

# Oakdale Code of Ethics for Coaches

- We have a huge responsibility as coaches.
- **It is a privilege to coach... not a right or a way to live vicariously.**
- **Develop good people and citizens.**
- Hard work + Team work = Success
- Coaches are most influential (more so than parents in some cases) and the coach is the most visible - on and off the field.
- Our game is not professional, college or even high school... it is a game that should be a fun and learning experience.
- **Winning is an important goal, however; it is not of primary importance.**
- **This game is for the kids that play it.**
- Our program will be based on the principles of honesty, hard work and fairness. Demand excellence in all of your dealings with players, parents, other coaches and especially yourself. Our program must be bigger than any individual within it.
- Be on time, be doing what you're supposed to be doing, where you're supposed to be doing it. Be accountable. This program will be based on one thought- "no excuses". Be professional in your behavior and approach.
- **Give the highest degree of concern and attention to the physical well-being of our athletes.**
- Organize your practice plans daily so that your players and coaches know what to expect.
- All coaches and parents must refrain from: swearing, smoking, drinking or other inappropriate behavior at the practice or game fields. Coaches are responsible for their assistant coaches compliance and parents compliance. Failure to comply may result in sanctions, up to and including removal coaching and/or attendance.
- Negativity breeds negativity... Coaches have every right to be critical, however; after pointing out a mistake... we have the obligation to correct the issue and look for the positive.
- Positivity creates a desire to perform above what is expected and it allows for more hopeful expectations for and from our players.
- **Critique a player's performance, not the player, nor the players' peculiarities, nor the players' parents, siblings, or anyone or anything else that is not part of the players' performance. We do not want to brand or stigmatize our players.**
- **Treat all of your players with respect regardless of their level of ability.**
- Commend and get excited about players who perform above their level or at unexpected times.
- Allow players to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out-of-season activities.
- Encourage players to try off-season sports.
- **Teach players the precept and example of respect for authorities, officials and the rules of our sport.**
- Allow yourself to attempt to offer something that may stretch your player's abilities... sometimes you'll be surprised and other times, you'll scrap the idea.
- Understand the rules of the game and make certain that your players and assistant coaches understand them as well.
- We must not "air our dirty laundry" in front of the players, parents or others, however; we must be open and honest with each other in private. We must also resolve issues in a timely manner and agree to disagree on occasion.
- We must build loyalty among our staffs and in our program. We must be strong together so that we can stand together during the tough times.
- Be firm, but fair with your players and staffs.
- Let your coaches coach. Remember that they are not owned by you and that loyalty is not bestowed to a head coach, however; loyalty and respect needs to be earned.
- You as a head coach are ultimately responsible for the actions of your assistant coaches. Keep your staff under control at all times.
- **Communicate with your players, coaches, parents and whoever else needs to know what is going on with your team.**