

BAY STATE GAMES COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

All Bay State Games coaches must follow the rules set forth below in this Coaches Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by these rules may result in disciplinary action, up to and including a coach being removed from his or her position with the Games, not being invited to work for the Games in the future, and civil or criminal action.

1. Coaches should conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner and are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate for a positive role model for youth.
2. Encourage good sportsmanship by the players during both practices and games.
3. Treat all players with respect and dignity. Promote respect for all the participants, including members and coaches of opposing teams and game officials.
4. Encourage and support players. Provide constructive feedback. Take time to offer praise whenever the youth does anything praiseworthy. Focus on the positive.
5. Coaches are expected to avoid one-on-one situations with current players and prospective players. Meetings, discussions and drills should be conducted in view of other adults and/or youths. Coaches are prohibited from arranging one-on-one private meetings with current players or prospective players unless another coach or the athlete's parent or guardian is also present.
6. Whenever possible, coaches should avoid transporting players to and from practice, tryouts or games. If this situation is unavoidable, coaches are required to obtain parental consent to do so.
7. While physical contact between coaches and current players and prospective players is not absolutely prohibited, as in "high-fives" when congratulating a youth for an accomplishment, coaches must be alert to, and ensure the appropriateness of all physical contact. It is possible that physical contact may be experienced by the youth or seen by others as inappropriate. For example, coaches should generally avoid hugging players. In the rare situation where a coach finds himself or herself being hugged by a player (for example, after a big win), coaches should ensure that the hugging is brief and appropriate (such as a "shoulder-to-shoulder" hug, maintaining space between your bodies, rather than a "bear hug").
8. Sexual relationships of any kind between coaches and current players or prospective players are prohibited and may violate criminal laws.

9. When promoting the Bay State Games teams and tryouts to athletes (whether through an online forum, such as Mass Live, or otherwise), there should be no exchange or requests for personal contact information, such as e-mail, phone, or home addresses, with the athlete. Coaches should provide approved materials or web information to prospective players and encourage them to proceed through the appropriate channels set forth in Bay State Games materials.
10. Coaches do not have the authority to approve the waiver of any Bay State Games regulations regarding tryouts or team selection. This includes, but is not limited to, the two tryout attendance rule and the limitations on the number of athletes from the same school that can be selected for the same Bay State Games team. The Bay State Games Executive Director and the Director of Operations of the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation, Inc. ("MASF") are the only two individuals who can approve such waivers.
11. Discipline of athletes should be rare and constructive and must reflect the core values of the Bay State Games. Profanity and corporal punishment are prohibited.
12. Physical hazing, initiation ceremonies or initiation activities of any kind (other than those specifically approved in advance by Bay State Games), ridicule, inappropriate teasing or aggression are prohibited.
13. Use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products is prohibited at all Bay State Games tryouts, practices and games. Coaches must not provide, supply, or administer any controlled substances to athletes.
14. Participation in the Bay State Games as a coach (or an athlete, prospective athlete, or spectator) is a privilege, which can be revoked for inappropriate behavior. Bay State Games and the MASF both reserve the right to eject **anyone** for poor sportsmanship or inappropriate conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, unsportsmanlike or disorderly conduct, fighting, and false representation of eligibility requirements (i.e. age, grade, residence, etc.). Coaches are expected to report violations of policies and may recommend to Bay State Games that a participant, prospective player, coach, spectator, or parent should be dismissed from both current and/or future Bay State Games events based on their un-sportsmanlike conduct or behavior determined to be in violation of Bay State Games policies and philosophy. Bay State Games coaches do not have the authority to dismiss or ban an athlete without first presenting it with the Bay State Games office. Coaches and the Bay State Games office will make final decisions on dismissals.
15. No coach (or team or sports organizer) may provide, or allow to be provided, any money, clothing, equipment, award or gift of any kind to any player, group of players, or team, without prior express written permission from the Executive Director of the Bay State Games or the Executive Director of the MASF. This rule extends to those individuals who may not be directly associated with the Games and who might provide such "gifts" to athletes or teams as a result of their participation in the Bay State Games.

17. Acts which are violations of civil or criminal law shall be reason for expulsion from the Bay State Games or any other MASF event and shall be subject to litigation and prosecution in accordance with the law. Among acts which are strictly prohibited, and will also result in expulsion are: gambling, theft, possession (without appropriate prescriptions), sale, use or distribution of narcotic drugs, possession of dangerous weapons, disorderly conduct, assault & battery and infringement on rights of others.
18. All uniforms and jackets or other awards are the property of the Bay State Games and/or the MASF until all finals competitions and discipline/eligibility matters have been resolved. Individuals and/or teams may forfeit jackets or other awards if MASF regulations are not followed.
19. Nothing contained in this Code of Conduct is intended to or does guarantee any coach continued involvement with the Games for any period of time. Both the coach and Bay State Games and/or the MASF may decide at any time to discontinue the coaching relationship at any time for any or no reason. We do ask coaches to generally provide at least one month's notice if they need to resign from their position for any reason.
20. All Bay State Games participants are responsible for providing their own transportation and lodging during Bay State Games events. Bay State Games coaches are prohibited from making team travel arrangements for their team. All travel arrangements and supervision outside of the competition venue during the Games is the responsibility of the individual athlete and their parent or guardian. Bay State Games coaches should not provide or arrange for transportation, hotel reservations, meals or any aspect of travel tom, from and during the games. Coaches should also not put themselves in a position of accepting responsibility for minor athletes outside of the competition field of play. Any exceptions from this rule cannot be made without notification to the Bay State Games office and the proper notification and authorization from the parents or guardians of all involved athletes.
20. BAY STATE GAMES and the MASSACHUSETTS AMATEUR SPORTS FOUNDATION, its names, logos and identifying materials are Registered Service Marks. Our service-mark must be protected. Unauthorized use is prohibited under state and federal law. No coach, athlete, team or anyone else associated with the Bay State Games or any other MASF event may use our name or logo without express, written consent from the Executive Director of the MASF.

I HAVE READ THE BAY STATE GAMES COHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDLINES COULD RESULT IN MY IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL AS A BAY STATE GAMES COACH.

Name

Date