

# Requirements for Coaches Grades 7-12 in OSSAA Member Schools

**August 2016**

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the OSSAA Board of Directors authorized the implementation of the Coaches Education Program. All first year coaches, anyone in their first year in the coaching profession, and any coach considered to be adjunct/volunteer personnel will be required to complete course work to coach in grades 7-12 for any of the OSSAA member schools.

## OSSAA REQUIREMENTS

1. All first year coaches, anyone in their first year in the coaching profession, and any coach considered to be adjunct/volunteer personnel will be required to complete the NFHS *Fundamentals of Coaching* Course prior to their participation in any OSSAA regular season event. (This tuition course is available on-line at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)) Coaches of non-athletic activities are not required to take these courses. (Cheer coaches see note below.)
2. OSSAA Board Policy requires all coaches in member schools each year to view the NFHS video, *Concussion in Sports: What You Need to Know*. (This free course is available on-line at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com))
3. OSSAA Board Policy III requires all coaches and marching band directors to view *A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention* annually. (This free course is available on-line at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com))

In addition to the OSSAA policy requirements, the Oklahoma State Department of Education requires the following for coaches in the State of Oklahoma:

1. All adjunct/volunteer/certified coaches must be approved/hired by the Local School Board or school governing body.
2. All coaches are required to have taken a course in the care/treatment/prevention of athletic injuries. (Contact April Barr at the Oklahoma SDE Accreditation/Standards at 405-521-3311 in regard to questions on coursework and certification.)
3. All coaches are required to annually view information in regard to sudden cardiac awareness. (A free course to meet this requirement is available on-line at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com))

**Cheerleading Coaches Note:** Cheer coaches of teams participating in the OSSAA Cheer Competition and cheer squads that plan to stunt in sideline cheer for their respective schools will be required to complete the AACCA Safety Course rather than the *Fundamentals of Coaching Course*. (This tuition course is available on-line at [www.aacca.org](http://www.aacca.org))