

Coach's Code of Conduct

The mission of the St. Columban Athletic Organization (Boosters) is to put Christian beliefs and principles in practice through programs that build healthy body, mind, and spirit for all. Members of the Organization and those participating in any Booster-sponsored activity must recognize their Christian responsibilities and set a "Christ-like" example while representing St. Columban. Coaches have a special responsibility to adhere at all times to standards of behavior which reflect credit on the sports and teams they coach, their institutions, and themselves. Therefore, recognizing and acknowledging this, I pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while coaching in a St. Columban youth sports event, including practices. I shall conform to the following code of conduct:

1. I will not engage in or condone unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee (collectively "participant").
2. I will not engage in or condone any behavior that would endanger the health, safety, or well being of any participant.
3. I will not use drugs or alcohol while attending a youth sports event and will not attend or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will not engage in or condone the use of inappropriate, obscene, or profane language or gestures.
5. I will not bring any item or material to any youth sports event that may be harmful or hazardous to others.
6. I will treat every participant with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, color, or ability.
7. I will not engage in or condone verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any participant.
8. I will not cause damage to any facility.
9. I will refrain from throwing any object in disgust or frustration.
10. I will not engage in or condone any activity that is clearly inappropriate according to normally accepted standards of behavior for Catholic elementary sports.
11. I will follow all guidelines established by the Archdiocesan Decree on Child Protection.

I agree that, if I fail to comply with the foregoing, I will be subject to disciplinary action by St. Columban Parish or School, the Boosters, a game official, or the CYO. Such action may include, but is not limited to, the following, in any order or combination: verbal warning, written warning, game ejection, game suspension, season suspension, multiple season suspension, or suspension from multiple youth sports.

I further agree that:

1. I will adhere to procedures established by the Booster Organization and playing rules of St. Columban and the CYO. I will make every attempt to treat all children fairly.
2. As a head coach, I will choose the assistant coach(es) after the teams are selected, with the approval of the Boosters' Sport's Coordinator.
3. I will complete the class on the Archdiocesan Decree on Child Protection and undergo fingerprinting.
4. As a head coach, I will notify the Sport's Coordinator immediately if I need to resign during the season.
5. As a head coach, I will meet with parents before the first game to discuss my objectives as well as those of the school and the Boosters. I will request/select a team representative to administer parent obligations for concessions, gate, clock, clean-up, and other responsibilities. Parents must be advised at this meeting that any concerns should first be addressed to the Head Coach. If the concern is not handled in a satisfactory manner, then those concerns should be addressed to the Sport's Coordinator.
6. I will immediately discipline any player who shows disrespect to an official or opponent. I will report this action to the Sport's Coordinator as well as any ejection of a coach, player, parent, or fan from a competition. (The Sport's Coordinator and Booster Board must approve removal from a team due to disciplinary action, with notification to the Pastor of St. Columban.)
7. I will avoid any action or remark that may incite the displeasure of spectators.
8. I will ensure that no St. Columban spectator intimidates an official or player.
9. I will report any technical foul, flagrant unsportsmanlike penalty, or ejection of any St. Columban participant to the Sport's Coordinator within 24 hours of the event during which it occurred.
10. I will be familiar with the St. Columban Parent-Student Handbook as it pertains to playing sports and disciplines/suspensions for poor grades.
11. I will strive to begin and end practices on time. No child shall be left at a game or practice without adult supervision. No practices will be conducted without two adults over 18 years of age.
12. I will have the team pray before and/or after games whenever possible.
13. As head coach, I will return all equipment, uniforms, and keys, to the Sport's Coordinator after the completion of the season. I know that I am responsible for any items not returned and that my failure to comply with this provision will adversely affect my coaching status for the following year(s).
14. I will complete an end-of-year summary, if requested, for the Sport's Coordinator.

Signature

Print Name

Date

Home Phone

Good Things for Coaches to Remember

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a “win-at-all-costs” attitude. Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare, and moral education of young people are a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the club, school, coach, or parent.

- Give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
- Place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Communicate information about team rules, strategies, and safety precautions.
- At the outset, clarify with the players (and, where appropriate, parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players.
- Encourage all your players to be team players.
- Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be supportive after the game - win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Know the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- Be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event
- Never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field.