

ATHLETICS OMNIBUS – A CODE OF ETHICS

From the Athletics Omnibus of Richard Stander, South Africa

1. CODE OF ETHICS

1.1. TERMINOLOGY

- 1.1.1. **ATHLETICS OFFICIAL:** An inclusive term for all Officials in the Athletics Structure that has the powers to influence other peoples lives, e.g. Athletics Executive Members, Commission members, Committee members, Club Executives, Coaches and Technical Officials.
- 1.1.2. **ATHLETICS MEMBER:** An inclusive term for all affiliated, associated or registered Members of ATHLETICS, e.g. Athletes, Coaches, Technical Officials and Administrators.

1.2. INTRODUCTION

The role of an Athletics Official should at all times to be to promote fair play or sportsmanship-like behaviours and attitudes among the Athletics Members. Fair play is defined as much more than playing within the rules. It is a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving.

Fair play in athletics can be expressed as a philosophy in all spheres of life and includes the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always participating in the right spirit.

This philosophy has built into it the elimination of cheating, doping, verbal abuse, violence, exploitation, unequal opportunities and corruption.

The privilege that an Athletics Official have to be involved in athletics activities comes with a certain amount of responsibility. Through the work of the Athletics Official, and how he/she carries out an image as Member of athletics, is projected to all other Athletics Members and to those not directly involved in athletics.

In the modern society with all its relevant pressures that athletics are constantly faced with, it has put the role of the Athletics Official crucial as an ambassador of the ethical values of fair play in athletics.

1.3. THE CODE OF ETHICS

The role of the Athletics Official should be to firstly focus on the development of athletics with his/her long-term interest as of greater importance than his/her short-term career considerations. The commitment of the ATHLETICS Official should be realistic to the level of input that he/she is capable of. To be successful in this role, the ATHLETICS Official must behave in an ethical manner along guidelines, which include:

1.3.1. RESPECT OF THE RULES

The recognized athletics structure's Constitution and Rules should be respected and implemented by the ATHLETICS Official.

Athletics Officials should be encouraged to respect the rules that apply. Behaviour towards opponents and other Athletics Member should be exemplary.

In providing judgement to ensure that the Athletics Business is conducted fairly, the Athletics Official's role should be accepted. Not only should it be accepted as judgement but also in the spirit of fair play.

Athletics Officials should encourage the independence and self-determination of each Athletics Member by their acceptance of responsibility for their own decisions, conduct and performances. The active leadership role of the Athletics Official should include the development of the Athletics Member's sense of fair play.

1.3.2. RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The basic human right; the equal rights of each Athletics Member with no discrimination on the grounds of gender, language, race, colour, religion, political or other opinion, national or

social origin, association with a national minority, birth or status should be respected by the Athletics Official.

The Athletics Official should also respect the basic human right of each Athletics Member to compete in athletics with freedom from physical or sexual harassment, verbal violence, and freedom from inappropriate physical or sexual advances or behaviour.

1.3.3. RESPECT OF PROFICIENCY

Athletics Officials should strive to be skilful in the execution of his/her duties and regard it as an ongoing commitment to upgrade his/her skills level. Attending accredited courses and gaining practical experiences should be a voluntary commitment on the part of every Athletics Official.

The psychological and physical challenges that Athletics Officials set for individual Athletics Members should be appropriate taking into consideration the age, maturity and skill level as well as the safety aspects.

1.3.4. RESPECT OF THE ATHLETICS OFFICIALS' IMAGE

Through the work of the individual Athletics Official there is a strong sense of responsibility whereby an image of athletics is projected to the Athletics Member, other Athletics Officials and those not involved in athletics. The conduct of the Athletics Official (his/her manner of appearance and behaviour) should be in line with that of ASA and the IAAF.

Athletics Officials should realise that they influence the Athletics Members for life through athletics and should not be seen as merely doing their job.

An Athletics Official should never smoke, have an alcoholic smell or consume alcohol while in the presence of an Athletics Members or conducting the business of athletics.

1.3.5. RESPECT FOR THE ESPIRIT DE CORPS

The Athletics Official should give full co-operation to all individuals and relevant parties that could be meaningful to the Athletics Member. Athletics Officials should direct criticism, recommendations and issues observed with the greatest professionalism to the appropriate person or persons.

The ATHLETICS Official should work openly with other Athletics Officials thereby sharing knowledge and practical experience gained to promote and develop athletics in his/her area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Code of Ethics of the International Association of Athletics Federations, IAAF Handbook 2002 - 2003 – IAAF, 17 rue Princess Florence, BP 359 – MC 98007