

COACHES

CODE OF ETHICS

NATIONAL FEDERATION COACHES ASSOCIATION

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she were the coaches' own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFCA Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student-athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after contests, coaches for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.

A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

The Student Athlete's Bill of Rights

ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT.....

1. to take part in the activities of their choice, free from the pressure of those who would have them choose another.
2. to be coached by persons who are professional in their conduct.
3. to be provided the equipment and protection necessary to enable them to participate safely.
4. to expect their chosen activities to be treated with the same dignity and respect as other school activities.
5. to be coached by persons who have more interest in the students, their well-being, and their development than they do in winning or personal goals.
6. to engage in competition at a level they can enjoy.
7. to have an atmosphere free from alcohol, drugs, and foul language.
8. to be free of pressures from coaches to participate or practice illegally.
9. to be free of pressure to participate in camps, clinics, or outside teams in order to be a part of the school team.
10. to team membership, school pride, fair participation and crowd sportsmanship.

Impact of Coaches

I have come to a frightening conclusion.

I am the decisive element in the classroom, gym, or on the field.

It is my personal approach that creates the climate.

It is my daily mood that makes the weather.

As a coach, I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous.

I can be the tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration.

I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal.

In all situations it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized.

An adaptation of Haim Ginott

NINE LEGAL DUTIES OF A COACH



1. Properly plan the activity.
2. Provide proper instruction.
3. Provide safe physical environment
4. Provide adequate and proper equipment.
5. Match your athletes.
6. Evaluate athletes for injury or incapacity.
7. Supervise the activity closely.
8. Warn of inherent risks.
9. Provide appropriate emergency assistance.

LEGAL DUTIES OF COACHES

Coaching used to mean the coach had to organize, train, teach and field a team for competition. Things have changed. Because we operate in a society that seeks suit and money for any occurrence it feels is wrongful, there has been a trend toward formalized duties for coaches.

All coaches need to know and understand what their legal duties are. These duties are being more clearly defined with each court case. As of now, the following information is for you so that you will understand your responsibilities and will, therefore, protect yourselves and our school.

Your duty as a coach is to take reasonable care of the student-athlete. This legally means that you are to act in a way that avoids creating unreasonable risk of injury to others. Not performing to a standard of care/performance can result in negligence. Standard is the conduct expected of an ordinary, reasonable person (coach) under like circumstances.

Legal duties that have been established by courts through litigation include:

- * *Properly Instruct:* Know and teach proper and correct techniques.
- * *Warn of Inherent Dangers of Sport:* Practice plans should reflect what was said and the date it was said and should be repeated on several occasions.
- * *Supervise:* See the last athlete gone, have enough supervisors.
- * *Provide Safe Environment:* Facilities, equipment maintained, properly fitted, warn of mis-use.
- * *Provide Health Care:* Physical exam, emergency care, immediate and reasonable medical assistance, rehabilitation.
- * *Enforce Rules and Regulations:* State rules, game rules, district rules, school rules and specific rules concerning discipline.
- * *Classify and Group Participants:* Based on skill level, age, maturity, sex, size, experience.
- * *Safely Transport:* To and from contests, practices at other sites.
- * *Follow Due Process:* 14th amendment applies to athletes as well.
- * *Foresee Potentially Dangerous Circumstances and Situations:* Equipment failure, storms facility.
- * *Plan:* Written daily plan, safe supervision.
- * *Keep Records:* Answer what, where, when and how, provides solid defense against liability, shows prudence.
- * Written plan to audit facilities, equipment, uniforms, time done, procedure used and who is responsible.