

POLICY STATEMENT- RECOMMENDED CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHING PERSONNEL

Sec. 1) BACKGROUND

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Accordingly, the following recommended guidelines for head and assistant coaches, whether or not they are paid, have been adopted for the voluntary use by member schools and districts:

- a) The coach shall treat each student with the utmost respect, and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times.
- b) The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- c) The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, contest officials, other coaches, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- d) The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.
- e) The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.
- f) The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program, being cognizant of multi-sport athletes and those involved in other school activities and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
- g) The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- h) The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, opposing team members and coaches and administrators and contest officials.
- i) The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism, including through the traditional media or through the use of social media of officials or players is unethical and not permitted.
- j) The coach shall use social media in accordance with any adopted district policy.
- k) The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration or exert pressure on athletic or school administrators to cause undue delay in providing records of student-athletes no longer at the school.
- l) The coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the Association and shall adhere to the restrictions of Bylaw 15 (Sportsmanship) related to use of illegal equipment.
- m) The coach shall adhere to all KHSAA Bylaws, including policies and procedures. The coach shall be aware of and adhere to the restrictions of Bylaws 6, 7 and 8 wherein the coach's actions shall not create an athletic advantage for a transferring student (including students transferring after participating with a coach in outside competition) and Bylaw 16, Recruitment (Undue Influence) and restrictions on impermissible contacts and impermissible benefits.
- n) The coach shall be current in all coaching qualifications adopted by the Association as well as certifications required.