

Certification for Athletic Administrators in New York State – What Are The Facts?

The concept of a basic minimum certification for Athletic Administrators (i.e., Athletic Directors) in New York State is not a new one. As far back as the early 70's, New York State had a 6 hour requirement (course) to certify Athletic Directors. And, also in the 70's, the required certification of Directors of Physical Education under the Commissioner's Regulations was approved. Initially, and to this day, all schools are required to have a certified Director with both Physical Education and administrative certification. However, things have changed over the years to present day. Not all schools have certified Directors who supervise interscholastic athletic programs. Any school can hire Athletic Directors who have no certification or, at a minimum, just teaching certification.

Recently, the NYSAAA has undertaken an initiative to require a basic minimum certification in New York for Athletic Administrators. The association has met with State Education Department officials to begin a process of having State Education Department approval for such a regulation change. Below is the bottom line on what the NYSAAA is proposing to SED:

*** A basic minimum certification requirement for the position of Athletic Administrator/Athletic Director in NYS Schools would be that of the Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) as outlined in the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) certification program.**

*** The position of Athletic Administrator/Director should be recognized as an Unclassified position by NYS Civil Service and SED**

*** Directors with THREE or more years of experience or have an SDA/SDL would be exempt in lieu of acknowledgment by the district office of that school district. Anyone with an SDA/SDL could serve as an Athletic Director/Administrator without CAA certification, however it would be a recommendation that they attain that certification (CAA).**

*** Recommended CAA Certification course timeline for non-exempt Athletic Administrators/Directors (3 years). Courses offered statewide and nationwide through the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute. Courses can also be taken at home through live streaming and webinars offered nationwide.**

*** 502 and 503 completed by the end of Year 1**

*** 501 and 504 completed by the end of Year 2**

*** 506, 508 and CAA exam completed by the end of Year 3**

*** The candidate may choose to complete all courses sooner**

*** Timeline for implementation of the regulation would be 1-2 years from the date approved.**

*** General costs to school districts or individuals would be under \$700 ea.**

There is nothing to fear in this proposal. It's a common sense approach to ensuring a sound, educationally-based and safe interscholastic athletic programs for our students. It will only affect a minimum number of schools that currently do not meet the requirement or that are not grandfathered. Costs are minimal and there is ample time for schools and individuals to meet the requirement. It will set a minimum standard for the future of interscholastic athletic programs in New York State.