

Appendix G

Fourteen Legal Duties of Athletic Personnel

- **Duty to Plan**
 - Have a yearly plan, keep it, and follow it
 - Prevent or reduce injury and loss by developing responsive strategies in:
 - Coaching competence
 - Medical screening
 - Appropriate activities that consider age, maturity, and environmental conditions
 - Injury response
 - Warnings to athletes and their families
 - Child advocacy in cases of alcohol and other drug abuse or family neglect or abuse
- **Duty to Supervise**
 - A coach must be:
 - Physically present
 - Provide competent instruction
 - Structure practices that are appropriate for the age and maturity of players
 - Prevent foreseeable injuries and respond to injury or trauma in an approved manner
 - This duty requires supervisors to ensure that facilities are locked and that students are denied access when a competent staff member cannot be physically present to supervise
 - A coach must also supervise the condition, safe usage, maintenance and upkeep of equipment and facilities
- **Duty to Assess an Athlete's Readiness for Practice and Competition**
 - Coaches are required to assess the health and physical or maturational readiness skills and physical condition of athletes
 - Athletes must be medically screened in accordance with CIF regulations before participating in tryouts, practice, or competition
 - Injured athletes who require the services of a physician may not return to practice or competition without written permission of the physician
- **Duty to Maintain Safe Playing Conditions**
 - Coaches are considered trained professionals who possess a higher level of knowledge and skill that permits them to identify foreseeable causes of injury inherent in defective equipment or hazardous environments
 - Weather conditions must be considered and athletes should not be subjected to intense or prolonged conditioning during periods of extreme heat and humidity

- A plan for monitoring and responding to dangerous weather conditions is necessary
- **Duty to Provide Proper Equipment**
 - Coaches must ensure that athletes are properly equipped with clean, durable and safe equipment
 - Protective equipment must carry a NOCSAE (National Operating Commission on Safety in Athletic Equipment) certification and must be checked for proper fit and wearing
 - Athletes must wear protective equipment any time they are exposed to the full rigors of contact in practice or competition
- **Duty to Instruct Properly**
 - Athletic practices must be characterized by instruction that accounts for a logical sequence of fundamentals that lead to an enhanced progression of player knowledge, skill and capability
 - Instruction must demonstrate appropriate and safe technique and must include warning about unsafe technique and prohibited practices
- **Duty to Match Athletes During Practice**
 - Athletes in practices should be matched with consideration for:
 - Maturity
 - Skill
 - Age
 - Size
 - Speed
- **Duty to Condition Properly**
 - Practices must account for a progression of cardiovascular and musculoskeletal conditioning regimens that prepare athletes sequentially for more challenging practices and competitive activities
 - Consideration must be given to weather, maturational and readiness factors
- **Duty to Warn**
 - Coaches are required to warn parents and athletes of unsafe practices specific to a sport and the potential for injury or death
 - A generic warning, signed by both athletes and parents is included in the physical packet but sport specific warnings should be included at the parent meetings for specific sports
- **Duty to Ensure Athletes are Covered by Injury Insurance**
 - Athletes must be cleared through the athletic office prior to participation and should not be allowed to participate without this clearance
- **Duty to Provide Emergency Care**

- Coaches are expected to be able to administer approved, prioritized, standard first aid procedures in response to a range of traumatic injuries
- **Duty to Develop/Follow an Emergency Response Plan**
 - Plans must be in place to:
 - Manage uninjured team members while emergency care is being administered to an injured athlete
 - Ensure access to a stocked first aid kit, spine board and other emergency response equipment
 - Access to a telephone and ensure a timely call to EMS
 - Expedite rapid access by EMS to the injured athlete by stationing coaches or team members at driveways, parking lots, entry doors and remote hallways
- **Duty to Provide Proper Transportation**
 - District transportation should be utilized as much as possible for travel to athletic events
 - Ensure that all athletes are on the bus before it departs from an away contest
 - Coaches and/or parent drivers must have district volunteer driver forms to drive athletes
- **Duty to Select, Train, and Supervise Coaches**
 - Athletic administrators will be expected to ensure coaches are capable of providing safe conditions and activities as outlined in the preceding list of 13 duties