



General Coaching Requirements, Questions and Information
July 17, 2017

1) WHO MUST BE CERTIFIED TO COACH IN IHSA ATHLETIC PROGRAMS? EVERYONE!

EVERY PERSON WORKING WITH MEMBER IHSA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/ATHLETES MUST BE CERTIFIED. THIS INCLUDES NON-PAID VOLUNTEERS, PART TIME, ETC.

IHSA Board Policy 9

Under the provisions of IHSA By-law 2.070, schools using non-faculty coaches must adhere to the following:

- a. **Persons who are certified teachers** but who are not members of the faculty at a school where they will coach (head or assistant) must place a copy of their current valid Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) on file in the school office.
- b. **Retired persons who were certified to teach and were teaching in Illinois at the time of retirement** may continue to coach at any member school. They must place a copy of their PEL on file within the school office.
- c. **Persons who are not certified teachers**, but are at least nineteen (19) years old, may be **head or assistant coaches**, provided they successfully complete a coaching education course approved by the IHSA Board of Directors (see list below).
- d. **Persons who are not certified teachers**, but are at least nineteen (19) years old, may also qualify to be an **assistant coach**, provided they have completed a bachelor's degree and obtain an Illinois Substitute Teaching License through their local R.O.E. (FYI: This costs more than the IHSA Coaching Orientation package through Human Kinetics Coach Education).
- e. **Persons who stop teaching and do not possess a valid/current Illinois PEL, are not eligible to coach in Illinois without coaching certification.**

NOTE: Listed above are the minimum requirements mandated by IHSA. Any member school may require additional endorsements (i.e. CPR/AED certification).

2) What is the most common method of certification for those not already certified to teach in Illinois?

The most frequently used coaching certification course in Illinois is known as Human Kinetics Coach Education (Formally known as the American Sport Education Program; ASEP). **All the following requirements must be completed and notification of passing grades received before a coach can have coaching interaction with any high school individual participant or team.** To view a list of IHSA approved Human Kinetics Coach Education certification options click on the following link: http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/IHSA.cfm

- **If you prefer to take Coaching Principles and/or Sport First Aid as a classroom course**, you need to register for the class through a Human Kinetics Coach Education certified instructor in your area. Go to www.HumanKineticsCoachEducationCenter.com for a complete list of classroom sites in Illinois. These clinics are taught through a network of Human Kinetics Coach Education certified instructors in Illinois. If you enroll in a classroom course, you will receive the course materials from your instructor on site the day of the clinic. You cannot register for a classroom course through the Human Kinetics Coach Education Center website; all registrations for classroom courses are through the instructor.
- You will need the IHSA Handbook with Illustrations as a tool to complete the IHSA By-Law Exam. You can find it on the IHSA website (<http://www.ihsa.org/AbouttheIHSA/ConstitutionBylawsPolicies.aspx>); Purchase it from the IHSA office; or check with your school to borrow a copy while testing.

3) Additional coaches' certification options approved by the IHSA:

NFHS Certification: You must add to your cart from the NFHS.org Website both of the following: Fundamentals of Coaching (\$69.00) and First Aid for Coaches (\$65.00) = \$134.00 total.

Directions to purchase online courses:

1. www.nfhslearn.com
2. You must register

Following are the coaching education programs currently approved by the IHSA Board of Directors:

- Human Kinetics Coach Education (Formally ASEP)
Champaign, IL 61825-5076
- HPR207, "The Coach in Organized Sports and Athletics" offered by Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761
- Department of Kinesiology Coaching Endorsement in the Undergraduate Studies Program
University of Illinois, Champaign
- Coaching Minor offered by Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL
- Coaching Minor offered by Olivet Nazarene University
Kankakee, IL
- Program for Athletic Coaches' Education (PACE) offered by Michigan State University
Institute for the Study of Youth Sports
East Lansing, MI 48824
- Coaching Minor Offered by Southern Illinois University
Department of Physical Education
Carbondale, IL 62901
- Coaching Education Program offered by Ashford University
Clinton, IA
- Coaching Minor Offered by Quincy University
Quincy, IL 62301
- Coaching Certification Program offered by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Kenosha, WI 53141-2000
- Iowa Coaches Authorization
Board of Educational Examiners
Licensure Bureau
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
- Coaching Minor offered by Blackburn College
Carlinville, IL 62626
- Coaching Minor offered by Loras College
Dubuque, IA 52003

4) What is the age requirement for a Head, Asst. or Volunteer coach?

