

Guidelines for Coaches

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 sport 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, team 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.

Coaching Code of Ethics

Integrity

The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties owed to athletes, the sport, other members of the coaching profession, and the public.

Competence

The coach must strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in the respective discipline are fulfilled with competence.

Athlete's Interest

The coach must act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person.

Respect for the Rules

The coach must accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules that define and govern sport.

Respect for Officials

The coach must accept the role of officials in providing judgement to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.

Responsibility to Other Coaches

The coach's conduct towards other coaches must be characterized by courtesy, good faith, and respect.

Personal Conduct

The coach must maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and support the principles of fair play.