

The following information is a summary of the minimum requirements to be an approved coach for a MSHSAA member schools. The full By-Law is in Section 3 of the MSHSAA Handbook (55-56). Please refer to the full handbook ([HERE](#)) for further guidance as to being an approved coach.

Who is a coach?

- Any individual providing sport-specific instruction or coaching during practice or a competition.
- Practice includes on-court/field, “chalk-talks”, video sessions, etc.

Does an individual have to be a faculty member to be a coach?

- A coach may be a member of the faculty or a non-faculty individual.
- The school must employ all individuals who are coaching.

Does a volunteer or part-time coach have to be listed?

- Yes, anyone providing sport-specific instruction must be listed on the coaching roster and be approved.
- A coach may be paid or unpaid, if they are providing sport specific instruction they are a coach.

### **All Coaches**

- Background Check including Sex-Offender’s Registry Clearance prior to coaching.
- Board of Education or Board of Governance Approval prior to coaching.
- Successful completion of a Concussion in Sports Course, and review of current concussion information yearly.
- Successful completion of the MSHSAA Sport-Specific Online Rules Review each season.

### **Head Coach – Minimum Requirements:**

- 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.
- 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.
- Successful completion of a Sports First Aid course prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)
- Successful completion of CPR/AED training prior to coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)

### **Assistant Coach – Minimum Requirements:**

- Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching.
- 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.
- 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)
- Successful completion of CPR/AED training prior to second year of coaching and renewed every two years. (See options in Diagram 3.1)

**Student Teacher – Minimum Requirements:**

- Serving in an approved teacher preparation program through a college or university.
- Teaching at a school.
- Completion of 60 or more college credit hours prior to coaching.
- Assistant Coach ONLY.