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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: July 20, 2010
SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.06.03.04 (AMEND)
Interscholastic Athletics: Operational Guidelines
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these amendments is to require coaching education for long term emergency coaches in Maryland high school athletic programs and to create the classification of Credentialed Coach that would provide equivalent hiring consideration for continuing in the same coaching assignment to that of a certificated educator.

BACKGROUND/ HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In 1981, the position of emergency coach was established in COMAR 13A.06.03.04 B(2) in order to fill coaching vacancies in Maryland public high schools. It was considered a temporary remedy for the continuation of school athletic teams rather than disband programs because a certified educator could not be found to coach the school team. The requirements for an emergency coach are: 21 years old, possess a high school diploma, and completion of a one-credit course in the care and prevention of athletic injuries.

In the ensuing years, with the proliferation of athletic offerings, school systems continued to find it difficult to fill their coaching staffs with certified teachers. Today one third of Maryland high school coaches are emergency coaches. As a result, there is a need to address two significant issues. First, because emergency coaches are now serving for multiple seasons, there is a need to provide them with a coach’s education program. Secondly, many emergency coaches have performed their duties admirably and schools are seeking ways to retain their continuing services.

Upon recommendation from its strategic planning committee, The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) has proposed revisions to regulations to address these concerns. In December, 2009, the MPSSAA Board of Control voted to endorse the revisions. In accordance with the athletic amendment process, the local Superintendents of schools unanimously endorsed the proposed amendments on April 16, 2010.



The proposed amendments provide for:

- 1) Emergency coaches to complete a coaching education program prior to beginning their fourth season.
- 2) The position of Credentialed Coach. A coach who completes a Coach Certification program, successfully completes two years as an emergency coach, and serves the previous one year as an emergency coach at the school of hire in the position of hire can be considered for retaining his/her current position equally with a certified teacher.
- 3) Emergency coaches to be appointed by the local Superintendent of schools.
- 4) Local school systems to allow volunteers that possess a GED to coach. Current wording requires a high school diploma.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

One third of all coaches in Maryland high schools are not certified teachers. Providing an education program to persons serving in these highly visible roles will help to further the concept of education-based athletics. In addition, the proposed regulation provides schools the opportunity to retain quality coaches who have a proven educational perspective as it relates to interscholastic athletics.

ACTION:

Grant permission to publish 13A.06.03.04.

NSG/ns

Attachment: Draft Amendments to COMAR 13A.06.03.04

Attachment: Draft Amendments to 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

Authority: Education Article, SS2-205 and 2-303(j),
Annotated Code of Maryland

.04 Operational Guidelines

The regulations given below are established for all MPSSAA interscholastic sports:

A. Text unchanged.

B. MPSSAA Coaching Eligibility.

- (1) Member MPSSAA schools shall employ as coaches ~~[teachers or certificated professional educator employees of the local Board of Education for a specific coaching assignment.]~~
 - (a) Teachers or certificated professional educator employees of the local Board of Education for a specific coaching assignment.
 - (b) Persons certifiable as a professional educator by the State Department of Education according to 13A.12.01.
 - (c) Credentialed Coaches who meet the following requirements.
 - (i) Is eligible to hold a Maryland certificate under COMAR 13A.12.01.04.
 - (ii) Possesses a MPSSAA/MSDE Coach Certification.
 - (iii) Has completed two years of successful coaching as an emergency coach, and
 - (iv) Has spent the previous one year as a successful emergency coach at the school of hire in the position of hire.
- (2) If no acceptable and qualified coaches are available from the teachers or certifiable professional educators ~~[teachers]~~ employed by the local board of education, temporary emergency coaches may be employed if the following procedures are followed:
 - (a) ~~With no acceptable professional staff members available to fill the coaching vacancy, the local school system shall attempt to locate as a coach a person certifiable as a professional educator by the State Department of Education according to 13A.12.01.~~
 - (b) ~~With no acceptable and certifiable professional educator available, a person acceptable to the local school system may be employed as an emergency coach.~~
 - (c) ~~Any person employed as a coach under the emergency provision shall comply with the following:~~
 - (i) ~~The person shall be officially appointed by the local Board of Education on a one-season basis for a specific coaching assignment;~~
 - (ii) ~~The coaching salary of the appointed emergency coach shall be paid exclusively by the local school system;~~

- (a) The person shall be officially appointed by the local Superintendent of schools on a one-season basis for a specific coaching assignment;
 - (b) The coaching salary of the appointed coach shall be paid exclusively by the local school system;
 - (c) After July 1, 2010, an emergency coach is required to possess a MPSSAA/MSDE coach certification prior to the start of his or her fourth year as an emergency coach.
 - (d) In sports having more than one coach, emergency coaches shall not comprise more than 50 percent of that sport staff.
 - (e) The emergency coach shall be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma.
- (3) All coaches shall have completed or be enrolled in a one-credit course in the prevention and care of athletic injuries.
- (4) Member MPSSAA schools may permit volunteer athletic coaches to assist their coaching staff. These volunteer coaches may not serve as head coaches at any level and must work only under the direction of the head coach. The volunteer coach may be utilized if the following procedures are followed:
- (a) The volunteer coach shall be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
 - (b) The volunteer coach shall have completed or be enrolled in a one-credit course in the prevention and care of athletic injuries.
 - (c) The volunteer coach shall be formally appointed on a one season basis for a specific coaching assignment.

C – J. Text unchanged.

**IMPACT STATEMENTS
COMAR 13A.06.03.04**

Part A
(check one option)

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

or

The proposed action has an economic impact. Complete the following form in its entirety.

I. Summary of Economic Impact.

II. Types of Economic Impacts.

Revenue (R+/R-)
Expenditure (E+/E-) Magnitude

A. On issuing agency:

B. On other State agencies:

C. On local governments:

Benefit (+)
Cost (-) Magnitude

D. On regulated industries or trade groups:

E. On other industries or trade groups:

F. Direct and indirect effects on public:

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

Part B
(check one option)

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

or

The proposed action has a meaningful economic impact on small businesses. An analysis of this economic impact follows.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities
(Check one option)

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

or

The proposed action has an impact on individuals with disabilities as follows:

Part C

(For legislative use only; not for publication.)

- A. Fiscal Year in which regulations will become effective: **FY11**
- B. Does the budget for fiscal year in which regulations become effective contain funds to implement the regulations?

Yes No

- C. If a yes," state whether general, special (exact name), or federal funds will be used:

- D. If a no," identify the source(s) of funds necessary for implementation of these regulations:

Local school system implementation.

- E. If these regulations have no economic impact under Part A, indicate reason briefly:

These regulations pertain to coaching eligibility and have no impact on coaching stipends.

- F. If these regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses under Part B, indicate the reason and attach small business worksheet.

Regulation only impacts public school-based athletic coaches.

Comparison to Federal Standards

(Check one option)

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed regulation.

or

There is a corresponding federal standard to this proposed regulation, but the proposed regulation is not more restrictive or stringent.

or

In compliance with Executive Order 01.01.1996.03, this proposed regulation is more restrictive or stringent than corresponding federal standards as follows:

- (1) Regulation citation and manner in which it is more restrictive than the applicable federal standard:
- (2) Benefit to the public health, safety or welfare, or the environment:
- (3) Analysis of additional burden or cost on the regulated person:
- (4) Justification for the need for more restrictive standards: