

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



NEWS RELEASE

NFHS Now Offers Middle School Coach Education Course

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Flannery

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (April 28, 2011) — A new coach education course – *Coaching Sports in Middle School* – is now available online through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) at www.nfhslearn.com. This course is the newest addition to the NFHS Coach Education Program.

Coaching Sports in Middle School focuses on middle school issues and how to address them. All NFHS coaching education courses are applicable to the middle school/junior high level, but this one has been tailored to the unique characteristics of that level. It factors that middle school athletes aren't young adults yet and are at a different skill level.

NFHS Assistant Director Tim Flannery encourages all coaches to take the new course in order to make certain that middle school students receive the proper instruction.

“Every coach and administrator at the middle school level should be required to complete the online course *Coaching Sports in Middle School* to ensure the students who participate in athletics have an educational experience,” Flannery said. “Some schools have been using middle school teams as feeder systems for their high school programs, but that is not how they are intended to be used. This course is a reminder that middle school activities should be fundamentally about participation.”

Coaching Sports in Middle School takes approximately one hour to complete and costs \$20.

The NFHS Coach Education Program was started in 2007, and more than 160,000 coaches have taken the core course — *Fundamentals of Coaching*. Forty-five of the 51 NFHS member associations have adopted the course.

The NFHS offers coaches the ability to become certified as an Accredited Interscholastic Coach. In addition to the *Fundamentals of Coaching* course, coaches must complete *NFHS First Aid for Coaches*, or its equivalent, and one of the sport-specific courses or *Teaching Sport Skills*, and then can apply for certification online.

All NFHS coach education courses are available at www.nfhslearn.com.

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This press release was written by Steven Peek, the spring 2011 intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a senior at Butler (Indiana) University.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.6 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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