



# IESA COACHING EDUCATION

2024-25

## IMPORTANT

- **All Coaches who work with your program must be qualified to coach prior to the start of the activity's season.**
- **Parents and others volunteering with a program must meet coaching certification standards.**
- **First and Third Base Coaches in baseball and softball must meet coaching certification standards.**
- **Throws Coaches and Pole Vault coaches who come help with your track team must meet coaching certification standards.**

## Coaching Education Requirements - By-Law 2.110

To serve as a Head or Assistant Coach, athletic coaches in member schools in the sports in which the school participates in the IESA state series must meet one of the following:

- a. Be regularly licensed by the ISBE as a teacher, administrator, or school service personnel (i.e. counselor, social worker, speech therapist, etc.) or
- b. Be a retired teacher/coach from an IESA or IHSA member school, or
- c. Be a college student coaching as part of an official student teaching assignment, or
- d. Be certified through an IESA approved coaches education program.

In addition to meeting one of the criteria above (a-d) a coach must also be

- a high school graduate or equivalent, and
- officially employed by the school board of the member school

- A person with a substitute only license must complete one of the approved coaching education courses in order to serve as a coach.
- Teaching Assistant/Paraprofessional must complete one of the approved coaching education courses in order to serve as a coach.
- Coaches in the activities of bowling, cheer, and golf must meet the qualifications of athletic coach criteria.
- HS students may be assigned to assist with coaching of athletic teams in a member school provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provisions of IESA By-Law 2.110.

## Approved Coaching Education Courses

ASEP has a new name: Human Kinetics but it's the same course. The following courses are approved by the Board of Directors for IESA middle school coaches:

### IESA/Human Kinetics Coaching Essentials

Cost: \$19.95 Completed Online (avg. 2-3 hours)  
2 Tests: Course Test and IESA By-Laws  
CPDU: 2 units (for course info click the link)  
Website: <https://coacheducation.humankinetics.com/>

### IHSA/NFHS Coaching Education Fundamentals of Coaching

Cost: \$69  
Completed Online  
IHSA By-Laws  
(for course info click the link)  
Website: [Fundamentals of Coaching Course \(nfhslearn.com\)](https://nfhslearn.com)

IHSA/Human Kinetics have two courses available and approved.

**Coaching Principles or Coaching Orientation.** (for course info click the link)

Website: <https://coacheducation.humankinetics.com/collections/illinois-elementary-school-association>.

For more information about these courses and their costs please contact Human Kinetics. 800-747-5698 ext. 2980 or visit their website.

## Coaching Education Penalty

By-law 2.110

Any coach who does not meet the IESA coaching qualifications will be suspended for a minimum of two games and will not be permitted to coach again until he/she has completed an approved IESA coaching education course. This includes practices as well as contests.

Additional sanctions may be applied by the IESA Board of Directors to schools with multiple coaching education violations.

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***My responsibility is leadership, and the minute I get negative, that is going to have an influence on my team." - Don Shula***



***“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”***  
-Vince Lombardi

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### GENERAL

Q. How often does a coach have to take the approved coaches education course?

A. Once.

Q. All of my coaches, including my cheer coach, are certified teachers. Can we require that they complete the coaching education course?

A. Yes. This would be a local policy requiring such completion.

Q. What activities require coaching education?

A. Golf, Softball, Baseball, Cross Country, Girls and Boys Basketball, Cheer, Volleyball, Wrestling, Bowling, as well as Track and Field.

Q. May a person with a substitute only license coach?

A. No, unless they complete an approved coaching education course.

Q. Does my paraprofessional/teaching assistant have to complete a coaching education course to be eligible to participate?

A. Yes.

### STUDENT TEACHERS

Q. May a student teacher assist with the coaching of an athletic team?

A. Yes, provided it is part of the student teaching experience.

Q. May student teachers continue coaching their student teaching assignments after the regular student teaching period ends?

A. Yes, provided their college or university authorizes the continuation.

### VOLUNTEER COACHES

Q. May a person volunteer to coach without pay at a member school?

A. Yes. However, whether a person is paid to coach or is a non-paid volunteer, the person must meet the qualification requirements of By-Law 2.110 and its sub-sections.

### RETIRED TEACHERS

Q. Does the provision for coaching by retired teachers refer only to persons immediately retired from teaching, or to retired teachers regardless of the date of their retirement?

A. The by-law simply states “...a retired teacher from a member school.” This statement is interpreted literally. It permits a school to utilize any retired teacher from a member school as a coach, without needing approval of the person as a non-faculty coach.

### MINIMUM AGE OF NON-FACULTY COACHES

Q. Is there an age minimum for non-faculty and/or non-certified personnel who can serve as a head coach?

A. The Board of Directors interprets the provisions of this By-Law to require non-faculty and/or non-certified head coaches to be a high school graduate or equivalent.

### COACHING CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED

Q. Are there any IESA activities where the coach of a given activity would not be required to take a coach's certification test?

A. Yes. Coaches/instructors for music, speech, scholastic bowl, and chess are not required to have coaching certification.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS COACHES

Q. I have a high school student assisting our wrestling squad. My head coach was ejected from the contest. May the high school student take over as the head coach for the remainder of the match?

A. No. You would have to forfeit the remaining matches of the meet unless there is an individual who meets the coaching education requirement in attendance who can assume the duties of the head coach.

Q. May the high school student we have assisting my volleyball coach be the only coach in the gym when my head coach had to miss practice?

A. No. The high school student who is assisting shall never assume coaching duties unless he/she is under the direct supervision of a coach qualified under the provisions of 2.110.

Q. May we use high school students to demonstrate skills at practice?

A. Yes, provided they are only demonstrating skills and not practicing against or with the middle school athletes.

***“Dictators lead through fear; good coaches do not.” - John Wooden***