

Illinois Lutheran Schools

Coaches Code of Ethics(NFHS)

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 should be treated with the utmost respect, and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS 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 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 students, 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.

The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student special consideration.

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

Much more detailed Code of Ethics

Preface

We believe that competition should be fun but that it must also be a significant part of a sound educational program. We believe that those who coach student athletes are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their sports program promote important life skills and the development of good character. We believe that the essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. We believe, further that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teacher-coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model(T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Finally we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well being of our student athletes. This Code of Ethics applies to all coaches involved in interscholastic sports. I understand that in my position as coach, I must act in accord with the following code:

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Trustworthiness – be worthy of trust in all that I do and teach student athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.

Integrity – model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor, teach, advocate and model the importance of honor and good character by doing the right thing even when it's unpopular or personally costly.

Honesty – don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Reliability – fulfill commitments; I will do what I say I will do; be on time.

Loyalty – be loyal to my school and team; put the team above my personal glory.

Primacy of Educational Goals – be faithful to the educational and character development missions of the school and assure that these objectives are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals; always place the academic, emotional physical and moral well being of athletes above desires and pressures to win.

Counseling – be candid with the student athletes and their parents about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing at the professional level. Counsel them about the requirement of many colleges preventing recruitment of student athletes that do not have serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

College Recruiters – be honest and candid with the college recruiters about the character and academic abilities and interest of student athletes.

RESPECT

Respect – treat all the people with respect all the time and require the same of student athletes.

Advocates Education – advocate the importance of education beyond basic athletic eligibility standards.

Advocates Honor – prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship.

Class – be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage student athletes to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

Taunting – don't engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

Respect Officials – treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls of decisions during or after an athletic event.

Respect Parents – treat the parents of student athletes with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.

Profanity – don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events, on team buses, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on the school or the sports program.

Positive Coaching – use positive coaching methods. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that are demeaning to student athletes or others.

Effort and Teamwork – encourage student athletes to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline.

Professional Relationships – maintain appropriate, professional relationships with student athletes and respect proper teacher-student boundaries. Sexual or romantic contact with Student athletes is strictly forbidden as is verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed to or in view of student athletes.

RESPONSIBILITY

Life Skills – always strive to enhance the physical, mental, social and moral development of student athletes and teach them positive life skills that will help them become well-rounded, successful and socially responsible.

Good Character – *foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling(T.E.A.M.) high standards of ethics and sportsmanship.*

Role-Modeling – be worthy role-model, always be mindful of the high visibility and great influence you have as a teacher-coach.

Personal Conduct – refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of alcohol or tobacco in front of student athletes or other situations where my conduct could undermine my positive impact as a role model.

Competence – strive to improve coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles and current strategies, character-building techniques, and first-aid, safety, and CPR.

Knowledge of Rules – maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that my student athletes know and understand the rules.

Positive Environment – strive to provide a challenging, safe, enjoyable, and successful experience for the athletes by maintaining a sports environment that is physically and emotionally safe.

Safety and Health – be informed about basic first aid principles and the physical capacities and limitations of the age group coached.

Unhealthy Substances – educate student athletes, about the dangers and prohibit the use of unhealthy and illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco, and recreational performance enhancing drugs.

Eating Disorders – advise student athletes about the dangers of and be vigilant for signs of eating disorders or unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight, and report same to the Athletic Director.

Physician's Advice – seek and follow the advice of the Athletic Trainer when determining whether an injured student athlete is ready to play.

Privilege to Compete – assure that student athletes understand that participation in interscholastic sports programs is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their school, team, and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require student athletes to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.

Self-Control – control my ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.

Integrity of the Game – protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.

Enforcing Rule – enforce this Code of Ethics consistently in all sports-related activities and venues even when the consequences are high.

Protect Athletes – put the well being of student athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.

Improper Commercialism – be sensitive to and avoid unwholesome commercialism. Make sure any affiliation or association with a corporate entity is approved by school and district officials.

FAIRNESS

Fair and Open – be fair in competitive situations, selecting a team, disciplinary issues and all other matters; and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.

CARING

Safe Competition – put safety and health of all competing above the desire to win.

Caring Environment – consistently demonstrate concern for the student athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.

CITIZENSHIP

Honor the Spirit of Rules – observe and require student athletes to observe the spirit and the letter of all rules.

Improper Gamesmanship – promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques that violate the rules and/or disrespect the highest traditions of the sport.