



Wanneroo Basketball Association Inc.

ABN 86 371 367 364 AIN

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Coaches Code of Conduct

Updated: September 2024

Coaches Code of Conduct

All Wanneroo Basketball Association Inc. (WBA) Coaches are required to carefully read and adhere to this 'Code of Conduct':

1. Remember that basketball is for enjoyment.

Remember that basketballers play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of their motivation. Always make sure that participants are made to feel welcome whenever they attend a training or a game. Ensure that activities are carefully planned, well-structured and varied to provide opportunities for individual and team development. Be willing to depart from the plan to take advantage of an unexpectedly high interest in a particular activity. Never ridicule players for making mistakes or losing a competition. See errors or losses as an opportunity to learn in a constructive way. Comment in a way that is positive and designed to create interest, involvement and development.

2. Be reasonable in your demands.

In scheduling training and playing times and days, be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm, taking into account their age, level of play and other commitments such as school and employment. Young children are likely to have more time but short attention spans. They may have plenty of energy but are likely to need more guidance on how best to look after their bodies. The differences in physical and mental maturity can be quite marked in younger children of the same age group. All these factors need to be considered in coaching young children.

Older children have greater demands from their studies and many of them need to work to assist their schooling. They also have many social demands. Try to assist them in achieving a good balance between the various demands on them.

3. Teach understanding and respect for the rules.

Teach your players that understanding and playing by the rules is their own responsibility and that the rules exist for the safety, proper order and enjoyment of all people involved in basketball. The lessons to be learned in this respect in basketball are lessons that can and should be carried over into all aspects of their lives. Do not encourage players to ignore or deliberately break any rules.

4. Give all players a reasonable amount of court time.

All players need and deserve reasonable court time. Avoid over-playing the talented players. It is unfair to both them and those who are not so talented. Players cannot improve without the opportunity of a reasonable amount of game practice. Talented players can burn out. Having no or little time on court can cause players to suffer from morale problems and they can lose interest in the sport altogether.

5. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents including their coaches.

Part of participation in sport is respect for all participants in the game. Encourage your players to accept that their opponents are entitled to proper courtesy. This means congratulating them whether they win or lose and accepting loss gracefully. Teach them that the opposition coach is there trying to do the best for their team and is also entitled to respect.

6. Instil in your players respect for officials and an acceptance of their judgement.

Players should be taught to understand that officials have a very difficult task to perform and that without them, games could not be played. They are there to enforce the rules of play, but they cannot always be right. Teach your players to accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour that should not be tolerated. Players and Coaches who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions should be singled out for counselling and guidance.

Guide your players in their interaction with parents and spectators. It is sometimes very difficult for players to concentrate on the game when there is the distraction of the presence of friends and relatives as spectators. Coaches have a difficult role to play in teaching players respect for their parents and other spectators but also teaching them to maintain concentration on the team plan if spectators become over-enthusiastic.

7. Group players according to age, height, skills and physical maturity, whenever possible.

Uneven competition can lead to a loss of enthusiasm. Coaches should always try and group players of reasonably equal ability. In coaching children, it is important to remember the different maturity rates for children of the same age. A player in their early teenage years may be the tallest in their team and yet because they have matured early, be one of the shorter players in only a brief time. Coaches must be ever vigilant to ensure that changes in height and other physical characteristics are noticed and acted upon.

8. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.

In our increasingly litigious and accountable society, all those involved in sport have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants. Coaches are in a unique position to control many of the factors which can have an effect on this welfare. Coaches should be aware of the dangerous factors such as heat and dehydration, wet floors and other potentially hazardous environmental situations can cause. A coach has a responsibility to avoid putting players into dangerous conditions.

9. Be prepared to lose sometimes.

Everyone wins and losses at some time. Be a fair winner and a good loser. Disappointment at losing is natural, but it should not be obvious to the point of being unpleasant for others. Just as unpleasant can be the boastful winner. Recognise that even in defeat, the loser has achieved something, just by playing. Not everything in life can be a winning situation. Losing can be an important learning experience for your wider life goals. Guide your players to accept a loss in this spirit.

10. Act responsibly when players are ill or injured.

Show concern and take responsibility for players who are sick or injured whilst under your care. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured or ill player is ready to recommence play. If a player is injured on court, make sure that there is no danger of further aggravation of the injury by prompt removal of the player if this is appropriate.

11. As well as imparting knowledge and skills, promote desirable personal and social behaviours.

Be aware of the role of the coach as an educator. Particularly with young people, the way they perform in their lives is influenced by many factors. An important influence is the person they see as a role model. Coaches often take on the part of role model for many young people. It is therefore important to ensure that the influence from coaches is seen in a positive light rather adversely. What you say and how you act can be most important in modelling the behaviour of players.

12. Keep your knowledge current.

Seek to keep abreast of changes in sport. Ensure that the information used is up to date, appropriate to the needs of players and takes into account the principles of growth and development of children. Players cannot learn from you if your skills and knowledge are inadequate.

13. Ensure that any physical contact with a player is appropriate.

Physical contact between a coach and a player except that which would be considered usual social contact such as the shaking of a hand or a “high five” should be rare. Gestures which can be well meaning, or even considered by some to be acceptable, may be unacceptable to others. Sometimes physical contact can be misinterpreted as sexual harassment or even molestation. Particular care needs to be taken in coaching children. Ensure that if there is physical contact with a player that it is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player’s skill development. Hugging or other non-basketball specific contact is to be avoided.

14. Avoid personal relationships with players.

Personal relationships with players can often be misinterpreted as something sinister. A relationship with players is essential to build trust between a coach and player. However, the power imbalance in a coaching situation can make it unwise for a relationship to develop beyond more than just coach and player. Particular care must be taken when coaching children.

15. Do not engage with players personally on social media or other digital platforms.

Private or personal contact with players on social media or other digital platforms is to be avoided. Ensure any such contact with players is through group messages and can be witnessed or accessed by others. Ensure that parental permission is sought before engaging with a player on any social media or digital platform. Ensure that all contact on such platforms is basketball specific and relevant to the role of a coach and not of a personal nature.

16. Stay within the confines of your qualifications and role as a coach.

Often while coaching you will come across other issues that affect players and youth in society. This may include, bullying, mental health issues, physical conditions, injuries etc. It is extremely important to understand that while your intentions may be well meaning, any advice, guidance or instruction you give a player can be damaging. If you are not qualified, do not give health and wellbeing advice or administer first aid or injury management. If you are not qualified refrain from providing mental health or psychological advice. Offer support but always refer them to the appropriate agency or medical practitioner.

17. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should not be taken as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution.

18. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you and your players do not abuse anything provided for use. Discourage players from hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but serious injury can occur.

AGREEMENT...

‘As a condition of entry to participate in Wanneroo Basketball Association Inc. events, programs or competitions, I agree to abide by the Coaches Code of Conduct as outlined above.

I understand that breaches of the above conditions may be referred either directly to my relevant club, to an appointed Management Committee or to a full tribunal, who at their discretion, can impose penalties up to and including the immediate removal of the coach from Wanneroo Basketball Association events, programs or competitions entirely.

For more serious breaches, WBA staff have the authority to immediately request the removal of the coach from the Wanneroo Basketball Association venue and refer the matter to the Tribunal for further action.

Additionally, I agree that as a Representative Coach, I must not “recruit / poach” players from other clubs within the WBA Inc. Domestic Competition to play in a Domestic club team that I coach, or I am affiliated within the WBA Inc. Domestic Competition.’

Coach Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....