Louisiana High School Activities Association Coaching Education Requirements

The coach of an athletic team shall be employed by the school’s school board and shall be assigned coaching duties by the board or the school principal. Full-time athletic directors not assigned teaching duties shall be eligible to coach at the school provided they have a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Department of Education.

INTERPRETATION: A full-time athletic director not assigned teaching duties shall be required to work at his/her school during its normal hours of operation as required of any other school administrator. The normal hours of operation shall be considered the time the school begins classes for the school day until the actual end of the school day for the majority of regularly enrolled students.

A school shall be limited to allowing one full-time athletic director for boys’ sports and one full-time athletic director for girls’ sports that may serve as a faculty coach.

All coaches shall meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Teach at least three classes a day. An individual who serves as a substitute teacher hired on a day-by-day basis shall not be allowed to serve as a faculty coach.
- A college or university teacher in a school system that also includes an LHSAA school(s) shall not serve as a faculty coach at any LHSAA school in that system unless he/she teaches at least three classes per day on an everyday basis at the college or university.
- A school system certified teacher’s aide shall be allowed to serve as an assistant faculty coach under the following conditions: the individual shall be required to work at an LHSAA school(s) the entire school day during the school’s normal hours of operation; the individual shall be required to successfully complete the requirements of the LHSAA’s Coaches Education and Certification Program.
- Be a full-time administrator.
- Be employed as a faculty member or administrator or a combination of these two responsibilities on a full-time basis by the school system and shall be required to work at his/her school(s) during the entire school day during the school’s normal hours of operation.

NOTE: Contact LHSAA for exceptions.

NON-FACULTY COACHES: A school shall allow non-faculty personnel to serve as the head coach in those sports as provided for in the following:

1. In Classes 5A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B, and C, a school shall be allowed to use non-faculty personnel as the head coach in the sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor/outdoor track and field, and wrestling.
2. In Class 4A, a school shall be allowed to use non-faculty personnel as the head coach in the sports of cross country, golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, tennis, and wrestling.
3. Non-faculty coaches must meet the provisions of the LHSAA Coaches Education and Certification Program to serve as a head coach in an allowable sport at any level.

In all classes, in all sports, a school shall allow non-faculty personnel to serve as an assistant coach as provided for in the following:

1. In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, softball, indoor/outdoor track and field, and volleyball, a school shall be limited to two non-faculty assistant coaches. With written
permission from the principal, non-faculty assistant coaches shall be allowed to serve as the head coach and faculty representative of a sub-varsity squad in these sports.

2. In the sports of cross country, golf, gymnastics, soccer, swimming, tennis, and wrestling, a school shall be allowed to use as many non-faculty assistant coaches as needed.

3. Non-faculty coaches must meet the provisions of the LHSAA Coaches Education and Certification Program to serve as an assistant coach in any sport at any level.

RETIRING COACHES: An individual retiring with at least 15 years of high school coaching experience or with a combination of at least 15 years of high school administration and coaching experience shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant at any level in any sport. An individual retiring with a combination of at least 15 years of high school and junior high school coaching experience shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant coach at any level in any sport provided he/she successfully completes the requirements of the LHSAA’s Coaches Education and Certification Program.

A school system certified teacher who retires with at least 15 years of junior high school coaching experience and who successfully completes the requirements of the LHSAA’s Coaches Education and Certification Program shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant coach at any level in any sport.

INTERPRETATION: Retiring means void of any educational responsibilities at any grade level (K-12). Resigning and/or retiring coaching duties only does not meet this criteria.

No other person except those in the exceptions previously noted may work with a school athletic team at any other time during a practice or games in regular or off-season. This rule does not apply during the summer months, prior to a sports season, when school is not in session.

Establishing agency: Louisiana High School Athletic Association
Governing agency: Same

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