Nineteen (19) years of age. All coaches must meet the 19-year age requirement whether the coaching position is paid or voluntary.

- **Can a person take the exams before turning 19?**
Yes, but they cannot coach until they reach their 19th birthday.

5) How does a school hiring a coach know if the coach has met the coaching requirement?

Human Kinetics Coach Education

https://www.asep.com/registry_coaches/coaches.cfm?&CFID=289100&CFTOKEN=75601664

NFHS: School representatives can check NFHS certification dates and exam scores (pass/fail) by going to the following web site. <http://www.nfhslearn.com/CoachSearch.aspx>. For this service to work correctly, the representative will need the correct city, name and spelling used by the coach during certification application.

6) Are you eligible to coach immediately after testing?

No, not until you are notified of a passing grade. When testing online your score will be given upon completion of the exam.

7) If you've passed the Human Kinetics Coach Education or NFHS courses and have coached, but took time off, do you need to retake the courses and re-certify?

No, currently, once you have passed the courses you do not have to take them again.

8) Is a cheerleading coach required to take acquire certification?

- If a school is competing in competitive cheerleading, the coach must become certified in order to meet the by-law requirement.

- If a school has sideline cheerleaders **only**, the coach does not have to acquire certification. In this case, sideline cheerleading is classified as an activity. Activity sponsors or coaches are not currently required to acquire coaching certification.

9) How do I obtain a copy of my Human Kinetics Coach Education or NFHS Certificate?

To obtain a copy or replacement certificate, you can download it from the Human Kinetics Coach Education Center or NFHS websites or contact the Human Kinetics Coach Education office @ (800) 747-5698 Ext. 2222 or the NFHS Office at (317) 972-6900.

Classroom Course Information

10) Where can I find a complete list of Human Kinetics Coach Education classroom courses?

<http://www.asep.com/courseInfo/findCal.cfm>

11) How much does the Human Kinetics Coach Education classroom course cost?

The IHSA Coaching Education Classroom course package runs \$100 (plus instructor fee of approximately \$10.00 to \$20.00). The person taking the course should contact the instructor for the classroom course they will be attending for complete details. The instructor name and phone number is listed on the list of classroom courses on the Human Kinetics Coach Education Center website. **Courses are taught in 1 day and then the coach completes the necessary home study prior to testing.**

12) What is the time requirement to complete the Human Kinetics Coach Education classroom course?

One (1) year from the day the course is started. However, remember that **no one may begin to coach** until they have completed all IHSA coach's certification requirements.

13) Can I attend a classroom course and still take my exams online?

Yes. All exams are taken online (special provisions may be granted by the classroom instructor to take the exam on paper). Materials distributed by the instructor conducting the classroom course will contain a **key code number** to allow you to go online to complete your exams online. All exams must be completed in the same format (either paper pencil or on-line).

14) Does NFHS offer a classroom course?

The NFHS courses are only available online and are not offered in a classroom setting.

Online Course Information

15) Where can I find the information regarding the Human Kinetics Coach Education online courses?

http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/IHSA.cfm or you can access it by going to ihsa.org; click on **IHSA Coaching Certification Requirements**).

16) How much does the Human Kinetics Coach Education or NFHS online course cost?

See FAQ number 2 at the top of this page. The least expensive programs are either the IHSA Coaching Orientation Online Package priced at \$110.00 or the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Package priced at \$134.00.

17) What is the time requirement to complete the online exams?

One (1) year from the day the course is started. However, remember that **no one may begin to coach** until they have completed all IHSA coach certification requirements.

18) Once I complete my tests online, how long does it take to get the results?

You will be notified of your test results immediately.

19) Retesting? If I fail an online exam(s), can I retest?

Yes, you can (must) take any failed exam again if you wish to become IHSA certified. The charge to retake a Human Kinetics Coach Education online exam is \$10.00.

Steps to retest online - After viewing the results of your online examination and verifying that it will be necessary to retest, follow these steps:

- Return to the Human Kinetics Coach Education Center homepage and select the "Courses" to take a retest.
- From here follow the instructions provided on your computer screen.

