

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

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 .

FAQ:

1. Q – Is a faculty manager or assistant athletic director required to adhere to this new law?

A – Yes, the law is clear that anyone performing the duties described in the law is required to adhere to the new qualifications regardless of their title.

2. Q – Is an athletic director who was hired in 2003 with only a coaching permit and is supervising athletic programs, coaches and students in a single high school grandfathered?

A – No, only those properly credentialed are grandfathered. The current regulations state an athletic director supervising a high school program must have a coaching permit AND Connecticut teacher certification.

3. Q – Does an athletic director hired prior to October 1, 2013 need to comply with the law?

A – No, as long as they comply with the current regulations which requires a coaching permit AND an 092 for district wide responsibilities as an athletic director or a teaching certificate if they are supervising coaches and students at a single school.

4. Q – Can a school district hire someone as an athletic director prior to October 1, 2013 and follow the new law using the alternative routes for a CAA or CMAA?

A – Yes, they are following the spirit of the law.

5. Q - Is an athletic director who has Connecticut teacher certification and who was hired prior to 1998 grandfathered in a district wide job?

A – Yes, the regulations changed in 1998 requiring a coaching permit and an 092 for any district wide athletic directors. Individuals are only grandfathered as long as they stay in their current job. Should they change to a new district or to a new job they would have to comply with the new law.

6. Q – How can an athletic director who is not a certified teacher or administrator and is currently working without the proper credentials comply with the law?

A – To comply with the law an athletic director must have a coaching permit along with either a teaching certificate or the CAA certification for a single school position; OR, an 092 or a CMAA for a district wide position. More information about acquiring CAA or CMAA can be found at caadinc.org.

7. Q – How long does it take to complete the CAA certification program?

A – It takes a minimum of 2 years to be eligible for full CAA status however once the 4 foundation courses are completed the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association will issue a Provisional CAA which will allow an athletic director to comply with the law until the full process is completed.

8. Q – Is an athletic director hired with a CAA or a CMAA qualify to be eligible for the teacher retirement benefits?

A – No, only Connecticut certified teachers qualify.

9. Q – Can an athletic director properly credentialed with a CMAA and a coaching permit supervise physical education teachers and evaluate them in their role as certified teachers?

A – No, the CMAA is an alternative route to certification for the position of athletic director only. A Connecticut 092 administration & supervision certificate is required to evaluate certified teachers.