

Okanagan Valley School Athletic Association Code of Conduct

ARTICLE IX: CONDUCT

PART 1) COACHES (including assistant coach) CODE OF CONDUCT

The coach(assistant coach)/student- athlete relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal and athletic development of their students. Therefore, coaches are expected to model the fundamentally positive aspects of school sport. Coaches are responsible for their own behavior as well as their student-athletes.

COACHES(assistant coach) SHALL:

1.1.1 Recognize that school sport is an extension of the classroom, with moral and legislative obligations required of the coach at all times.

1.1.2 Uphold the rules and regulations of BC SCHOOL SPORTS, the O.V.S.A.A., and the local athletic association and applicable Sport Commission(s).

1.1.3 Actively uphold the rules of the sport, the spirit of the rules of the sport, and encourage student-athletes to do the same.

1.1.4 Treat all participants fairly and equitably.

1.1.5 Respect the judgment and interpretation of officials without gesture or argument, and require student-athletes to do the same.

1.1.6 Refrain from using foul, profane, harassing or offensive language or gestures in the conduct of coaching duties.

1.1.7 Refrain from using physical force of any kind in the conduct of coaching duties.

1.1.8 Under no circumstances encourage a student, either directly or through the influence of another party, to attend a school other than the school designated by the place of residence of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian, for the purposes of participation in school sport.

1.1.9 Under no circumstances endorse or condone, either covertly or intentionally, the use of any performance enhancing drugs by any student-athletes.

1.1.10 Abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and other recreational drugs while in the presence of student-athletes, and discourage their use by student-athletes.

PART 2) STUDENT-ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT

The actions of student-athletes are a reflection of themselves, their team, their school, and their community. A student's involvement in school sport provides opportunities and experiences that are important to the development of a well-rounded student. However, student-athletes must remember that their participation in school sport is a privilege, not a right.

STUDENT-ATHLETES SHALL:

2.1.1 Treat everyone with respect

- a) treat teammates, coaches, opponents, event organizers and spectators with respect.
- b) respect and accept with dignity the decisions of officials.
- c) be generous in winning and graceful in losing.

2.1.2 Exercise Self-Control at all times

- a) remember that there is no place in sport for drugs or alcohol.
- b) refrain from the use of foul or profane language.
- c) refrain from the use of physical force outside of the rules of the game.

2.1.3 Play Fair

Play within the rules and the spirit of the rules of the game at all times.

2.1.4 Student-Athletes are asked not to change on the bench or within the playing area. Please use your discretion or change rooms when changing around the play area.

PART 3) SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Spectators are encouraged and welcomed to attend secondary school sporting activities.

SPECTATORS SHOULD:

3.1.1 Treat everyone with respect

- a) cheer in a positive manner for all competitors
- b) respect the decisions of officials
- c) not interfere with the play or competition

d) be courteous and respectful to other spectators, all competitors, coaches, event organizers and officials

3.1.2 Exercise Self-Control at all times

- a) respect the rules and regulations of the facility
- b) refrain from the use of foul or profane language
- c) refrain from the use of physical force of any kind

PART 4) CONDUCT PROCEDURES, DEFINITIONS, AND PENALTIES

a) Any time a player(student-athlete), team or coach(assistant coach)/sponsor teacher represents a member school, he or she is under the jurisdiction of the OVSAA whether playing another OVSAA member or not. It should be noted that all games are included regardless of the location.

b) There shall be two divisions of authority with respect to conduct:

1) Less serious matters to be dealt with by the zone president in the case of zone competition; or by the Valley commission and the OVSAA President in the case of valley leagues or in the case of inter-zone play.

2) More serious matters to be dealt with by the OVSAA Executive.

4.1 Defining Responsibilities

a) Zone and/or commission matters may include such offenses such as incidents between competitors, competitors and game officials, competitors and spectators, and competitors and adults in positions of authority which occur during a competition.

Incidents may include:

- 1) Profanity and abusive language.
- 2) Ejection from a game.
- 3) Expressions of disrespect.

b) OVSAA Executive matters may include such matters as:

- 1) Second offenses under the zone and/or commission definition.
- 2) Striking another person and/or excessive contact.
- 3) Vandalism, creating a disturbance or similar misconduct while traveling to and from a competition or at a competition.
- 4) Coach(assistant coach) misconduct.
- 5) Encouragement of an athlete to use performance enhancing drugs.

4.2 Procedures

- a) In a case where an incident has occurred involving either a coach or a player:
- 1) Written reports shall be submitted within 72 hours by
 - i) the coach or coaches involved.
 - ii) students involved.
 - iii) game officials involved.
 - iv) other coaches or responsible adults if requested.
- b) In a case where a coach is engaging in inappropriate behavior the other coach/responsible adult should:
- 1) First approach the offending coach about modifying his or her behavior.
 - 2) If no modification is made the offending coach must be notified that a report will be filed with the OVSAA President. (This step protects you from a BCTF ethics violation)
- c) In cases where a complaint against a coach is being registered by non-teacher game officials or other responsible adults, it is expected that both coaches file appropriate reports.

