



Three Rivers Association USA Track & Field Athlete, Parent, Coach Etiquette, Ethical Conduct & Sportsmanship

USATF Three Rivers Association is committed to providing a safe sport that maintains only the highest ethical and honorable standards in all our Youth Track and Field and Youth Cross Country programs. Good Sportsmanship is vital to the conduct of every athletic practice and competition. Sportsmanship is an aspiration that a sport will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for **fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors.** Poor sportsmanship is a reflection of an individual, but also detracts from the enjoyment of the activity for other participants. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated at USATF Three Rivers Association events and will be dealt with promptly. The following are examples of unsportsmanlike conduct (note: unsportsmanlike conduct is not limited to these examples only):

- a. Profanity (participants are expected to avoid the use of casual profanity, and vulgar gestures, even when not directed at a player, coach or official.
- b. Shoving, striking, intimidating, or attempting to, physically or verbally abusing an opponent, coach, official or spectator. This includes loud, rude, or disruptive behavior or taunting (verbal or by gesture) of other competitors, coaches officials or spectators.
- c. Failure to comply with directions from a meet official or meet management.
- d. Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products, or controlled substances while attending or participating in any practice or competition.
- e. Acting disrespectfully towards the property of others or the facility where the competition is being held.

USATF Rules of Competition, Rule 125.8 and Rule 145 state:

"A Referee shall have the authority to warn any competitor for acting in an unsporting or improper manner. Warnings may be indicated to the competitor by showing a yellow card, exclusions by showing a red card. Any competitor who shall refuse to obey the directions of the Referee or other proper official, or who shall conduct himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner, or who is offensive by action or language to the officials, spectators, or competitors at any competition may be disqualified by the Referee from future competition at the meet.....If the Referee thinks the offense worthy of additional action, he/she shall promptly make a detailed statement of the offense to the appropriate Association Officer."

A. Parent and Athlete Sportsmanship

All Three Rivers Association (TRA) Club Coaches and Presidents are hereby required to know and review with their respective assistant coaches, volunteers, parents and athletes the proper sportsmanship rules and ethical conduct standards for acceptable behavior at both practices and competitions.

Each Coach shall verify that each parent and athlete understands and agrees to adhere to these proper sportsmanship behaviors and ethical conduct and understands the consequences for infractions contained in this document. This verification will take the form of the parent/guardian and athletes initials in the appropriate box on the athlete waiver. Note: All coaches and volunteers must sign



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as well. All current club athletes, new and or unattached athletes must have these requirements signed and on file with Three Rivers Association Secretary before participation in any USATF Three Rivers Association Junior Olympic meet.

B. Venue Behavior

It is expected that all coaches, parents and athletes will exhibit proper Sportsmanship behaviors in accordance with the above rules and ethical conduct standards. However, if a parent, coach or athlete has a question about a situation in a competition on the track or in the field during a meet that individual will work through the Head Coach to obtain clarification and or to correct the situation. An unattached athlete (or his/her parent or coach) should direct any questions or issues to the official at the event, the referee or to meet management. In the event an athlete, coach, or parent is still not satisfied, a grievance may be filed in writing with Secretary of the Association in accordance with the provisions of Article 16, Internal Grievance Procedure of the Three Rivers Association Bylaws.

The Head Coach is required to be present at all competitions. If unable to attend the Head Coach will appoint a designee and inform meet personnel who said designee is.

C. Recruitment

The USATF Governance Handbook, Operating Regulation 4-C-2 states: "To transfer representation from one club/organization to another, an athlete must not have competed for the first club in sanctioned competition for the previous ninety (90) days regardless of residency."

While coaches are encouraged to refrain from open recruiting of other team's athletes during actual sanctioned competitions, there are no regulations that prohibit this. However, any coach, club member or club booster making negative or derogatory comments about the coach of another team or openly criticizing the coaching methods and abilities of the other team's coach to an athlete will be considered to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner. Such conduct undermines the fair play standard each coach expects from his/her fellow coaches and should be avoided. Coaches who are observed to act in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be reported to the Association office (see paragraph E. Disciplinary Action below).

D. Responsibility

Every coach is responsible for the actions of his/her team members, parents, and spectators. Unattached athletes and adults accompanying unattached athletes will be held responsible for their own actions. Every coach is responsible for taking all precautions to prevent, spectators, parents and athletes from threatening or assaulting officials meet management or each other during or while still at the meet location.

E. Disciplinary Action

1. Only the Three Rivers Association Executive Board may take disciplinary action beyond those provided for in the Rules of Competition. Actions to reprimand, censure, or suspend an athlete, coach, assistant coach, manager, parent or



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spectator from further participation or attendance at USATF Three Rivers Association events for words or actions deemed detrimental to the Association or its activities will only occur after full investigation by and action by the Executive Board with the exception of the following disciplinary actions which the Executive Board has delegated to the President of the Association to authorize:

- a. Persons guilty of pushing or striking any person or involved in fighting before, during or after a meet, as documented by a formal written report by the meet referee or meet director to the President of the Association, shall receive a suspension from the next scheduled meet.
 - b. Any athlete disqualified from an event by the referee for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from the next scheduled meet. The referee will file a formal written report with the President of the Association of the disqualification.
 - c. Any athlete, coach, parent, or spectator asked to leave the competition area by the referee shall receive a minimum of a one meet suspension and may not participate or attend the next scheduled meet. Note: If required meet management may utilize local or school police or security personnel for certain situations and to enforce the above. The referee or meet director will file a formal written report with the President of the Association on the facts concerning this incident.
2. It is normally the responsibility of the meet Referee or the Meet Director to report inappropriate actions by athletes, coaches, parents or spectators to the Association Office. However, anyone witnessing an incident may report events or actions of an athlete, team, coach, spectator or parent that are deemed inappropriate. The report of such event or actions must be submitted in writing, along with any evidence or witness statements by submitting a Letter to the President of the Three Rivers Association.
3. The President shall have the authority to suspend any person from any competition within the Association until the issue can be addressed by the Executive Board. The suspension by the President shall not exceed 10 days in length. Following the authorization to suspend an athlete or coach by the President, the President will immediately notify the Executive Board and ensure a prompt review of the situation is conducted either by electronic means or at a special meeting of the Board.
4. All reports of inappropriate behavior will be reviewed by the President and Executive Board and actions will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of **ARTICLE 17: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION** of the Three Rivers Association By-Laws. The Executive Board shall determine the length of time of the suspension for actions deemed detrimental to Association. These suspensions may be from 10 days up to permanent expulsion. The Executive Board will notify, in writing, the person involved of any alleged infringement of rules or good conduct, and in order to afford an opportunity to be heard in a swift and equitable manner."