



## SISA COACHES CODE OF ETHICS AGREEMENT

### Overview

The Figure Skating Department of the Singapore Ice Skating Association (SISA) is adopting the Coach's Code of Ethics drawn up by the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) with certain expansions. Only coaches registered with the National Registry of Coaches (NROC), to which the majority of this Coach's Code of Ethics is also applicable, are permitted to coach on SISA NSA ice sessions. \*

### ACCEPTANCE AND AGREEMENT

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**Name of Coach**

**NRIC/Passport No**

#### 1. Introduction

Ethics refers to the generally accepted norms of right or wrong behaviour, often based on universal values. Ethics is not about legality nor is it meant to be legalistic. Coaches, due to their close interaction with athletes, exposure to the public, and the strong pressure to win, are vulnerable to various forms of ethical issues.

If coaching is to be recognised as a profession, it is important that there exists a code of ethics for coaches. Coaches, by adhering to a code of ethics, would not only minimise the likelihood of being accused of unacceptable behaviour but would also project a sense of professionalism in their dealings with others.

One of the attributes of a profession is that the practitioners subscribe to and enforce ethical codes, which will help to demonstrate their commitment to providing quality services and expertise.

#### 2. Purpose

- To provide an ethical framework that would guide coaches in determining appropriate behaviours.
- To raise the status of coaching as a vocation.
- To facilitate the self-regulation of coaching standards by coaches and consumers of coaching services by telling the public what is expected of coaches.
- To communicate to the public the professional attitude of registered NROC coaches, thereby encouraging greater confidence in these coaches.



### **3. Key Principles**

Three broad principles form the framework for the coach's code of ethics and are illustrated by a list of key ethical standards related to coaching.

The three principles are:

1. Respect for Individuals
2. Responsible Coaching
3. Integrity in Actions

### **4. Principle: Respect for Individuals**

The concept that each individual possesses an intrinsic value and worth is integral to the principle of Respect for individuals. The coach is called upon to act in a manner respectful of the dignity of individuals.

Key Ethical Standards

1. Treat and respect everyone equally, regardless of race, language, religion, culture, gender or physical ability.
2. Recognise that your athletes can contribute in providing positive feedback on training methods and how best performance during training and competition could be optimised. Be a good listener when occasions for such interaction arise.
3. Remember that there is a need for certain information to be kept confidential. Disclosure of such information should only be made with the consent of those who requested confidentiality.
4. Be sensitive to the feelings of your athletes when providing feedback on their training progress and performance during competition. Criticisms, if any, should not be directed at the athlete, instead it should be on your athlete's performance.

### **5. Principle: Responsible Coaching**

The principle of Responsible Coaching requires that the coach be competent and that sufficient duty of care to the participants is being exercised such that the participants are not harmed. It encompasses the concept that risks to the participants are minimised and benefits to their holistic development are maximised.

Key Ethical Standards

1. Be responsible for periodically updating your coaching expertise through participation in courses, conferences and workshops and through information available in resource materials.
2. Prepare well-planned and sound training programmes and execute them in a manner that would benefit all your athletes.
3. Recognise the limits of your knowledge and collaborate with other qualified practitioners. Where appropriate, refer your athletes to a more qualified coach or specialist.
4. Advise your injured athlete to seek further medical treatment and suggest an appropriate recovery plan whenever possible. When deciding on your injured athlete's



- ability to continue training or competing, do take into account his/her future health and general well being.
5. Ensure that training and competition venues meet with minimum safety standards and that your athletes are properly attired.
  6. Avoid intimacy of any form with your athlete. Any physical contact with your athletes should be only when absolutely necessary and during appropriate situations.
  7. Respect your place of work and the environment. Except for emergencies, family members, relatives and friends should not be loitering at your place of work.
  8. To discourage behaviour not in the best interest of the skater or parent.

## **6. Principle: Integrity In Actions**

The principle of Responsible Coaching requires that the coach be competent and that sufficient duty of care to the participants is being exercised such that the participants are not harmed. It encompasses the concept that risks to the participants are minimised and benefits to their holistic development are maximised.

### **Key Ethical Standards**

1. Be honest and sincere when communicating with your athletes. Do not give false hopes to your athlete.
2. Inform a fellow coach if and when you are approached to work with their athletes. Do not lure athletes away from nor instigate resentments towards your fellow coach.
3. Your coaching qualifications and experience should be accurately represented, both in written and verbal form.
4. Abide by the rules of your sport and respect your opponents and those in positions of authority. You are also responsible for fostering these values to athletes under your charge.
5. Adopt a professional attitude and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct. It should encompass your mannerism, dress, language and morals.
6. Do not allow yourself to be placed or appeared to be placed by influence or pressure to favour a certain athlete/s over other athletes under your charge. You have the obligation to give equal opportunity and attention to all athletes under your charge.
7. Exercise self-awareness and evaluate how your values and actions influence your coaching activities positively or negatively. At no time should you, directly or indirectly, put any athlete or his/her parent/guardian or those around you under any sort of threat as a result of your action.

## **7. Breach**

Coaches permitted on SISA NSA ice must be registered with the National Registry of Coaches and must pledge to abide by the Coach's Code of Ethics.

The SISA Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend a coach from the ice while investigation is ongoing.

The SISA Executive Committee also reserves the right to restrict a coach pending a disciplinary hearing.



SINGAPORE  
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ASSOCIATION

\*Visiting foreign coaches, except those invited to hold workshops/seminars, have to apply to SISA for temporary accreditation and receive the approval before they are permitted to coach on SISA NSA ice.

I confirm that I have read, understood and accept the above terms and conditions.

**COACH**

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**Signed**

.....  
**Date**

.....  
**Print Name**

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**NRIC/Passport No**

Please return completed agreement by the due date to the Administrative Coordinator

**Authorised by:** Executive Committee

**Date:** May 2012