



Oregon School Activities Association

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Excerpt 2022-2023 OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies

10. **CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES** <https://www.osaa.org/coaches/requirements> (Revised May 2022)

Athletic directors and coaches shall achieve certification in the following areas prior to assuming duties as an athletic director or coach. The high school principal shall be held accountable for verifying that athletic directors and coaches have been certified. **EXCEPTION:** Any emergency exception to an OSAA requirement must be authorized in writing by the OSAA.

- A. **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching.** The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. This is a one-time requirement.
 - B. **Concussion Recognition and Management Training.** The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 336.485](#)) requires that athletic directors and coaches receive training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The NFHS's Concussion in Sports free course satisfies this requirement. This training is required annually.
 - C. **NFHS Heat Illness Prevention.** The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS's Heat Illness Prevention free course. This training is required once every four years.
 - D. **Anabolic Steroids and Performance-Enhancing Substances Training.** The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 342.726](#)) require that athletic directors and coaches receive training on identifying the components of anabolic steroid abuse and use and prevention strategies for the use of performance-enhancing substances. This training is required once every four years.
 - E. **OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Discriminatory Acts Training.** *The OSAA requires all athletic directors and coaches complete the OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Acts Training to be prepared to work collaboratively and act if discriminatory or harassing incident occurs during an interscholastic event. This is a one-time requirement.*
 - F. **Spirit Safety Clinic (Cheerleading and Dance/Drill Coaches Only).** The OSAA requires that any cheerleading or dance/drill coach receive spirit safety training by achieving a passing score on the test included with the OSAA's online Spirit Safety Clinic. This training is required annually.
 - G. **OSAA Football Certification.**
 - 1) **All Football Coaches.** The OSAA requires that any football coach complete the **OSAA Football Certification** prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually prior to the beginning of each Association year.
 - 2) **Player Safety Coaches.** Each member school sponsoring football is required to identify a Player Safety Coach. Each Player Safety Coach is required to attend an in-person clinic biennially prior to the start of the Association year that is conducted by a **OSAA Football Master Trainer** in preparation for implementing and overseeing the primary components of **OSAA Football** at their school.
 - 3) **OSAA Football Certification required courses:** <https://www.osaa.org/coaches/requirements>
 - a) **Concussion Recognition and Management Training (annually).**
 - b) **NFHS Heat Illness Prevention (annually).**
 - c) **NFHS Football Tackling Course (annually).**
 - d) **Sudden Cardiac Arrest (annually).**
1. **Q.** Does certification through the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) satisfy the requirement in Rule 1.4?
A. Yes, so long as the athletic director or coach was certified through ASEP prior to August 1, 2007. Thereafter, only the NFHS Coach Education Program "Fundamentals of Coaching" will satisfy this requirement unless an exception is granted in writing by the OSAA.

2. Q. When must a coach be certified?
A. All coaches must be certified prior to assuming coaching duties unless an emergency exception is authorized in writing by the OSAA. This includes cheerleading coaches, dance/drill coaches and choreographers at schools that do not participate in competitions.
3. Q. Is certification required of volunteer coaches?
A. Yes.
4. Q. Must a “guest” coach be certified?
A. No, but if the coach has contact with students more than three times in a sport season, the coach shall no longer be considered a “guest” and must be certified. A non-certified “guest” coach may not serve as a coach at a contest.
5. Q. May a school bring in alumni or other non-high school personnel to scrimmage with teams or individuals as “guest coaches” if those personnel are limited to student contact on no more than three occasions during the sport season?
A. No. The “guest coach” exception is intended to allow a limited number of visits by a guest instructor; it is NOT intended to allow coaches to bring in coaches or players to participate in drills or scrimmages against teams or individuals. Any attempt to circumvent the Participation Limitations by calling practice participants “guest coaches” would be a violation of OSAA rules.
6. Q. In individual sports, may a parent or non-certified coach accompany a participant to a contest as the school representative if that person is an authorized representative of the principal?
A. Yes, but the authorized representative may not coach the participant unless specific permission has been granted in writing by the Executive Director.
7. Q. Does the OSAA require high school coaches to have current first aid certification?
A. No. However, coaches should check with their athletic directors as most high schools have this as a requirement.
8. Q. What is required of a Player Safety Coach (PSC) during the year they attend an in-person PSC clinic in order to be **OSAA Football** certified?
A. Coaches attending an in-person PSC clinic are required to complete the following online courses in order to be **OSAA Football** certified **during the year they attend an in-person PSC clinic**: Concussion Recognition and Training; Heat Illness Prevention; **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**.
9. Q. What is required of every football coach, including previously certified PSC coaches, not attending an in-person PSC clinic in order to be **OSAA Football** certified?
A. Every football coach, including previously certified PSC coaches, not attending an in-person PSC clinic is required to complete the following online courses in order to be **OSAA Football** certified: Concussion Recognition and Training; Heat Illness Prevention; **NFHS Football Tackling Course**; Sudden Cardiac Arrest.