

Coach Code of Conduct Valley Royals Track and Field Club



Summary:

Valley Royals coaches must always conduct themselves as ambassadors for the club and sport, always performing their duties with the utmost of regard to athlete safety and what is in the long-term best interests of all athletes. Coaches must recognize that they are in a position of trust and power and that such a position must not be abused.

Coach Code of Conduct, in detail (Adapted from the B.C. Athletics Code of Conduct, used with permission):

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of the athletes they coach. 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 Code of Conduct, established by the Coaching Association of British Columbia and adopted by BC Athletics, and the Valley Royals 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 human beings.

Coaches have a responsibility to:

1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of athletics, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
2. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
3. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of Athletics and of Coaching.
 - a) Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes.
 - b) Abstain from the use of tobacco or recreational marijuana or vaping products while in the presence of athletes and discourage their use.
 - c) Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages or use of nonmedical prescription drugs when working with athletes. Abuse of alcohol and intoxication or drug abuse will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate removal from the Valley and subject to any disciplinary measures as may be determined by the Valley Royals Board of Directors
 - d) BC Athletics has a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to the consumption of alcohol and non-prescription drugs by any athlete, while a member of a BC Athletics team in a competition setting in Canada or overseas, under the age of 19, irrespective of any other legal requirements. This "zero tolerance" policy on the consumption of alcohol/drugs also applies to all BC Athletics team members (including team staff and coaches) while involved in a competition setting specifically for Junior and/or Youth athletes, regardless of the team member's age.
 - e) Valley Royals and BC Athletics has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and nonprescription drugs in any Valley Royals / BC Team Member's room.
 - f) Discourage the use of alcohol at athletic events (Athletics and other sport activities) or in victory celebrations at the competition site.

- g) Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of your coaching duties.
4. 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.
 5. Communicate and cooperate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athletes' future health and well-being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athletes' ability to continue playing or training.
 6. Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches and sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over those of the coach.
 7. Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
 8. Treat fellow coaches, athletes you do not coach and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of Athletics and the spirit of such rules.
 9. 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.
 10. Be aware of the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and participation in competitions in a manner so as to allow academic success.

Coaches Must:

1. Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
2. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with the athletes they coach as per the Laws of Canada as stated below. This includes requests for sexual favours or threats of reprisal for the rejection or such requests. Coaches should refer to Canada's Law on Child Sexual Abuse: A Handbook, published by the Department of Justice in 1990. The following is an extract from this handbook dealing with the issue of CONSENT. ⇒ Sexual activity without consent is always a crime regardless of the age of the individuals. ⇒ Children under 12 are never considered able to consent to sexual activity. ⇒ Children 12 or more, but under the age of 14, are deemed unable to consent to sexual acts except under specific circumstances involving sexual activity with their peers. ⇒ Young persons age 14 or more but under the age of 18 are protected from sexual exploitation and their consent is not valid if the person touching them for a sexual purpose is in a position of trust or authority over them or if they are in a relationship of dependency with that person.
3. Respect the athletes' dignity; verbal or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable. (Please refer to the BC Athletics Harassment Policy)
4. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances, classes or methods.
5. Never provide under-age athletes with alcohol. Individuals registering as Coach members of BC Athletics and/or as Valley Royals coaches are advised that by joining BC Athletics they are agreeing to adhere to this and other policies, rules, regulations, by-laws and constitution of BC Athletics, Athletics Canada and the IAAF/World Athletics.

If a Valley Royals Coach is selected to the BC Team Staff, coaches and/or managers must, in addition to those listed above, and as a result of accepting selection and in the context of the Coaches Code of Conduct, is expected to:

1. Conduct themselves in a positive and supportive manner.
2. Follow the rules of the Organizing Committee of the competition/activity.
3. Meet at the Team assembly points on time and attend all team meetings.
4. Abide by the laws of the city, province and those of Canada or the country in which the competition is taking place.
5. Join the Team, ready, able and willing to take on the responsibilities and duties relative to the position selected to.
6. Wear, if provided, the BC Team Staff uniform/clothing whenever carrying out the duties of a team staff position.
7. Travel in the BC Team Travel Uniform if such is provided, or otherwise shall be comfortably and respectably attired for travelling.
8. That during a BC Team event, respect quiet hours between 22:00 and 10:00 hrs.
9. Avoid the misuse of alcohol –as outlined above
10. Avoid the use of alcohol if underage – as outlined above
11. Avoid the use of illegal drugs – as outlined above 6/15/2015
12. To be responsible for all their personal items such as identification, passports (if required) and equipment.
13. Work, when necessary, through the Head Coach of the BC Team or keep the Head Coach and if appropriate all the Team Staff informed on any matters that do not allow you to carry out your responsibilities.
14. Work cooperatively with all members of the BC Athletics Team (athletes and staff) and the personal coaches of the athletes.
15. Follow up with the reports on the BC Team, your responsibilities, and the competition/results to BC Athletics.

This Coach Code of Conduct was created for the Valley Royals Track & Field Club in cooperation with BC Athletics