

Q: Who are the contacts to provide CPR?
A: Local health personnel, school nurses, local Fire Department, NH Heart Association, American Red Cross.

Q: What is the certification time for CPR?
A: The certification is valid for two years through the American Heart program and 1 year through the American Red Cross program.

Q: Are coaches that are eligible in other states automatically eligible in our state?
A: No, the qualifications would have to be reviewed first to ensure they meet the requirements in our state.

Q: Are certified teachers automatically eligible?
A: They must meet the eligibility requirements listed in the by-law.

Q: What is the best estimate of the cost to a school to implement this program?
A: It could cost \$100.00 per coach depending on the resources available in the community.

Q: Will coaches at any level be grandfathered?
A: No.

Q: How will coaches have access to rules review meetings?
A: Coaches may attend meetings sponsored by the various Coaches Associations, meetings scheduled by the various sports officials organizations, or invite officials to the school to sponsor a rules review (only in certain sports). Recommended yearly. Returning coaches will also have access to an online rules review.

NHIAA Coaches Education Committee:

Jason Strniste, Bishop Guertin, Chair

Mike Atkins, Keene

Erin Boucher, Derryfield

Kenny Edwards, Merrimack Valley

Craig Kozens, Laconia

Tom Kozikowski, Portsmouth

Andy Lathrop, Oyster River

Dave Morissette, St. Thomas



Official Interpretation of By-Law Article I: Policy Section 32: Coaches Eligibility

2026-27

For:
Principals, Athletic Directors,
Coaches, Officials & Parents

BY-LAW ARTICLE I: POLICY

SECTION 32:

COACHES ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to coach in a NHIAA member school the person must have (or be in the presence of someone with*) (CM 5.2016):

Required Courses (Completed/Current Certification):

- A. First Aid.
- B. *CPR with AED.
- C. Coaching Principles Course
- D. NFHS Concussion Course (free of charge).
 - This course **MUST** be taken prior to any coaching and kept on file; updated certification every two years.
- E. NFHS Heat Illness Course (free of charge).
 - This course **MUST** be taken prior to any coaching and is a one and done course.
- F. Rules Review – Yearly
 - All first-year head varsity coaches must attend a rules review (live/zoom) within one year of hire, hosted by the sport official's association.
 - All head varsity coaches in their second year or beyond are required to complete a yearly on-line rules update or attend a rules review given by their sports specific rules organization. (CM11.21)
 - Gymnastics first-year coaches are required to attend a live rules review **PRIOR** to coaching.
- G. USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management Course OR NFHS Cheer and Dance Safety (same course) In order for a spirit team to perform any stunting/aerial tumbling, they must be supervised by a coach who has completed/current certifications. In the absence of someone who is certified, the spirit team must be ground bound. (CM 11.2017)

Highly Recommended Courses:

- A. Student Mental Health Suicide Prevention, one and done
- B. Coaching Mental Wellness, one and done
- C. Courses that Pertain Specifically to their sport

NOTE:

- *B: Requires that someone certified be on the field/court until the coach completes the requirements.
 - New coaches have one (1) year from date of hire to complete the required courses (A; C and G). All other items above are required prior to coaching.
 - All the above is recommended for volunteer coaches.
 - Coaches hired after June 2004 who became eligible through the sport specific clinic/workshop will be required to take the NFHS Coaching Principles course or comparable program approved by the Coaches Education Committee.
 - It is recommended coaches continue their professional development through additional education clinics and opportunities listed on the NHIAA website.
 - List of approved courses can be found on NHIAA Website
 - The NFHS offers additional certifications, including Accredited Interscholastic Coach and Certified Interscholastic Coach. Go to NFHSLearn.com for more information. (CM 5.2018)
 - The NHIAA is authorized by the Coaches Education Committee to evaluate the professional credentials of trained medical personnel on an individual basis. (CM 11.2018)
 - The NHIAA is authorized by the Coaching Education Committee to **grant a one (1) time waiver** to approve alternative college/university courses upon review of the syllabus that meet the competencies of NHIAA required courses on the approved list. (CM 11.2023)
- H. Enrollment of Coaches - All coaches who coach NHIAA contests at all levels must be enrolled with the NHIAA. There is a \$25.00 annual enrollment fee.

Questions & Answers

- Q: What is the rationale for the by-law?
- A: This will increase education and awareness for the coaches and will provide a foundation for those who do not have a lot of training in the area. It will create a safer environment for the students and coaches. The quality of sport education will improve for the students.
- Q: What is the penalty if a coach is not eligible yet coaches in a game/match/event/meet, etc.
- A: All the games will be forfeited in the same mode as using an ineligible contestant. By-Law Article II, Eligibility; Sect. 20.
- Q: Will coaches at all levels be required to go through the training in order to be eligible?
- A: Yes at the sub-varsity and varsity levels.
- Q: What is the policy regarding volunteer coaches?
- A: A volunteer coach is anyone who is consistently under the direct supervision of the varsity or other sub-varsity coach and is never left alone with the student athletes. Volunteers are highly encouraged to go through the training.
- Q: What is the timeline for the training after a new coach is hired?
- A: One year from date of hire.
- Q: What will be the role of the NHIAA in this process?
- A: The NHIAA will supply updated resource guides, supply information on the website of available clinics, and will have a subcommittee to review curriculums of other courses to determine equivalency.