



for Athletic Directors and Coaches



Important Safety Rules for Coaches

Situations that can land a school in court – such as these listed here – can easily be avoided.

Don't:

- Give your office keys to students
- Permit horseplay, messing around, or whatever you choose to call it.
- Talk on the phone while class begins
- Use mats that have “bottomed out”
- Leave balls on the gym floor or field
- Allow students to participate without the proper attire
- Let other teachers use the gym without establishing guidelines
- Use careless demonstration techniques
- Use inferior or damaged equipment
- Use an unknown facility or field without making a prior evaluation

Do:

- Lock all activity room doors when leaving so students cannot enter and use the facility without supervision
- Supervise locker rooms
- Establish specific rules of safety
- Emphasize the experience of the game over the outcome
- Properly prepare students physically
- Follow the prescribed curriculum
- Require medical examinations
- Prepare students for each specific activity
- Warn people about the potential danger of each activity
- Post appropriate safety signs
- Correct unsafe conditions immediately
- Review emergency safety plans
- Continually update the safety checklist
- Use enough, appropriately sized mats
- Give special attention to the atypical child
- Check equipment, fields and facilities regularly
- Maintain records
- Give appropriate instruction before permitting students to use equipment
- Plan and make arrangements for crowd control at games

Safety is an ongoing, continuous process.

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