

***BCAA* Coaches Code of Conduct**

*We, in the Broward County Athletic Association, believe that high school athletic competition should be fun but that it must also be a significant part of a sound educational program. We believe that those who coach student-athletes are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their sports programs* ***promote important life skills and follow the School Board of Broward County’s eight principles of character education.*** *We believe that the essential elements of character-building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. We believe, further, that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teacher-coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Finally, we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well being of our student-athletes. This Code of Conduct applies to all paid and volunteer coaches involved in interscholastic sports.*

*I understand that in my position as a coach, I must act in accordance with the following code:*

**TRUSTWORTHINESS.**

1. *Trustworthiness —* be worthy of trust in all I do and teach student-athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.

*Integrity —* model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; teach, advocate and model the importance of honor and good character by doing the right thing even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.

*Honesty* — don’t lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

*Reliability* — fulfill commitments with players and parents at the school community.

*Loyalty —* be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal achievement.

2. *Primacy of Educational Goals —*be faithful tothe educational and character-development missions of the school system and ensure that these objectives are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals; always place the academic, emotional, and physical well being of athletes above the pressure to win.

3. *Counseling —* be candid with student-athletes and their parents about the likelihood of obtaining an athletic scholarship or playing at the professional level. Counsel and assist students in the college recruitment process and stress the importance of education over athletic achievement.

4. *College Recruiters —* be honest and candid with college recruiters about the character and academic abilities and interest of student-athletes.

**RESPECT**

5. *Respec*t — treat all players, fans, and the school community with respect at all times and teach the same of student-athletes

6. *Class —* be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage student-athletes to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance by our opponent, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

7. *Taunting —* don’t engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

8. *Respect Officials —* treat contest officials with respect; don’t complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

9. *Respect Parents* — treat the parents of student-athletes with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.

10. *Profanity* — don’t engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, contests, on team buses, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect poorly on the school or the BCAA.

11. *Positive Coaching —* use positive coaching methods to make the sports experience enjoyable for students, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to student-athletes or others.

12. *Effort and Teamwork —* encourage student-athletes to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the contest, than upon effort, improvement, teamwork, and winning with character.

13. *Professional Relationships* — maintain appropriate, professional relationships with all student athletes.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

14. *Life Skills —* always strive to enhance the physical, mental, social and moral development of student-athletes and teach them positive life skills that will help them become well-rounded, successful and socially responsible.

15. *Advocate Education* **—** advocate the importance of education beyond basic athletic eligibility standards and work with faculty and parents to help student-athletes set and achieve the highest academic goals possible for them.

16. *Advocate Honor —* prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship in materials about the athletic program and vigorously advocate the concept of pursuing victory with honor in all communications.

17. *8 Pillars of Good Character —* foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling (T.E.A.M.) high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and the six pillars of character.

18. *Role-Modeling —* be a worthy role-model, always be mindful of the high visibility and great influence you have as a teacher-coach.

19. *Personal Conduct* — refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of alcohol or tobacco in front of student-athletes.

20. *Competence* — strive to improve coaching competence and increase knowledge and proficiency in coaching principles and game strategies.

21. *Knowledge of Rules —* maintain a thorough knowledge of FHSAA and NFHS game and competition rules and ensure that student-athletes know and understand the rules.

22. *Positive Environment —* strive to provide a challenging, but safe and enjoyable experience for the athletes by maintaining an environment that is physically and emotionally safe.

23. *Unhealthy Substances —*educate student-athletesabout the dangers of unhealthy and illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco and recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.

24. *Eating Disorders* **—** counsel students about the dangers of and be vigilant for signs of eating disorders or unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

25. *Physician and Athletic Trainer’s Advice —*seek the advice and follow the decision of your athletic trainer and/or physician when determining whether an injured student-athlete is ready to play.

26. *Privilege to Compete —*assure that student-athletes understand that participation in interscholastic sports programs is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their school, team and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require student-athletes to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.

27. *Self-Control —*avoid displays of anger and frustration; don’t retaliate.

28. *Integrity of the Game —* protect the integrity of the game. Play the game according to the rules.

29. *Protect Athletes* — put the well being of student-athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them.

30. *Access —*make your sport accessible to all students.

31. *Improper Commercialism —* be sensitive to and avoid unwholesome commercialism including inappropriate exploitation of my name or the name of the school and undue financial dependence on corporate entities. Make sure any affiliation or association with a corporate entity is approved by school and district officials.

**FAIRNESS**

32. *Fair and Open* — be fair in competitive situations, have an open tryout process in team selection, in disciplinary issues, and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.

**CARING**

33. *Safe Competition* — put safety and health considerations above the desire to win. Teach skills to avoid injury and never permit student-athletes to intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.

34. *Caring Environment* — consistently demonstrate concern for student-athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team

**CITIZENSHIP**

35. *Honor the Spirit of Rules* — observe and require student-athletes to observe the spirit and the letter of all rules including the rules of the game and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and all FHSAA guidelines that regulate interscholastic competition.

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

36. *Improper Gamesmanship —*promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don’t cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques (such as devious rule violations, alteration of equipment or the field of play or tactics designed primarily to induce injury or fear of injury) that violate the rules, disrespect the highest traditions of the sport or change the nature of competition by practices that negate or diminish the impact of the core athletic skills that define the sport.

37. *Video –* View the BCAA video on **sportsmanship** and discuss the importance of displaying good sportsmanship by our coaches and student athletes at all times. Emphasize the possible consequences of behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner. Discuss what impact penalties can have on individuals, the team, and the school community, both in suspensions, dismissals and monetary fines.



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*I understand that in my position as a coach, I must act in accordance with the following code:*

**I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and will view, as well as, review the BCAA Sportsmanship video with my student-athletes. I will act in accordance with these guidelines. I understand that the BCAA, School Board of Broward County, BCAA Officials, and the FHSAA will expect that I will follow these guidelines.**

**Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***( this page will be kept on file in the athletic office)***

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