



Coaches' and Counsellor's Code of Conduct Policy Sudbury Canoe Club 206 Ramsey Lake Road Sudbury, Ontario

Preamble

The athlete/coach and camper/counsellor relationship is a privileged one. Coaches and counsellors play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes and campers. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches and counsellors must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sport organization are channelled. Thus, how athletes and campers regard their sport is often dependent upon the behaviour of the coach or counsellor. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches and counsellors in achieving a level of behaviour that will allow them to assist their athletes and campers in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

Coaches' and Counsellors' Responsibilities

Coaches and counsellors have a responsibility to:

- a. treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status;
- b. direct comments or criticism at the performance or action rather than the athlete or camper;
- c. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching. For example, coaches shall:
 - i. Refrain from public criticism of fellow authority figures, especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes,
 - ii. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of their athletes and discourage their use by athletes,
 - iii. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes,
 - iv. Refrain from encouraging the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at the playing site, and
 - v. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of their duties;
- d. ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes or campers and educate participants as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment;

- e. in the case of coaches, communicate and cooperate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athletes' future health and wellbeing as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athlete's ability to continue playing or training;
- f. recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own;
- g. regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness;
- h. 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;
- i. in the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athletes' or campers' parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their children's development; and
- j. be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.

Coaching and Counselling Imperatives

Coaches and counsellors must:

- a. ensure the safety of the athletes and campers with whom they work;
- b. at no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes or campers. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests;
- c. respect their athletes' and campers' dignity. Verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable;
- d. never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances; and
- e. never provide under-age athletes with alcohol.
- f. avoid situations with athletes that could be misinterpreted as sexual or romantic. Being alone with an athlete outside the athletic context and within the athletic context invites rumour and speculation.

Coaches' and Counsellors' Attestation

The SCC requires that coaches and counsellors sign the attestation below, as confirmation that they understand and will comply with the undertakings herein:

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in this SCC Coaches & Counsellors Code of Conduct and the Coaching Code of Ethics (Principles and Ethical Standards) available from the Coaching Association of Canada.

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors in June, 2016