

Coaches - What is Inappropriate Behavior?



→ Coaches are responsible for reporting concerns if they observe violations by other coaches.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

- Text messages, tweets, emails, phone calls to individual athletes. Text and email messages related to official club business such as changes in practice and competition times or locations, or travel plans, etc. are fine, but must go to all athletes and be copied to parents if the athlete is under age.
- Any physical bodily contact with athletes, except under the following specific conditions:
 - When the coach asks for permission first to touch an athlete for the purpose of correcting physical form or placing a body part in a correct mechanical position
 - Giving a congratulatory “high five” or pat on the head or back to congratulate an athlete for a good performance
 - “Spotting” or any protective coaching intended to reduce the risk of practicing or performing a skill that may cause harm, with such “spotting” techniques explained to athletes beforehand.
- Engaging in a sexual, intimate, romantic or similar close personal relationship with individuals over which a person has an instructional or service responsibility, even if it is a consensual relationship between adults
 - Comment on athletes’ or employees’ bodies or appearances in a sexual manner
- Exchange or give gifts
- Show athletes obscene or suggestive photos

- o Make sexual jokes, sexual gestures, and innuendos or engaging in inappropriate sexually-oriented banter
- o Ask about an athlete's dating behaviors
- o Share sexual exploits or marital difficulties
- o Be alone with an athlete in any capacity (locker room, weight room, storage room, car/bus, etc.)
- o Accept social invitations from parents. Parents should avoid inviting coaches to dinners, family gatherings or non-team social events. As much as we like and appreciate our coaches, special treatment and benefits could be perceived by others as buying special treatment for participants. However, it is appropriate for coaches to be invited to attend events when the entire team is invited (i.e., weddings, graduation parties etc.).

