



National Association for
Sport and Physical Education

an association of the American Alliance for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

NASPE Sets the Standard

POSITION STATEMENT

Code of Conduct for Sport and Physical Educators

Sport and physical education practitioners value sport and physical activity's contribution to overall human development. They are committed to increasing, refining and promoting knowledge that relates to sport and physical education's contribution to overall human welfare across a lifetime of physical activity. Through proficient application of professional skills, they promote personal, professional, and social well-being in sport and physical education experiences, regardless of an individual's socio-economic status, age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

Sport and physical education practitioners realize that establishing and maintaining high standards is imperative for the discipline and its professions. They teach and coach relevant knowledge and skills by implementing best practices gained through appropriate qualifications and experiences. As a community of scholars and practitioners, they are dedicated to ongoing knowledge and skill development through involvement or interest in research projects that use accredited methods of critical inquiry. They take an active and supportive role in the various organizational structures that serve and promote the practice of sport and physical education.

Sport and physical education practitioners are responsible for the integrity of the profession. They strive to embody values, virtues, and standards of excellence appropriate to teaching, coaching, research, and other sport and physical education professions.

Sport and physical education practitioners are responsible for promoting a healthful community. They actively pursue professional goals, realizing the importance of their own, and their fellow professional's commitment to uphold ethical duties and social responsibilities to others.

The association's Code of Conduct articulates either principles for the discipline and practice of sport and physical education. The Code serves as a guide for both students and professional in the wide-ranging study and application of sport and physical education's subject matter. It is an indication of acceptance of responsibility for ethical practice in sport and physical education's many professions, and provides a framework for the resolution of ethical dilemmas. The following list should be considered as illustrative of professional integrity and not exhaustive of appropriate conduct.

Sport and Physical Education practitioners:

- Maintain their professional and personal standing through the highest standards of ethical behavior
- Participate in, and encourage other to engage in, appropriate sport and physical education activities that contribute to overall human welfare across a lifetime of physical activity
- Critically discuss and communicate with others what collective knowledge, and which shared practices, best embody the importance of sport and physical education to overall human welfare
- Strive to achieve and maintain accepted standards of excellence in sport and physical education (i.e. National Standards for Physical Education, National Standards for Athletic Coaches, etc.)
- Attain relevant qualifications and experiences necessary to carry out professional duties and obligations with competence, honor, and integrity
- Seek out and implement, appropriate instructional methods that reflect best practice in teaching physical education and coaching sport
- Engage in, or understand, valid research that furthers the scientific and non-scientific understanding of sport and physical education
- Provide appropriate service to organizations that promote the value and importance of sport and physical education's contribution to overall human welfare.

Suggested Citation

National Association for Sport and Physical Education. (1999). *Code of conduct for sport and physical educators* [Position statement]. Reston, VA: Author.