

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana Schools

From: Marsha Bugalla, General Counsel

Date: May 10, 2019

Re: House Enrolled Act 1209 - Discipline of Coaches

Background:

This legislation was enacted to fill a gap in Indiana law with regard to coaches who engage in misconduct or immoral conduct with children. Coaches, whether licensed educators or volunteer coaches, will now be subject to losing their Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) accreditation if they are convicted of certain criminal offenses or engage in immoral acts with students.

Guidance:

This legislation requires the IHSAA to pass a rule requiring the association to suspend or revoke the accreditation of a coach who has engaged in misconduct described in IC 20-28-5-7(1) or IC 20-28-5-7(2) and/or has a conviction listed in IC 20-28-5-8. This new rule will apply to both licensed educators and all coaches accredited by the IHSAA. (See IC 20-26-14-8).

The Indiana Department of Education will be responsible for notifying the IHSAA of license suspensions or revocations of Indiana educators who are also IHSAA accredited coaches. A school corporation, charter high school, or nonpublic high school with at least one (1) employee must report to the association any coach accredited by the association that has been convicted of any offense in IC 20-28-5-8. The IHSAA could then take action on the coach's accreditation. (See IC 20-26-14-8).

Before a school corporation, charter high school, or nonpublic high school with at least one (1) employee hires a coach or allows someone to coach (whether a licensed educator or volunteer coach), the school corporation shall require any applicant to disclose if he/she has or has been accredited by the IHSAA as a coach and whether his/her accreditation has been suspended or revoked. The applicant must also provide references and schools must contact those references. Additionally, the school must contact the IHSAA to determine if the applicant's accreditation has been suspended or revoked. Before allowing anyone to be a volunteer coach, that person must be subjected to an expanded criminal history check pursuant to IC 20-26-2-1.5. (See IC 20-26-14-9).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Bauder at 317-232-6646 or via e-mail at kbauder@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Representative Donna Schaibley and full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).