



Athlete Code of Conduct

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1 Introduction

The Mid West Academy of Sport (MWAS) supports the development of athletes coaches and officials. Gaining a scholarship with the MWAS is a prestigious opportunity. Athletes from the MWAS have been identified as having the potential to represent Western Australia and/or Australia.

The Mid West has a proud sporting history. Athletes that embrace their scholarship with the MWAS by utilising MWAS services and following the advice of coaches and other service providers will provide themselves with the highest chance of becoming an elite sporting champion and also succeeding in life out of sport.

It is essential that MWAS athletes recognise that they are role models who influence other athletes. In addition, MWAS athletes are representatives of the MWAS and its sponsors. It is for this reason that MWAS athletes must display the Guiding Principles outlined in this document in all aspects of life, on and off the sporting field. These are the MWAS Athlete Guiding Principles and are further outlined in section 2.

Holding and retaining a scholarship with the MWAS is a privilege and not a right. This is regardless of how talented one is. Therefore athletes must realise that the MWAS takes this code of conduct very seriously and that behaviour that is not in-line with MWAS values and the code of conduct will almost certainly lead to permanent expulsion of scholarship.

This Code of Conduct aims to ensure that all MWAS athletes are aware of the level of behaviour that is expected. Athletes that are uncertain of the meaning of any terms within the Code of Conduct should seek clarification from the MWAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Athletes who do not plan to follow the Code of Conduct, or do not have the discipline to do so, should decline the offer of scholarship.

This Code is prepared in conjunction with existing documentation and athletes must adhere to and make themselves aware of the MWAS Anti-Doping policy and the MWAS Athlete Agreement.

2 Guiding Principles for Athlete Conduct

Athletes are in a position of great opportunity and responsibility where performances during training and competition will affect the reputation and success of MWAS. The MWAS athlete guiding principles place an expectation on athletes to ensure their behaviour is excellent and at the same time respectful to the dignity of all people.

The four key principles below provide the framework of the Code.

Athletes will:

Principle 1: Pursue athletic excellence with sportsmanship and integrity

- Obey the officials, rules, and spirit of the rules for ones chosen sport.
- Treat team members and opponents with respect.
- Perform and react with dignity regarding decisions of officials.
- When appropriate, and with due respect, follow the appropriate avenues for appeal.
- Comply with the MWAS Anti-Doping Policy.

- Athletes should seek to positively participate in the building and maintenance of sponsorships by the quality of their interactions with MWAS sponsors.
- Compete fiercely with a characteristic of humility in the face of all outcomes. Humility means to be humble. Humility makes the great, greater.

Principle 2: Treat people with respect

- Maintain respect for oneself as this will form a strong basis for respecting others.
- Treat people involved in sport with courtesy and proper regard for their rights.
- Try to ensure that other athletes and participants have fun and gain positive experiences from sport, whether they are a team member, opponent, or any other participant.
- Work cooperatively with fellow athletes, coaches, staff, sponsors, and key stakeholders and supporters of MWAS.

Principle 3: Use the sporting services, facilities and equipment with the highest consideration

- Take care of MWAS' and all other other facilities and equipment to ensure their use is with the highest regard for safety of one-self, others, the facility and equipment.
- Use the facilities and equipment with diligence to ensure other users have the same level of access to resources that support their sporting goals.
- Recognise the high value of all services that are provided through MWAS scholarships. Learn as much as one can and use the services that are provided to give one the competitive edge that required to achieve one's potential in and out of sport.

Principle 4: Observe the expectations of being a community role model

- Promote the integrity of MWAS during training, competition and public engagements.
- Exhibit the highest standards of behaviour at MWAS functions and in all aspects of life.
- Conduct one-self in a manner that is beneficial to MWAS and in a way that brings credit to MWAS.
- Recognise and act in a manner responsible for safeguarding the reputation (performance and otherwise) of MWAS in the perception of all people and organisations external to MWAS.
- Take reasonable care when travelling and wearing MWAS apparel to ensure the highest reputation is upheld.
- Behave in a respectful manner in one's private life. At all times consider the required discretion and make judgements in all regards to ensure your sport, MWAS, staff, sponsors, key stakeholders, and supporters of MWAS are not undermined and/or brought into disrepute by ones actions.
- It is critical for athletes to be aware of the need to be cognisant of their behaviour at all times as the community often does not differentiate between when they are considered a MWAS athlete and when considered a private citizen. This includes when using technology (including but not limited to mobile phones, Facebook and YouTube).

3 Examples of Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour

The illustrations outlined in this section are not exhaustive, and the fact that a conduct is not addressed by these examples does not indicate that MWAS endorses it as either complying with or

contravening the Code. These examples are offered as an illustration of the Code in practice. It is strongly encouraged that the individual always aspires to the highest possible standards of conduct.

