

The NMSA Coaching Code of Ethics

2009 Version

All coaches have the responsibility to fulfill his/her commitments with the highest of ethical standards. Immediately upon acceptance to any NMSA coaching position I will be asked to sign the following *Code of Ethics*.

Introduction: This coaching code of ethics is organized around four (4) ethical principles.

1. respect for participants
2. responsible coaching
3. integrity
4. honouring the sport

Each principle is followed by a brief description.

1. Respect for Participants: The principle of respect for participants challenges coaches to act in a manner respectful of the dignity of all participants. Fundamental to this principle is the basic assumption that each person has value and is worthy of respect.

Acting with respect for participants means coaches:

- Do not make some participants more or less worthy as a person than others on the basis of gender, race, origin, athletic potential, beliefs, status or any other conditions.
- Have a responsibility to respect and promote the rights of all participants. this is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality, informed participation, and shared decision making, and fair and reasonable treatment
- Interact with others in a manner that enables all participants to maintain their dignity; and
- Build mutual support among fellow coaches, officials, athletes, and their family members.

Responsible Coaching: The principle of responsible coaching carries the basic ethical expectation that the activities of coaches will benefit society in general and participants in particular. Fundamental to the implementation of this principle is the notion of competence in coaching--maximizing benefits and minimizing risks to participants--by coaches that are well prepared and current in their discipline.

In addition, responsible coaching means that coaches

- act in the best interest of the 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 position as a coach;
- acknowledge the limitations of their discipline; and
- accept the responsibility to work with other coaches, officials, athletes, and their family members.

Integrity: Integrity means that coaches are expected to be honest, sincere, and honourable in their relationships with others. Acting on these values is most possible when coaches possess a high degree of self awareness and the ability to react critically on how their perspectives influence their interactions with others.

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

In addition, honouring the sport means that coaches:

- act on and promote clearly articulated values related to coaching and sport;
- encourage and model honourable intentions and actions in their coaching practice; and
- show high regard for and promote the value of sport in society.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Position _____

Date _____