4.3 Penalties

- a) A minimum penalty of at least a one game suspension from the next league or playoff game shall be imposed as a result of a player(Student-Athlete) or Coach(or Assistant Coach)/Sponsor Teacher being ejected from a game at the discretion of the OVSAA executive. The requirement is that the school will contact the corresponding zone president immediately after the game and before the next game. Failure to do so may result in further consequences (ex: forfeit, fines, etc.). If the proper reports are not filed within 72 hours of the incident, the offending school shall receive a fine of \$250. More serious incidents will result in more serious penalties.
- b) If there has been an incident the offending coach/sponsor teacher or player has 72 hours in which to file a report. If the appropriate report is not filed within 72 hours the coach or player is then ineligible to coach or play until the report is filed.
- c) Repeat incidents shall result in more stringent penalties.
- d) In cases where a season is over before the penalty is imposed the penalty shall carry over to the next season the player or coach participates in.

e) The use of ineligible players, failure to complete league commitments and similar violations may result in suspension of up to one year.

f) Upon proof of violation of the Constitution or By-Laws of the OVSAA, the OVSAA Executive may suspend the offending player, coach, team, or school from participation in activities of the OVSAA or its leagues, or impose such lesser punishments as it shall decide.

g) It will be the decision of the OVSAA to impose the penalty of game suspension(s) on restricted(league/play-off) or unrestricted(exhibition/tournaments) or both. This will be clearly stated in the response email or letter.

4.4 Executive Procedure

a) Upon receipt of a complaint about conduct the executive person receiving the complaint must make a decision, or seek advice, on which level of executive should deal with the complaint.

b) In the case of student misconduct the executive shall communicate with the administrator and/or athletic director of the offending student and inform them that a complaint has been received and that the student has 72 hours from the time of the incident in order to file a report. If the appropriate report is not received within 72 hours then the student will be suspended until such time as the report is received.

c) In the case of coach(assistant coach) or sponsor teacher misconduct the executive shall call the administrator and/or athletic director of the offending coach and the coach to inform them of the complaint and remind them that reports must be filed. If the appropriate report is not received within 72 hours the coach will be suspended until such time as the report is received.

d) The responsible executive member shall then form a discipline committee consisting of a minimum of 3 OVSAA executive members and set up a time for either a meeting or conference call to deal with the complaint. If the OVSAA Executive member is affiliated with the accused coach or player, they will recuse themselves from the committee.

e) The responsible executive member shall email the athletic director and/or principal of the offending player or coach/sponsor teacher and inform him/her of the decision of the disciplinary committee and to remind him/her that appeal procedures are laid out in the OVSAA Constitution.

f) The responsible executive member may contact the appropriate supervisor of officials and inform him/her that a disciplinary meeting has been held and that appropriate

sanctions have been imposed on the offending coach/teacher sponsor or player. Said sanctions to be monitored by the offending athletic director and administration.

4.5 Appeal Procedure: Coaches(Assistant Coach(es) or Teacher Sponsors

An appeal to an executive ruling may be granted if according to the administrative rep or designate

- a) it is shown that "due process" was not given.
- b) new information is presented that would have had bearing on the ruling.

Appeal Procedures: Coaches(Assistant Coach(es) or Teacher Sponsor

The Jury of Appeal shall consist of:

- i) A teacher/coach from the coaches' or teacher sponsors' zone.
- ii) An administrator from the coach/assistant coach(es) or teacher sponsors zone (preferably an administration rep).
- iii) A teacher/coach from another zone.

*Valley and Zone Presidents may act as teachers as well as the OVSAA President.

c) The OVSAA President or designate shall chair and coordinate the make up of the Jury of Appeal.

d) The cost of appeals to disciplinary action shall be the responsibility of the school making the appeal.

e) After the meeting or conference call, the OVSAA President or designate will contact the coaches/assistant coach(es), sponsor teachers, athletic director, and administration and communicate the decision (email or letter) of the appeal. The athletic director can notify the coaches/assistant coach(es) or teacher sponsor of the ruling.

4.6 Appeal Procedure: Student-Athletes

An appeal to an executive ruling may be granted if according to the administrative rep or designate

a) it is shown that "due process" was not given.

b) new information is presented that would have had bearing on the ruling.

c) Disciplinary appeals by a student must be submitted and signed by the school principal and the athletic director of the student's school and must be submitted within one week of notification of the disciplinary ruling. One or both of the above individuals may be requested to represent or accompany the student to the hearing.

The Jury of Appeal shall consist of:

i) A teacher/coach from the player's zone.

ii) An administrator from one of the four zones (preferably an administration rep).

iii) A teacher/coach from another zone.

*Valley and Zone Presidents may act as teachers as well as the OVSAA President.

d) The OVSAA President or designate shall chair and coordinate the makeup of the Jury of Appeal.

e) Cost of appeals to disciplinary action shall be the responsibility of the school making the appeal.

f) After the meeting or conference call, the OVSAA President or designate will contact the student-athlete's athletic director and administration and communicate the decision (email or letter) of the appeal. The athletic director can notify the student-athlete of the ruling.