

COACHING CODE OF ETHICS

Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship 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 channelled. Thus how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependant on the behaviour of the coach.

The following Code of Ethics has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behaviour which will allow them to assist their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident, and productive human beings.

COACHES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- 1) Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.
- 2) Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
- 3) Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching.
 - a) Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, officials, and other people involved in skiing; especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
 - b) Maintain the highest standards of coaching – be honest and dependable. Athletes need a coach they can respect – be generous with praise and set a good example.
 - c) Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of her/his athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
 - d) Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
 - e) Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.

- 4) 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.
- 5) Communicate and cooperate with medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athletes' future health and well-being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athletes' ability to continue skiing or training.
- 6) Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over his/her own.
- 7) Obtain proper training, and regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
- 8) Treat opponents 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 spirits of such rules.
- 9) In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athlete's parent or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
- 10) Honour all contracts signed and not enter into commitments which he or she knows cannot be kept.

COACHES MUST:

- 1) Ensure safety of athletes with whom they work.
- 2) At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes, including requests for involvement, and threats of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
- 3) Respect athletes' dignity; verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable (definition of harassment is attached).
- 4) Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
- 5) Never provide under age athletes with alcohol.

I, _____, coach of Alpine Yukon, _____, declare that I have read and understood this Alpine Yukon Coaching Code of Ethics, and I agree to demonstrate these ethics.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Witness: _____ *Date:* _____