



**Little
Athletics**
Victoria

Trial Athlete Policy

of

Little Athletics Association of Victoria Inc

Version 1.5

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SECTION 1 – TRIAL ATHLETES

1.1 Context

- (a) This policy aligns with Regulation 6 – Terms for Affiliation (Membership) of Centres. Rule 1.10 (a) (ii) states: Marketing and promotional activities occur in the local community, including schools, to retain and / or grow their competitive membership base.
- (b) Little Athletics Victoria ('LAVic') actively encourages its Affiliated Centres to attract new Competitive Members by offering the opportunity to experience Little Athletics on a first-hand basis prior, to committing to, and completing full financial Competition Membership registration. Prospective athletes that trial Little Athletics under the terms of this policy are termed 'Trial Athletes.'
- (c) The Trial Athlete is a pre-cursor step towards full registration as a full financial LAVic Competitive Member.
- (d) The Trial Athlete is not afforded full membership rights and privileges until such time as the individual is fully registered as a financial Competitive Member. Regulation 7 'Registration of Competitive Members' sets out the conditions for athlete membership of LAVic.
- (e) This policy also aligns with Regulation 11 – Associate Members and Honorary Members. Parents/guardians of registered Trial Athletes are deemed Associate Members, with commensurate entitlements and responsibilities (see clause 1.5 "Ongoing requirements that apply to Associate Members").
- (f) While involved in activities sanctioned by Little Athletics Australia Ltd ('LAA'), parents/guardians of Trial Athletes are covered by the national insurance program (public liability, professional indemnity, and personal accident cover) entered into by LAA (see Regulation 11, rule 1.1 (iii)).
- (g) The program for trialling athletes is termed the 'Trial Athlete Offer.'

1.2 Trial Athlete Offer

- (a) The 'Trial Athlete Offer' is available to children:
 - (i) that have not previously registered as Competitive Members of any Little Athletics Member Association; and
 - (ii) who are 5 years of age or older, and who are 16 years of age or younger at the end of the calendar year in which the summer season commences.
- (b) The conditions of the Trial Athlete Offer are:
 - (i) The opportunity to trial Little Athletics for up to two Centre competition days at the Centre selected at the time of registration.
- (c) Trials are to be completed within a 28-day period ('trial period') commencing on a date agreed by the host Centre.
 - (i) Trial Athletes may attend sanctioned Centre training activities by agreement with the host Centre during the trial period.
 - (ii) Trials are to be completed during Centre competition days and training sessions only. Open Days, Championships, Skills Clinics, and other similar activities are excluded.
 - (iii) For Trial Athletes registered prior to the commencement of the summer (Track & Field) or winter (Cross-Country) competition program at the nominated Centre, the trial period should commence from the date the athlete attends their first official Centre competition day/training session of the season.

- (iv) Trials are conducted free of charge.
- (v) Events trialled will be determined by the host Centre.
- (vi) Competition days participated in as a Trial Athlete can be claimed towards qualification for Region and State competition only if the individual has registered as a full financial LAVic Competitive Member in their correct age group by the closing day and time for entries for the competition.
- (vii) Trial Athletes and their parents/guardians are fully covered by the national insurance program entered into by LAA for the 28-day period of the Trial Athlete Offer.
- (viii) A Trial Athlete can register as a full financial LAVic Competitive Member at any time.
- (ix) Trials can only be conducted at the one Centre; concurrent trials (at different Centres) for the same athlete are not permitted.

1.3 Trial Athlete process

- (a) The Trial Athlete must be registered by a parent/guardian via the nominated online portal prior to competition day.
- (b) Upon completing Trial Athlete registration, the parent/guardian is sent an email containing: confirmation of successful registration; a template Trial Athlete Bib for optional printing (containing first name, age group and gender; alternatively, bibs will be available at the Centre); advice on how to proceed.
- (c) Trial Athlete attends the host Centre and registers their attendance with the official responsible for Trial Athletes on trial competition days.
- (d) The Trial Athlete Bib is to be pinned to the chest of the Trial Athlete at all times at the Centre when in attendance on competition days.
- (e) The Trial Athlete participates in the events.

