

Australian Athletics Code of Conduct - Social Networking Code of Conduct Policy

Little Athletics SA recognises the value of social media, online communication and electronic messaging in connecting with Clubs, members, athletes, families, volunteers and the broader athletics community.

Little Athletics SA has adopted the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct, including the Social Networking Code of Conduct. This policy makes the expectations clear and accessible for Clubs, members, volunteers, coaches, officials, parents, guardians and athletes.

This Code applies to social media activity, online communication, private messaging and other electronic communication connected to Little Athletics or athletics more broadly.

This Code should be read together with:

- Australian Athletics Code of Conduct;
- Australian Athletics Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy;
- Little Athletics SA South Australian Child Safety Compliance Guide.

1. Appropriate use of social networking

All relevant persons must use social networking services appropriately.

This includes:

- personal social media profiles;
- Club or athletics-related pages;
- online forums;
- blogs;
- status updates;
- posts;
- private messaging platforms;
- WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and other electronic messaging services.

2. Unacceptable content

When using social media or electronic communication connected to Little Athletics or athletics more broadly, content must not:

- be offensive, aggressive, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, intimidating, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist, sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate;
- be inaccurate, misleading or fraudulent;
- breach the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct or this Social Networking Code of Conduct;
- breach any law, court order, undertaking or contract;
- breach another person's privacy or confidentiality;
- negatively affect, or have the potential to negatively affect, the image, goodwill, name or reputation of Little Athletics SA, Australian Athletics, a Member Association, Club, athlete, volunteer, official, coach, parent, guardian or other person involved in athletics.

3. Personal responsibility

All participants are responsible for the content they post, share, comment on or distribute through social media or electronic communication.

People should remember that online or electronic content can become public, and may be copied, shared, saved, screenshotted or distributed across other platforms.

4. Communication with children and young people

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Adults communicating with children or young people through social media, private messaging or electronic communication must take particular care. Communication must comply with Australian social media minimum age laws, the Australian Athletics Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, and the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct.

Adults should:

- avoid private one-on-one messaging with children or young people wherever possible;
- copy a parent or guardian into communications wherever possible;
- limit communication to Little Athletics-related matters, including training, competition, events or Club operations;
- ensure communication is appropriate, transparent and respectful;
- never engage in secretive, inappropriate or personal communication with a child or young person.

Adult use of social networking must also comply with the Australian Athletics Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and its Child Safe Practices.

5. Social media minimum age laws

Australian social media minimum age laws apply to age-restricted social media platforms. These laws require those platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from creating or keeping accounts.

Little Athletics SA expects Clubs, volunteers, coaches, officials and staff to act consistently with these laws and to avoid any practice that encourages or requires children under 16 to use age-restricted social media platforms.

In practice, Clubs should:

- not require children under 16 to join, follow or use an age-restricted social media platform to receive Club information;
- not use private social media messaging as the main communication method with children under 16;
- direct Club communications through parents or guardians wherever possible;
- use appropriate Club-approved communication channels for families and members;
- ensure social media content involving children and young people complies with consent requirements and the Australian Athletics Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Where communication with a child or young person is necessary, it should be limited to Little Athletics-related matters, be transparent and appropriate, and include a parent or guardian wherever possible.

6. Authorised spokespersons

Relevant persons must not represent themselves as speaking on behalf of Little Athletics SA, Australian Athletics, a Member Association, Club or other relevant organisation unless they have been approved to do so.

Only authorised people may speak publicly or post on behalf of Little Athletics SA or another relevant organisation.

7. Breaches of this Code

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Content or conduct that breaches this Social Networking Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action.

A breach may also be managed under the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct or a National Integrity Framework policy.

Concerns about social media conduct, online communication or private messaging should be reported through the appropriate Club, Little Athletics SA, Australian Athletics or Sport Integrity Australia pathway.

8. Further information

For further information, please refer to:

- Australian Athletics Code of Conduct;
- Australian Athletics Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy;
- Little Athletics SA South Australian Child Safety Compliance Guide;
- Sport Integrity Australia resources.