



Virginia Basketball Academy

CODE OF ETHICS



VABA Culture. VABA's culture is centered on its mission to build character and shape lives through the game of basketball. All coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans are expected to understand and support VABA's mission and culture and represent the league by maintaining behavior that is **positive and supportive**. VABA's simple phrase for this culture is "honoring the game." This written "Code of Ethics" more specifically defines how our coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans are expected to "honor the game."

Winning v. Skill and Character Development. We fully understand the emotional side of competitive athletics, especially during games. Coaches, athletes, parents and fans have all made an investment on many levels and, over the course of the season, developed a strong emotional tie to their team and the outcome of the games. However, the VABA mission is *not* about winning and losing. Rather, our mission is about skill and character development – understanding the impact athletics have in building character and shaping lives.

"Choose One". As it relates to each VABA game there are four roles: Coach, Player, Parent/Fan, and Official. You can only have one role. To best represent VABA and promote our culture, **it is imperative that you honor your role.**

PARENT/FAN Code of Ethics

VABA Parents/Fans are positive and supportive. They actively focus their support on the athletes during the game in a manner that demonstrates sportsmanship. VABA Parents/Fans do not comment on or react to officials' calls or coaches' decisions. VABA Parents/Fans exercise discipline and self-control despite the emotional elements of competitive play, keeping in mind the priority of skill and character development over winning and losing. VABA Parents/Fans understand the critical importance of their behavior in the stands before, during, and after games, always aiming to set a proper example for the impressionable children they support.

COACH Code of Ethics

VABA Coaches are positive and supportive. VABA Coaches understand that they are the most visible and closely watched individuals on the bench. Coaches are expected to set the example for the student-athlete and parents. In a competitive atmosphere like a game, emotions can run high. VABA coaches are expected to be the model of self-control, poise, and composure. They must fully understand their role as teacher *and* cheerleader so student-athletes and parents see a positive, supportive, role model. **Coaches may not under any circumstances complain to or argue with game officials (Coaches Commitment: "respond to all officials without gesture or argument") or otherwise demonstrate disagreement with the officiating.**

STUDENT-ATHLETE Code of Ethics

VABA student-athletes demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. They respect their teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents. SA's may not under any circumstances complain to or argue with game officials or otherwise demonstrate disagreement with the officiating. VABA student-athletes demonstrate the core values of teamwork, hard work, responsibility, discipline, heart and respect during practices and games.