1.4 Centre responsibilities

- (a) To assist with the administration of the Trial Athlete Offer, and to maximise new membership registrations from the program, Centres are advised of the following:
 - (i) To promote the Trial Athlete Offer. The purpose of this is to attract the maximum number of Trial Athletes and to provide them with the best experience Centre resources provide for; otherwise, trials can occur at any time.
 - (ii) To appoint an individual dedicated to the task ('Trial Athlete Official') of co-ordinating the Trial Athlete Offer program.
 - (iii) To promote the Trial Athlete Offer via its communication channels.
 - (iv) To manage the relationship with the Trial Athlete and family, from registration to completion of the trial.
- (b) Centres will be required to provide a status report of their Trial Athletes upon request.
- (c) The responsibilities of Trial Athlete Official should include:
 - (i) Acting as the Centre point of contact to answer questions for Trial Athletes and families.
 - (ii) Greeting the Trial Athletes and families upon arrival on competition days and at training.
 - (iii) Registering the attendance of Trial Athletes on competition days.
 - (iv) Maintaining a supply of blank Trial Athlete bibs and pins.

- (v) Ensuring that non-photographic consent trial athletes have and wear the Trial Athlete Bib that indicates that they are non-consent for photography
- (vi) Tracking the attendance of Trial Athletes.
- (vii) Following up on the welfare of Trial Athletes.
- (viii) Actively discussing and encouraging Trial Athletes and families to take up full financial LAVic Competitive Membership.
- (ix) Educating Trial Athletes and families about the benefits, costs, time commitment, training times, parental responsibilities, fulfilling voluntary duties, developmental pathways, competition opportunities, and other key aspects of Little Athletics.

1.5 Trial athletes and marketing, promotional and communication activities

- (a) LAA, LAVic, Regions, Centres, Clubs and/or their official sponsors may from time to time seek to use Trial Athlete's details including name, image, audio, video, likeness and /or quote, before, during and after the season, in official commercial, sponsor marketing, promotional and communications activities. This might include official social media posts, electronic direct mail correspondence, website posts, media promotion activities, media articles
- (b) Parents/guardians reserve the right to consent, or not consent, to their registered Trial Athlete(s) participating in activities outlined in 1.5 (a) and can advise the Trial Centre and LAVIC at the time of registering for their free trial or via email to office@lavic.com.au any time subsequently.

1.6 Parent/guardian responsibilities

- (a) Upon registering a Trial Athlete, a parent/guardian is deemed an Associate Member for the duration of the trial period (28 days from the agreed date of commencement).
- (b) There are no subscriptions or fees payable by a person to LAVic to become an Associate Member.
- (c) Little Athletics requires the dedicated efforts of many volunteers for its successful functioning. Parents/guardians of Trial Athletes may be required to volunteer from time to time.
- (d) LAVic is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children involved in its activities. The rights of children are fundamental to the success of Little Athletics. [LAVic's Child Safe Policy](#) 's sets out the parameters to provide for a safe and inclusive environment for all children in Little Athletics and assists with meeting its obligations under Victorian child protection laws. Parents/guardians are also required to comply with the child safety provisions set out in the [Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children & Young People](#) and the [Working with Children Check Policy](#).
- (e) Parents/guardians are also required to comply with the behavioural standards set out in LAVic's Code of Conduct (click [HERE](#)) when engaged in Little Athletics activities.

1.7 LAVic responsibilities

- (a) LAVic has the following responsibilities to Trial Athletes and Centres:
- (i) To provide an online portal for the purposes of registering Trial Athletes.
 - (ii) To maintain a register of live Trial Athlete registration records.
 - (iii) Periodically archiving expired Trial Athlete records from the database.
 - (iv) To provide access to Trial Athlete registration records by Centres.
 - (v) To provide advice and support to Centres to manage their Trial Athletes where required and requested.
 - (vi) To promote the Trial Athlete Offer via its communication channels.

SECTION 2 - DOCUMENT HISTORY

2.1 VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version #	Action Taken / Updates
September 2020	1.0	Draft from scratch.
August 2021	1.1	1.2: Updated terms regarding the commencement of a new season; edited 1.4 Centre responsibilities; 1.5 added LAVic responsibilities.
October 2021	1.2	Updated; removal of references to Come & Try Days
September 2022	1.3	Added clauses 1.1 (e) & (f); revised clause 1.2; added clauses 1.5 & 1.6.
August 2023	1.4	Updated links to governance documents
September 2024	1.5	Updated in relation to the revised GameDay platform and processes. Clauses 1.4(v), 1.5(b) revised related to non-consent athletes; 1.7(a)(iii) regarding periodically archiving Trial Athlete information.