

JJIBA - Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches

The most essential factor in an educationally sound athletic program is a well-qualified coach. The coach is an important link between sports and the instructional program and the principles of Maine's system of Learning Results, between sports and character development, and between sports in school and long-term health and fitness. It is the intent of the Board that the school unit provides quality coaching in its athletic programs.

THE BOARD'S VIEW OF A WELL-QUALIFIED COACH

Coaching is a special kind of teaching. A coach not only teaches, refines and reinforces skills, but is also a role model for the student-athletes he/she coaches. Beyond knowledge of the rules and fundamentals of his/her sport, a well-qualified coach will have organizational, communication, motivational and, especially, teaching skills. A well-qualified coach appreciates the influence he/she has as a role model and mentor and conducts him/herself accordingly.

In addition to these fundamentals, a well-qualified coach:

1. Understands that, first and foremost, he/she is a teacher;
2. Is sensitive to the need of maturing adolescents and assists in their physical, intellectual, social and emotional development;
3. Recognizes that students are diverse in their characteristics and backgrounds including, age, maturity, gender, size and culture and adjusts his/her approach as appropriate;
4. Has a realistic sense of the level at which student athletes should be expected to perform;
5. Promotes sportsmanship, self-discipline and respect, both on and off the playing field;
6. Encourages high scholastic achievement;
7. Communicates in a positive manner rather than through intimidation;
8. Encourages competitive spirit, but not a "win at all costs" attitude;
9. Respects the integrity and judgment of officials;
10. Provides a fair opportunity for students to participate in competition;
11. Recognizes the difference between developmental sports programs and more intensive varsity-level sports;
12. Develops positive relationships with opposing coaches within the sport;

13. Demonstrates a mastery of and continuing interest in coaching principles and techniques through professional improvement;
14. Encourage respect for all athletic and extra-curricular programs and should understand that those who participate are RSU 1 athletes, not defined by a particular sport regardless of the season;
15. Encourages student athletes to explore various athletic activities, both interscholastic and intramural, rather than to specialize in a single sport at an early age;
16. Recognizes the need for balance in the lives of student athletes, including academic, family and social needs; and
17. Adheres to the same standards of conduct with respect to students as classroom teachers are expected to do.

COACHING JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Superintendent or Athletic Director will be responsible for developing job descriptions for coaches and others on the athletic staff (e.g., assistant coaches, trainers) that are consistent with the Board's view of coaching. Job descriptions will be approved by the Board.

HIRING AND ASSIGNMENT OF COACHES

It is the intent of RSU 1 to hire well-qualified coaches for all of its athletic programs. Because of the relationship between teaching and coaching, it will be the school unit's practice to secure coaches, to the extent practicable, from its teaching staff. If it is necessary to secure individuals from outside the teaching staff, the Superintendent or Athletic Director shall recommend only those persons deemed to have sufficient knowledge and experience to teach the fundamentals and rules of the sport, experience in working or volunteering with adolescents, and current training in sports first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

The Athletic Director will be responsible for setting up the interviews and making a hiring recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will nominate all stipended coaches as Schedule B nominations at a formal school board meeting.

All new coaches must successfully complete an on-line coaching course or its equivalent (ASEP) if they do not have a physical education degree or have taken equivalent course (Maine Coaching Eligibility Course) in college and an appropriate first aid and CPR/AED training within one year of being hired. Veteran returning coaches must maintain CPR and First Aid Certification in compliance with MPA guidelines. Also, all people hired as high school coaches in activities governed by the Maine Principals' Association must meet all coaches eligibility requirements by the MPA.

All persons hired as coaches for activities governed by the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) must agree to follow the MPA Code of Ethics, Board policies, school unit and Athletic Department administrative regulations.

Consistent with the Board's policies on hiring and nondiscrimination/equal opportunity/affirmative action, the Superintendent or Athletic Director will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures for recruiting, selecting, recommending and assigning coaches. No applicant will be hired as a coach or assistant coach without Maine Department of Education approval, including fingerprinting and criminal background check requirements.

Hiring of coaches shall be on an annual or seasonal basis, with no expectation of continued employment in a coaching position.

Coaches may be disciplined or terminated in accordance with Board policies or administrative regulations.

EVALUATION OF COACHES

In an effort to maintain a well-qualified coaching staff and the integrity of the school unit's athletic programming, coaches will be evaluated annually.

The Superintendent or Athletic Director will be responsible for developing and implementing a process for evaluation of coaches. It is expected that the process will include a self-appraisal component, and that the administrative and self-appraisals will include knowledge of sports, coaching skills and techniques, organizational skills, attitudes, communication skills, behavior and ethics. Each coach will submit a three-year plan for improving and developing all aspects of their program in concert with the Athletic Director who will approve the plan.

Cross Reference: JJI - Philosophy of Athletics

JJIB -- Sponsorship and Evaluation of Athletic Programs

JJIBB -- Sportsmanship

KJA -- Relations with Booster Organizations

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