Pendleton Recreation Association (PRA)

Coaches Code of Conduct Policy

Effective Upon Board Approval

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1. Purpose

Coaching within the Pendleton Recreation Association (PRA) is a privilege granted by the Board of Directors. Coaches play a critical role in shaping a positive, safe, and development-focused environment for youth athletes. This policy outlines the standards of conduct required of all PRA coaches.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to all PRA head coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and volunteer coaching staff across every PRA program and age division.
Acceptance of this policy in TeamSideline is required before a coach may be assigned to a team.

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3. Core Values

All PRA coaches are expected to model and promote:

- Safety
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fair Play
- Good Sportsmanship

- Teamwork
- Integrity

These values guide all conduct, communication, and coaching decisions.

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4. Coach Conduct Standards

4.1 Sportsmanship

Coaches shall:

1. Demonstrate and promote good sportsmanship at all times.
2. Communicate respectfully with officials, players, parents, and spectators.
3. Use calm, constructive communication — yelling at officials or others is prohibited.
4. Never use profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language.
5. Never criticize officials to players, parents, or spectators.
6. Ensure that no alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or illegal substances are present at PRA events.
7. Enforce the PRA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct with their team families.

Violation may result in immediate removal from a game or PRA event.

4.2 Compliance with Rules & PRA Policies

Coaches shall:

1. Know and follow all league, division, and sport-specific rules.

2. Teach players to play within the rules at all times.
3. Follow all safety requirements and equipment guidelines.
4. Ensure all players receive required playing time per league rules.
5. Stay updated on PRA announcements, schedules, and rule interpretations through TeamSideline.

4.3 Team Management

Coaches shall:

1. Run organized and developmentally appropriate practices.
2. Provide equitable instruction, encouragement, and playing opportunities.
3. Lead players with humility in victory and composure in defeat.
4. Maintain responsibility for assistant coaches and team volunteers.
5. Care for PRA equipment and return issued items in good condition.
6. Designate a responsible adult if the head coach must leave an event early.

4.4 Communication with Parents & PRA

Coaches shall:

1. Communicate regularly and respectfully with players' families.
2. Use TeamSideline as the primary communication channel when required.
3. Explain PRA expectations and Codes of Conduct to all team families.
4. Address parent concerns constructively and follow PRA's chain of command for disputes.

4.5 Game Officials

Coaches shall:

1. Treat all officials with respect, including new or trainee officials.
2. Allow only the head coach to communicate with officials during games.
3. Disagree respectfully and only through proper league procedures.
4. File any formal protest or concern with the PRA Sport Director or PRA President after the game.

4.6 Social Media & Public Conduct

Coaches shall:

1. Refrain from posting negative or inflammatory comments about officials, players, parents, PRA staff, or opposing teams.
2. Avoid public disputes that reflect poorly on PRA.
3. Communicate team-related updates only through approved channels.

4.7 Safety & Mandatory Reporting

Coaches shall:

1. Ensure a safe environment at all practices and games.
2. Report injuries to parents and the Sport Director promptly.
3. Follow PRA's Child Safety, Abuse Prevention, and Concussion Management requirements.

4. Immediately report any suspected abuse, bullying, or harassment to PRA leadership.

4.8 Conflict of Interest & Fairness

Coaches shall:

1. Avoid favoritism in player positions, playing time, or discipline.
2. Make decisions in the best interests of the full team.
3. Disclose any potential conflicts to the Sport Director or President.

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5. Prohibited Conduct (Zero Tolerance)

PRA enforces zero tolerance for:

- Physical aggression
- Threatening, abusive, or degrading language
- Intimidation or retaliation
- Bullying or harassment
- Discriminatory behavior
- Use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at PRA events
- Deliberate rule violations
- Encouraging unsafe play
- Tampering with league officials or scores

Any violation may result in suspension or permanent removal at the discretion of the PRA Board.

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6. Discipline & Enforcement

Consequences for violating this policy may include:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Suspension from practices or games
- Immediate ejection from a PRA event
- Removal from coaching position
- Permanent ineligibility

The PRA Board of Directors reserves full authority to determine the appropriate action.

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7. Acceptance of Policy

All PRA coaches acknowledge this policy electronically through **our registration system** as a condition of coaching assignment.
Failure to accept or comply with this policy results in immediate ineligibility to coach.
