Important Safety Rules for Coaches

Situations that can land a school in court – such 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.