



NAIA Code of Ethics

Purpose

A Code of Ethics is the essential tool used to protect and promote the interests of athletics and the coaching profession. Its primary purpose is to clarify and distinguish ethical practices from those which are detrimental and harmful. Its secondary purposes are to emphasize the values of athletics in American and Canadian educational institutions and to stress the functional contributions of coaches to their schools and players. Ethics must be defined as the basic principles of right action. Proper ethics in athletics implies a standard of character which affords confidence and trust. The standards emphasized in this code certainly rest in the hands of those engaged in the athletics field.

Enforcement

The Conduct and Ethics Committee shall review any report of violations of the code, collect definite facts, consider all sides in any controversial issue and take appropriate actions. The Council of Presidents is empowered by the membership to expel member institutions or deny specific sports sponsorship for member institutions which have clearly violated the Code of Ethics.

Basic Principles

In becoming a member of the athletic community, whether as an institution, member of a coaching staff, or individual, certain obligations and responsibilities are assumed in relation to competitors as institutions, teams, coaches, and student bodies. These relationships are paramount in establishing and holding the kind of friendships which count most in our estimation of athletics in society today.

The essential elements in the NAIA Code of Ethics today are honesty and integrity. Coaches whose conduct reflects these two characteristics will bring credit to the field of athletics and to themselves. It is only through such conduct that athletics can earn and maintain a rightful place in our educational program and make a full contribution to our way of life.

Coach's Responsibility to the Institution

The coach should work with the admissions office of the institution and should be permitted to recommend qualified athletes for admission, but should in no way permit the records or transcripts of prospective student athletes to pass through his/her office, nor ever attempt to bring pressure upon the admissions officer or committee to admit an applicant merely because he/she possesses exceptional athletic ability.

Conduct of Administrators and Coaches

The administration of athletics shall be carried out in such a manner that the educational aims of the institution will be fulfilled. The administrator of athletics is responsible for both the principles and practices of this program being consistent with the broad educational purposes of the institution and highest ethical and moral standards of sports.

The coach shall make every effort to conduct the sports program in such a manner as to give full and active support to the educational aims of the institution. The coach shall have a thorough knowledge of the academic rules and standards of the institution and give active evidence of full support. The coach

shall cooperate fully in support of the faculty on eligibility requirements and insist that all athletes fulfill the same academic requirements as all other students at the institution.

NAIA Code of Ethics

The coach shall actively participate in committees and programs in support of the general educational program of the administration. The coach shall actively participate in programs established by the institution for professional growth.

All coaches shall conduct their sports programs in such a manner to assure both those who participate and those who are influenced in any way through the program that the major emphasis is placed on building character, sound health, and broad educational aims, rather than merely a publicity medium built on winning.

The coach shall insist upon adherence to both the letter and the spirit of high sportsmanship and playing rules. Under no circumstances should evasion of playing rules to gain an advantage be permitted.

Officials

Game officials should be selected with care to assure they are competent and experienced. Once selected, they should have the full support of administration, coaches and athletes in fulfilling their job. Under no conditions should coaches, players or spectators be permitted to make critical remarks to or about an official during a contest. Booing and other discourteous conduct at athletic contests should be strongly discouraged.

Public Relations

Maintaining a positive relationship with the media and the general public is essential. Every individual representing an NAIA institution has a definite responsibility to furnish accurate and reliable news of public concern to members of the media at all times. Through a positive relationship with the media and general public, the institution is able to inform the public of its aims and further its relationship with the surrounding community.

Scouting

Scouting of competitors should be confined to regularly scheduled games. Intruding upon practice sessions is to be strictly prohibited. The trading of game films in lieu of personal scouting is encouraged whenever practicable, provided complete, high-quality films are furnished at a mutually agreeable time in advance of the given contest.

Student Recruiting

All student recruiting for athletic purposes shall be in harmony with recommended and acceptable practices of the institution and shall be controlled by the regularly constituted institutional committee on student loans and scholarships. Where conferences exist, all conference rules regarding recruiting must be observed without favor.

**I, _____ representing the athletic department
of _____ sign this Code knowing and
understanding the importance of the NAIA's Champions of Character™ initiative and will
follow the statements in the forementioned Code of Ethics.**

Signature of Athletics Director _____ Date _____