

Fort Frances High School Coaching Guide

Welcome to Muskie athletics. Coaches are representatives of the school and community. They should subscribe to the rules and procedures set out by the school, its administration and the association(s) in which our teams participate.

Tryouts

The coaches' criteria for selection to a team should be clearly defined to the students who are trying out for the team. There should be a process in place that allows each student an equal opportunity to demonstrate how his/her abilities match up with the defined criteria. The tryout procedure should be of long enough duration to allow a thorough assessment of each student athlete's abilities. This will allow coaches to make the best possible decisions regarding team personnel and also allow them to provide an explanation to those students who are unsuccessful in becoming a member of the team. Students who are members of school teams must comply with the academic expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct for Athletes. Coaches would be wise to ensure that each student they intend to select for a team is in good standing academically and complies with the attendance and behaviour expectations outlined in the Fort Frances High School Code of Conduct.

Expectations for Players

Be clear early on what your expectations are for both the team and individual players. Rules must align with existing school, board and athletic policies and procedures.

Expectations for Coaches

While the school recognizes that every coach will have their own individual style, there are some rules that all coaches are expected to follow. Please read these few rules carefully

1. Coaches should be familiar with the rule book and NorWOSSA Playing Regulations for their particular sport. This includes ensuring that their players wear legal uniforms and use required safety equipment. No coach will partake in alcoholic beverages or illegal substances while travelling with a school team.
2. Coaches must refrain from using profane language when addressing or communicating with players.
3. If you are coaching a team of the opposite gender, you must have an adult chaperone of the same gender as your athletes on all overnight trips. All coaches should avoid touching players.
4. If you have an incident with a player or group of players that could be considered major, report the incident to the administration. Any incidents of substance abuse (alcohol or drugs), violence or blatant disregard of team or school rules must be reported.
5. Always have at least one adult supervisor present when players are in a hotel or at another school.
6. Never let a student transport players in a private vehicle.
7. Involve parent groups in a positive way.

***Reporting Accidents:** Coaches should contact the Athletic Director as soon as possible and ensure that an accident form is complete for injuries occurring during a game or practise.

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Responsibilities of Coaches

There are a lot of responsibilities that come with coaching. You will be working closely with a group of young people who will often hang on your every word. Make sure you are a positive role model. Teach your players to respect all game officials. Do not publicly criticize officials. No official in high school sports is a professional official and while many are very good, mistakes will be made.

1. Set realistic team rules and curfews, particularly when travelling, and enforce them.
2. When travelling by bus, coaches must tour to the back of the bus once every 20 minutes or make other appropriate arrangements to ensure good bus decorum.
3. Always make sure an information letter goes home to parents before a tournament or exhibition game. This letter should include: destination, mode of travel and drivers (if not a bus), hotel if applicable with the hotel phone number, approximate time of return if known or possibilities if not known, and other information you feel is important.
4. You are responsible for issuing uniforms at the start of the season and collecting them at the end.
5. Coaches are expected to attend scheduled meetings with Athletic Directors for such purposes as discussing school procedures and exchanging information regarding their sport.

Code of Ethics for High School Coaches

I WILL:

- Build a personal philosophy based upon values, not necessarily worldly success;
- Enlarge my technical knowledge, and strive to develop wisdom and competency in all areas of the profession;
- Enhance and protect the physical and mental well-being of my players;
- Teach players to respect self, teammates, opponents and officials;
- Instill in players a desire to know and live by the spirit of the rules of the school, team, and of sports; and to obey the law of the land;
- Help create an atmosphere of friendly competition where sportsmanship and honour transcend victory or defeat;
- Cooperate with administrators, staff and other coaches in maintaining and improving the educational quality of our school;
- Transmit to my players a love of athletics and a love of life.

Wilbur T. Braithwaite, Head Varsity Basketball and Tennis Coach, Manti H.S., Utah (1951-1988) From National Federation News, October 1991.

*Revised April 16, 2010