

Being a volunteer coach for the LYA is a unique opportunity. We hold our youth sports coaches to the highest standard as they represent Christ as well as our school.

The Liberty Youth Association is designed to provide our youth with the opportunity to experience sports in a Godly, structured, nourishing environment. Participation in athletics plays a valuable role in the development of our children. Aspects of teamwork, commitment, physical fitness, self-esteem, and fair-play contribute to the growth and maturity of young people.

Qualities and Skills for an LYA Volunteer (Initial by each Skill)

- _____ **Christ-like Attitude** - A good coach should first and foremost seek the Lord and encourage their players to do the same. Begin each practice with a prayer led by either the coach or a player.
- _____ **Integrity**- a good coach should respect and understand the need for rules. He/she should never attempt to circumvent the rules in any way
- _____ **Enthusiasm** -adding emotion to effort. A good coach must show enthusiasm in order to encourage and excite his/her players
- _____ **Patience**- A good coach should not push children beyond their limits in terms of practice. Create an environment of learning a fun, not one of stress and negativity
- _____ **Sportsmanship**- Set the example. All the kids on your team and their parents are watching how you react to a bad call or treat the other team's coaches, players, and fans. Show them that you win and lose with class and respect
- _____ **Perspective**- Understand that there are far more important things in life than losing a game in youth sports. Everyone should want to do well and everyone should want to win, but losing a game is not the end of the world. A youth sports coach's success is measured by the respect he/she gains from players, parents, and officials- not wins and losses
- _____ **Positive Attitude** -A coach should encourage his/her players. Avoid negative remarks towards players and officials. Creating a positive environment during games and practices will be more enjoyable for all involved
- _____ **Preparation**- Have an organized plan for practices. Be familiar with the rules of the game and policies of the league.
- _____ **Communication**- Be accessible to parents. Keep them in the loop with plans and schedules. Setting up an email distribution list with all the parents on your roster is a great way to keep good lines of Communication.
- _____ **Concern for Safety**- A coach should always consider the safety and welfare of his/her players above anything else. If there is a safety concern you need assistance with contact your league coordinator immediately.

Background Screening

To ensure that the participants involved in LYA receive the highest quality experience, all potential volunteer youth sports coaches must go through LYA background screening process. Background screening assists LYA staff in selecting the most qualified individuals who understand the organization's goals, as well as excluding individuals that have certain criminal histories or histories that suggest they may be a potential risk to young athletes.

- **Review of information**
- **Interview**
- **School Volunteer Application**
- **Criminal Background Check**
- **Ministry Safe**
- **Review of emergency procedures**



Code of Conduct

As part of the certification process coaches will pledge to abide by the following Code of Conduct and Ethics:

I will place the emotional and physical well – being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.

- At the start and end of each game or practice the coach or one of the players will lead the team in a prayer
- Using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with league officials, game officials, parents, and spectators
- Treating all players, league officials game officials, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect
- Playing all players according to the participation level standards established in the participants section of the handbook
- Encouraging youth to participate in other sports and activities to promote all aspects of their development
- Allowing reasonable absences from practice.

I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group

- Recognizing the difference of each child and treating each player as an individual while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and well being
- Encouraging all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports
- Recognizing that youth may vary greatly in physical, social, and emotional maturation and considering these factors when setting up competitions and when interacting with youth.
- Recognizing that some physical tasks, drills, and demands are not appropriate for all youth.

I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players

- Maintaining a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions..
- Correcting or avoiding unsafe practice or playing conditions.
- Using appropriate safety equipment necessary to protect all players. Seeing that the players are provided with adequate adult supervision while under the coach's care

I promise in the event of an injury to provide sufficient support to the athlete

- Communicating with parents if medical attention is needed.
- If the event of a serious injury, calling 911.
- Demonstrating concern for an injured player, notifying parents and league coordinators, and cooperating with medical authorities.
- Protecting the players' wellbeing by removing them from activity when injured and not returning them to activity if they are compromised by injury.

I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players

- Establishing practice plans that are interesting, varied, productive, and aimed at improving all players' skills and individual abilities.
- Devoting appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player.

I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players

- Adopting the position, teaching, and demonstrating that it is our basic moral code to treat others as we would like to be treated.
- Abiding by and supporting the rules of the game as well as the spirit of the rules.
- Providing an environment conducive to fair and equitable competition.
- Using the influential position of youth coach as an opportunity to promote, teach and expect sportsmanship and fair play.

I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all LCS Youth Sports

- Being alcohol and drug free at all team activities or in the presence of your players.
- Refraining from the use of any type of tobacco products at all team activities or in the presence of your players.
- Encouraging parents to refrain from the public use of tobacco products or alcohol at team activities.

I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players

- Becoming knowledgeable, understanding, and supportive of all applicable game rules, league rules, regulations, and policies.
- Teaching and requiring compliance of these rules among players.

I will use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach

- Teaching techniques that reduce the risk of injury to both the coach's own players and their opponents.
- Discouraging illegal contact or intentionally dangerous play and administering swift and equitable discipline to players involved in such activity.
I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not for adults
- Maintaining a positive, helpful, and supportive attitude.
- Exercising your authority/influence to control the behavior of the fans and spectators.
- Exhibiting gracious acceptance of defeat or victory.
- Accepting and the adhering to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults and youth.
- Fulfilling the expected role of a youth coach to adopt a "children first " philosophy.
- Allowing and encouraging the players to listen, learn, and play hard within the rules.
- Placing the emphasis on fun and participation.

Violation of the code of conduct/ethics

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: Game Suspension

3rd Offense: Permanent removal from the Liberty Christian Youth Sport Association

Note: These guidelines are not absolute in dealing with behavioral problems. Severe situations could warrant harsher sanctions.

<p>PRINTED NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____</p>
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