

POLICY

Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education

Section: Community

9181. VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACHES

Date Created: December, 2008

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9181- VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACHES

The Board of Education recognizes that services of volunteer athletic coaches, co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides bring unique skills to the district, enrich the athletic and co-curricular program, assist district coaching and co-curricular staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. Therefore, the Board authorizes a program for the utilization of volunteer athletic coaches and co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides in the district.

For the purposes of this Policy, “volunteer athletic coach, co-curricular activity advisor/assistant and paraprofessional aide” is a person who is not paid by the Board of Education, assisting under the direct supervision of an appropriately certified or licensed school district employee, and provides assistance for the school activity.

The Head Coach or Co-Curricular Advisor will be responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteer athletic coaches, co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides and their assignment. The district is not obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of the school district as determined by the Superintendent.

These volunteers must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity and must be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education prior to assuming any responsibilities.

The Superintendent and/or Designee will prepare and promulgate rules of conduct for volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides. Each volunteer athletic coach, co-curricular activity advisor/assistant and paraprofessional aide will be given a copy of this Policy.

The following guidelines shall govern the service of a volunteer athletic coach, volunteer co-curricular activity advisor/assistant and paraprofessional aide:

1. Volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides may serve only under the direction and immediate supervision of a head and/or assistant coach or activity advisor or assistant employed by the Board;
2. Volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides must clearly understand their duties and responsibilities and perform no services outside those duties;
3. Volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides serve only in a support capacity and only head or assistant coaches or activity advisors or assistants employed by the Board are responsible for the supervision and instruction provided to pupils participating in athletic programs or co-curricular activities;
4. Volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides shall respect the individuality, dignity and worth of each pupil;
5. Volunteer athletic coaches, volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides are not permitted access to pupil records;
6. Volunteer athletic coaches, co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides must exercise discretion in disclosing any confidential pupil matters the coach or activity advisor or assistant employed by the Board becomes aware of as a result of their volunteer responsibilities;
7. Volunteer athletic coaches and paraprofessional aides must consult with the Athletic Director/Head Coach regarding any matters or questions regarding their duties and responsibilities;
8. Volunteer co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides must consult with the Athletic Director/Principal regarding any matters or questions regarding their duties and responsibilities;

9. Volunteer athletic coaches, co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides shall receive no financial remuneration from the Board;
10. Volunteer athletic coaches, co-curricular activity advisors/assistants and paraprofessional aides may be immediately relieved of their volunteer responsibilities, with or without cause, by the Superintendent with such action to be recommended to the Board by the Superintendent at the next Board Meeting following relief of duties; and
11. Paraprofessional aides are individuals who have not met the requirements to obtain a substitute certificate from the State of New Jersey, and therefore are never to be left in sole supervision of students. Paraprofessional aides are to work in conjunction with coaches and other volunteers, but must always be with a certified staff member when supervising students in any activity.

All school volunteer athletic coaches and co-curricular activity advisors/assistants must:

1. Possess a New Jersey substitute teacher credential;
2. Obtain a criminal history record check;
3. Provide documentation that a Mantoux test has been administered.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1; 18A:6-7.2

Adopted: 18 December 2008

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