BEHAVIOURAL EXAMPLES OF HOW TO MEET THE CODE

Principle 1: Pursue athletic excellence with sportsmanship and integrity

Athletes must:

- Attend and comply with drugs in sport seminars and the rules of the Australian Anti-Doping Authority and the World Anti-Doping Authority.
- Give acknowledgement and encouragement for the performance of other competitors.

Athletes must avoid:

- Inappropriate and/or excessive complaints to umpires and/or officials during competition.
- Behaving in excessively arrogant ways towards other competitors and/or spectators.

Principle 2: Treat people with respect

Athletes must:

- When requested by people or media external to MWAS, always seek to provide a positive and encouraging public comment on MWAS, other athletes, coaches and the organisation more generally.
- When engaging in social events, maintain a high level of discretion and good judgement in regards to the use of alcohol. Always adhere to the law.
- Actively thank and appreciate the work of the volunteers that allow your sport to operate.

Athletes must avoid:

- Behaving in a manner that becomes unlawful, creates a public nuisance, and/or public disturbance.
- Non-compliance with the cultural norms and expectations of others.

Principle 3: Use the facilities and equipment with the highest consideration

Athletes must:

- Comply with the expected behaviours (e.g. use of towels in gym, use of equipment) and directions provided by the staff of the facility.
- Consult with staff and service providers of MWAS regarding and working towards, the attainment of athletic and academic excellence and your highest potential.

Principle 4: Observe the expectations of being a role model

Athletes must:

- Abide by both the rules and the spirit of their sport.

- Be prepared to behave in a positive light when travelling to and from training and competitions when representing MWAS.
- Exhibit the highest standards of behaviour at MWAS functions or whenever representing MWAS.

Athletes must avoid:

- The intentional or unintentional display of excessive disagreement with the decisions made by officials.
- The engagement in and/or exposure of damaging private behaviour that has the capacity to detract from the reputation of MWAS as a highly regarded organisation.

4 Reporting and Management of Breaches of the Code of Conduct

All breaches of the code of conduct must be provided in writing, via email or letter to the MWAS CEO. The MWAS CEO will then inform the parent / guardian/s of the athlete under investigation. The CEO will provide the athlete and their parent guardian with the opportunity to respond to the alleged breach in writing.

The MWAS CEO will then consider all information, will question witnesses or others as necessary and will then provide a report to the MWAS Board of Directors. The MWAS Board will then decide upon what disciplinary action will be taken.

In the event that the MWAS CEO deems an offense to be minor in nature, the CEO may choose to provide the athlete with a written warning, without the need for further consideration from the MWAS Board. All written warnings will be kept on file and may be utilised against the athlete in the event of future breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The decision of the MWAS Board and the CEO are final and no appeals will be heard.

In scenarios where an athlete breaks law, or regulations such as anti-doping regulations, the appropriate body will be informed, e.g. the Police or the Australian Sports Anti-doping Authority. MWAS may choose to suspend scholarships whilst such investigations are carried out.

Specific factors to consider as part of determining the appropriate response to an alleged breach of the Code include:

- The nature of the behaviour and the level of incident.
- The impact of the behaviour on the well-being of those affected by the behaviour.
- The extent to which the incident will threaten the reputation of MWAS.
- The competition, training, and natural age of the athlete.
- Historical and personal characteristics of the elite athlete and the incident.
- Whether the alleged behaviour was a first or one of a series of repeated incidents where a pattern appears to emerge to describe the motives of the athlete.

5 Athlete Pledge

I have read the Mid West Academy of Sport Code of Conduct carefully. If I was not able to read and/or understand any sections of the Code of Conduct, I received appropriate assistance so that I am now aware of the Code of Conduct and how I am to behave as an athlete whilst on scholarship with the Mid West Academy of Sport.

I realise that if I breach the Code of Conduct, it is very likely that I will face expulsion from the Mid West Academy of Sport. If I am expelled from scholarship, or if my scholarship is not renewed as a result of my behaviour, I will accept that I am at fault and I agree to not appeal to the MWAS through the legal system.

In the event that I forget any contents of the Code of Conduct, I will re-familiarise myself with the Code and will seek clarification for any areas in which I am uncertain of the meaning. I know that the staff of the MWAS will be glad to clarify any terms and to assist me to ensure that I understand the conditions stated within this Code of Conduct.

Athlete Name:

Athlete Signature:

Date (DD/MM/YY):

Parent / guardian endorsement (if the athlete is under 18 years of age on this day)

Parent / guardian Name:

Parent / guardian Signature:

Date (DD/MM/YY):