

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

NATIONAL FEDERATION INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES ASSOCIATION



The function of a coach is to properly educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The interscholastic program is designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each child should be treated as though they were the coaches' own and their welfare shall be uppermost at all times. In recognition of this, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFICA Board of Directors.

The coach must be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the student athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.

The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with the student athlete, 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 and under no circumstances should authorize their use.

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 be thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members' to give student athletes special consideration.

It is unethical for coaches to scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

CODE OF ETHICS (1.3)

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION



CODE OF ETHICS

The Interscholastic Athletic Administrator:

1. Strives to develop and maintain a comprehensive athletic program which seeks the highest development of all participants, and which respects the individual dignity of every athlete.
2. Considers the well-being of the entire student body as fundamental in all decisions and actions.
3. Supports the principle of due process and protects the civil and human rights of all individuals.
4. Organizes, directs and promotes an interscholastic athletic program that is in harmony with, and contributes to, the total school program.
5. Cooperates with the staff and school administration in establishing, implementing and supporting school policies.
6. Acts impartially in the execution of basic policies, and the enforcement of the conference or league, and state high school association rules and regulations.
7. Fulfills professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity, and upholds the honor of the profession in all relations with students, colleagues, coaches, administrators and the general public.
8. Avoids using the position for personal gain or influence.
9. Seeks to improve the professional status and effectiveness of the interscholastic athletic administrator through participation in local, state and national in-service programs.
10. Is committed to high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct on the part of the administrator, members of the coaching staff and the athletes representing their school.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION (1.4)

I. Chain of Command

A. Board of education

The Board of Education, responsible to the people, is the ruling agency for the _____ School District. It is responsible for interpreting the needs of the community and requirements to the professional organization. Additional responsibilities include: 1) developing policies in accordance with state statutes and mandates in accordance with the educational needs and wishes of the people; 2) approving means by which professional staff may make these policies effective; and 3) evaluating the interscholastic athletic program in terms of its value to the community.

B. Superintendent of schools

The Superintendent is responsible to administer the schools according to adopted policies of the Board of Education, rules and regulations of the State Department of Education, and in accordance with state school code. It is his/her duty to establish a definite school athletic policy and to have an understanding of that policy. The Superintendent shall represent the school district as its chief executive officer and its foremost professional educator in its dealings with other school systems, social institutions and businesses.

C. High school principal

The Principal is the official representative of the school and is directly responsible for the general attitude of the student body and the conduct of the athletic affairs by the Athletic Director and the coach. By delegation and by established precedent, the school Principal is the official school representative in matters dealing with the _____ High School Athletic Association and conference affiliations. The Principal is solely responsible for any official action taken by his/her school.

D. Athletic director

The Athletic Director is directly responsible to the Principal. The primary responsibility of the Athletic Director is the administration and supervision of the interscholastic athletic program in the _____ Schools. The Athletic Director's duties will be those described in his/her job description and any others as designated. He/she will provide the leadership necessary for the day-to-day operation of the athletic department.

E. Head coaches

All Head Coaches shall be responsible to the Athletic Director for the total operation of their respective sports programs. Head Coaches shall act as official representatives of the school as they carry out their interscholastic athletic responsibilities. Head Coaches will be responsible for the normal duties required of interscholastic competition, those duties described in the coaches' job description, and/or any duties delegated by the Athletic Director.

II. Definition of the Administrative Chain

A. Superintendent of schools

1. Is ultimately responsible for all phases of the public school program
2. Delegates his/her power of administration of the interscholastic athletic program through the high school Principal to the Athletic Director

B. High school principal

1. Is responsible for all activities affecting students in his/her building
2. Is closely involved with the operation of the athletic program
3. Coordinates the athletic program with other school activities

C. Athletic director

1. Directs the operation of the athletic program:
 - a. Is responsible for all league schedules
 - b. Is responsible for transportation
 - c. Is responsible for obtaining officials for games
 - d. Is responsible for all schedule changes
2. Selects and supervises all coaches
3. Evaluates the athletic program and the athletic staff
4. Participates in budget preparation for the athletic program

D. Coaches

1. Represent the school in interscholastic activities
2. Conduct their work within the framework of the goals of the school system, the policies and procedures of the department of athletics, and the regulations of the _____ Conference and state athletic association
3. Strictly enforce eligibility rules
4. Determine team selections fairly
5. Consider athletics as part of the total educational program, encouraging athletes to work to their maximum ability in academics as well as in sports
6. Exhibit proper and exemplary behavior at all times
7. Implement the Code of Conduct for student athletes
8. Are entirely responsible for the guidance of students in their charge

E. Line of authority

1. Superintendent of schools
2. High school principal
3. Assistant principal
4. Athletic Director
5. Head coach
6. Assistant coach

ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONAL FLOW CHART

