

## PSA COACHES/VOLUNTEER CODE OF ETHICS & CONDUCT AGREEMENT

Our mission is for all of us, collectively, to insure every child's experience be rewarding and fun; that we will with other coaches, volunteers, officials, and parents provide the very best possible experiences for the kids through cooperation, tolerance and respect for our individual jobs and responsibilities.

This code of ethics and conduct has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and acceptable professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of youth and adult athletics. (The term "Coach" shall include, but is not limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach(s), Manager/Trainer and/or Team Representative.)

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### COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES TO PLAYERS

1. The coach must **never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players**. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
  2. Coaches shall instruct players to **play within the written rules of the game** and within the spirit of the game at all times.
  3. Coaches shall **not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior** to players.
  4. Coaches should **not tolerate inappropriate behavior** from players regardless of the situation.
  5. Coaches and Volunteers **shall not abuse children** in any way, including
    - Physical Abuse-striking, spanking, shaking, slapping
    - Verbal Abuse-humiliating, degrading, threatening
    - Sexual Abuse-touching or speaking inappropriately
    - Mental Abuse-shaming, withholding kindness, being cruel
    - Neglect-withholding food, water, or basic care
  6. Coaches and Volunteers **shall never leave a child unsupervised**. Coaches and Volunteers should remain at the practice or game location following the completion of the activity until all children under their supervision have been picked up by a parent or responsible adult.
  7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.
  8. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.
  9. A Coach or Volunteer **will not use foul language**. Smoking or use of tobacco in the presence of children or parents is strictly prohibited. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while coaching and/or volunteering are strictly prohibited.
  10. At no time will a Coach or Volunteer **demean, degrade or humiliate any player, parent, spectator, official, team or other coach or volunteer** on any social media forum.
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## COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICIALS (REFEREES)

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. **Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players, parents, and spectators.**
  2. On game day, **officials should be treated with respect before, during, and after the game.** Officials should be addressed as "Referee" or "Mr. /Ms. Referee" and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach, or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
  3. Coaches shall **refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment** of others, whether verbal, physical, or emotional, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels.
  4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate Sports Director
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## COACHES GAME DAY AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A coach's behavior must be such as to bring credit to themselves, his organization (team), and the sport.
  2. **Coaches and team Volunteers will keep a current coach/volunteer application and wear PSA issued Coaches badge at all PSA events.**
  3. Coaches shall exhibit a respectful attitude towards players. The coach must confine him/herself to the coaching area. The attitude of the coach towards officials, spectators, opposing players and coaches should be controlled and undemonstrative.
  4. It is **improper for a coach to have any verbal altercation** with an official, opposing coach or bench, and spectator during the game. Hostile verbal and physical contact with a player is considered highly unethical and subject to immediate ejection.
  5. The coach's foremost post-game responsibilities his/her team.
  6. **Coaches shall be responsible for Parent and Spectators conduct.** Coaches should use their influence on parents and spectators that demonstrate intimidating behavior towards officials and opposing teams.
  7. At no time will a coach or volunteer argue, abuse, threaten or demean any official, other coach, parent, spectator, League Officials, or any PSA Staff Member.
  8. If a coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game, the ejected person shall leave the premises immediately.
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## COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO THE RULES OF THE GAME

1. Coaches should demonstrate a working knowledge of the rules of their sport or activity. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the rules.
  2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the rules of the game.
  3. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field/court and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
  4. If coaches permit, encourage, or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the rules, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, and PSA. The coach must constantly strive to teach good sporting behavior.
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## RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SCOUTING AND RECRUITING

1. It is unethical to actively recruit player(s) playing for another PSA team.
  2. When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, and organizations.
  3. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; is illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and is immoral to deliver the same.
  4. There is **no recruiting in the recreational leagues, select leagues, and academy leagues for any teams, coaches, or parents.**
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## RESPONSIBILITY TO PSA AND MEMBER AFFILIATIONS

1. Adherence to all PSA and Member Association rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting, and guest players are mandatory and may never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
  2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity, and dignity of the sport are maintained.
  3. **At no time** will a coach or volunteer argue, abuse, threaten or demean any official, other coach, parent, spectator, League Officials, or any PSA Staff Member.
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I recognize the responsibility encumbered upon me to model ethical behavior. I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain the PSA code of ethics and conduct as a condition of membership in PSA.

**Any Violation of the PSA Coaches/Volunteer Code of Ethics and Conduct Agreement may result in a suspension or revocation of a Coach/Volunteer's ability to participate in any PSA program.**

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

