

## **New Connecticut Law (effective 10/1/13) - Athletic Directors Qualifications**

The Connecticut State Legislature has passed a law that will for the first time give athletic directors statutory recognition. This law will define the position of athletic director and establish qualifications for hiring anyone after October 1, 2013. Athletic Directors employed prior to October 1, 2013 are grandfathered as long as they possess the proper credentials according to current State Department of Education certification regulations. The new Law HB 6383 –**AN ACT CONCERNING HIRING STANDARDS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS** can be found at: [caadinc.org/ADBill.pdf](http://caadinc.org/ADBill.pdf)

***The athletic director position is now defined in the new law:*** The new law spells out general duties and responsibilities of an athletic director stating - "*An athletic director administering the athletic program of a school or school district shall have the following responsibilities: (1) Ensuring that each athletic coach in the athletic program holds a coaching permit issued by the state board, (2) supervising and evaluating athletic coaches, pursuant to section 10-222e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) supervising students participating in interscholastic athletics, (4) possessing knowledge and understanding of all rules and regulations of the governing authority for interscholastic athletics, (5) administering and arranging the scheduling of and transportation to athletic activities and events, (6) administering and arranging the hiring of officials, (7) ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all athletic activities and events, and (8) any other duties relevant to the organization and administration of the athletic program for the school or school district.*" Of course school districts can create additional responsibilities as many do but the law now outlines the basic covenants of the position.

***How this new law affects current athletic directors:*** The law grandfathers all current athletic directors in their current positions provided that they are currently holding the proper credentials according to the current certification regulations that went into effect July 1998. Anyone hired after July 1998 is currently required to hold a coaching permit AND either a certificate in administration & supervision (092) if they are a district athletic director, or a Connecticut teaching certificate if they are a school athletic director, or just the coaching permit if they are considered an athletic program facilitator with no supervisory responsibilities. Those hired prior to July 1998 are grandfathered in their current positions in their current district only. Anyone grandfathered who moves into a new district or to a new position must comply with the new law effective October 1, 2013.

***The law spells out new hiring standards:*** Effective October 1, 2013, any school district hiring an individual as "school" athletic director must make certain the applicant has a coaching permit and either a state of Connecticut approved teaching certificate or the appropriate certification from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. For schools districts hiring an individual as a "district wide" or "multi-school" athletic director must make certain the applicant have a coaching permit and either a state of Connecticut approved certificate in administration and supervision (092) or the appropriate master certification from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. For more information about the new hiring standards call Fred Balsamo, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, **(203) 651-3921**. For more information about the National (NIAAA) certification program go to: [caadinc.org/ADlawQualifications.html](http://caadinc.org/ADlawQualifications.html) .