

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

The following is a copy of the Code of Ethics of the High School Coaches Association. Some minor alterations have been necessary to adapt this code to the needs of the Ysleta Independent School District. The code is the effort of the Committee on Ethics of the Texas High School Coaches Association.

The inclusion of the code in this manual serves as a two-fold purpose. First, continued referral to the code can serve to remind a coach of the fact that athletic contests belong not to the coach who is striving to win, but those who are competing. It is only through this realization and upon this basis that athletic competition in the public schools can be called beneficial, worth-while and a necessary element of the total education program.

The second purpose for the inclusion of this code is to encourage the individual coach to adhere to ethical principals in the conduct of the coaching profession in order to assist in the enhancement of the public reputation of that profession. This is done directly and indirectly. Adherence to principals of conduct is not always on display to the public, but over a period of time that total effect of integrity shows through and does not, in the final analysis, go unnoticed.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL COACHES' ASSOCIATION

Purpose for the Code of Ethics

The code of ethics is to protect and promote the best interest of the high school athletic program. In the coaching profession, the primary purpose of a code of ethics is to clarify and distinguish ethical and approved profession practices from those which are detrimental and harmful. Applied to the coaching profession, ethics will help develop a standard of character in which the public has trust and confidence. The success of these principals and standards emphasized in the code is dependent upon those for whom they have been prepared, the coaches of schools, in the Ysleta Independent School District.

ARTICLE I

The Coach's Responsibility

All coaches assume certain obligations and responsibilities to the game they coach, to players, and to their fellow coaches. It is essential that every member of the profession be constantly aware of their obligations and responsibilities with the purpose in mind that the coaching profession will always remain an honorable profession, and that all members are to conduct themselves in such a manner to maintain the dignity and decency of the coaching profession.

An active coach is involved in certain areas of a relationship which entails certain obligations for which some definite standards of conduct may be described. These areas included the following: players, schools, sportswriters, other coaches, teams and officials.

In his/her relationship with players under his/her care, the coach should always be aware of the tremendous influence he/she controls for good or bad. Parents trust their dearest possession to the coach's charge, and the coach through his/her own example must always be sure that the athletes who have played under him/her are finer and more decent for having done so. The coach should never place the value of victory above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in his/her players. The safety and welfare of the athletes should always be uppermost in his/her mind and the athletes must never be sacrificed for any personal prestige or glory. In teaching the game of his/her choice, the coach, must realize that there are certain rules designed to protect the players and provide common standards for determining a winner and a loser.

Any attempt to beat those rules in order to take unfair advantage of an opponent or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct have no place in the coaching profession. Any coach guilty of such teaching does not have the right to call himself/herself a coach. The coach who conducts himself/herself according to these principles need have no fear of failure, for in the analysis the success of the coach can be measured in terms of the respect he/she has earned from his/her own players and from opponents. The coach should set the example of winning without boasting and losing without bitterness.

In his/her relationship with school for which he/she works, the coach should remember that he/she conducts himself/herself in such a way as to maintain the principles on integrity and dignity of his/her school. School policies regarding the athletic program should be adhered to both the letter and spirit. The coach should remember that other members of the faculty also have an interest in the school and in the pupils, and his/her conduct must be such that no criticism arises concerning his/her efforts to develop the common interest and the purposes of his/her school.

Sportswriters and sportscasters should not be used as an outlet for relieving ill feelings toward other coaches, players, officials, or other schools. Sportswriters also have an interest in the athletic program and should be treated with respect and honesty.

Coaches will not address or make statements concerning the honesty, ability, and integrity of the officials. Officials are an essential part of the athletic program and of the game, and it should be recognized that they are to attempt to maintain standards of integrity and honesty. Just as coaches can make mistakes so can officials. It is important that their efforts, to secure perfection in performance be highly respected by coaches.

It should be assumed that all members of the coaching profession intend to follow the percepts set fourth in a code of ethics. All evidence of unethical conduct should be brought openly to the proper authority through the prescribed channels. Coaches whose conduct reflects honesty and integrity will bring credit to the coaching profession, to the teams which they coach, to their schools, and to themselves. It is only through such conduct that the profession can earn and maintain its rightful place in the educational program and make its full contribution to the school and the community.

