

14 LEGAL DUTIES OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES

DUTY TO PLAN

DUTY TO CONDITION PROPERLY

DUTY TO SUPERVISE

DUTY TO WARN

**DUTY TO ASSESS ATHLETE
READINESS TO PARTICIPATE**

**DUTY TO ENSURE ATHLETES
HAVE INJURY INSURANCE**

**DUTY TO MAINTAIN SAFE
PLAYING CONDITONS**

**DUTY TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY CARE**

**DUTY TO PROVIDE PROPER
EQUIPMENT**

**DUTY TO DEVELOP AN
EMERGENCY PLAN**

DUTY TO INSTRUCT PROPERLY

**DUTY TO PROVIDE PROPER
TRANSPORTATION**

DUTY TO MATCH ATHLETES

**DUTY TO SELECT, TRAIN, &
SUPERVISE COACHES**



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DUTY TO PLAN – The need to continually conduct focused analyses of potential hazards and to develop responsive strategies that prevent or reduce the potential for injury or loss.

DUTY TO SUPERVISE – A coach must be physically present, provide supervision and control of impulsive behavior, competent instruction, structured practices that are appropriate for the age and maturity of players.

DUTY TO ASSESS ATHLETES READINESS FOR PRACTICE AND COMPETITION – A progression of skill development and conditioning improvement should be apparent from practice plans. Athletes must also be medically screened in accordance with state association regulations before participating in practice or competition.

DUTY TO MAINTAIN SAFE PLAYING CONDITIONS – Coaches are considered trained professionals who possess a higher level of knowledge and skill that permits them to identify foreseeable causes of injury specific to a sport and inherent in defective equipment or hazardous environments.

DUTY TO PROVIDE PROPER EQUIPMENT – Coaches and athletic administrators must ensure athletes are properly equipped with equipment that is appropriate for the age and maturity of the athletes and that is clean, durable, and safe.

DUTY TO INSTRUCT PROPERLY – Athletic practices must be characterized by instruction that accounts for a logical sequence of fundamentals that consider the developmental level of the athlete and that lead to an enhanced progression of player knowledge, skill, and capability.

DUTY TO MATCH ATHLETES – Athletes should be matched with consideration for maturity skill, age, size, and speed.

DUTY TO CONDITION PROPERLY – Practices must account for a progression of cardiovascular and musculoskeletal conditioning regimens that prepare athletes sequentially for more challenging practices and competitive activities.

DUTY TO WARN – Coaches are required to warn parents and athletes of unsafe practices that are specific to a sport and the potential for injury or death.

DUTY TO ENSURE ATHLETES ARE COVERED BY INJURY INSURANCE – Athletics Administrators and coaches must screen athletes to ensure that family and/or school insurance provides a basic level of medical coverage.

DUTY TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE – Coaches are expected to be able to administer accepted, prioritized, standard first aid procedures in response to a range of traumatic injuries – especially those that are potentially life-threatening.

DUTY TO DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN – Athletic administrators and coaches must develop site-specific plans for managing uninjured team members while emergency care is being administered to an injured athlete.

DUTY TO PROVIDE PROPER TRANSPORTATION – In general, bonded, commercial carriers should be used for out of town transportation. Self or family transportation for local competition may be allowed if parents have adequate insurance coverage for team members other than their family members.

