

WHAT IS A “CREDENTIALLED COACH”?

In the MPSSAA Bylaws, under the requirements for “MPSSAA Coaching Eligibility”, provisions are made for those instances where no acceptable and qualified coaches are available from the teachers or certifiable professional educators employed by the local board of education, for temporary “Emergency” Coaches to be employed by following the prescribed procedures.

Since July 1, 2010, an Emergency Coach is required to possess an MPSSAA/MSDE coach certification prior to the start of his or her fourth year as an Emergency Coach. Credentialed coaches should not only retain all proof of course completions and certification for their own recordkeeping but should also provide copies to the Athletic Director at the school of hire.

The requirements for an Emergency Coach to attain Credentialed Coach status are as follows:

- ❖ The individual may NOT have been convicted of, pleaded guilty or nolo contendere with respect to, or received probation before judgment with respect to, a crime against children or a crime of violence.
- ❖ The individual MUST complete the National Federation of State High School Association’s (NFHS) “Level I Coaching Certification” or an MSDE-approved inservice coaching education program (Consult with your local school system to see if they offer an inservice program for coaches.).
 - The NFHS Level I Coaching Certification is obtained by receiving credit for completing three online courses at www.nfhslearn.com:
 1. NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching.
 2. NFHS First Aid for Coaching (or a school system-approved Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries course completed within the past 3 years. NOTE: Taking the NFHS First Aid course does NOT replace the State requirement for a one-credit course in the Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries.).
 3. Fundamentals of Coaching Sport-specific course (In the event that a course for coaching your particular sport is not yet available, the Teaching Sports Skills course may be substituted.).
- ❖ The individual MUST have completed two years of successful coaching as an Emergency Coach.
- ❖ The individual MUST have spent the previous year as a successful Emergency Coach at the school of hire, in the position of hire.