

COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Why Coaches Education?

Interscholastic athletic programs in South Dakota are an extension of the classroom. Athletics have been valued in our society for teaching traditional American values such as competition (achievement, motivation), sportsmanship (ethical behavior), leadership and building character. Competition is highly valued because through competitive experiences in sports, young people can develop ethical behavior. They can learn a basic code of sportsmanship that transfers to a moral code for living. In competitive sports, where winning is a valued prize, opportunities for making moral decisions reflecting fairness, integrity and sense of ethics often occur.

The development of young people with quality leadership skills has always been an important goal of sports. Young people must understand that every member, regardless of skill or talent, has a role to play in a successful team effort. No one wins or loses alone. It takes skilled coaches to counteract a message popularized by the media that it is the “star” that makes a team successful.

At the heart of the high school sports experience is the quality of coaching provided to student athletes. A key element of having high quality coaching is ensuring that coaches have proper and ongoing training.

Young people will experience the positive outcomes of athletic participation only if they have a qualified coach. A well-qualified coach knows how to plan dynamic practice sessions, teaches sound fundamentals with good learning progressions and plans training programs appropriate for the sport. Successful coaches communicate with their athletes effectively and understand the kind of positive motivational approaches that result in achievement. Athletes who receive good coaching will also be injured less frequently. As a consequence, they will have more opportunities to experience the excitement and receive the positive values of athletic competition, while performing at their best possible level.

SDHSAA Coaches Education Program

The table below shows the SDHSAA coaches education requirements for all high school coaches as required by the Activities Association and/or Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD). The changes to the 2017 Certification Rules now require NFHS courses to be completed prior to issuance of the permit.

ARSD 24:28:09:18. Athletic coaching permit eligibility requirements. An athletic coaching permit is issued to an applicant who:

1. Completes state-designated coursework through a regionally-accredited institution of higher education for the areas of care and prevention of athletic injuries and coaching methodology or theory; and
2. Submits documentation of completion of first aid, health, and safety for coaches; fundamentals of coaching; and concussion in sports courses within the three years prior to application for the permit.

The only exception to these rules is as follows: Individuals who graduate from an accredited education program and obtain a teaching certificate from the South Dakota Department of Education which includes a Coaching Endorsement pursuant to SDCL 24:15:06:32 will have a five-year grace period to complete the requirement of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. This course must be completed prior to beginning coaching duties within five calendar years from the date of graduation.

To register for the online courses, please go to the <https://nfhslearn.com>. Course registration and payment of fees will be completed online and made payable to the NFHS. Course materials will be received from the National Federation.

Each School District's Athletic Director and Superintendent must sign and return the Coaches Education Program Verification Form each season. The Verification forms need to be sent to Nicki Axtell at nicki.axtell@sdhsaa.com certifying that their Fall/Winter/Spring coaches have fulfilled all of their SDHSAA Coaches Education requirements for the current season no later than:

Fall

Soccer/Girls Tennis/Cheer & Dance	August 5
Football 9/11B	August 8
Golf/ Football 11AAA/AA/A	August 12
Cross Country/Volleyball	August 15

Winter

Gymnastics	November 4
Wrestling	November 18
Girls Basketball	November 25
Boys Basketball	December 2

Spring

Track & Field	March 3
Boys Tennis	March 17
Softball	March 17
Golf	March 31

Failure to return season form or having coach(s) not comply with completing required courses, the school will be fined \$500. Coach(s) in violation are unable to coach until all courses are completed and verified at the SDHSAA Office. Late coursework must be completed no later than two weeks prior to the start of postseason competition to be eligible for postseason play. Coach(s) hired after the due date must complete all coursework prior to beginning their coaching duties and have it verified by the SDHSAA office.

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Required course work must be completed prior to the individual beginning their coaching responsibilities.

Fundamentals of Coaching -Completed once

Understanding Copyright – Completed once

Concussion in Sports – Must be renewed every year after June 1

Heat Illness Prevention - Must be renewed every year after June 1

First Aid, Health and Safety - must be renewed every 2 years (licensed healthcare providers are exempt from the SDHSAA coaches education requirement of taking the NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety course biannually)

The Collapsed Student courses - must be renewed every 2 years

Cheer and Dance course - must be completed only once per SDHSAA requirement, must be renewed every 4 years for continued liability insurance coverage

Continuing Education

All Coaches Education courses have been approved by the South Dakota Department of Education for application toward Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH) for certificated teachers. Please visit the [Department of Education](#) for more information, as well as access to the appropriate paperwork.

Graduate Credit

Through a partnership with the University of Sioux Falls (USF) and the SDHSAA, any individual who completes the NFHSLearn.com "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, and Safety" courses is now eligible to earn one semester hour of graduate credit through USF in addition to meeting the SDHSAA/DOE guidelines for coaching requirements.

By registering with USF through their workshop/outreach program, this one semester hour of graduate credit can be obtained for a fee of \$45.00 payable to USF. This fee is paid directly to USF and covers their expense; no financial gain is realized by any other organization, including the SDHSAA or NFHS. For more information or to register for the graduate credit, please visit <https://reach.usiouxfalls.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=section&OfferingID=1012&SectionID=1890>.

The University of Sioux Falls and the SDHSAA have extended their partnership to allow for any coach or educator to work on additional graduate credit offerings through the courses listed on NFHSLearn.com. This credit is above and beyond the opportunity for a graduate credit earned for the completion of “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, and Safety” courses that is still being offered.

Individuals now have the opportunity to earn one semester hour of graduate credit through USF for the completion of ANY 15 clock-hours worth of course completions through NFHSLearn.com. This clock hour option simply allows students to complete further continuing education opportunities through NFHSLearn.com, including those that are free of charge, and earn graduate credit for doing so. A listing of clock hours by course offering can be found <https://reach.usiouxfalls.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=courseBrowse&TagID=95>.

For more information on how to register for the additional graduate credit option, please visit the USF website at <https://reach.usiouxfalls.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=courseBrowse&TagID=95>.

Required NFHSLearn.com Courses

Sport	Coach Position	<u>Fundamentals of Coaching</u> \$35 Completed once	<u>First Aid, Health, and Safety</u> \$35 Every 2 years	<u>Concussion in Sports</u> FREE Completed Annually after June 1	<u>Heat Illness Prevention</u> FREE Completed Annually after June 1	<u>The Collapsed Student</u> FREE Every 2 years	<u>Cheer and Dance Safety Certification</u> \$85 Every 4 year with liability insurance	<u>Understanding Copyright and Compliance</u> FREE Completed once
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR		No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
BASKETBALL	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
COMPETITIVE CHEER	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (if stunting)	Yes
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
COMPETITIVE DANCE	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
CROSS COUNTRY	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
FOOTBALL	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
GOLF	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	No	No
GYMNASTICS	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
SIDELINE CHEER	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	Yes (if stunting)	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	No	No
SOCCER	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
SOFTBALL	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
TENNIS	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Fall only)	Yes	No	No
TRACK & FIELD	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
VOLLEYBALL	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
WRESTLING	Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Assistant/Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No