ARTICLE II

The Coach's Responsibility to His/Her School

1. The function of the coach is the education of pupil through participation in the game under his/her direction. The primary and basic functions must never be disregarded.
2. Because of the unique place which the coach holds in the educational organization, it is highly important that he/she support the administration in all the policies, rules, and regulations which may from time to time be enacted. Difference of opinion must be discussed behind closed door and not aired through public press, radio, and television.
3. It is important that a harmonious relationship exists between the coach and the athletic director. The coach should feel free to suggest and initiate any action which has to do with the conduct or improvement of the athletic program. Controversial matters should be discussed on a friendly basis. Once final decisions have been reached, they should be accepted and supported by the coach.
4. Participation in inter-school athletics is based on the individual pupil's observance of established rules and regulations. Every coach should be thoroughly acquainted with these rules and regulations. He/she should assume responsibilities for their observance and enforcement in cooperation with school officials who have been charged with this responsibility. Matters of

eligibility should be constantly referred to the school principal or athletic director for consultation, interpretation, and improvement.

5. One of the coach's fundamental responsibilities must be to inspire his/her players to achieve academic success. Student/Athletes should be encouraged not only to make good grades but to secure a well-rounded high school education and to graduate with honors.

ARTICLE III

The Coach's Responsibility to the Player

1. Diagnosis and prescription of treatment of injuries are strictly medical problems and should under no circumstances be considered a province of the coach. The coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and to see that the most detailed instructions of the doctor are carried out.
2. The coach must remember that he/she is a living example for all of the athletes in the community in which he/she coaches. Therefore, it is important to him/her and the profession which he/she represents that his/her actions and behavior at all times bring credit to the profession and to himself / herself.
3. Coaches need to be sensitive to inherent ethic, cultural and religious customs concerning dress, facial hair, length of hair, jewelry, and religious holidays.
4. The coach's conduct during the game should be exemplary. For example:
 - a. Before and after a game, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings.
 - b. During the game, coaches, should be as inconspicuous as possible.
 - c. Coaches are encouraged to demonstrate a friendly and kindly attitude toward their players.
 - d. The attitude of coaches toward officials during the progress of the game should be respectful.
 - e. After a game, visitors should be permitted into a team's dressing room until coaches have had sufficient time to complete all of their post-game responsibilities, including a careful check for any injuries.

ARTICLE IV

Rules of the Game

1. The coach should be thoroughly acquainted with the rules of the game. Official rule books should be studied and frequently reviewed. The coach is primarily responsible for teaching and interpreting the rules to his/her players.
2. The letter and the spirit of the rules must be respected and adhered to by the coach. Rules are made for the protection of the players and for the best interest of the game. It is the coach's responsibility to see that they are observed.
3. Disregarding the rules brands a coach or a player as a person unfit to be associated with the athletic program. It is especially important that coaches stress those rules which involved bodily contact. The rules permit the use of hands and it is not the purpose of any game to hurt or injure an opponent by legal or illegal methods.

4. Good sportsmanship begins on the practice field, and if it becomes a habit, none of us will have to worry about unsportsmanlike tactics being used in any game.
5. The football code, which appears in the official football rule book, shall be considered an integral part of the Code of Ethics and should be carefully read and observed.
6. It is unethical conduct to teach the use of the helmet and/or face mask as a primary part of contact in blocking and tackling techniques.

ARTICLE V

Officials

1. Officials must have the respect and support of the coaches and players if they are to do their job efficiently. On and off the record, criticism of officials and players or the public shall be considered unethical. University Interscholastic League shall govern all practices and treatment of officials. Coach, principals, and superintendents are charged with this responsibility.
2. A cooperative relationship should exist between coaches and officials associations with frequent interchange of ideas and suggestions. Coaches should whenever possible attend officials rules meeting. Also, coaches should extend to official's invitations to discuss rule interpretations with squads and coaches meetings as a group. It is unethical and a dangerous for coaches of rival teams to accept assignments as officials on an exchange basis.
3. Officials should always be treated in a courteous manner. Procedures set up by the constitution and rule book of the University Interscholastic League shall govern all practices and treatment of officials. Coaches, principals, and superintendents are charged with this responsibility.
4. It should be remembered that a slow-motion study of controversial decisions by officials is far different from on-the-spot decision made during the course of the game. To show critical plays to sportswriters, sportscasters, quarterback clubs, and the public must be considered unethical conduct.

