

9181 VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACHES

The Board of Education recognizes the services of volunteer athletic coaches who may bring unique skills to the district, enrich the athletic program, assist district's coaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board directs a program for the utilization of volunteer athletic coaches in grades nine through twelve.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteer athletic coaches and their assignment. The district is not obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer athletic coach whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of the school district as determined by the Superintendent. Coaching volunteers must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity and must be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education prior to assuming any coaching responsibilities.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall prepare and promulgate rules of conduct for volunteer athletic coaches. Volunteer coaches, whether or not staff members of the District, shall abide by the rules of conduct set forth in Policies 3211, 3214, 3230, 3281, 3282, and 3282.1, including all training requirements applicable to coaches. Volunteer coaches shall not engage in, nor tolerate in others, Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying as defined in Policy 5512. The aforementioned policies shall be incorporated herein by reference. Each volunteer athletic coach will be given a copy of this policy and the rules of conduct.

The following guidelines shall govern the service of a volunteer athletic coach:

1. Volunteer athletic coaches may serve only under the direction and immediate supervision of a head and/or assistant coach employed by the Board;
2. Volunteer athletic coaches may not directly supervise athletes in the absence of a head and/or assistant coach employed by the Board;
Volunteer athletic coaches must clearly understand their duties and responsibilities, including the duty to comply with all district rules, policies and regulations and the regulations of the NJSIAA, and perform no services outside those duties;
3. Volunteer athletic coaches serve only in a support capacity and only head or assistant coaches employed by the Board are responsible for the supervision and instruction provided to pupils participating in the athletic program;
4. Volunteer athletic coaches shall respect the individuality, dignity and worth of each pupil;
5. Volunteer athletic coaches are not permitted access to pupil records;
6. Volunteer athletic coaches who become aware of any confidential pupil matters as a result of their volunteer activities must exercise discretion in possessing and disclosing such information;

7. Volunteer athletic coaches must consult with the Superintendent or his/her designee regarding any matters or questions regarding their duties and responsibilities;
8. Volunteers shall receive no financial remuneration from any source for their coaching;
9. Volunteer athletic coaches may be immediately relieved of their volunteer responsibilities, with or without cause, by the Superintendent with such action to be recommended to the Board by the Superintendent at the next Board Meeting following relief of duties.

All school volunteers must have an approved New Jersey substitute teacher's certificate and a satisfactory criminal background check, including a fingerprint test at volunteer's expense. The Superintendent or his designee may require additional documentation, as they determine is appropriate.

Volunteer Athletic Coaches The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the number of volunteer coaches serving in the district and the duties performed by volunteer coaches.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1

Cross References: 2431, 9180

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