

# British Columbia Target Sports

## COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT

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 channeled. Thus how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behavior of the coach. This code of conduct has been developed to aid you as a coach in achieving a level of behavior which will allow you assist your athletes in becoming well-rounded, self confident and productive human beings.

### COACHES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- 1) TREAT EVERYONE FAIRLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR ACTIVITY, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, 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 FAVORABLE IMAGE OF THEIR SPORT AND OF COACHING.
  - A) ABSTAIN FROM THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS OR ALCOHOL TO A LEVEL WHICH WOULD CAUSE ANY IMPAIRMENT WHILE IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS/HER ATHLETES AND DISCOURAGE THEIR USE BY ATHLETES.
  - B) REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF PROFANE , INSULTING, HARASSING OR OTHERWISE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE IN THE CONDUCT OF HIS/HER DUTIES.
  - C) REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM OF FELLOW COACHES OR OTHER ATHLETES, ESPECIALLY WHEN SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA OR RECRUITING ATHLETES.
- 4) ENSURE THAT THE ACTIVITY BEING UNDERTAKEN IS SUITABLE FOR THE AGE, EXPERIENCE, ABILITY AND FITNESS LEVEL OF THE ATHLETES AND EDUCATE THE ATHLETES AS TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.
- 5) COMMUNICATE AND COOPERATE WITH REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE DIAGNOSES, TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THEIR ATHLETES' MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. CONSIDER THE ATHLETES' FUTURE HEALTH AND WELL BEING AS FOREMOST WHEN MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING AN INJURED ATHLETES' ABILITY TO CONTINUE COMPETING OR TRAINING.
- 6) RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT WHEN TO REFER ATHLETES TO OTHER COACHES OR SPORT SPECIALISTS. ALLOW ATHLETES' GOALS TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER YOUR 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.
- 9) IF COACHING MINORS, COMMUNICATE AND COOPERATE WITH THE ATHLETES' 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 YOUR ATHLETES AND CONDUCT PRACTICES AND COMPETITIONS IN A MANNER SO AS TO PROMOTE 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 FAVORS OR THREATS OF REPRISALS FOR THE REJECTION OF SUCH REQUESTS.
- 3) RESPECT THE ATHLETES' DIGNITY; VERBAL OR PHYSICAL BEHAVIORS THAT CONSTITUTE HARASSMENT OR ABUSE ARE UNACCEPTABLE.
- 4) NEVER ADVOCATE OR CONDONE THE USE OF DRUGS OR OTHER BANNED PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES.
- 5) NEVER PROVIDE UNDER AGE ATHLETES WITH ALCOHOL.
- 6) BE PREPARED TO SUBMIT TO ANY BACKGROUND CHECKS AS SPECIFIED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BCTSA

COACH'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME ( PRINTED ) \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_