

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF ATHLETIC COACHES AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Athletic Coaches

In accordance with Commissioner's Regulation §135.4, all coaches including volunteer coaches, appointed for interscholastic athletics teams must possess a valid coaching license and have completed a course of instruction relating to mild traumatic brain injuries pursuant to §136.5(b). Physical education teachers may coach any sport, and teachers certified in other areas with coaching qualifications and experience, may coach provided they have completed the course requirements as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulation §135.4.

Individuals with coaching qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Board of Education who do not hold a NYS teaching certificate may also be employed to coach, provided they first obtain a temporary coaching license issued pursuant to the conditions enumerated in the Commissioner's Regulations.

Volunteer Assistant Coaches

The District recognizes the importance of volunteers and the contributions they can make to the interscholastic athletic program. The District also recognizes that having parents involved as coaches in their child's program can be difficult and has the potential for many conflicts of interest.

Any volunteer, who is in direct contact with the interscholastic athletic program must be recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by the Board of Education prior to the beginning of each interscholastic season. Volunteer coaches must be fully certified as a New York State coach. The Athletic Director shall be responsible for maintaining a current and complete list of all active volunteer coaches and their assignments, as well as their coaching licenses and certification. The volunteer coaches can only work under the direct supervision of the regularly appointed coach. These volunteers may never hold a practice or work with a student athlete without the certified, appointed coach.

In addition, a volunteer coach can never be a parent or other relative of a student athlete in the program. Program is defined as the gender specific sport (modified, JV, or Varsity) in which a student athlete is participating.

If a parent is a New York State certified coach, the Athletic Director may consider recommending them to coach a team on which they have a child participating or a team in their child's program. The regular appointment of certified parents as coaches of their child's team or a team in their child's program will be highly scrutinized and handled with deliberate care. As in all coaching appointments, the Superintendent must recommend the appointment and the Board of Education must concur. The District Athletic Director will notify the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in advance of any certified coach who is a parent being recommended for an appointed coaching position. Discussion between the Superintendent, District Athletic Director and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources will occur before a certified parent coaching recommendation is made to the Board of Education.

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SUBJECT: SELECTION OF ATHLETIC COACHES AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS (CONT'D.)

Athletic Trainers

Every individual serving as an athletic trainer in the School District shall possess a valid license as a Certified Athletic Trainer from the State of New York issued pursuant to Education Law Article 162. In addition, candidates must have successfully completed training on an annual basis, in the operation and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) pursuant to Public Health Law Section 3000-b(3)(a).

The practice of the profession of athletic training shall be as defined in, and consistent with, Education Law. The services provided by an athletic trainer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Prevention of athletic injuries, including assessment of an athlete's physical readiness to participate;
- b) Reconditioning to minimize the risk of re-injury and to return the athlete to activity as soon as possible, excluding the reconditioning of neurological injuries, conditions or disease;
- c) Health care administration, including medical record keeping, documentation and reporting of injuries, writing policies and procedures, budgeting and referral of injured athletes to appropriate authorized health care professionals when indicated;
- d) Education and counseling of coaches, parents, student athletic trainers and athletes;
- e) Risk management and injury prevention as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations;
- f) Management of athletic injuries as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations;
- g) Immediate care of athletic injury and physical conditions as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations;
- h) Treatment and reconditioning of athletic injuries as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations;
- i) Organization and administration as enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations; and
- k) Other professional development and responsibilities, including those enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations.

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SUBJECT: SELECTION OF ATHLETIC COACHES AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS (CONT'D.)

Fingerprinting Requirement

In accordance with the legislation on Project SAVE (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act) all coaches (both certified and non-certified) and athletic trainers must undergo fingerprinting and clearance for employment.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) §§ 135.4(c)(7)(i)(c) and (d)
Education Law Article 162
Public Health Law § 3000-b(3)(a)

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #7420 -- Sports and the Athletic Program.

Adopted: 7/10/2001

Revised: 4/22/2003, Combined 6211.1 & 6211.2 & Renumbered 5/28/2019, Revised 11/26/2019

Reviewed by Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources on 5/11/2023 with no recommended changes; reviewed & approved by BOE on 6/27/2023