

## COACHES EDUCATION INFORMATION Requirements, Training, Accessibility

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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: Who is required to take the coaches education courses?** **A:** The *Coaching Fundamentals* and *First Aid for Coaches* courses are required for two categories of coaches. Successful completion of the AAA State Rules Test is also required. These individuals are:

1. Certified teachers who are employed by the school and assigned head or assistant coaching duties for a sport(s), if these individuals do not have coaching certification from the Arkansas Department of Education. However, *only individuals who are full time certified teachers with a coaching endorsement* are permitted to be a head or assistant coach in football, basketball and track. A coaching endorsement can only be issued by the ADE, not by the AAA.
2. Volunteers who agree to serve as a head or assistant interscholastic coach for an AAA member school as permitted must do so without any financial gain. The school must officially declare to the Arkansas Activities Association that the school will participate in the Registered Volunteers Program as authorized by state law. (Form is available on the AAA web site, Forms Download or Coaches Ed page.)

**When can this person begin coaching interscholastically?** The individual will be considered legal to coach interscholastically as defined above upon successful completion of both courses, *Coaching Fundamentals* and *First Aid for Coaches*, as well as the state rules test. A minimum score of 80% is passing for the state rules test. An interscholastic volunteer coach (Registered Volunteer) must also submit to the school a health certificate (tb skin test) and a criminal background check. Upon successful completion of all requirements the school should give the Registered Volunteer a letter of authorization to serve as a coach for the specified sport, **ONLY** for the current school year. Letters of authorization should be issued for only one school year at a time.

The school may authorize a volunteer to help in practice without the above credentials, but that individual may not perform ANY coaching duty during an interscholastic contest. The school must be willing to assume the liability for this individual.

**Q: Is this training open to others?** **A:** Yes, anyone may register for and attend the AAA's coaches ed training.

**How are the courses delivered?** **A:** Courses are available online. Go to [nfhslearn.com](http://nfhslearn.com) or to the AAA's web page and into the Coaches Education web page.

**Q: How much time is required for coaches education?** **A:** On the average, about 12 hours, but this can vary for different individuals. With online courses the user can complete the course at his/her own pace and may do so in any number of sessions needed. The state rules test based on the Arkansas Activities Association handbook. This packet must be ordered or obtained from the AAA office. A printable order form is listed on the AAA's coaches education web page.

**Q: Does a coach sign up for a course specific to the sport coached?** **A:** No, the courses are non-sport-specific and are applicable to all coaching situations, duties and responsibilities.

**Q: Since there are two separate courses, must they be taken at the same time?** **A:** It is possible to do so but it is not essential. Registration for the two courses is completed separately, so it would be possible to register for and complete just one at a time.

**Q: What is the cost for the coaches education courses?** **A:** The cost for the online courses is \$35 per course, including the test. The state rules test must be ordered separately at a cost of \$25.

**Q: Who is responsible for payment of course fees?** **A:** Online courses must be ordered with a credit card. Payment may come from the school, individual, booster club or other sources. The school may reimburse the individual for expenses incurred. There is no restriction as to the source of the course fees or cost of the state rules test. The AAA State Rules Test may be purchased at the AAA office or may be ordered with a check or credit card information. Credit card orders must be in writing with the required information and signature.