

COACHING 101

ENGAGE IN AND SUPPORT ETHICAL PRACTICES

"It's not enough to win, you have to win the right way."

Coach Jim Kaufman, Perry High School

In each scenario, coaches must navigate complex ethical considerations while balancing the competitive nature of the game with principles of fairness, respect, and sportsmanship.

- 1. **Fair Play and Sportsmanship**:** A coach observes one of their players deliberately engaging in aggressive, unsportsmanlike behavior during a game. The ethical challenge is whether to condone such behavior for the sake of winning or to intervene and uphold the principles of fair play and sportsmanship.
- 2. **Respecting Contestants**:** During a game, the coach observes their player taunting and showing disrespectful behavior towards a player based on personal characteristics. The ethical challenge is how to address the situation and promote respect for all participants in a competitive environment.
- 3. **Handling Disputes**:** A dispute arises between players in the locker room over an event or a decision made during the game. The ethical challenge is how to resolve the conflict while maintaining team cohesion and sportsmanship.
- 4. **Substitution Decisions**:** A coach must decide whether to prioritize the development and participation of all players through substitutions or to focus primarily on winning by keeping the best players on the field for the majority of the game regardless of the outcome. Ethical coaching involves finding the right balance between player development and competitive success.
- 5. **Injury Management**:** A player sustains a potentially serious injury during the game, but the coach feels pressure to keep them in the game due to its importance or the player's desire to continue playing. Balancing the player's well-being with competitive pressures presents an ethical challenge.
- 6. **Player Safety**:** A player on the opposing team appears to be injured, but the coach notices that the referee has not stopped play. The ethical challenge is whether to alert the referee to the potential injury or to prioritize the game's momentum and competitive advantage.

7. ****Dealing with Officials****: A coach escalates attempts to influence or pressure game officials to make favorable calls for their team. The ethical challenge is to respect the authority and integrity of the officiating crew and refrain from engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct.

8. ****Dealing with Questionable Officiating****: The coach perceives biased or unfair officiating during the contest, potentially impacting the outcome. The ethical challenge is how to respond to such circumstances while maintaining composure and professional respect.

9. ****Handling Victory and Defeat****: After a closely contested rivalry contest, the coach must navigate how to react to both victory and defeat in a way that models grace, humility, and respect for the game and the efforts of both teams.

10. ****Coaching Licensure****: The coach discovers that a member of the coaching staff is unlicensed. The ethical challenge is to uphold state regulations, protect district liability, and the challenging conversation with a staff member.

11. ****Managing Parental Expectations****: Parents of a player express dissatisfaction with the coach's decisions or the team's performance during the game and immediately after the contest. The ethical challenge is how to address parental concerns while maintaining authority and professionalism as the coach.

12. ****Crucial Conversations****: A coach disagrees with a decision made by the school administration. The ethical challenge is how to address professional concerns while maintaining respectful professional and personal relationships.