

# COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

“The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in speech and debate. Students should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times.”

- **Coaches** shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of their students and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- **Coaches** shall practice integrity by upholding the honor and dignity of our profession. In all personal contact with students, judges, tournament officials, activities directors, school administrators, other coaches, the media, and the public, coaches shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- **Coaches** shall take an active role in the prevention of student drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.
- **Coaches** shall be expected to uphold their school's policy in regards to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use when in contact with students.
- **Coaches** shall strive to understand the contest rules and to teach them to their students. Coaches shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- **Coaches** shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship and fair-play by competitors and other coaches.
- **Coaches** shall respect and support tournament officials. Coaches shall not indulge in conduct that would incite other coaches or students against tournament officials. Public criticism of tournament officials, other coaches, or students is unethical.
- **Coaches** shall set the correct tone for a tournament or competition.

Adapted from the NSDA Coach Ethics