

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REGULATION No. 214
PROGRAM**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
Code of Ethics and Athletic Guidelines**

The Code of Ethics of the Carson City School District Coaches has been developed to protect and promote the best interests of the athletic participants, programs, and the coaching profession. Its primary purpose is to provide guidelines establishing ethical and approved professional practices. Its secondary purpose is to recognize the purpose and values of athletics, and the proper role of coaches in relation to schools and players. Ethics have been defined as the basic principles of reasonable and fair action. As applied to the Carson City coaching profession, ethics imply a standard of character in which the public has trust and confidence. This code is established to provide guidelines to the coaching staff of the District in their interactions with student athletes, other students, staff, officials, parents and the general public in development of athletic programs. The District is sanctioned by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association and is required to follow set guidelines informed by the NIAA.

Professional Objectives

1. To foster and encourage high school sports in accordance with the highest tradition of athletic competition and in proper perspective to the overall educational program of the school.
2. To develop and inspire within the coaches a deep sense of responsibility in conducting their athletic programs in a manner that will be most beneficial to the players, the school and the community.
3. To foster high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and fair play in the minds of students, parents and the community.
4. To promote respect, understanding and cooperation among coaches, school administrators, the press, game officials, students and the public.
5. To encourage the highest standards of scholastic achievement among all athletes.
6. To develop good health habits through the establishment of sound training rules.
7. To develop self-discipline within participating members which promotes achievement, citizenship and respect.

REGULATION No. 214 – CONTINUED

**ARTICLE I
The Principal’s Responsibility**

Section 1: General Supervision

The Principal is generally responsible for all activities conducted by the school. In this regard, the Principal must ensure that all school officials are aware of their duties and responsibilities.

Section 2: Delegation

In the area of activities and athletics, the Principal must delegate many specific responsibilities to the Athletic Director and to coaches. The Principal must ensure that accountability is maintained, and that all assignments and evaluations are completed in a timely manner.

Section 3: Complaint Review

The Principal, as a reviewing authority, must maintain an objective position in the review of complaints brought against any of the programs, coaches or participants. The Principal must follow the procedures established in Article II, Section 3, Resolving Athletic Program Complaints.

Section 4: Due Process

Any formal complaint in regard to a coach or coaching responsibilities must be presented directly to the Athletic Director in writing. The Athletic Director will investigate the charges, confer with the coach and/or complainant as necessary, and respond in writing within 15 calendar days. If satisfactory agreement is not reached, either party may appeal to the next higher level of complaint resolution within 10 calendar days. All facts brought out at any level will be made available to the next higher level in the appeal procedure. Complaints involving Athletic Programs, Coaches, and Events are processed under this Regulation and not Regulation 903.

**ARTICLE II
The Athletic Director’s Responsibilities**

Section 1: Organization

The Athletic Director shall organize and schedule athletic contests in keeping with NIAA regulations and School Board policy. The Athletic Director must establish and maintain an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence with representatives from the press, other school systems, the official’s association, and members of the District staff.

Section 2: Supervision

REGULATION No. 214 – CONTINUED

The Athletic Director has general supervisory responsibility for all competitive athletics, and has the responsibility for directing and evaluating the athletic programs, athletic facility usage, cost effectiveness of programs and coaching performances on a seasonal basis. The Athletic Director shall maintain an up-to-date file of all NIAA, School District and school policy and procedures in regard to interscholastic sports.

Section 3: Resolving Athletic Program Complaints

1. All complainants are urged to first discuss the complaint with the head coach involved before any action is taken.
2. The Athletic Director serves as the first level of appeal in regard to all complaints about the athletic program.
3. The Athletic Director will review and respond to each informal complaint on an individual basis as quickly as possible.
4. If the problem is not resolved at the Athletic Director level, the complainant may submit a formal complaint in a manner that affords appropriate due process procedure.
5. Formal complaints will proceed through the following levels: Athletic Director, Athletic Administrator (if such an administrator has been appointed at the particular school site), Principal.

ARTICLE III The Coaches' Responsibility to the Institution

Section 1: The Coach as an Educator

The function of the Coach is to educate students through participation in athletics.

Section 2: The Coach and the Administration

1. Except where there is a lack of qualified applicants, licensed administrators will not be hired as coaches.
2. When a new head coach is selected, he or she may hire assistant coaches and select volunteers of his or her choice, subject to approval of the Athletic Director. In the event the Athletic Director is the Coach, the approval will be sought from the Athletic Administrator.
3. Coaches must adhere to all District policies, rules and regulations.
4. Coaches shall adhere to all applicable codes of conduct for the conference in which the team is participating (e.g., in the case of high school sports, the NIAA.)

Section 3: The Coach and the Athletic Director

It is important that a harmonious relationship exist between the coach and Athletic Director. The coach should feel free to suggest and initiate any action which has to do with the conduct or improvement of the athletic program.

