



BRITISH COLUMBIA DEAF SPORTS FEDERATION

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Introduction

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sport organization are channelled. Thus, how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behaviour of the coach. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behaviour, which will allow them to assist their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self confident and productive human beings.

B. Agreement of all Coaches

Coaches have a responsibility to:

1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, abilities, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
2. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
3. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching.
 - a. Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches; especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
 - b. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of her/his athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
 - c. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
 - d. Discourage the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events.
 - e. Shall abstain from the use of illegal drugs and from immoderate consumption of alcohol in conjunction with victory celebrations.
 - f. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.
4. Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
5. Communicate and co-operate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnoses, treatment and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athlete's future health and well being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athlete's ability to continue playing or training.
6. Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own.
7. Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
8. Treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat, and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sport and the spirit of such rules.

9. In the case of minors, communicate and co-operate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
10. In an educational institution, be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.

Coaches must:

1. Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
2. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
3. Respect athlete's dignity; verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable (the definition of harassment is described in the next section).
4. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
5. Never provide under age athletes with alcohol.

Definition of Harassment

Harassment takes many forms but can generally be defined as behaviour including comments and/or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual, or group of individuals, or which creates an uncomfortable environment.

Harassment may include:

- Written or verbal abuse or threats;
- Sexually oriented comments;
- Racial or ethnic slurs;
- Unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes, or taunting about a person's body, abilities, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or racial origin, religion, etc.;
- Displaying of sexually explicit, racist or other offensive or derogatory material;
- Sexual, racial, ethnic or religious graffiti;
- Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance;
- Unwelcome sexual remarks, invitations or requests whether indirect or explicit, or intimidation;
- Leering (suggestive staring), or other obscene or offensive gestures;
- Condescension, paternalism or patronizing behaviour which undermines self-respect or adversely affects performance or working conditions;
- Physical conduct such as touching, kissing, patting, pinching, etc.;
- Vandalism;
- Physical assault;

All coaches must read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Coaching Code of Conduct.

C. Accountability

An individual or sports organization may initiate a complaint, in writing, to the Ethics and Discipline Committee (EDC) of the BCDSF if they have evidence or cause to believe a coach has breached any part of this Code.

This is to acknowledge that I have read the BCDSF Coaching Code of Conduct and attached Ethics and Discipline Committee Procedure. By signing this form, I am stating that I will conduct myself in a manner consistent with the Code. I am aware of my responsibilities and of the guidelines which I must follow as a coach. I am also aware of possible repercussions if any of the rules of the Code are broken.

Signature

Date

Name (Please print)

Jan/2012