

DSYSA Code of Conduct for Coaches

Preface

We, DSYSA, believe that athletic competition should be fun but that it must also be a significant part of a sound educational program. We believe that those who coach athletes are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their sports programs promote important life skills and the development of good character. We believe that the essential elements of character-building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character"). We believe, further, that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teacher-coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Finally, we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well being of our athletes. This Code of Conduct applies to all coaches involved in youth sports.

I understand that in my position as a coach, I must act in accord with the following code:

TRUSTWORTHINESS.

1. **Trustworthiness** — be worthy of trust in all I do and teach athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.
 - A. **Integrity** — model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; teach, advocate and model the importance of honor and good character by doing the right thing even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
 - B. **Honesty** — don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - C. **Reliability** — fulfill commitments; I will do what I say I will do; be on time.
 - D. **Loyalty** — be loyal to my team; put the team above personal glory.
2. **Primacy of Educational Goals** — be faithful to the educational and character-development missions of the association and assure that these objectives are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals; always place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well being of athletes above desires and pressures to win.

RESPECT

5. **Respect** — treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of athletes.
6. **Class** — be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage athletes to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
7. **Taunting** — don't engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
8. **Respect Officials** — treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
9. **Respect Parents** — treat the parents of athletes with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.
10. **Profanity** — don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on DSYSA or the sports program.
11. **Positive Coaching** — use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to athletes or others.
12. **Effort and Teamwork** — encourage student-athletes to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the contest, than upon effort, improvement, teamwork, and winning with character.
13. **Professional Relationships** — maintain appropriate, professional relationships with athletes.

RESPONSIBILITY

14. **Life Skills** — always strive to enhance the physical, mental, social and moral development of student-athletes and teach them positive life skills that will help them become well-rounded, successful and socially responsible.
15. **Advocate Education** — advocate the importance of education beyond basic athletic eligibility standards and work with parents to help athletes set and achieve the highest academic goals possible for them.
16. **Advocate Honor** — prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship in materials about the athletic program and vigorously advocate the concept of pursuing victory with honor in all communications.
17. **Good Character** — foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling (T.E.A.M.) high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and the six pillars of character.
18. **Role-Modeling** — be a worthy role-model, always be mindful of the high visibility and great influence you have as a teacher-coach and consistently conduct myself in private and coaching situations in a manner that exemplifies all I want my athletes to be.
19. **Personal Conduct** — refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of tobacco in front of athletes or other situations where my conduct could undermine my positive impact as a role model.
20. **Competence** — strive to improve coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles and current strategies, character-building techniques, and first-aid and safety.

21. **Knowledge of Rules** — maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that my athletes know and understand the rules.
22. **Positive Environment** — strive to provide a challenging, safe, enjoyable, and successful experiences for the athletes by maintaining a sports environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
23. **Safety and Health** — be informed about basic first aid principles and the physical capacities and limitations of the age-group coached.
24. **Unhealthy Substances** — educate athletes about the dangers and prohibit the use of unhealthy and illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco and recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.
25. **Eating Disorders** — counsel athletes about the dangers of and be vigilant for signs of eating disorders or unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.
26. **Physician's Advice** — seek and follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured student-athlete is ready to play.
27. **Privilege to Compete** — assure that athletes understand that participation in sports programs is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent DSYS, their team and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require athletes to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.
28. **Self-Control** — control ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.
29. **Integrity of the Game** — protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.
30. **Enforcing Rule** — enforce this Code of Conduct consistently in all sports-related activities and venues even when the consequences are high.
31. **Protect Athletes** — put the well being of athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.
32. **Access** — help make your sport accessible to all diverse communities.

FAIRNESS

34. **Fair and Open** — be fair in competitive situations, selecting a team, disciplinary issues and all other matters; and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.