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Section 4: The Coach and Eligibility Requirements

Participation in interschool athletics is predicated upon the individual student's fulfillment of established rules and regulations. Along with the Athletic Director, coaches should assume responsibility for the observance and enforcement of these rules. Any attempt to circumvent eligibility rules or to use ineligible players, shall be considered unethical conduct, and may result in termination of the supplemental contract. Using ineligible players may result in forfeiture of the game or match.

Section 5: The Coach and Scholarship

One of the coach's fundamental responsibilities must be to inspire players to achieve academic success.

ARTICLE IV The Coaches' Responsibility to the Player and the Team

Section 1: Leadership

All coaches must remember that they are an example for all of the young people in the community in which they coach. It is vitally important to them, and to the profession they represent, that their actions and behavior at all times bring credit to the athletic program. In this regard, coaches must give particular attention to the establishment of positive relationships with the young athlete under their direction. Coaches are expected to be a stabilizing influence in areas that often create high emotions. Mature professional judgment should be exercised in criticizing or disciplining young athletes, and appropriate use of language is expected at all times.

Section 2: Injured Player

The diagnosis of and prescription of treatment for injuries is a medical problem and must be referred to proper medical personnel. A coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are protected and given prompt medical attention. Any recommendations made by competent medical doctors must be strictly observed. Injured players, who have seen a physician, must also be "cleared" with a doctor's release. This clearance must be given to Carson High School Athletic Trainer before the athlete may participate, and/or practice with the team. District incident and accident protocols and reporting procedures will be followed.

Section 3: Conduct of Coaches during an Athletic Event

Coaches must demonstrate positive leadership and emotional control during a game. Friendly and professional communication, both before and after a contest, enhances the learning of good sportsmanship and appropriate conduct of team members.

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Section 4: Publications

Public releases regarding officiating or other professional problems detract from the values of high school athletic programs and generally cause damage to sportsmanship. Solution of professional problems should be settled within the existing framework of NIAA and the coaching profession and not in the public press.

Section 5: Team Selection and Playing Time

The coach has the authority for selecting participants in each athletic activity, determining the length of playing time and substitution during play.

Section 6: Coach / Parent Relationships

Every coach should initiate positive communication with parents of participants informing them of training rules, insurance information, contest and practice schedules, goals of program and the parent's role in the program.

ARTICLE V Rules of the Game

Section 1: Knowledge of Rules

Every coach should be thoroughly acquainted with the rules of the game. The official rule book should be studied and frequently reviewed. Coaches are primarily responsible for teaching and interpreting the rules to their players.

Section 2: Application of Rules

Rules are made for the protection of the players and in the best interest of the athletic program. Both the letter and the spirit of the rules must be respected and adhered to by the coach. It is coach's responsibility to make sure the participants observe all rules.

Section 3: Good Sportsmanship

Coaches must stress good sportsmanship in practice and on the fields of play. It is a serious breach of ethics for any coach to permit, encourage or defend the use of unsportsmanlike conduct or tactics.

REGULATION No. 214 – CONTINUED

ARTICLE VI Officials

Section 1: Importance of Officials

No competitive contest can be satisfactorily played without an acceptable code of rules and impartial officials. Officials must have the respect and support of coaches and players if they are to do their jobs efficiently. It is unethical to criticize officials outside of the NIAA channels for complaint.

Section 2: Treatment of Officials

Officials should always be treated in a professional manner. Conferences between coaches and officials shall always be conducted according to procedures established by the governing Conference Official's Association. In every respect the official Rule Book should be followed in coach/official relationships.

ARTICLE VII Public Relations

Section 1: Sportswriters and Sportscasters

A coach has the responsibility to provide news about the team and players to accredited writers and radio and television commentators. They should be treated with courtesy, honesty and respect.

Section 2: Good Judgment

Coaches should not stress player injuries as a matter of routine in press releases, and should never release disciplinary measures, academic difficulties, eligibility problems and similar personal items that would reflect on individual students.

Section 3: Alumni, Booster and Quarterback Organizations

Alumni and booster groups may be organized for the support of athletic programs. These organizations can provide meaningful support for such programs when functioning within the guidelines of the District and NIAA policy and regulations.

ARTICLE VIII Coaches' Conduct and Crowd Control

Section 1:

The conduct of the Coach in view of the spectators is the single most important factor in crowd control. The Coaches, as professional educators, are expected to exercise emotional control under stress.

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Section 2:

The Coach is usually a stabilizing influence in an emotionally charged situation. In the present social climate they must always assume this important responsibility as a matter of professional ethics.

Section 3:

Although Coaches must have a strong desire to win, they must also realize that the future of high school athletics is more important than the outcome of a particular game.

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