

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 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.

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 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 or victory celebrations at the playing site.
 - e) 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 & management of their athletes' medical & psychological problems. Consider athletes' future health & well being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athletes' 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 an 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 educational institutions, be aware of academic pressures placed on student-athletes & conduct practices & games in a manner 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.**
4. **Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.**
5. **Never provide under age athletes with alcohol.**

If a coach is in violation of the terms of this Coaching Code of Conduct the coach may be subject to disciplinary action which may include: a reprimand; withdrawal of funding; suspension from the Provincial/National team program; suspension from membership of BC Wrestling, or a combination of such actions.

MINIMUM Qualifications for BC WRESTLING Member Coaches

There must be a QUALIFIED wrestling coach in the gym for all practices (including warm-up activities) for any athletes insurance to be valid. Clubs/schools must advise athletes and/or post this advisory in the wrestling room.

A qualified coach is described as:

- In Training – when a coach has completed some of the required *training* for a context;
- Trained – when a coach has completed *all* required *training* for a context; (Community Coach or Part A & B, and ethical decision making)
- NOTE: *Community Sport Initiation only has 'Trained Status'*
- Certified – when a coach has completed *all evaluation* requirements for a context, and the ethical decision making exercise.

COACH NAME: _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

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