

## **Virginia High School League Coaches Education Initiative – modified 8:30 a.m.-6/17/09**

In May of 2009 the Executive Committee of the Virginia High School League passed a coaches education initiative which requires all first time athletic coaches at VHSL member schools and those athletic coaches who are exempted through the VHSL Coaches Rule 27-2-2(4) to complete an approved course in principles of coaching and sport first aid. Additionally, ALL coaches are required to complete a VHSL component which familiarizes the coach with rules and regulations found in the VHSL Handbook as well as those found at the local school level.

The following questions and answers are intended to help everyone better understand the intent and expectation regarding this legislation.

**Q Is it necessary for a volunteer coach to meet this requirement?**

A If the volunteer coaches duties include being present at games and interacting with athletes and officials on the court/field/course/track they are required to complete this initiative.

**Q When does this requirement have to be completed?**

A Beginning July 1, 2009 coaches who fall under the umbrella of this rule have three years to complete the requirement.

**Q Is a first time coach hired between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2012 exempt?**

A No, any first time coach hired once the initiative begins must complete the requirement.

**Q Who is exempt from the initiative?**

A Coaches hired prior to July 1, 2009 are exempt; however schools and school divisions may be more restrictive in their interpretation thus requiring those hired prior to the implementation date to complete the initiative. All coaches are required to take the VHSL State Component.

**Q Are there courses available which meet this requirement?**

A There are currently four courses which thoroughly address the 40 standards ([www.naspe.org](http://www.naspe.org)) established by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE):

- ASEP Basic VHSL Course (On-line)
- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching & First Aid for Coaches (On-line)
- ASEP VHSL Advanced Coaches Education Course (Taught by a certified instructor)
- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching (blended version). Note – First Aid for Coaches is ONLY available on-line.

**Q I am attending a sport specific clinic this summer (Example: VHSCA Clinic). Does this count toward fulfillment of this initiative?**

A No, while both ASEP and the National Federation have sport specific offerings they are not intended to replace the courses that thoroughly address the 40 standards.

**Q How do we access these courses?**

A Both sites offer fairly easy access to the VHSL approved courses. For a VHSL approved course through ASEP go to:  
[http://www.asep.com/asep\\_content/org/VHSL.cfm](http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/VHSL.cfm)  
Once on the site you will be directed to click on the course you wish to purchase

For a VHSL approved course through the National Federation go to:  
<http://www.nfhslearn.com/StatePricingRegs.aspx>  
Once on the site you will register and then you will be taken to the course purchase page.

**Q Is it possible to bulk purchase courses for my school/school division?**

A Both ASEP and the NFHS provide this opportunity. The ASEP procedure is explained on their website under the course which you desire to purchase. The NFHS procedure requires going through a system administrator in the League office.

**Q Is one course better than another?**

A The difference between on-line and face to face lies in the areas of depth of topic coverage and level of discussion and interaction. Both on-line courses expose the coach to basic necessary elements.

**Q I understand one course includes the VHSL Component. Is this true?**

A The two ASEP courses do include the VHSL Component and we are working with the NFHS to offer the same option.

**Q I am a veteran coach and all I need is the VHSL Component. Do I have to take the entire on-line course?**

A Not unless your school or school division mandates that you need to take the entire course. ASEP is currently offering the VHSL Component course separate from the coaching principles and sport first aid. The NFHS does not currently offer the stand alone version but is diligently working with the VHSL to determine potential availability.

**Q We know that coaches often move from one school or school division to another. How are we going to track the completion process?**

A The VHSL Staff is currently developing an eligibility form which schools will be able to complete and submit either on-line or by email. Both ASEP and NFHS are committed to developing data bases which will help with the mobile world of today's coaches. Coaches should NOT individually report their certification status to the League office.

**Q We have no record of a coach completing the requirement yet they insist that they have met the initiative. How do we confirm that we are in compliance with the initiative?**

A One of the most important components of a good coaching education program is the ability to track completion. ASEP and the NFHS have developed a two prong approach to accomplish this tracking. Each coach has the ability to obtain a certificate upon completion of each segment of the program. Additionally there is a database accessible either by the individual school or through the state office as a backup when confirming completion. Those individuals who cannot verify completion of the initiative will need to take the material again to guarantee that the school is in compliance with the initiative.

The school will ultimately make the decision on who is eligible using the form referenced in the previous question.

**Q Do we need to alert the VHSL office of the status of each segment of completion for each coach? Example  
My Cheer coach just completed the state component should I send an email to the League office stating this fact.**

A Before each sport season coaches who will be coaching that season and have not previously been designated on the eligibility list should be listed. The form will be set up so that prior to July 1, 2012, the progression of completion can be documented. Example

Coaching Principles	Sport First Aid	State	Comp
Joe Smith	ASEP/ 7-2009	NFHS/ 10-2010	Not completed

After the three year period ends July 2012 all components must be completed prior to the coaching assignment starting.

**Q Is there a process for schools and school divisions to have programs they currently use or may develop, approved for use?**

A The VHSL Staff in conjunction with the VHSL Coaches Education Committee is currently developing an application for this purpose. It will not only allow for consideration of other programs but will also provide a database of what program schools and/or school divisions are implementing.

**Q Will schools be receiving an information packet in regard to providing information to our coaches?**

A The intent of this Q & A is to provide the basic answers regarding the initiative and to be a basis for information provided to the coaches by the school and/or school division.