



Codes of Conduct

The DFHA Codes of Conduct should be followed in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 10:31: "...Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (Article 8 DFHA Bylaws)

A. Coaches' Code of Conduct

All DFHA Coaches are representatives of DFHA and as such are expected to:

- 1) Read and agree to abide by the rules and policies that govern DFHA, including the Bylaws, and the NCHEAC league
- 2) Be responsible for their behavior and the behavior of their team members
- 3) Demonstrate and lead players in showing respect for other players, coaches, fans, and officials at all times
- 4) Provide a sports environment that is free of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and abusive or offensive language at all times
- 5) Undergo a background check upon joining DFHA, and self-report any current or past criminal activity
- 6) Place the emotional and physical well-being of their players ahead of a personal desire or external pressure to win
- 7) Never publicly demean a player, official, opposing coach, fellow DFHA coach or parent
- 8) Have the final authority to determine playing time, while endeavoring to be fair to all players in the context of a competitive sports environment
- 9) Use sound judgment in the return of injured players to the game, using parental and medical input if needed
- 10) Take reasonable steps to ensure all equipment used by players is safe and conforms to standards
- 11) Limit physical contact with players to appropriate actions such as high fives, fist bumps, shoulder pats, and brief side hugs
- 12) For male coaches of female players, ensure that a female parent is present at all practices and locker room meetings
- 13) Demonstrate respect for the privilege of using playing facilities by cleaning up benches, locker rooms, stands, and the grounds after a practice or game, and leading players to do the same
- 14) Take initiative in resolving any known or suspected conflict with a player or family by applying scriptural guidelines as outlined in Matthew 18:15-18. If conflict is unresolved, the conflict should be reported to DFHA staff as described in the DFHA Conflict Management/Resolution Policy. Refrain from discussing the issue in a public sphere
- 15) Accept positive, constructive, and negative feedback graciously
- 16) Communicate expectations clearly to players and parents
- 17) Be appropriately groomed and be dressed in a manner that would not be considered offensive or morally suggestive at DFHA events

B. Junior Members' Code of Conduct

All DFHA players are representatives of DFHA and as such are expected to:

- 1) Read and agree to abide by the rules and policies that govern DFHA, including the Bylaws, and the NCHEAC league
- 2) Be courteous to opposing teams and treat all players, coaches, and fans with respect
- 3) Show respect for authority to all officials, whether or not they agree with a call
- 4) Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat



- 5) Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during, and after games
- 6) Maintain a respectful attitude toward their coach and submit to his/her authority
- 7) Dedicate themselves to an unselfish team attitude and refrain from criticizing teammates
- 8) Conduct themselves at all DFHA activities without using illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or abusive or offensive language
- 9) Respect the privilege of using playing facilities by cleaning up benches, locker rooms, stands, and the grounds after a practice or game
- 10) Show up for practice on time, with proper equipment, and ready to play
- 11) Communicate to the coach ahead of time if they will miss a practice or game
- 12) Using scriptural guidelines as outlined in Matthew 18:15, talk to the coach about any concerns or problems they have instead of talking to others about them. If conflict is unresolved, the conflict should be reported to DFHA staff as described in the Conflict Management/Resolution Policy of DFHA. Refrain from discussing the issue in a public sphere
- 13) Be appropriately groomed and be dressed in a manner that would not be considered offensive or morally suggestive at DFHA events

C. Adult Members' Code of Conduct

All DFHA parents and other adult members are representatives of DFHA and as such are expected to:

- 1) Read and agree to abide by the rules and policies that govern DFHA, including the Bylaws, and the NCHEAC league
- 2) Trust the coach to coach the team. Refrain from coaching from the sidelines or stands. Understand that DFHA coaches have the final authority to determine playing time and will endeavor to be fair in the context of a competitive sports environment
- 3) Not approach the bench or scorers' table unless it is to assist an ill or injured child. Only coaches, players, scorekeepers, assistants and medical personnel are to approach the bench during a game
- 4) Allow, without criticism, the referees to officiate the game, remembering that they are only human, and that rarely is the outcome of a game determined by a bad call
- 5) Demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship at games by using only positive cheers and never laughing at errors or jeering an opponent. Be responsible for the sportsmanlike conduct of any guest
- 6) Advocate and demonstrate a sports environment that is free of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and abusive or offensive language
- 7) Assist athletes to show up to practice and games on time with proper equipment and ready to play
- 8) Make prompt timely payments of athletes' participation fees, or request assistance with a payment schedule or scholarship (if available)
- 9) Direct athletes to communicate to the coach in advance of any anticipated missed practices or games
- 10) Volunteer their time to perform necessary game day tasks for their athletes' team(s) and/or take other jobs necessary for DFHA to function
- 11) Using scriptural guidelines as outlined in Matthew 18:15-18, speak to coaches privately about any issues concerning any aspect of their family's or athlete's participation on the team. The parent/coach meeting should not occur the day of a game unless agreed to by the coach. If conflict is unresolved, the conflict should be reported to DFHA staff as described in the DFHA Conflict Management/Resolution Policy. Refrain from discussing the issue in a public sphere
- 12) Be familiar with DFHA and NCHEAC rules of eligibility and notify the coach of any reason their athlete might not qualify to play with DFHA or NCHEAC



- 13) Assist DFHA by providing timely, accurate and truthful responses for paperwork, registration and eligibility forms, and Board-directed surveys and evaluations
- 14) Be appropriately groomed and be dressed in a manner that would not be considered offensive or morally suggestive at DFHA events