

Grand Forks Public Schools Athletic Department
"Coaches Area of Responsibility"

- ❖ *Failure to teach- Coaches can be sued for failure to teach fundamentals and protective skills for particular sports. In addition, athletic directors and head coaches must ensure the following:*
 - All athletes shall be taught appropriate protective skills
 - All athletes should be taught fundamentals as an educational progression, such as:
 - Simple to complex
 - Unknown to known
 - Synthesize individual skills to develop more complex capabilities
 - All athletes should be praised or encouraged for:
 - Effort or hard work
 - Partial mastery and improvements thereafter
 - Assistant coaches and volunteer coaches must be qualified to carry out specific duties and responsibilities

- ❖ *Failure to properly supervise- Supervision of athletes before, during, and after events/practices is an important part of protecting our youth. In addition, athletic directors and head coaches must ensure the following:*
 - Coaches must be physically present during all activities related to practice and competition whether coaching opposite or same gender teams. Coaches of teams must specify locker room expectations, team room expectations, and remain in the general area until all athletes have departed.
 - The more hazardous the activity, the greater a coach's responsibility for supervision.
 - Young athletes require special attention with respect to:
 - Readiness for leaving or execution of a dangerous drill
 - Readiness for physical contact
 - Physical maturity differences pairings for practice or scrimmage

- ❖ *Following school policy- Coaches should know and understand school policy in every situation.*
 - If no school policy, the coach should contact the senior administrator
 - If you fulfill school policy, you automatically fulfill your duties as a reasonably prudent administrator or coach.
 - Know if you have a school policy and do not deviate from it
 - Adopt the policy rules of the superior administrative agencies

- ❖ *Injuries with equipment- If an injury occurs:*
 - Keep and label the equipment. Get evidence of purchase and sequester it.
 - If the injury was recorded on film, study the film and keep it.
 - Get witnesses information immediately
 - Inform the school athletic administrator

- ❖ *Duties of a Coaches- Items for coaches to follow while coaching:*
 - Provide for a safe practice or competitive environment
 - Properly plan and supervise an activity
 - Develop site specific emergency response plans
 - Evaluate athletes for injury and respond with approved first aid emergency response techniques
 - Match or equate athletes appropriately with focused attention to maturity or developmental differences
 - Provide or maintain appropriate, safe, and properly fitted equipment
 - Warn athletes and parents of inherent risks of a sport. Maintain a file of comprehension, statements from parents, and athletes.
 - Supervise appropriately before, during, and following practice, conditioning, or competition
 - Keep through records and daily practice plans
 - Know, document, post, and implement school policies

“Coaches Area of Responsibility”
-Continued-

- ❖ *Potential sources for liability for coaches and administrators-* Items for coaches to follow while coaching:
 - Failure to supervise an activity
 - Negligently entrusting responsibility to an under qualified or unqualified individual
 - Failure to teach appropriate skills
 - Failing to teach skills properly
 - Failing to teach protective skills
 - Failing to provide and maintain a safe practice or playing environment
 - Failing to provide appropriately sized and fitted equipment
 - Failing to inspect, repair, recondition equipment properly
 - Failure to reach athletes to inspect and wear their equipment properly
 - Failure to check young athletes for proper fitting and wearing of equipment
 - Failing to provide proper equipment
 - Failing to warn and deter unsafe or illegal execution of skills
 - Failing to develop and implement policies and procedures intended to enhance safety for each activity
 - Failure to implement recognized safety standards promulgated by various sports regulatory or sports medicine agencies
 - Failure to match or equate athletes by maturity and development
 - Failure to administer first-aid properly
 - Failure to warn of dangers inherent in certain activities
 - Failing to seek medical approval for an injured athlete to return to practice or competition
 - Failing to keep adequate and accurate records (ie: number of practices at the start of the season)