



## ***PETERBOROUGH CITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION***

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

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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 value and goals of a sport organization are channelled. 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 that will allow them to assist their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

#### **Coaches have a responsibility to:**

- Be committed to improve the performance of the players and the team, physically and mentally.
- Provide a high quality soccer program for players with a positive environment/atmosphere.
- Be thoroughly acquainted with FIFA Laws of the Game and they must keep attuned to the sound principles of coaching.
- Respect all human beings i.e. players and referees. Opponents and referees must be treated with respect.
- Encourage players to win within the laws of the game.
- Be enthusiastic and positive. They must ensure that they are generous with praise when deserved.
- Maintain the high standards of personal conduct and fair play.
- Never be involved in any circumstances that are offensive or suggest sexual connotations.
- Treat everyone fairly within the context of his or her activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.

- Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and coaching by example, a coach should:
  - Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches; especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
  - Abstain from using tobacco products while in the presence of his/her athletes and discourage its use by the athletes.
  - Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverage when working with athletes.
  - Refrain from encouraging the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at playing sites.
  - Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conducting of his/her duties.
- Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness of the athlete and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
- 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 athlete's ability to continue playing or training.
- Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sports specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own.
- Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and awareness.
- Treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly.
- Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sports and the spirit of such rules.
- In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athlete's parent/guardian , involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.

**Coaches must:**

- Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
- At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes request for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such request.
- Respect athlete's dignity: verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
- Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or banned performance enhancing substances.
- Never provide under-age athletes with alcohol.

**I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Coaching Code of Conduct and Ethics. (*Principal and Ethical Standards of the Coaching Association of Canada*).**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_