



Yukon Freestyle: Coaches Code of Conduct

The athlete-coach relationship is a privileged relationship. Coaches play a critical role in the personal and athletic development of their athletes. Coaches must understand and respect the power this role plays and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sport organization are channeled. Thus, how athletes regard their 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 achieving a positive, healthy, and rewarding athletic experience.

Coaches Mandatory Requirements

Coaches have a requirement to:

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, race, 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 of coaching. For example, coaches should:
 - Refrain from unwarranted or unnecessary public criticism of fellow coaches, especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes,
 - Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of their athletes and discourage their use by athletes,
 - Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes,
 - Refrain from encouraging the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations,
 - Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of their duties;
- Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment;
- 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 sport specialists, thus allowing athletes' goals to take precedence over their own;
- Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-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 sport and the spirit of such rules;
- In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athletes' parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their athlete's development;
- Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work with;
- At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes;
- Respect their athletes' dignity;
- Verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable;
- Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances;
- Never provide under-age athletes with alcohol;
- Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes;
- Where an athlete has qualified for a training camp, provincial team, national team, etc., the Coach will support the program;
- Refrain from intervening inappropriately in personal affairs that are outside the generally accepted jurisdiction of a coach;
- Act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person;
- Recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy); informed participation and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights.

Failure to comply with Yukon Freestyle Coaches Code of Conduct may be considered an Infraction (Minor or Major) under Yukon Freestyle's Discipline Policy and result in Yukon Freestyle taking disciplinary actions against any members in accordance with that policy.