

Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club

Coach Code of Conduct

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. 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 channeled. Thus, how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behaviour of the coach. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behavior that will allow them to assist their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

Coaches have a responsibility to:

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
 - Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
 - Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching.
 - Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches; especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
 - Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of her/his athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
 - Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
 - Discourage the use of alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at the playing site.
 - Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.
1. 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.
 2. Communicate and co-operate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnoses, 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 playing or training.
 3. Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own.
 4. Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
 5. 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.
 6. In the case of minors, communicate and co-operate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
 7. Be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.

Coaches must:

1. Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
2. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
3. Respect athlete's 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 underage athletes with alcohol.
6. Coaches are not to meet with athletes in a one-to-one setting. Coaches should ensure there is another adult involved in such situations.

Definition of Harassment

Harassment takes many forms but can generally be defined as behaviour including comments and/ or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual, or group of individuals, or which creates an uncomfortable environment.

Harassment may include:

- Written or verbal abuse or threats
- Sexually oriented comments
- Racial or ethnic slurs unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes, or taunting about a person's body, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or racial origin, religion etc
- Displaying of sexually explicit, racist or other offensive or derogatory material
- Sexual, racial, ethnic or religious graffiti
- Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance
- Unwelcome sexual remarks, invitations or requests whether indirect or explicit, or intimidation
- Leering (suggestive staring), or other obscene or offensive gestures
- Condescension, paternalism or patronizing behaviour which undermines self-respect or adversely affects performance or working conditions
- Physical conduct such as touching, kissing, patting, pinching, etc
- Vandalism
- Physical assault

*This code was developed by Promotion Plus Women in Coaching Committee in conjunction with the Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry Responsible for Sport and the Commonwealth Games Coaching Advisory Committee and the Coaches Association of BC.

Coach Agreement Form

This following agreement outlines the responsibilities of a Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club Coach. By reading and signing this agreement, you are hereby acknowledging the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Club’s Board of Directors and the Coach’s Code of Conduct.

Guiding Philosophy

The Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club will strive to nurture an environment that creates a positive, encouraging and skilled approach to learning and playing volleyball. We will uphold OVA rules and policy and ensure that we do our best to develop strong, positive athletes, players and people, on and off the court.

Coach Guiding Principles

1. While court time is limited, every effort will be made to give all eligible players the opportunity to play.
2. We believe that in our Club, volleyball is a game where work ethic, attitude, and sportsmanship are more important than winning at all costs but that these attributes can lead to success both on and off the court.
3. We believe that coaches exert a powerful influence over their players, and we insist that coaches and other Club officials, while expecting the best from their players, exhibit at all times, a positive, constructive and supportive coaching strategy and provide a role model that is beyond reproach.
4. As our focus is on youth, we encourage parents to become involved and supportive both with their team and the administration. The goal is for players, parents, and coaches to feel part of the Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club.

I acknowledge that I have read the Coaches Agreement and the Coach Code of Conduct and accept it as a guiding principle of my coaching efforts and conduct for the Club for this season.

Name of Coach: _____

Signature of Coach: _____

Date: _____

Club Team: _____