

18.0 Code of Conduct

The Alberta Gymnastics Federation is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Further the Alberta Gymnastics Federation supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. Members of the Alberta Gymnastics Federation and participants in the Alberta Gymnastics Federation's programs and activities are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of the Alberta Gymnastics Federation. Conduct that violates these values may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Alberta Gymnastics Federation's Discipline Policy.

Organizers, coaches, officials, athletes, managers, volunteers, staff, and members of Alberta Gymnastics Federation have a responsibility to:

Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of members and participants of Alberta Gymnastics Federation by:

- a) Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of gender, ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, political belief, disability, or economic status;
- b) Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, staff, and members;
- c) Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sports leadership, and ethical conduct and practices;
- d) Ensuring that the rules of the sport of gymnastics, and the spirit of such rules are adhered to.

Abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco while participating at Alberta Gymnastics Federation events.

Take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages in social situations associated with Alberta Gymnastics Federation events.

Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods as listed on the most current banned substances list published by GCG or COA.

Refrain from any behaviour, which constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as comment or conduct, directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious.

Refrain from any behaviour, which constitutes abuse, where abuse is defined physical, emotional, or sexual. Submitting to such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Comply at all times with the By-laws, rules, policies and procedures of Alberta Gymnastics Federation, as adopted and amended from time to time, including complying with contracts or agreements executed with the Alberta Gymnastics Federation.

Coaches will have the responsibility to:

- a) Abide by the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) Coaching Code of Ethics (Principles and Ethical Standards) (Appendix 6)
- b) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of athletes;
- c) Avoid compromising the present and future health of athletes by communicating and cooperating with registered medical practitioners in their diagnosis, treatment and management;
- d) Educate athletes about the dangers of drugs and performance-enhancing substances;
- e) Accept and promote athletes' personal goals and refer to other coaches and sports specialists as opportunities arise;
- f) Communicate and cooperate with the parents/guardians of athletes who are minors and involve them in decisions pertaining to their child's development;
- g) Consider the academic pressures placed on student-athletes and conduct practices and events in a manner that supports academic success.

Athletes who are financially supported by the Alberta Gymnastics Federation or who have been selected to a representative team shall have a responsibility to:

- a) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, where such problems may limit the athlete's ability to train or complete:
- b) Participate in all competitions, events or projects as stated in the applicable Technical Program Handbooks:
- c) Adhere to the Alberta Gymnastics Federation's requirements regarding clothing and equipment.

The Alberta Gymnastics Federation does not tolerate harassment, discrimination or abuse of power, and prohibits intimate or sexual relationships between coaches and athletes, except where such relationships are between adults and were established prior to the coach-athlete relationship.

All coaches shall, in addition to these policies, be aware of and adhere to the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) Coaching Code of Conduct. It is highly recommended that all coaches become members of the Canadian Professional Coaches Association (CPCA).

Rights For Athletes

- Right of the opportunity to participate in sports regardless of ability
- Right to participate at a level that is consistent with the developmental level
- Right to have qualified sensitive leadership
- Right to participate in a safe and healthy environment
- Right of each participant to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport
- Right of child athletes to play as children
- Right to proper preparation in the sport
- Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success
- Right to be treated with dignity by all involved
- Right to have fun through sport