

NCCP Code of Ethics

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Based on the CPCA Coaching Code of Ethics (Canadian Professional Coaches Association)

The NCCP Code of Ethics is based on four fundamental principles:

1. Respect for Participants/Athletes
2. Coaching Responsibly
3. Maintaining Integrity in Relationships
4. Honouring Sport

1. Respect for Participants/Athletes

The principle of respecting participants/athletes challenges coaches to act in a manner respectful of the dignity of those involved in sport. The cornerstone of this principle is the basic assumption that each person has value and is worthy of respect. Acting with respect for participants/athletes means that coaches:

- Do not make some participants/athletes feel more or less worthy as persons than others on the basis of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, marital status, age, or any other conditions;
- Have a responsibility to respect and promote the rights of all participants/athletes. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy); informed participation and shared decision-making (right to self-determination – participants/athletes' rights); and fair and reasonable treatment (right to procedural fairness). Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants/athletes who are in vulnerable or dependent positions, and therefore less able to protect their own rights;
- Interact with others in a manner that enables all participants/athletes in sport to maintain their dignity;
- Build mutual support among fellow coaches, officials, participants/athletes, and their family members.

2. Coaching Responsibly

The principle of coaching responsibly carries the expectation that the activities of coaches will benefit society in general, and participants/athletes in particular, and will do no harm. Fundamental to the implementation of this principle is the notion of competence (i.e. coaches who are well prepared and current in their discipline will be able to maximize benefits and minimize risks to participants/athletes).

In addition, coaching responsibly implies that coaches:

- act in the best interest of the participant/athlete's development as a whole person
- recognize the power inherent in the position of coach
- are aware of their personal values and how these affect their behaviour
- acknowledge the limitations of their knowledge and competence in their sport
- accept the responsibility to work with other coaches and professionals in sport in the best interests of the participants/athletes.

3. Maintaining Integrity in Relationships

The principle of maintaining integrity in relationships means that coaches are expected to be honest, sincere, and honourable in their relationships. Acting on these values is most possible when coaches have a high degree of self-awareness and the ability to reflect critically on how their views and opinions influence their interactions.

Critical reflection questions existing assumptions about the values and practices that govern coaches' actions. The essential component of critical reflection is an attitude based on open-mindedness, active inquiry, and sincerity.

4. Honouring Sport

The principle of honouring sport challenges coaches to recognize, act on, and promote the value of sport for individuals and teams, and for society in general. Honouring sport implies that coaches:

- act on and promote clearly articulated values related to coaching and sport
 - encourage and model honourable intentions and actions.
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