COMPETE • CONNECT • GROW

Coastal Wave Volleyball Club - Coach Code of Conduct

Leadership, athlete welfare and ethical responsibilities

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 representatives of the values and goals of their sport organization. Thus, how an athlete regards their 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 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/criticism towards the performance/behaviour, never towards the athlete/person.
3) Consistently display high personal standards and project a positive image of their sport and coaching.
   - Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, board members, parents, or players.
   - Abstain from the use of controlled substances including alcohol while in the presence of athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
   - Discourage the use of alcohol during athletic events or celebrations at the playing site.
   - Refrain from using profane, insulting, or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of their 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 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.
6) Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own.
7) Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.

8) Treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat, and actively encourage athletes to act accordingly, uphold the rules of their sport and value the spirit of such rules.
9) In the case of minors, respectfully communicate and co-operate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development and when/if conflicts arise.
10) Respect confidentiality of all players and do not discuss personal development with other players, parents or members of the public.
11) In an educational institution, be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow academic success.

Revised October 2023

COACHES MUST:

1) Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
2) Adhere to the Coastal Wave Volleyball Club Concussion Protocol.
3) 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.
4) Respect athlete's dignity; verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable (see definition of harassment below).
5) Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
6) Never provide under-age athletes with drugs or alcohol.

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.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

By signing, I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to follow this Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct. I understand that compliance is a condition of serving as a coach or volunteer with the club.

Coach / Volunteer name (print): _____

Team / Age Group (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____