

10 Things Athletic Administrators Expect from Coaches

1. *Put Your Athletes First*

Winning is great, but if students are put first in all of your decisions, positive outcomes will result. Regardless of wins or losses, student-athletes and their long-term success should be the bottom line.

2. *Be a Role Model for Loyalty, Honesty and Integrity*

Young people today are starving for positive role models. Your influence on student-athletes will be felt far beyond the playing field and far beyond the time your athletes are in school.

3. *Constantly Strive for Professional Growth*

All coaches owe it to their school and their athletes to strive to constantly stay ahead of the learning curve for their sport. When a coach stops learning, he/she stops growing.

4. *Make Playing for You a Positive Life Experience.*

Interscholastic athletics are still contests played by students. Positive experiences gained in the process will stay with participants long after the cheering of the crowd subsides. It is often a good idea to stop and ask one question. Am I having fun and are my athletes having fun? The answer may surprise you.

5. *Be Organized, Efficient and Timely*

Some of the best coaches in the world lose effectiveness by displaying a total lack of organization. A better sense of order is always a steadying influence on athletes and staff.

6. *Be a Leader of Your Program*

Many coaches do a good job of managing their program. The great coaches manage the details, but also project a vision of how great the program and its athletes can become. The ability to have a vision and focus the efforts of the group toward that goal separates the average coach from the great one.

7. *Be a Positive Force in the School and Community*

Athletics are an important part of the school and community. Good coaches always try to remember that as important as athletics are, they are still only a very small part of the entire educational community. Coaches that immerse themselves in the total framework of the school and community model a well-rounded view of educational athletics. This sends a positive message to the team members as well as all those associated with the program.

8. *Be Knowledgeable in the Rules and Regulations of Your Sports*

Ignorance of school, state or national rules can often ruin positive performances on the part of a school, its coaches and the athletes served. It is a major duty of all coaches to well versed in all rules and regulations, in order to give athletes the best chance for competitive excellence.

9. *Enjoy the Ride*

Coaches have a tendency to become subject to tunnel vision. Those who last the longest have a unique ability to get the job done, but to have fun along the way. If you do not enjoy what you are doing, you will not do it for very long.

10. *Always Put Yourself in a Positive that Can be Defended*

One of the first things I tell every new coach is to never put me in a position where I cannot defend you or your actions. Those that make intelligent decisions in dealing with people and abide by standards of common sense when interacting with students, never are in a position where they cannot be defended by an administrator.