

HOW CAN A CHARACTER COACH OPERATE UNDER TITLE IX REGULATIONS DURING PRACTICE AND COMPETITION?

1. The Head Coach is the first and final say of all matters on and off the field. As a faith-based initiative, the Character Coach and the Head Coach will have conversations on expectations and implications of Title IX in regards to their team context.
2. The Character Coach is present to support and provide resources to the coaching staff on matters of character development and accountability. There are countless resources for teaching character to student athletes. The Character Coach will be equipped to access these resources. The Head Coach is the one responsible for “pulling the trigger” on character development programming. Therefore, it is crucial that the Character Coach and the Head Coach have regular conversations in regard to a team’s character development needs. The presence of a character coach gives a coaching staff a trusted, equipped and present resource to assist coaches in fulfilling their character education goals.
3. On the expression of faith and religion. Even though a Christian faith-based initiative, under Title IX, the Character Coach cannot use their granted access as a platform to overtly:
 - a. Proselytize
 - b. Harass

While governing the overt expression of one’s faith over another in public school settings, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights does allow for the free explanation of personal beliefs when requested.

Best Practices:

- The Character Coach’s greatest focus should be influence through authentic presence.
- Character Lessons can use religious scripture as a historical resource and illustration.
- During instructional and school sponsored time periods, faith conversations should originate from student requests. Continuation of faith conversations should take place outside of instructional time periods.

HOW CAN A CHARACTER COACH OPERATE UNDER UIL REGULATIONS DURING PRACTICE AND COMPETITION?

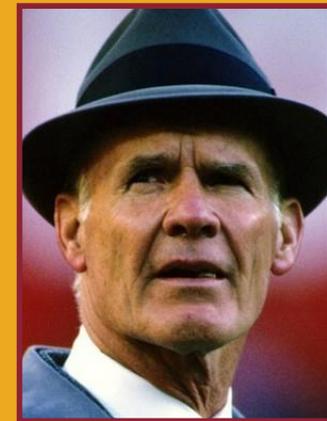
1. The Head Coach is the first and final say of all matters on and off the field. The Character Coach needs to have regular conversations on what, if any, access and responsibilities will be given during practice, competition and off the field. Examples of character coach usage:
 - a. Practices:
 - i. Equipment/Field Set up
 - ii. Encouraging Players
 - iii. Assisting the Coach with Player Management
 - iv. Assisting the Coach with Visitor Management
 - v. Assisting the Coach with Character Education
 - b. Competition:
 - i. Equipment/Field Set up
 - ii. Encouraging Players
 - iii. Assisting the Coach with Player Management
 - iv. Assisting the Coach with Visitor Management
 - v. Assisting the Coach with Character Education

Again, the Head Coach is the first and final say of all matters on and off the field.

2. The Character Coach is present to support and provide resources to the coaching staff on matters of character development and accountability. While “talking shop” is a part of the sports environment and character education opportunities present themselves on the field of competition, the Character Coach is not to be used to directly impact the execution of practice or competition. With that said, one of the benefits of a team with strong character is winning. In this way, the Character Coach can have a direct impact on competition.
3. The dress of a Character Coach is at the discretion of the Head Coach. While remaining separate from “coaching” in practice and function, many head coaches prefer character coaches, at the Character Coach’s own expense, to dress out with appropriate coaching apparel for practice and competition. Again, this decision is at the discretion of each head coach.
4. The Conduct of a Character Coach on the field of competition is to be determined and kept in check by the Head Coach. While the Head Coach is the granter of access and responsibility, the Character Coach is not to be used to directly impact the execution of competition.



CHARACTER COACHING



“In my opinion, character is the most important determinant of a person’s success, achievement, and ability to handle adversity.”

- Tom Landry -

WHAT IS A CHARACTER COACH?

We have a game plan for coaching the x's and o's of our sport. What isn't always clear is how to coach character. Individuals have been serving teams in the capacity of Character Coaches for 100-plus years. Our military learned as far back as the Revolutionary War, chaplains were critical to counsel and motivate fighting men during times of war. As you prepare your athletes for the battle of competition, a Character Coach can come along to serve coaches, their coaching staffs, and players by helping them prepare a game plan of success.



For more information on this Character Coaching Initiative, contact Michelle Carmical 850-217-0391, MCarmical@fca.org or contact Dr. David Frazee at dfraze@fca.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Character Coach?

A Character Coach is a trusted, volunteer presence on the team that assists the coaching staff with the character development of student athletes. They can do as much or as little as the coach and school will allow. Character Coaches will be trained to know that authentic presence leads to more opportunities and involvement with players, coaches, parents and school.

Is the presence of a Character Coach allowable by UIL Regulations?

Character Coaches are an allowable resource via Section 1201 (b) 14.

How is a Character Coach selected?

The Coach of the participating team can either select an individual who would then be vetted and trained by FCA staff or the FCA staff member in their area can find someone from their MLA certified and trained volunteer pool for the Coach to consider. The Coach of the team will have control and final say over the selection of the Character Coach.

What is Ministry Leadership Application (MLA) Certification?

The Ministry Leader Application is a series of questions designed to align all those who work within a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ministry and/or Initiative in a unified and focused direction. The questions are reviewed and followed up by staff before a volunteer is "certified." A "background check" is involved in this process.

Does the MLA Certification preclude other School District certifications?

No. The MLA lets the participating school district know that the individual has gone through our process for involvement. It is expected and assumed that the Character Coach will go through any and all necessary background checks, certifications and trainings deemed necessary by the participating school district. The MLA certified Character Coach carries with them FCA funded liability coverage.

What does Character Coach training involve?

Character Coaches will be trained in:

- UIL Regulations governing competition in the State of Florida.
- Title IX Regulations and Compliance
- Expectations and Accountability Procedures
- Crisis Intervention and Procedures
- Rules of Confidentiality and the relationship with threat to self and others
- Outcry Procedures and Referral
- Abuse
- Substance
- Family
- Imminent Danger
- Best Practices
- Authentic presence and trusted resource for staff, team and school
- Following the Head Coach's lead (when to speak, when not to speak, what to speak)
- Exposure to all Character Coaching Resources
- How to get connected to and use the Character Coaching App