

3.1 ATHLETIC COACHING REQUIREMENTS

3.1.1 School Requirement to Contract an Athletic Coach: For each sport in which a school registers with MSHSAA, a school must contract at least one head coach who meets the requirements for the head coach level, and the school must have the coach approved by MSHSAA. This requirement must be met prior to any interscholastic competition in that sport. This By-Law shall apply to both junior high and high schools.

3.1.2 Definition of Athletic Coach: An athletic coach is an individual who provides any type of instruction specific to a sport, and/or has instructional sports contact with enrolled students of the school. An individual who is unpaid, but provides sports instruction as described above, is an athletic coach and must meet the same requirements as a coach that is compensated, and be approved, prior to contact with students. For the purposes of the by-laws (coaching contact, etc.), an athletic coach is considered to be a school coach for the entire academic school year, despite the duration specified in the contract.

3.1.3 Athletic Coach - Requirements and Approval: Prior to coaching, any athletic coach must meet the requirements for the applicable "level" of coaching that is intended, be contracted by the school for the role, and must be approved by the MSHSAA office. [Editor's note: The MSHSAA approval process takes place on the membership side of the MSHSAA website. When completed, approval status for each athletic coach will appear on the school's "Coaches and Directors" page.]

3.1.4 Athletic Coaching Levels and Minimum Requirements:

a. **Head Coach – Minimum Requirements:** As per By-Law 3.1.1, each interscholastic team must have a head coach who meets the following requirements and who, then, may fill the duties and obligations of a head coach for the team, both under the sport rule code and in regard to the by-laws.

1. A Four-Year College Degree OR Serving as an Approved Assistant Coach (3.1.4.b) (non-Hardship Coach) for a minimum of TWO school years.
2. A Professional Teacher's Certificate OR NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (online) passed prior to coaching. This course is not sport-specific. This is a one-time requirement.
3. Successful completion of a Sports First Aid course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
4. Successful completion of CPR/AED training prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
5. Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching.
6. Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.
7. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
8. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review each season.

b. **Assistant Coach – Minimum Requirements:**

1. Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching.
2. A Professional Teacher's Certificate OR NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (online) passed prior to second year of coaching. This course is not sport-specific. This is a one-time requirement.
3. Successful completion of a Sports First Aid course prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
4. Successful completion of CPR/AED training prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
5. Background Check including Sex-Offender's Registry Clearance prior to coaching.
6. Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.
7. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
8. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review each season.

c. **Student Teacher – Minimum Requirements:** A student teacher serving in an approved teacher preparation program through a college or university and who is teaching at a school may serve as an assistant coach if the following minimum requirements are met.

1. Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching.
2. Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information.
3. Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review.

d. **Hardship Coach (may only serve as an Assistant Coach; May not serve as a Head Coach):** A school may request hardship approval for an individual who does not meet the minimum requirements to be approved as an Assistant Coach if

evidence of need is verified by the school to affirm that the position is required to maintain the existence of the program and/or is necessary to maintain an adequate safety level. The Board of Directors may approve a Hardship Coaches Application to waive the minimum requirements and allow the individual to serve as an assistant coach due to unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances. An approved hardship application will be kept on file at the MSHSAA office for subsequent year review for a coaching position with the same member school.

1. Board of Directors Approval of a Hardship Coaches Application.
2. An in-service training program which includes, but is not limited to, specific discussion of school policies, equipment responsibility, behavior expectations, procedures to follow in case of an emergency, etc. is satisfactorily completed.
3. Assistant Coach – Minimum Requirements (By-Law 3.1.4.b – 2 through 8) must be met.

3.1.5 Sport-Specific Online Rules Review Requirement: Each school shall be responsible for requiring all athletic coaches to complete a MSHSAA Online Rules Review in their respective sport. A coach who has not completed the applicable online rules review is not eligible to coach in the state series. When a coach fails to complete the online rules review, the school shall justify the deficiency in writing to the MSHSAA office.

3.1.6 Concussion Course Requirement: State law requires that all coaches review the concussion information yearly. [Editor's Note: This information can be found on the MSHSAA website under the Sports Medicine Tab, and the NFHS offers a free course (Concussions in Sports—What You Need To Know) through their website (see Diagram 3.1).]

3.1.7 Violations: An egregious or intentional violation of the MSHSAA By-Laws or the rules/regulations of the sport may cause the Board of Directors to withhold approved status.

Diagram 3.1

Course	Options	Location/Contact
NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching	There are no other options when this course is needed.	www.nfhslearn.com
Sports First Aid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NFHS First Aid for Coaches 2. American Heart Association 3. American Red Cross First Aid 4. ProCPR.org First Aid 5. School district may bring in an instructor and provide a group course 6. Contact MSHSAA to review another course for approval 	<p>www.nfhslearn.com www.heart.org Contact your local Red Cross www.procpr.org Local Ambulance District, Hospital, or Red Cross, etc. Contact MSHSAA Office</p>
CPR/AED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. American Heart Association CPR/AED 2. American Red Cross CPR/AED 3. ProCPR.org CPR/AED 	<p>www.heart.org www.procpr.org</p>
Concussion in Sports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NFHS Concussions in Sports—What You Need To Know 2. District presentation by qualified individual in Sport Concussions 	<p>www.nfhslearn.com Brain Injury Association of MO www.biamo.org</p>