ARTICLE VI

Public Relations

1. Spectator Behavior and Expectation Code of Conduct
 - A. One standard Behavior Policy
 1. Compliance with UIL Rules and Regulations
 2. Positive Role Models:
 - a. show respect to the opponents of your children;
 - b. show standards you expect you children to live by and live by those standards yourself;
 - c. be involved in areas your own child is not involved in, thus contributing to school unity and spirit;
 - d. help our children and their friends to develop integrity through the intensity of competitive activity; and,
 - e. let your children live their own lives, not re-live your life.
 - B. UIL Contest Guidelines for Spectators
 1. Student Fan Participation-an extension of classroom behavior
 2. Spectator (Adult) Responsibilities:

- a. help the UIL conduct fair and equitable competition by adhering to rules upholding the law, and having a respect for authority
- b. delegate authority to schools and then backup the decisions made by the schools. If you desire a policy change, determine at what level the change should be (with the coach, principal, superintendent and school board) then discuss your point of view reasonably at that level;
- c. realize officials are human and will make mistakes, but their decisions must be respected;
- d. be careful not to criticize any youngster;
- e. do not harass students, players, coaches, officials and educators;
- f. do not verbally berate, verbally or physically abuse others; and,
- g. beware of capabilities and limitations of young people-do not have undue expectations.

C. Consequences of Improper Behavior

1. Students: Enforcement of YISD Student Code of Conduct

- a. warning
- b. ejection from premises
- c. suspension
- d. alternative placement
- e. expulsion

2. Adults:

- a. warning
- b. ejection from the premises
- c. possible denial of attendance at all UIL activities
- d. possible prosecution by law

D. Enforcement of Rules and Regulations

- 1. Campus Administration
- 2. District Executive Committee

- 2. The responsibility of coaches to accredited writers and radio and television commentators is to provide news about teams and players. The press should be treated with courtesy, honesty and respect. Misleading statements should be avoided. Statements concerning school policy should be issued only by the athletic director. Direct questions should be answered honestly or not at all. If good judgment indicates that an honest answer to a question would be detrimental to the best interest of the game, good ethics demands that the questions not be answered. In such cases "no comment" is entirely justifiable. Coaches should stress the importance of ethical procedures in teaching their players how to conduct themselves on and off the field as well as on trips.
- 3. It should be questionable practice for coaches to stress player injuries, disciplinary measures, academic difficulties or eligibility problems to the press, radio, and television. Disciplinary problems should be a "family affair" to be solved between the coach and players involved. Eligibility is a matter for the principal. Injuries are a matter for the athletic trainer, team physician, or family doctor. No purpose can be served by emphasizing these problems.
- 4. Booster club organizations can be of value to the school and the coach if they have the proper objectives. It shall be unethical for coaches to use such groups to attempt to defeat or obstruct administrative or school athletic controls or to encourage violation of established rules and regulations in order to strengthen any part of the athletic program. It shall, likewise be unethical for coaches to make demand, financial or otherwise, upon such groups when the demands are not in keeping with the letter and spirit of existing controls. Any form of misuse of such strength and power is in violation of accepted rules and regulations.

ARTICLE VII DRUGS

It is a serious breach of the Code of Ethics of the Texas High School Coaches Association for any coach to condone, encourage or tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs by any student athlete. It is the responsibility, the moral obligation and the duty of all coaches to constantly warn, inform and educate students of the damaging effects of anabolic steroids.

ARTICLE VIII SCOUTING

1. It is unethical, under any circumstances, to scout any team, by any means, except in regularly scheduled games. Interschool scrimmages can be scouted by consent of both head coaches of teams involved. The head coach shall be held responsible for all scouting. This includes the use of motion pictures.
2. It is unethical conduct to violate district rules on the exchange of film.

ARTICLE IX MANAGEMENT OF FELONY CRIME

It will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics to willingly allow a student/athlete who is charged with and under indictment for a felony crime to participate in an athlete contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear his name. The student/athlete may be allowed to remain on his athletic team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent his school or community in an athletic contest while under this suspension.

ARTICLE X FOOD SUPPLEMENTS, DRUGS AND MEDITATIONS

(12/98) The position that the THSCA has taken is: "School personnel and coaches should not dispense any drug, medication or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with policies developed in consultation with parents, health-care professionals and senior administrative personnel of the school or school district". "Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects". "In order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes".