

# Waconia Basketball Association Coach Code of Conduct

This policy establishes expectations for all youth basketball coaches serving in a paid or volunteer capacity. Coaches are responsible for creating a safe, positive, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate basketball environment where athletes can learn the game, build character, and enjoy participating.

## 1. Athlete-Centered Coaching

- Place athletes' physical, emotional, and developmental needs ahead of personal goals or winning.
- Teach basketball fundamentals, team concepts, and game strategy in age-appropriate ways.
- Provide meaningful opportunities for all players to participate, learn, and contribute.
- Encourage effort, improvement, teamwork, and sportsmanship over score or record.

## 2. Player Safety and Well-Being

- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for every athlete.
- Use safe practice, conditioning, warm-up, and skill-development methods.
- Apply basic first aid principles and follow league procedures for injuries, illness, and suspected concussion concerns.
- Include active movement during practices and activities, with appropriate rest, hydration, and supervision.
- Never tolerate bullying, hazing, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation.

## 3. Conduct and Sportsmanship

- Model honesty, integrity, respect, patience, self-control, and fair play at all times.
- Understand and teach the rules of basketball and uphold the spirit of the game.
- Treat players, families, officials, opposing teams, fellow coaches, administrators, and spectators with respect.
- Avoid behavior that could be perceived as arguing with, intimidating, ridiculing, or disparaging officials, players, parents, or opponents, while still advocating for your team in a respectful and professional manner.

- Teach athletes how to win and lose with dignity and how to respond appropriately to mistakes.

## 4. Professional Boundaries

- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with all athletes.
- Recognize the influence coaches have and avoid behavior that could create favoritism, dependency, secrecy, or the appearance of inappropriate intimacy.
- Avoid physical contact that could reasonably be viewed as inappropriate or unnecessary.
- Use respectful, constructive communication and avoid sarcasm, humiliation, threats, or public embarrassment.
- Protect athlete privacy and confidentiality except when disclosure is required for safety, reporting, or league responsibilities.

## 5. Substance-Free Environment

- Do not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, or recreational drugs during youth basketball practices, scrimmages, or tournament games.
- Please be mindful when using alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products at social events where youth athletes are present, recognizing the influence such behavior may have.
- Do not tolerate athlete use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, or recreational drugs.
- Report substance-related concerns according to league procedures.

## 6. Positive Development Through Basketball

- Use basketball to support personal, social, and emotional growth, including confidence, responsibility, respect, empathy, cooperation, restraint, and self-control.
- Create practices that are organized, active, challenging, and enjoyable.
- Encourage athletes to learn from mistakes and take appropriate initiative.
- Promote inclusion so every athlete feels valued and respected.

## 7. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

- Act in the best interests of athletes and the program.
- Avoid situations that exploit an athlete or create a real or perceived conflict of interest.

- Handle sensitive athlete, family, medical, disciplinary, and team information responsibly.
- Raise concerns promptly with the appropriate league contact when safety, fairness, or ethics may be affected.

## 8. Compliance and Accountability

- Coaches must follow this policy, league rules, facility rules, and all applicable laws and reporting requirements.
- Violations may result in corrective action, removal from coaching duties, referral to league leadership, or other action deemed appropriate by the organization.
- Coaches are expected to ask questions when expectations are unclear and to report concerns in good faith.

## Coach Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to follow this Youth Basketball Coach Policy.

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_