

COACHING ATHLETICS

It is the policy of the Lyon County School District (LCSD) Board of Trustees that students participating in athletics are safe and supervised at all times. The Trustees expect the standards of the persons selected to coach student athletics be commensurate with those expected in the school's/District's classrooms. No child shall be put at undue risk while participating in athletic/sporting events, nor in preparation of these events. This policy applies to LCSD and Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) sanctioned athletics and other competitive events. The LCSD takes no position on, nor does it attempt to govern, a student who chooses to participate in non-LCSD or NIAA sanctioned athletics and other competitive events, so far as such participation is in compliance with NAC 385B.376.

School/District and NIAA sponsored athletics are learning opportunities for students as an extension of the traditional classroom. These opportunities allow students to experience life lessons in a safe and structured learning environment. Because it is an extension of the classroom, all rules, policies, and laws governing the classroom/school are applicable to athletics.

Coaches may set reasonable expectations and rules for participating on their respective athletic team, so far as they are consistent with this policy and NIAA regulations. Coaches are expected to work cooperatively with each other to ensure that student athletes are able to participate in as many extra-/co-curricular opportunities as possible at the school.

Coaches are expected to adhere to the vision, mission, and values of the school/District and model their behavior accordingly. They are to maintain the highest standards and instruct their student athletes to do the same. This is especially true as it applies to the treatment of the opposing team and athletic officials. Coaches shall never use racially charged language, profanity, obscene/aggressive/threatening/degrading language and/or gestures, nor allow their student athletes to engage in such prohibited conduct or behavior.

Coaches will ensure that the bench area, locker room, bus, or any other part of the facility used for practice, competition, or travel is clean and orderly before departing from the event/activity. This is especially applicable when LCSD coaches and students are guests at a competitor's facility.

Coaches will always enforce the District's and NIAA's sportsmanship rules and strive to earn the highest sportsmanship recognition award provided by the NIAA, division, league, etc.

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Coaches receiving fouls, penalties, ejections, removals, or anything similar in a sport for unsportsmanlike behavior are subject to discipline at the discretion of school administration. This may include suspension, reduction in pay (fine) and/or termination. Coaches are responsible for reporting fouls, penalties, ejections, removals, or anything similar in a sport for unsportsmanlike behavior to their athletic director/administrator immediately, but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence. This reporting requirement includes coaches', student athletes', and parents'/guardians'/spectators' unsportsmanlike behaviors resulting in fouls, penalties, ejections, removals, or anything similar.

A verbal report will satisfy the time requirement, but a written report on the approved form will be submitted within 5 school/business days to the athletic director/administrator. The athletic director/administrator for each school will provide a report of these incidents to the office of the superintendent after each athletic season. An annual report will be submitted to the LCSD Board of Trustees each year during the regularly scheduled meeting in July.

The Trustees require that all persons selected for coaching positions comply with the highest standards set forth herein and by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) as outlined in NAC 385B.798 which states:

Required certification and courses

1. A person is not eligible to coach for a school unless he or she is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and completes the following courses, or the equivalent of those courses approved by the Executive Director, offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations or the American Sport Education Program:
 - a. Fundamentals of Coaching, offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations, or Coaching Principles, offered by the American Sport Education Program;
 - b. First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches, offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations, or Sport First Aid, offered by the American Sport Education Program; and
 - c. Concussion in Sports, offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
2. To maintain his or her eligibility to coach for a school, a person must complete the course specified in paragraph (c) above at least once every 3 years after the person begins his or her employment as a coach for a school.

All paid coaches (head and assistants) must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. All submissions for coaching positions shall be presented to the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees no later than two (2) calendar months previous to the commencement of the season for that particular sport. If practices would be expected to start prior to the season starting, the

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submission will be presented at least two (2) months prior to the beginning of practices for that sport. Submitted candidates are expected to be those chosen by the school administrator due to their superior qualifications, including their effectiveness in building positive relationships with students. In the event that a coaching position becomes unexpectedly vacant, school administration shall appoint an interim coach from the available applicants and/or current assistant coaches. Once a new coach is selected by school administration, the chosen applicant will be put before the board for approval.

In order to ensure that all students receive the attention in coaching that they deserve, no coach will be allowed to coach more than one sport at a time, nor will any individual be allowed to coach more than four sports in any calendar year, unless documented extenuating circumstances exist and approved by the Superintendent or designee.

All coaches will be evaluated by the principal or athletic administrator within two weeks of the conclusion of the respective sport's state tournament. This evaluation will include a survey of the student athletes who participated in the respective sport. Student athlete surveys may impact the overall evaluation of the coach. Survey results will be shared with coaches so they can reflect and improve.

If a LCSD permanent employee coach receives a "Highly Effective" or "Effective" evaluation for a given sport, a letter of intent to coach the following season will be issued, therefore not requiring the coach to reapply for the coaching position he/she currently holds. If a LCSD permanent employee coach resigns, is terminated, or receives an "Ineffective" evaluation for a given sport, they will not be eligible to apply for that particular coaching position for at least two years. The principal will advertise the position, conduct interviews, and submit the name of the best candidate to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Any non-LCSD permanent employee coach receiving a "Highly Effective" evaluation for a given sport will be issued a letter of intent to coach the following season, therefore not requiring the coach to reapply for the coaching position he/she currently holds. A non-LCSD permanent employee coach who receives an "Effective" evaluation will be required to re-interview for their respective coaching position. Any non-LCSD permanent employee coach who is terminated, resigns, or receives an "Ineffective" evaluation will not be eligible to apply for that particular coaching position for at least two years. The principal will advertise the position, conduct interviews, and submit the name of the best candidate to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The District prohibits an employee (coach), or any other individual involved as a volunteer or serving in a similar capacity, from engaging in a romantic relationship (e.g. dating, sexual, etc.) with any student enrolled in the District, regardless of age.

All of the expectations outlined above will be reviewed regularly to ensure they are properly maintained. This policy shall apply to coaching of athletics at all grade levels in the Lyon County School District.

Reference: NAC 385B

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