



Coach Code of Conduct

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal and 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 **Apex Volleyball Club** are channeled. How an athlete regards their sport is often shaped by the behavior of their coach.

This Code of Conduct has been developed to guide Apex Volleyball Club coaches in achieving a standard of behavior that supports athletes in becoming well-rounded, confident, and productive individuals.

Coaches Have a Responsibility To:

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, race, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.
- Direct comments or feedback at the performance, not the athlete..
- Consistently display high personal standards and project a positive image of Apex Volleyball Club, the sport of volleyball, and of coaching. This includes:
 - Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, especially when speaking to the media or athletes.
 - Abstain from using tobacco or vaping products while in the presence of athletes.
 - Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
 - Refrain from using profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of coaching duties.
- Ensure that training and competition activities are appropriate for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of athletes.
- Educate athletes about their responsibilities in contributing to a safe and respectful environment.
- Communicate and cooperate with registered medical professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of athletes' medical and psychological concerns.
- Prioritize the long-term health and well-being of athletes when making decisions about injury recovery and return to play.

- Recognize when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists, allowing athlete goals to take precedence over personal ambitions.
- Seek ongoing professional development and self-awareness.
- Treat opponents and officials with respect in both victory and defeat, and encourage athletes to do the same.
- Promote adherence to the rules and spirit of volleyball.
- In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with parents or legal guardians, involving them in decisions related to their child's development.

Coaches Must:

- Complete the Person In Authority Check before working with athletes.
- Notify Apex Volleyball Club and Volleyball BC immediately of any changes to their Screening Disclosure Form or Criminal Record Check.
- Understand their [responsibility](#) to create a physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe space for athletes.
- Maintain an [Open and Observable Environment](#) at all times.
- Maintain [appropriate boundaries](#) with athletes.
- [Report](#) any form of maltreatment or abuse.
- Never become intimately or sexually involved with athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
- Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or banned performance-enhancing substances.
- Never provide underage athletes with alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products.
- Read and uphold [Volleyball BC's Code of Conduct and Ethics](#) in all Volleyball BC-sanctioned activities.

By signing this Coach Code of Conduct, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to support all of the above statements as a representative of **Apex Volleyball Club**.

Coach Signature

Date