

CIF COACHING EDUCATION FAQ

With the passing of the new Coaching Education and Steroid/Performance-Enhancing Supplements bylaws there have been many questions about what this means for schools and coaches in California. In May 2005, the State CIF Federated Council voted unanimously to join 33 other states in the mandated “certification” of coaches.

What is the purpose of the CIF Coaching Education Program?

The purpose of the CIF Coaching Education Program is to enhance the experience of student-athletes by assuring that their coaches meet a minimum level of professional training. The program provides strong, pragmatic and comprehensive instruction for coaches of interscholastic athletics in California that is consistent with the highest national standards as set by the legislature, state Department of Education, California Interscholastic Federation and National Federation of State High School Associations.

Who is required to pass the Coaching Education class?

The revised CIF Bylaw 22.B.(9) states: “Definition of a coach, paid or unpaid: Any individual that the school/district is required to approve under Title V, California Code of Regulations, Section 5593 and 5594 and/or under California Education Code 33190-33192, 45125.01 and 45125.1.” Simply stated, anyone who is required to be fingerprinted and/or is approved by their local school board/directors to have contact with students. This applies to all CIF member schools, public and private.

By what date must all coaches be certified?

No later than December 31, 2008, all coaches shall be certified in the CIF Coaching Education program or equivalent as stated in Bylaw 22.B.(9).

What Coaching Education Courses are accepted by CIF?

The NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” Course and the ASEP “Coaching Principles” course both meet California’s standards for Coaching Education. Coaches are to complete one of these programs before the December 31, 2008 deadline.

How do I get the coaches certified in my school/district?

#1. Coaches can go on their own to www.nfhslearn.com and take the “Fundamentals of Coaching” course online for \$52.

#2. Any representative from a school/district can also go to www.nfhslearn.com and purchase license #'s in bulk (\$52 each), for their coaches. The coaches then go online and complete the “Fundamentals of Coaching” course to become certified.

#3 The NFHS/CIF Fundamentals of Coaching Course can also be taught to your coaches in a classroom setting. Many schools/districts value the discussion component of the classroom course not available when taken online. If you are interested in teaching the blended NFHS/CIF Course, you must attend a CIF Coaching Education Instructor Training. Go back to the main Educational Programs page and find the Registration Form.

#4 A Certified Instructor in the ASEP program can still order CIF/ASEP Coaching Principles packets from the CIF State Office (Call Todd Flournoy @ 510-521-4447), but all purchases of CIF/NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching materials or online licenses will be made through the NFHS (www.nfhslearn.com)

We cannot always fill our coaching positions prior to the season. How do we get coaches certified when someone is hired at the last moment?

The CIF bylaw allows for this common situation. A school/district may hire a coach that is not certified, but only for one sports season. The coach must complete the certification before they can coach another season and/or a second sport. The State law (SB39) allows for this one sports season exception.

In these tough financial times, how are we supposed to pay for this new mandate?

The Federated Council recognized that this could financially impact school's budgets. However, the overwhelming evidence is that the one-time expense is far outweighed by the return. Neighboring states Nevada and Oregon mandated coaching education several years ago and found that coaches paid the fee and the fear of coaches "quitting" did NOT materialize. In addition, the State CIF office negotiated a greatly reduced price for the class and materials.

If I completed and *passed* the former CIF/ASEP Coaching Education program, do I have to retake the class?

NO! If you completed the course and passed the test, you are certified for life and will be listed on the "Coaches Registry" database at www.asep.com or www.nfhslearn.com.

Who do I contact for information regarding the CIF Coaching Education Program?

Contact Todd Flournoy, CIF Asst. Director at the CIF State office (510) 521-4447 or tflournoy@cifstate.org