



# ALBERTA AMATEUR WRESTLING

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## *Coach Code of Ethics*

ALBERTA AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (AAWA)

### INTRODUCTION

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as 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 a sport organization are channeled. Thus, how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behavior of the coach. The following Coaches Code of Ethics has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behavior which will allow them to assist their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive citizens.

This Code of Conduct applies to all AAWA volunteers including youth in positions of responsibility. When you accept an appointment, you agree to carry out your duties and act according to the requirements of this Code. This Code of Conduct also applies to parents and guardians who wish to participate in their child's wrestling activities.

**Please see AAWA screening policy**

### COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

- Treat everyone fairly within the context of the sport, regardless of gender, place of origin, race, colour, sexual orientation, religion, athletic potential, political belief, economic status, marital status, age or any other conditions.
- Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete. Provide feedback to athletes and other participants in a caring manner that is sensitive to their needs.
- Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of the sport of wrestling and of coaching. Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches or officials; especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of his/her athletes and discourage their use by athletes. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with his/her athletes and discourage their use by athletes.
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.
- Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.

- Give high performance athletes the opportunity to discuss, contribute and to agree with proposed training and performance standards. Provide athletes with information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect them.
- Be responsible for achieving a high level of professional competence through appropriate training. Keep themselves up to date with relevant information on coaching skills and techniques. Communicate and cooperate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnoses, treatment and management of their athletes' medical and psychological concerns. Consider the athletes' future health and well-being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athletes' ability to continue wrestling or training.
- Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over their own.
- Treat other coaches, athletic opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat, and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of wrestling.
- In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
- Be aware of significant pressures in athletes' lives, e.g., family and financial, and coach in a manner that fosters positive life experiences. In an educational institution, be aware of the academic pressures on student-athletes and conduct practices in a manner so as to allow academic success.
- Honour all promises and commitments, both verbal and written.
- Do not exploit any relationship established as a coach to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interests of their athletes or other participants in wrestling. (i.e. Conflict of Interest)

## COACHING RULES

Coaches must;

- Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work
- At no time **are they to** become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
- Follow the AAWA Harassment Policy
- Never use technology or social media to disrespect or exploit others.
- Respect athlete's dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
- Not cajole, influence or recruit athletes from other clubs.
- In the case of an athlete that is the age of majority, contact the coach on record if you are presenting an extraordinary training opportunity outside of the athletes' home club. In the case of an athlete that is a minor, both the coach on record & parents/legal guardian must be contacted.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illegal drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
- Never contribute to the use of alcohol or tobacco products by minor age athletes.

- Behave in a professional manner at all competitions.
- Coach is responsible to pay any fines or penalties arising from any infraction or misconduct levied by any other wrestling governing body

If a coach is in violation of the terms of this Coaching Code of Ethics, the coach may be subject to disciplinary action which may include: a reprimand; fine; withdrawal of funding; suspension from the Provincial Team; dismissal from the Provincial Program; or a combination of such actions; possible infractions and sanctions are not limited to those outlined above

Where an incident occurs that affects other governing organizations attached to the AAWA in a working relationship, the AAWA reserves the rights to inform those organizations of any results that would lead to sanctioning of a coach. These organizations are, but not limited to, the Alberta Sport Connection, Wrestling Canada Lutte and United World Wrestling.

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Coaching Code of Ethics.

**Known active criminal investigations regarding any of the above will result in immediate suspension of membership until the matter can be resolved.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_.

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: (*print*) \_\_\_\_\_ . Signature: \_\_\_\_\_.

The Code of Conduct must be read, reviewed and signed electronically or in hard copy and returned to the Alberta Amateur Wrestling office prior to beginning competition each year.