

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL COACHING

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

- John Wooden

KEY WORDS	ETHICAL STANDARDS
Professional Training & Education	<p>Achieving a high level of professional competence and proficiency through initial preparation training and continuing education throughout a coaching career.</p> <p>Staying current with any pertinent information that affects the training and preparation of the skater.</p> <p>Understand the importance of cooperation within the sport of figure skating for coaches to work with each other, officials, and parents.</p> <p>Support and encourage other coaches to do what is necessary to coach responsibly.</p> <p>Personally maintain and encourage efforts of PSA and US Figure Skating, and promote in others high standards in figure skating coaches.</p> <p>Support the efforts of PSA and US Figure Skating to promote education, development, and research in figure skating by the open exchange of experience and knowledge with other coaches and officials.</p>
Personal Capabilities & Professional Knowledge	<p>Have an awareness of a strong personal value system and how those values can influence skaters under your direction as their coach. Be mindful of the position of trust and power that is present as a coach</p> <p>Take care to ensure that your own health and personal needs are met to maintain a high level of professionalism when interacting with skaters, officials and parents. Avoid distractions and be completely present when participating in coaching duties.</p> <p>Understand the limits of your own knowledge and capacity, and do not accept coaching responsibilities that you are insufficiently prepared for. Ask for help when needed, and refer skaters to other coaches or specialists if and when the need arises.</p> <p>Be mindful of the safety in the rink at all times. If the conditions are not safe, take the appropriate action and do not allow the health or safety of the skaters to be compromised.</p>
Best Interests & Safety of the Skater	<p>Recognize the high level of trust that must exist between the skater and his/her coach, and develop a deep concern for the well-being of the skater.</p> <p>Consider the best interests of the skater's development, not just in the sport, but with regard to his/her entire being in the present and in the future.</p> <p>Choose training and select skill development activities that are appropriate for the ability, age, experiences of the skater. Use appropriate progression of skill acquisition techniques in accepted timelines for development.</p> <p>Recognize the signs of injury and take these indicators seriously. Minimizing a complaint to push through is a risky decision. Listen to the skater feedback, and stay educated to be able to recognize physical or mental stress. Encourage the skater to seek a professional opinion if any concern is present.</p> <p>Be sure that an injured skater is medically cleared to resume training, and consider the future well-being of the skater when making the decision of how much training to resume.</p> <p>Develop awareness of what other areas of the skaters life may affect the skater's commitment and adjust expectations accordingly, (i.e. financial concerns, family obligations, school performance, etc.)</p> <p>Ensure that the interactions between you and the skater are beneficial and avoid any situation that may be harmful to the skater.</p> <p>Be especially cautious when implementing innovative techniques and equipment.</p> <p>Train skaters to take responsibility for their own training and in their interaction with others on and off the ice.</p> <p>Be sure that your skaters understand that you actively discourage the use of banned substances of all kinds and support a drug-free sport. Model this commitment to your skaters in their presence.</p> <p>Effectively communicate and cooperate with the advice and recommendations of medical personnel, in the diagnosis, treatment and management of a skater's injury or other health-related needs.</p>