

Employment

Coaching Code of Ethics

COACHING CODE OF ETHICS

Guiding Principals

Coaches at public schools are first and foremost educators. Coaches have a duty to supplement student-athletes' academic endeavors by imparting valuable life skills and emphasizing the positive attributes of athletic competition. Recognizing that coaches mold the minds of formative youths, this Code requires coaches to instill in their athletes the values of respect, honor, discipline, duty, leadership, fairness, and sportsmanship. These basic tenets of a coach's responsibility are embodied in the following coaching guidelines.

Obligation to the School

- The coach will never place the goal of winning on a pedestal, such that winning is valued more than the need to develop the student-athlete's academic abilities and personal character. The coach will have the responsibility to harmonize the interests of developing athletic skills with the promotion of academic achievements.
- The coach, as a representative of the school and a role model for student-athletes, will be held to the highest possible ethical and moral standard and will conduct all of his or her affairs with dignity and honor.
- As part of this high ethical and moral standard, the coach will refrain from using profanity, making obscene gestures, or verbally abusing any individual at practices, competitions, during transportation to or from any practice or competition, or at any other setting where the coach is acting in an official capacity as a representative of the school. Activities barred by the Code include, but are not limited to: threats, humiliation, insults, and ridicule.
- The coach will control his or her emotions and ego when representing the school and will avoid displays of anger, intimidation, or frustration.
- The coach will never seek to assert influence over any school faculty for the purpose of according student-athletes privileges not ordinarily accorded other students.

- The coach will be familiar with the requirements of this Code. The coach will honor the spirit and purpose of this Code and require all others associated with the sport to abide by the Code as well.
- The coach will follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to school athletics and demand the same from all others associated with the sport.

Obligation to Students

- The coach will at all times place the safety, health, and well-being of the student-athlete above any desire or pressure to win.
- The coach will maintain a professional relationship with student-athletes and must not, under any circumstances, develop a romantic or sexual relationship with any student-athlete.
- The coach will instill in the student-athletes the belief that participation in sports is a privilege and not a right. To obtain this privilege, the coach will instruct student-athletes on how to represent the school with honor, dignity, and respect.
- The coach will not permit or condone hazing of any student-athletes on the team or any other school students.
- The coach will not use or consume any alcohol or tobacco products in the presence of student-athletes and will not permit or condone any student-athlete's use of alcohol or tobacco products.
- The coach will stress to student-athletes the importance of natural and healthy physical development. The coach must never recommend, encourage, permit, or condone the use of any illegal or banned performance enhancing substance.

Obligation to Officials, Parents, and Fans

- The coach will demonstrate proper sportsmanship when in contact with all officials, parents, and fans. The coach will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- The coach will proactively seek the cooperation of parents and fans in maintaining the appropriate emphasis on sportsmanship.
- The coach will treat others equitably and require all student-athletes to do the same.

- The coach will communicate with parents in a respectful manner and provide parents with an opportunity to express any concerns in a cooperative environment, free of any hostility.
- The coach will not engage in any taunting of opponents, fans, or officials, and will ensure that student-athletes refrain from taunting as well.
- The coach will treat all officials with courtesy and respect. The coach will refrain from public criticism of officials.

Acknowledgment

Many of the ideas for this Code of Ethics were drawn from numerous other codes. The most significant of these were developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations, National Coaching Foundation, and the British Institute of Sports Coaches.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Coaching Code of Ethics. I will act in accordance with this Code. I understand that school (and district) officials will expect that I will follow this Code. I understand that my failure to follow this Code will be sufficient grounds for discipline by the school, up to and including, termination of my position with the school.

Coach Signature

Date