
COACHING EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (2.2)

I. COACHES' PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPECTATIONS

The need for precise job description specifications is becoming obvious with the stronger emphasis on credibility and accountability in coaching. There is a definite need for precise criteria to measure coaching accomplishments within the framework of the San Dieguito Union High School District objectives for their activity programs. These major performance areas stand out above others:

A. Rapport

A coach must be able to develop a good rapport with any number of individuals and groups; team personnel, the student body, the professional staff (faculty, administration, maintenance, etc.), the community as a whole, spectators, officials, fellow coaches in the conference, media representatives and the parents of his/her players. Good rapport and an image of competency are invaluable for the coach.

B. Cooperation

The district expects a maximum of positive give and take between all individuals associated in any degree with the comprehensive program. Coaches must work hand in hand with their athletic director, principal and other members of their staff.

C. Leadership

Diligence, enthusiasm, honesty and a love for the game are all part of a professional pride that should be exhibited by any coach. Personal appearance, dress, physical condition - all should be exemplary. Dressing appropriately for practice, following practice schedules and building positive attitudes are very important.

D. Discipline

Every facet of discipline is the coach's responsibility. Individually, the coach becomes a model of all that the program represents - observation of school codes, training rules, rules of the game, ideals of good sportsmanship, behavior of participants throughout the season - at home and away, and the conduct of the crowd - especially where the student body is concerned. Desire to do well, to win well, to lose well, should be emphasized. Staff, players and spectators should be motivated toward established goals.

E. Improvement

A coach must constantly take advantage of opportunities presented for self-improvement. Attendance at district meetings, rules clinics, special workshops and clinics in specific fields and similar in-service training programs is a must. Membership should be maintained in professional organizations, coaches' associations, and similar groups whose programs are geared toward greater achievement and fuller performance. Keeping abreast of current literature in professional journals, newspapers and magazines, and utilizing enrichment material available in other media forms is also expected.

II. COACHING TECHNIQUES

A. Use sound and acceptable teaching practices.

- B. Run well-organized practice sessions.
- C. Complete pre-season planning well in advance of starting date.
- D. Adhere to a highly efficient and technically sound program of injury prevention. When injuries do occur, follow a prescribed routine and maintain good communications with patient, trainer, doctor and parents.
- E. Construct a well-organized game plan.
- F. Develop a sound system for equipment accountability, including seasonal inventory, repair, reconditioning and replacement. All purchasing should be accomplished through the allocated budget.
- G. Keep assistant coaches, student managers and statisticians well informed as to what is expected. Cooperate fully with maintenance staff, transportation people and others similarly involved in the overall program.

III. COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. To the players on the team
The main reason for having athletic teams within the school is to help provide opportunities for young men and women to develop their respective capabilities to the fullest extent. Development of positive attitudes is an important means to accomplishing this aim. We must promote and teach only clean, aggressive and fair play, while stressing good sportsmanship at all times. The coach must be the leader and set the example.

The coach should be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperament, aptitudes and environments.

Players have a right to expect coaches to have a genuine and up-to-date knowledge of that which they propose to teach.

The safety and welfare of players should always be uppermost in the coaches' minds.

The coach's primary responsibility is to the individual boy or girl. The athlete's family must not be ignored, however, since consideration must be given to the family and to their requests.

- B. To the school district
As a coach, you are a frequent topic of conversation at various community locations - the home, the work place and at the meetings of many civic organizations. Your profession, as well as your reputation as a coach, is constantly under scrutiny.

Your actions and statements should always reflect confidence and respect for the San Dieguito Union High School District. Much can be done by the coach in public contacts to build and maintain a high level of confidence in the athletic program and the school district.

- C. To the school
A coach owes his/her school his/her efforts and loyalty at all times. He/she must constantly strive for excellence in all areas of his/her school.

To be effective, a coach must be respected. To be respected, good personal habits and neat appearance are important; but most important are the examples set by the coach. Being respected is much more important than being well liked. Treat the faculty, the players, and the general students with the same honor and respect that you desire to be shown you. Private, firm, fair and constant discipline must be maintained.

The work of the coach must be an integral part of the educational program of the school. The coach should show mastery of the principles of education and consequent improvement in teaching and coaching.

The coach should give support to all endorsed activities of the school. At every opportunity, the coach should urge the student body to be polite, courteous and fair to the visiting team.

D. To the profession

A coach in the San Dieguito Union High School District should continue professional growth in both the academic teaching area and the athletic coaching area. To best accomplish this, a coach should belong to the various coaching associations open to the profession.

E. To fellow coaches

The makeup of a coaching staff is basically a quasi-autocratic society. The head coach must always be in command. Despite this position of authority, the wise head coach will encourage independent thought on the part of the staff. An important factor is human relations skills which provide for an open exchange of ideas in a courteous, thoughtful manner.

A wise head coach will praise the assistants and award recognition whenever possible. Misunderstandings between coaches should be discussed as soon as possible and in an appropriate location away from the athletes and other people not concerned with the program.

The head coach expects all staff to contribute a full measure of time, effort, thought and energy to the program. The assistant coaches must be willing and able to do things that they may not wish to do, or even like to do. They must fulfill the responsibility to the head coach, the boys and girls, and the sport itself.

It is most difficult to be a good assistant coach; however, the success of the school, the team and the coaching staff is dependent upon the quality and effort of the assistant coaches.

F. To other coaches in your school

One must always bear in mind that his or her sport is not the only sport; it is only part of the total athletic educational program and of the school. Therefore, it is important to support, promote and cooperate with all the other coaches and activity sponsors for the well-being of the total program.

A coach should support and serve fellow coaches whenever possible. All remarks should reflect confidence in one's fellow coaches. A strong, harmonious, interpersonal relationship must exist among coaches and other faculty members.

G. To faculty members

A coach is responsible for cooperating with every faculty member on the staff. If the coach cooperates with the teachers of academic subjects by allowing an athlete to make up a test on practice time, he/she can be certain that cooperation and help will be returned twofold in efforts by other faculty members to keep the athletes eligible and to get that extra helping hand when the going gets tough.

H. Physical plant

Each coach is responsible for the following:

1. Keeping practice areas and locker rooms in order.
2. Storing equipment neatly and using equipment properly. Pride in the equipment and facilities is of primary importance to all athletes and coaches.
3. Keeping storage areas locked.