

13. Code of Conduct (extracted from MTBA Technical Regulations)

13.1. Purpose.

The purpose of Code of Conduct (code) is to describe the type of behaviour that MTBA is seeking to promote and encourage its members and supporters to adopt. The code were developed by CA. MTBA has adopted it as part of our affiliation with CA and because it helps define what appropriate (and inappropriate) conduct is. MTBA is committed to the promotion of the sport of mountain biking as a positive life model; this code will help set the groundwork in that respect.

13.2. Application.

The code shall apply to all persons formally associated with mountain biking, within Australia. In particular, it shall apply to:

- 13.2.1. Persons acting for or on behalf of MTBA.
- 13.2.2. Athletes, coaches, managers and support staff of MTBA.
- 13.2.3. All persons participating in MTBA sanctioned events.
- 13.2.4. Officials, Commissaires and support personnel assisting in or conducting MTBA events.
- 13.2.5. MTBA appointed Delegates and employees of MTBA.

13.3. Key Principles.

- 13.3.1. MTBA wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property.¹
- 13.3.2. MTBA wishes to operate in an environment that is free from harassment.²
- 13.3.3. MTBA wishes to operate in a non-discriminatory environment. Respect the right, dignity and worth of every human being - within the context of the activity, treat everyone equally regardless of gender, ethnic origin or religion.
- 13.3.4. Persons to whom this Code applies acknowledge and agree to comply with the disciplinary and grievance procedures promulgated by MTBA (see chapter 3). If any disciplinary action is taken, persons directly affected shall be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings and the right to appeal against any decision against them.

13.4. Key Elements.

- 13.4.1. All persons who are bound by this code shall:
- 13.4.2. Act in a manner that is compatible with the interests of MTBA;
- 13.4.3. Accord people involved in mountain biking (and cycling more generally) with the appropriate courtesy, respect and regard for their rights and obligations;

¹ Respect is defined as consideration for another's physical and emotional wellbeing and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to either.

² Harassment is defined as any action directed at an individual or group that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment. For more information please refer to Australian Sports Commission Guidelines for Harassment-Free Sport.

- 13.4.4. Treat people's property with respect and due consideration of its value;
- 13.4.5. Show a positive commitment to MTBA's policies, rules, procedures, guidelines and agreements;
- 13.4.6. Respect the law and customs of the places they visit;
- 13.4.7. Respect the confidentiality of information that they receive in the course of fulfilling their duties;
- 13.4.8. Uphold the standing and reputation of mountain biking (and cycling more generally) within Australia;
- 13.4.9. Not misuse provided funds or property belonging to another party; and
- 13.4.10. Observe and comply with the Anti Doping Rules set out in the CA Doping Policy.

13.5. Unacceptable Behaviour.

- 13.5.1. This list provides examples of behaviour deemed to be unsuitable and not in the best interests of the sport.
- 13.5.2. 'Sledging' other athletes, officials or event organisers.³
- 13.5.3. Excessive use of alcohol, acting in a way that becomes a public nuisance, or creating a public disturbance.
- 13.5.4. Damaging another person's property or depriving them of that property.
- 13.5.5. Sexual relations between an appointed official and a junior athlete (under the age of consent), irrespective of the wishes and desires of the athlete. In all other cases such relations are strongly discouraged.
- 13.5.6. Any physical contact with athletes shall be appropriate to the situation and be necessary for the further development of the athlete's skill.
- 13.5.7. The use or encouragement of the use of banned substances.⁴
- 13.5.8. Statements that are deemed to denigrate the group that an individual is representing.
- 13.5.9. Any type of gambling, betting or organisation of betting at any MTB event, while competing, officiating or undertaking a management role.
- 13.5.10. Any form of harassment.

13.6. Officials Code of Ethics

The responsibility for the ethical conduct of mountain bike events rests equally with officials and participants as well as coaches, media, and spectators.

The duties of an official carries with it an obligation to perform those duties with accuracy, consistency, objectivity and a high sense of integrity. To preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism and integrity of mountain bike officiating all officials are expected to follow ethical behaviour.

³ Sledging is defined as a statement that is deemed to denigrate and/or intimidate another person, or behavior likely to constitute emotional abuse.

⁴ The banned substance list is as outlined under current CA doping listings. Go to www.cycling.org.au, see also chapter 5.

13.6.1. MTBA officials expect that:

- 13.6.1.1. Their health and safety will be considered of paramount importance;
- 13.6.1.2. They will be treated with respect and openness;
- 13.6.1.3. They will be appointed to a level of event appropriate to their level of competence; and
- 13.6.1.4. They will have access to self-improvement opportunities.

13.6.2. MTBA officials will observe and adhere to the following code of ethics:

- 13.6.2.1. Place safety and welfare of the participants above all else;
 - 13.6.2.2. Accept responsibility for their actions;
 - 13.6.2.3. Be impartial;
 - 13.6.2.4. Avoid and conflict of interest;
 - 13.6.2.5. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction;
 - 13.6.2.6. Value the individual;
 - 13.6.2.7. Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies;
 - 13.6.2.8. Encourage inclusivity and access to all potential participants;
 - 13.6.2.9. Be a positive role model in behavior and personal appearance;
 - 13.6.2.10. Refrain from any form of personal abuse to others;
 - 13.6.2.11. Refrain from any form of sexual harassment to others; and
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured participants.