

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1472

By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to athletics; creating the Coach Safely Act; providing short title; defining terms; requiring youth athletics associations to take certain actions; authorizing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-241.1 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Coach Safely Act".

B. As used in this section:

1. "Athletics personnel" means athletic directors and other individuals actively involved in organizing, training, or coaching sports activities for a youth sports association;

2. "Coach" means any individual, whether paid, unpaid, volunteer, or interim, who has been approved by a youth sports

1 association to organize, train, or supervise a youth athlete or team  
2 of youth athletes;

3 3. "High-risk youth athletic activities" means any organized  
4 sport in which there is a significant possibility for a youth  
5 athlete to sustain a serious physical injury including, but not  
6 limited to, the sports of football, basketball, baseball,  
7 volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey, cheerleading, and lacrosse.  
8 It does not include any school-sponsored activities;

9 4. "Youth athlete" means an individual age fourteen (14) years  
10 and under participating in an organized sport; and

11 5. "Youth athletics association" means any organization that  
12 administers or conducts high-risk youth athletics activities on  
13 property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state, an  
14 agent of the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

15 C. A youth athletics association that sponsors or conducts  
16 sports training or high-risk youth athletic activities for youth  
17 athletes shall require all coaches and athletics personnel to:

18 1. Complete an online or residence course approved by the State  
19 Department of Health, if available at no cost, which provides  
20 information and awareness of actions and measures that may be used  
21 to decrease the likelihood that a youth athlete will sustain a  
22 serious injury while engaged or participating in a high-risk youth  
23 athletic activity; and  
24

1        2. Sign a statement developed by the youth athletics  
2 association attesting that the coach or personnel has completed the  
3 course and understands the information provided by the course. The  
4 signed statement shall be maintained by the association for as long  
5 as the coach or personnel is affiliated with the association.

6        D. The State Commissioner of Health may promulgate rules as  
7 necessary to implement this section.

8        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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