



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COACHES' EDUCATION PROGRAM

MHSA Rules and Regulations, Section (8) of the current *MHSA Handbook* reads, "All member school athletic coaches are required to complete the NFHS online coaching program. The purpose of the requirement is to improve the quality of coaching in the state, to foster positive youth development, as well as to enhance the health, safety and welfare of all students.

Every coach (all head, assistant and school-approved volunteer coaches) must meet the following requirements:

- a. Completion of the **Fundamentals of Coaching core course** prior to contact with student-athletes. Certification is good for a five-year period, inclusive of the first season in which the course is completed. www.nfhslearn.com
- b. Completion of the **Concussion in Sports course** prior to contact with student-athletes. Certification is good for a one-year period. www.nfhslearn.com
- c. Completion of the **sport-specific online rules clinic**. These clinics are available through the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

In addition, coaches are encouraged to utilize the other available elective or sport-specific NFHS courses.

Coaches are responsible for insuring that the appropriate school administrator(s) receive verification that the courses are completed. The school administrator is responsible for reporting to the MHSA annually that all their coaches have completed the requirements successfully.

The NFHS Coaches' Education website is www.nfhslearn.com and it is also linked through www.mhsa.org.

Tips for Coaches & Other NFHS Coaches' Education Users:	Tips for Administrators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register: Go to www.nfhslearn.com. Create your own password and note your registration information. If you have already registered, sign in. • Purchase or Redeem License: If you are ordering individually, click on "Courses" and select the course(s). If you are redeeming a license provided by your school, you should receive an email that contains a distributed license. • Note for Concussion Course! Access to the concussion course will expire after 90 days. To view again, simply ORDER the course again. • Complete the Course: For technical assistance, contact the help desk at NFHS: (317) 565-2023 or help@nfhslearn.com. • Confirm: After completing the course(s), a certificate will be available to print. Present the printed information to your activities director or principal, but be sure to keep a copy for yourself! User Lookup is also available on the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school is required to ensure that every athletic coach completes the online curriculum. This includes head coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteer coaches. • The MHSA <u>does not track individual coaches' compliance</u>. Remind coaches to print their own certificates AND to keep a copy for their records. • The search function (User Lookup) at www.nfhslearn.com allows anyone to search for individuals who have completed the course(s). If the school purchases licenses in bulk, there is an added feature of tracking the licenses as they are redeemed. • Completion of the coaching units is valid for a five-year period. • Spirit coaches are <u>not</u> required to complete the Fundamentals of Coaching course, but they must complete the Concussion in Sport course and the spirit rules clinic. • May 15th is the deadline for each school to complete the Coaches' Education Compliance Report and return it to the MHSA office. Forms will be sent to schools in the spring.

OPI renewal units are available if approved by the local district. Most school districts are approved as renewal unit providers through the Office of Public Instruction. Those approved school districts will issue the OPI renewal unit certificates and appropriate credit hours for their educators. MHSA is NOT an approved renewal unit provider.

Additional resources and information are available on the Sports Medicine Page of the MHSA website.
If you have any questions about the Coaches' Education program, please contact Jo Austin at the MHSA office.