Special Circumstance Information

20) Does a coach have to obtain the Human Kinetics Coach Education, NFHS coaches certification, or other IHSA approved coaching certification programs if he/she has a current/valid Illinois Substitute Teaching License?
No, the Illinois Substitute Teaching License is acceptable for Head and Assistant coaches.

21) Does a valid Illinois Educator License with Stipulations meet the IHSA coaching certification criteria?
The Illinois Educator License with Stipulations (ELS) contains many possible endorsements, and the only ELS endorsements that will satisfy IHSA coaching certification criteria are those that require a bachelor's degree.

22) Out-of-State Teaching Certificates?

A person who has an out-of-state teaching certificate can apply for an Illinois Substitute Teaching License, but could only serve as an assistant coach. A person who has an out-of-state teaching certificate and would like to be a head coach should contact the Illinois State Board of Education to find out what is necessary to possess an active Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL). The web address for the Illinois State Board of Education is: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>. Another option would be to acquire IHSA coaching qualifications through Human Kinetics/ASEP, NFHS, or other IHSA approved programs listed in #3.

23) Waivers

Sports First Aid Waivers can be granted. Only **Licensed Doctors, Certified Athletic Trainers, Nurses or EMT's can be granted waivers through Human Kinetics Coach Education certification**. A written request and documentation must be sent via email (kgarber@ihsa.org) or fax (309-664-7479) to Kraig Garber at the IHSA for verification before the waiver is officially granted.

Note: Waivers for the First Aid for Coaches course through NFHS are not granted. Waivers are not granted to those individuals holding only a first aid certification from agencies such as The American Red Cross. While such certifications are valuable, they do not meet the standard of the more comprehensive Sport First Aid Course adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors.

24) Are student teachers allowed to coach during their student teaching experience?

*A college student that has been officially assigned to a member high school to participate in their Student Teaching Experience may serve as an assistant coach during that experience with no coaching certification required.

*If their Student Teaching Experience is completed prior to the completion of the sport season in which they are coaching, they may complete that sport season only.

*This provision does not apply to college students completing classroom observations. It only applies to the official student teaching experience.

*Student teachers can not be paid for their coaching experience unless they are certified per IHSA standards.

25) A school is looking to fill a Head Coaching position. The applicant has a Bachelors or a Masters Degree. The applicant has no Illinois PEL. Does the applicant need to complete the Coaches Certification Course?

Yes, the applicant must successfully complete the Human Kinetics Coach Education course since he/she does not have an Illinois Teaching Certificate and is applying for a coaching position.

26) Must a volunteer coach meet all IHSA coaching certification requirements?

Yes, all requirements must be met. It does not matter if the coach is paid or a volunteer.

Important Contacts

IHSA Contact Information:

Kraig Garber, Assistant Executive Director: kgarber@ihsa.org

1. Report coaching violations
2. IHSA By-Law Exam questions
3. Waivers for Sports First Aid Exam
4. Assistance with questions which may not have been covered in this document

Cheryl Lowery, Administrative Assistant: clowery@ihsa.org

1. Assistance with questions which may not have been covered in this document.
 - Website: www.ihsa.org
 - Phone: 309-663-6377
 - Fax: 309-663-7479

Human Kinetics Coach Education Contact Information:

The HCKE Office is responsible for distribution of all coaching certification materials (including certificates) for IHSA. Any questions pertaining to those issues should be directed to the HCKE Office.

HCKE Contacts

1. Coaching Principles/Sports First Aid Exam questions
2. Problems with Information posted on the HCKE Web Site
3. Problems with Ordering the Online HCKE Course

Customer Support, (800) 747-5698 or send an e-mail to Support@hkusa.com

Jerry Reeder, Assistant Director of Coach Education:

jerryr@hkusa.com

Responsibilities: As Assistant Director for Coach Education Jerry works with interscholastic associations and the National Federation of State High School Associations. He focuses on establishing and maintaining partnerships with organizations and associations to create and support sport education through HCKE courses and resources.

- **Website:** www.asep.com
- **Fax:** 217-351-2674

NFHS Contact Information:

The National Federation of State High School Associations provides a Help Desk for any inquiries regarding their Coaches Certification program. Please Contact the Help Desk for any further questions. The NFHS Help Desk phone number is: 317-565-2023.

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Email them at help@nfhslearn.com

The Help Desk is available at the following times: 10:00 a.m. to Midnight EST M-F and Noon to 8:00 p.m. EST Sat - Sun