

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT (ETHICS)

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-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coaches' own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following expectations for coaches and you provide leadership for the youth of the school system in interscholastic competition; these have been adopted by the Franklin County School System:

The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete 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 student-athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the TSSAA high school and middle school association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. The coach shall not use or tolerate inappropriate or abusive language.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

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 as well as any, and all, supporting volunteers of the program shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities.

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.

Before and after contests, coaches for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

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

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

School

School Year

Sport

Printed Name of Coach

Signature of Coach/Date

Principal Signature/Date

The following standards shall serve as a personal guide as you provide leadership for the youth of our school system in interscholastic competition.

MY RELATIONS TO THE ATHLETES

1. I will think in terms of “student first,” always determining how my actions and decisions will ensure that each athlete receives the best educational opportunity.
2. I will provide an environment that focuses on the athlete’s growth and development to practice and compete at his/her full potential while encouraging fair play and good sportsmanship.
3. I will model the highest standards of moral character, behavior, and leadership when working with all athletes.
4. I will maintain strict professional relationships with athletes in all aspects, including social media as well as in team communications.
5. I will maintain the highest standards for the health and safety of every athlete and will follow the advice of the athlete’s physician when determining when he/she can return to play.

MY RELATIONS TO MY SCHOOL SYSTEM

1. I will abide by board policy, district administrative procedures, and the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association rules and regulations and require the same of the team, representatives of the team, and the spectators.
2. I will support the sports officials in enforcement of the rules and will require the same of the team, representatives of the team, and the spectators.
3. I will represent the Board and the school district to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support in all team athletics, whether on or off school campus.

MY RELATIONS TO MYSELF

1. I will uphold the integrity and independence of the position and will conduct myself as a professional in all team activities.
2. I will strive to keep all athletic facilities and equipment safe and clean and will report any discrepancies that could hinder the health or safety of any athlete.
3. I will continue to expand my knowledge on coaching principles and techniques through professional development.

All coaches, whether employed by the school district or a volunteer, shall:

1. Annually complete the concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program;
2. Annually complete the sudden cardiac arrest education program;
3. Annually complete a heat illness prevention course;
4. Receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions;
5. Receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and in the use of automated external defibrillators; and
6. Comply with all applicable background check and fingerprinting requirements