CARING

35. **Safe Competition** — put safety and health considerations above the desire to win; never permit athletes to intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.
36. **Caring Environment** — consistently demonstrate concern for athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team

CITIZENSHIP

37. **Honor the Spirit of Rules** — observe and require athletes to observe the spirit and the letter of all rules including the rules of the game and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and other provisions regulating competition.
38. **Improper Gamesmanship** — promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques (such as devious rule violations, alteration of equipment or the field of play or tactics designed primarily to induce injury or fear of injury) that violate the rules, disrespect the highest traditions of the sport or change the nature of competition by practices that negate or diminish the impact of the core athletic skills that define the sport.
39. **Support** — DSYS relies on each coach to help support, volunteer, build, grow, and foster our sports programs.
40. **Co-operation** — DSYS has limited resources, and requires all coaches to share and co-operate with one another in the use of fields, equipment, practice and game time locations/conflicts. Work with and help out other DSYS coaches whenever possible, put DSYS's goals and program development ahead of personal team goals, selfishness or insubordination will not be tolerated. Make an effort to help less knowledgeable and new coaches whenever possible to help DSYS foster and develop better coaches.
41. **Volunteer** — DSYS relies on volunteer efforts to make everything happen. We expect our coaches to lead the way in this respect by helping to volunteer for various activities in addition to coaching. We also expect our coaches to stress the importance of volunteering to their parents and to help recruit volunteers for events throughout the year.

PENALTIES

Failure to abide by the rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, or other acts or infractions considered detrimental to the youth or adult members shall be subject at a minimum to the following penalties.

- A. **Letter of Reprimand** – This is an official reprimand from DSYS. This document gives notice that an action or conduct will not be tolerated by the DSYS. Upon receiving a Letter of Reprimand, the offender is made aware that future violations will bring more severe penalties. The person receiving the reprimand may continue to perform duties as a coach. Additional disciplinary actions may be administered by DSYS.
- B. **Probation** – Notice of probation is given when a person violates a rule or rules. While on probation the person may continue to perform duties as a coach. Additional disciplinary action may be administered by DSYS. Probation periods may last from a period of one week to one year. A person on probation that commits the same offense will be assessed a minimum one week suspension, DSYS may assess a longer period.

- C. **Suspension** – Notice of suspension is given when a person violates a rule or rules. While on suspension the person may not participate in any DSYSA practice or game. Additional disciplinary action may be administered by DSYSA. Suspension periods may last from a period of one week to one year.
- D. **Ban** – An individual may be banned when the violation is severe or is a continual occurrence that would involve the emotional or physical safety of players or other persons or adults associated with the team, association or league. When a person is banned that person may not attend or be on any property or location that is under the control of DSYSA. Banned periods may last from a period of one week to a lifetime ban.

When an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct occurs, the DSYSA board will conduct an investigation to determine the appropriate penalties. Once an alleged violation is reported, the DSYSA Vice President will form a disciplinary panel made up of the DSYSA Vice President and two sports Presidents, to conduct an investigation into the alleged violation. The two sports Presidents must be from sports other than the sport involved in the violation. The disciplinary panel will review the violation and assess penalties or no-penalties for the violation. The decision made by the disciplinary board will be final. A sports President may assess additional penalties in addition to that assessed by the DSYSA disciplinary board. A sports President may also place a coach on immediate suspension pending the review of an alleged violation by the DSYSA disciplinary panel.

The following offenses have set penalties:

- A. **Ejection from a game** – A first time offense will be a minimum 1 week suspension, Monday to Monday. Second offense will be suspension for the remainder of the year with probation for next season.
- B. **Actions or conduct causing the referee to end the game before its conclusion, or fighting, charging the official, violent behavior** – A first time offense will be a minimum 2 week suspension, Monday to Monday. Second offense will be suspension for the remainder of the year with probation for next season.
- C. **Forfeit for team not having enough players at scheduled game time** – A first time offense will be a minimum 1 week suspension, Monday to Monday. Second offense will be suspension for the remainder of the year with probation for next season.
- D. **Striking a game official, association or league officer or designated representative** – A first time offense will result in a lifetime ban.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I will act in accordance with this code. I understand that DSYSA, event officials, and parents will and should expect that I will follow this code. I further understand, that if I violate this code, I am subject to disciplinary actions by DSYSA, including but not limited to the penalties listed above.

Coach Signature

Coaches Name (printed)

Date