

Coach's Code of Ethics

Coaching is a calling. It is not simply a job or a career which people come and go. It is not just a job where the end goal is to make a living. The distinguishing characteristic of coaching is that its members are dedicated to rendering a service to humanity. Personal gain must be of lesser consideration. Those who select coaching must understand that athletics provides spiritual and physical values for those who participate, and that ultimately, the game belongs to the players.

This code of ethics has been developed to protect and promote athletics and the coaching profession. Its primary purpose is to distinguish ethical and proper conduct for coaches. Its secondary purpose is to outline the purpose and value of athletics, and to stress the proper functions of coaches in relation to the athletes, school, and community. The welfare of athletics depends upon how well coaches adhere to the spirit and letter of ethical conduct and how coaches remain mindful of the high trust and confidence placed in them by their players and the public. Coaches have responsibilities to players, institutions, and the game.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PLAYERS

1. ***Develop the Person*** – Coaches must recognize the tremendous influence we have on our players. We must build and maintain positive relationships with our student-athletes. Parents entrust their dearest possessions to us. We must ensure that they develop and leave us as even better people. The development of character must be put in front of all notions of winning and glory.
2. ***Live our Culture*** – We are the standard! The players will follow our lead. We must never allow our players to see us living below our standard and culture. Whether it be adhering to policies of the school, NCAA, rules of the game, or winning/losing with dignity and class, we must set the example for our student-athletes. They look to us in their growth.
3. ***Medical Treatment*** – While we are not medical professionals, we do have the responsibility of providing prompt and professional treatment. We will have a culture of toughness; however, we must take care of our athletes. Trust in our medical staff, and under no circumstances will we make a medical diagnoses or undermine the diagnosis of our medical staff.
4. ***Performance Enhancing Drugs*** – Under no circumstances will we allow any form of P.E.D.'s. If a coach learns of any student-athlete using illegal performance drugs, they should intervene immediately, and contact medical personnel for any potential health risks to the athlete.
5. ***Eligibility*** – Coaches must be familiar with all institution and NCAA guidelines for eligibility. Our athletes will trust us to give them sound advice. We must live up to that trust.
6. ***Academics*** – They are student-athletes. Academics and athletics are a joint effort. Coaches must promote strong time management skills and prioritization so that our student-athletes can have success in the classroom and the field of competition.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE INSTITUTION

1. **Primary Functions** – First and foremost, coaches are responsible for educating student-athletes through the participation in athletics. The coach must conduct themselves within the principles, integrity, and dignity of the institution.
2. **Relationship with Faculty, Admissions, and Financial Aid** – Coaches will not exert any pressure on any of these offices to give student-athletes and recruits consideration they do not deserve. Coaches will maintain a positive and professional relationship with these departments, as we need each other to be successful.
3. **Program Conduct** – Coaches should be on constant alert to see that their program is being conducted and promoted properly. Should there be an issue that arises, it should be discussed privately with the athletic director. Once a decision is made the coach should accept and support the decisions that have been made. Furthermore, coaches should lend their experience and expertise to the athletic department, to ensure progress and improvement where possible.
4. **Leaving the Institution** – Should the coach be approached by another institution about a position, the coach should notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GAME

1. **Knowledge of the Game** – The coach should have knowledge of the rules of the game. It is the coach's responsibility to communicate these rules effectively to all coaches, players, and support staff. The letter and spirit of the game should be adhered to at all times.
2. **Player Safety** – It is never the purpose of athletic competition to hurt or injure an opponent by legal or illegal methods. Player health and safety is paramount within the program.
3. **Sportsmanship** – Coaches should always promote good sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is a habit, and habits are formed through repetition. Through practice, meetings, team activities, and athletic contests, coaches should preach and exhibit good sportsmanship.