

SKPS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

The success and effectiveness of SKPS athletic programs depends, in part, on the support of volunteer coaches. By volunteering to be a coach at SKPS you are agreeing to the provisions set out below. The function of a coach is to educate student athletes through participation in interscholastic competition. While athletic programs are important to SKPS students, every coach at SKPS must recognize that athletics are designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success.¹ Most important, SKPS athletic programs should always strive to practice the Christian values taught at SKPS and coaches play a vital role in that regard.

1. SKPS expects its coaches to be of the highest ethical and moral character and coaches must treat students, parents, administrators, opposing coaches and players, and officials with the utmost respect. When you coach for SKPS you represent SKPS and, therefore, must reflect SKPS values. Coaches must also recognize that they are role models for SKPS students and, as such, should at all times adopt a positive attitude and adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship. Confrontational, abusive and/or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
2. SKPS coaches must always consider the welfare of his or her players in making decisions.
3. Every coach, while part of a particular sport, is a part of the overall Athletic Association and part of the larger Diocese of Pittsburgh Athletic programs and, therefore, must direct his or her program in a manner consistent all rules, policies and guidelines of the school and Diocese.
4. Every coach is responsible for educating his or her players on the proper way to conduct themselves at practice, at games and when travelling to other schools. Again, all participants in SKPS sports must recognize that they represent SKPS and must do so with pride and in a manner reflecting SKPS values.
5. Every coach is responsible for ensuring that his or her players know the Diocesan athletic prayer and recites same with proper reverence prior to each game. Coaches are also encouraged to begin practices with a prayer in hopes that the players will be reminded of the blessings they have in being able to participate in sports at SKPS.
6. Every coach must be knowledgeable about their sport and every coach must direct his or her team in a manner which teaches the goals established by the sport coordinator and/or Athletic Association.
7. Any person interested in coaching at SKPS is required to have up-to-date clearances as required by SKPS and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

¹ Some sentiments expressed herein are set out in the National Federation of State High School Associations Coaches Code of Ethics.

8. Any person interested in coaching at SKPS is required to complete the online concussion awareness training course provided by the CDC and to provide the coordinator for their sport with a copy of their certificate.

See <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/index.html>.

9. Each head coach is responsible for distributing and collecting all uniforms and equipment.

10. Each head coach is responsible for attending any Diocesan coaches' meetings.

11. By volunteering to be a coach at SKPS you are signifying your commitment to SKPS athletics and your particular team. Coaching requires a significant amount of time and all coaches must be willing to devote that time. All coaches for a team should make every effort to attend every practice and game. Given the number of athletes on SKPS teams, having all coaches present will assist in supervision and the most efficient use of time, as well as development of the players. In addition, myriad issues can arise at practice, including injuries, where having multiple people present will ensure all issues which arise get handled appropriately. Coaches should encourage at least one parent to be present at all practices as it is important for parents to appreciate how practices are handled and to assist if any injuries or other issues arise. Coaches who miss multiple practices or games may be removed from their position. Male coaches of female sport teams must ensure that an adult female is present at all practices and in any locker room meetings.

12. All coaches must attend any meetings set by the sport coordinator including, but not limited to, the initial parent meeting.

13. Communication is vitally important and coaches must provide timely and thorough communication to parents regarding schedules and any team issues. Coaches should also be in possession of emergency contact information for at least one parent of every child.

14. Coaches must make themselves available at an agreed to time to speak with parents in order to address any questions or issues parents have.

15. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary volunteers for their games.

16. Coaches should not leave any game or practice without first ensuring that every player has been picked up by a parent.