

Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Best Practices & Sportsmanship Policy



Policy Adopted – December 2, 2019



Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association Best Practices and Sportsmanship Policy

Coaching Best Practices

1. Follow the **Rule of Two** standards for the safety and protection of athletes:
 - Gold: two certified (or one certified, one trained) and screened coaches with one+ athlete(s)
 - Silver: two trained and screened coaches with one+ athlete(s)
 - Bronze: one certified/trained, screened coach, and one screened adult with one+ athlete(s)
 - Only acceptable in *emergency situations*:
 - One coach with two athletes (if no other screened coaches or adults are available)
 - One coach transporting athlete to medical care, to meet parent/guardian/screened adult
 - Set up team/club accounts for all members and parents to access relevant information: email, social media, Facebook, TeamSnap, WhatsApp, etc.
 - Never communicate one-on-one with an athlete – include another coach or the athlete's parent in texting or social media conversations
 - All one-on-one conversations must take place with another screened adult within earshot
2. Be mindful of the age of sexual consent and protection
 - For all children 12-17 years old:
 - If the other person is in a **position of trust or authority** over the child (e.g. a **coach**, teacher, etc.), the child is dependent on the other person or the relationship is exploitative of the child, the child is **NOT** able to give consent, making sexual activity in the context of such relationships illegal.
 - To **protect the inherent vulnerability** of child from power or other imbalance.
 - Under 12 years old – child is unable to give consent under any circumstance
 - 12 – 13 years old: sometimes – only if the age difference is less than 2 years and no position of power is held by one party
 - 14 – 15 years old: sometimes – only if the age difference is less than 5 years and no position of power is held by one party
 - 16 + years old: Yes – as long as no party holds a position of power
 - 18 years old: protection increases IF one party holds a position of power
3. Background screening – coaches can and should protect themselves by having:
 - Appropriate sport level certifications
 - Criminal record check
 - Concussion awareness training
 - First aid or sports first aid training
 - Respect in sport
 - NCCP training
 - Making ethical decisions
 - Practice planning

Recruitment Guidelines

1. No unethical recruitment including no direct recruitment (direct messages, texts, social media, email) with individual athletes, parents/guardians, or coaches from other programs/teams.
2. No recruitment of athletes under the age of 18 without a parent or guardian present.
3. SCA events will be considered a safe space, where no direct recruitment or advertising will take place.

Unsportslike Conduct

Behaviour that violates the Code of Conduct:

1. Private or public bullying and/or harassment, as defined in the [Code of Conduct Policy](#) at SCA events, through texting or email, and/or through posts on social media.
2. Outbursts including angry yelling, screaming, profanity, hurtful remarks, demeaning language, or defamatory statements, in-person at SCA events, or through posts on social media
3. Coaches, directors, and owners may only approach the Head Judge at all SCA-sanctioned competitions, and must do so with the Association's *Judging Appeal Process* as outlined in the [Judges Policy](#) in a respectful manner.
4. Discussing results, appeals, scoring, or placings with any panel judges, other officials, or competition hosts is prohibited, as is an outburst at the Head Judge.
5. Coaches may not discuss other team's scores, deductions, or placings, with the Head Judge, panel judges, other officials, or competition hosts.
6. Athletes, parents, spectators, and administrators may not discuss scores, deductions, or placings with any judge, official, or competition hosts. Questions must be directed to the team coach.

Imposed Sanctions

Individuals who engage in Unsportslike Conduct and/or violate the [Code of Conduct Policy](#) will be subject to the [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#) and the sanctions within. Confirmation of violation will require physical proof such as copies of the messages, emails, or social media posts, or verified witness statements in the case of a violation at an SCA event. Any other violations will be verified through the investigation process in the [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#). Sanctions will be recommended by the case manager and the panel, and imposed by the SCA, Sanctions could include the following:

1. Mediation between affected parties
2. Formal apology to the parties affected
3. Monetary fine to the club (donated to a local charity)
4. Monetary fine to the individual (donated to a local charity)
5. Individual suspension from the following SCA sanctioned competition and/or event.
6. Team suspension from the following SCA sanctioned competition and/or event.
7. Membership suspension from the SCA for a specific duration
8. Permanent removal of SCA membership