Guidelines Alcohol must not be consumed while competition is underway. Negative or disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.

4. Parental Involvement and Safety

Parents are encouraged to assist on competition nights in roles such as age managers, recorders, timekeepers, and Volunteers.

For everyone's safety, please remain alert and aware—particularly during events involving equipment like javelins, shot puts, and discuses, which can travel unpredictably.

When moving around the venue, especially when crossing the track, always check both directions before proceeding. *Treat the track like a road: look both ways and ensure it's clear before crossing to avoid interfering with competitors or placing yourself at risk.*

4. Child Supervision and Safety;

- Children under the age of 18 must not be left at the venue without a parent or guardian present.
- Children who are unsupervised will not be allowed to compete.
- Please discourage children from entering the car park area without adult supervision to minimise safety risks.

5. General Venue Safety

- No Dogs or Pets: Animals are not permitted while athletics events are in progress.
- No Ball Games: Kicking or throwing balls during competition times is prohibited for safety reasons.

6. Compliance

Breaches of this policy may result in individuals being asked to leave the venue. Continued or serious breaches may result in exclusion from future ELAC activities.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

Approved by: ELAC Committee **Effective Date:** 29/07/2025

Review Date: 24/05/2026