

**Eden Prairie Track and Field Association
Adult and Athlete Protection Guidelines
January 2012**

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, Eden Prairie Track and Field Association (EPTFA) defines **ADULT** as those persons in their roles as coach, assistant coach, team manager, board member, officer, or administrator who works with, for or around **ATHLETES**.

ATHLETE defines all persons who are members EPTFA sponsored teams.

TRACK DIRECTOR defines the Eden Prairie Track and Field Association President or delegate in charge of the track during a defined practice or meet.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines recognize that the lines of authority and separation between adults and athletes must be recognized and respected. Generally, athletes are children and as such, deserve special protection. These guidelines provide that protection while setting levels of acceptable conduct for adults.

I. Physical Contact

- A. **ADULTS** must be aware that any physical contact with **ATHLETES** can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat an injury, or console or congratulate a player. In the instance of teaching a skill, minimal contact should be involved and none which places the **ADULT** in a position of power and/or intimidation; for example, taking an **ATHLETE** by the shoulders and physically moving them to another field or body position.
- B. Any type of contact that could be interpreted as sexual in nature is prohibited between **ADULTS and ATHLETE**.

II. Social Contact

- A. **ADULTS** should not socialize or spend time alone with an **ATHLETE**. An **ADULT** in a one-on-one situation with an **ATHLETE** is generally inappropriate.
 - 1. In the event that an **ATHLETE** remains at the track waiting for transportation, the **ADULT** should notify the **TRACK DIRECTOR** and the two adults should wait with the **ATHLETE** at the entrance of the track to guarantee the **ATHLETES** safety and well-being. (**ADULTS** should stress with their **ATHLETES'** parents the responsibility for safe and timely transportation to and from the track.)

III. Health and Well-being

- A. **ADULTS** share the responsibility for the **ATHLETES'** health while at practices, and meets.
- B. Head injuries resulting in disorientation should result in an **ATHLETE** remaining out of the practice or meet. The **ADULT** will contact the **TRACK DIRECTOR** immediately and the **TRACK DIRECTOR** will take control of the situation.
- C. **ADULTS** need to be aware of signs of neglect and abuse (physical, emotional or sexual) of the **ATHLETES**. Observations should be reported to the **TRACK DIRECTOR** immediately.

IV. Language

- A. Offensive and insulting language by **ADULTS** or **ATHLETES** is unacceptable. **ADULTS** should model good communication skills.
- B. Language that is denigrating in nature, content or tone or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion is unacceptable.
- C. Inappropriate language targeting officials, opponents or spectators may be grounds for **ATHLETE** penalties or **ADULTS'** removal from the practice/meet and/or the premises.

V. Violations

- A. Violations of these guidelines by **ADULTS** or **ATHLETES** will subject them to disciplinary actions, including but not limited to, warnings, suspensions or expulsion from all EPTFA related programming.
- B. Appropriate legal authorities may be called upon based on the nature of the violation.
- C. Anyone witnessing a violation of these Guidelines should report the violation to the EPTFA President or member of the EPTFA Board of Directors.

END OF GUIDELINES