



Athletic Risk Management – Part 1

Presented By

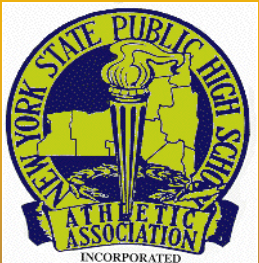
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Section VI





Overview of Discussion

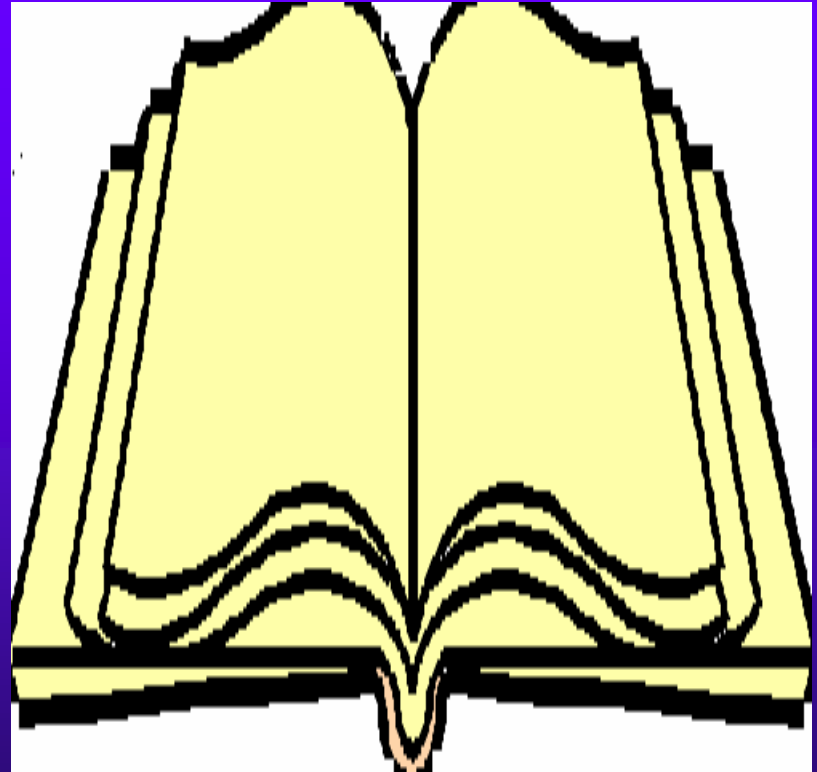
- ◆ **Myths and Realities**
- ◆ **Supervision and Responsibility**
- ◆ **Coaching Points**

**THE MYTHS AND
REALITIES OF
ATHLETICS AND SPORTS
MANAGEMENT**



MYTH – POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Avoid written policies and procedures. Too often they are used against you in court.



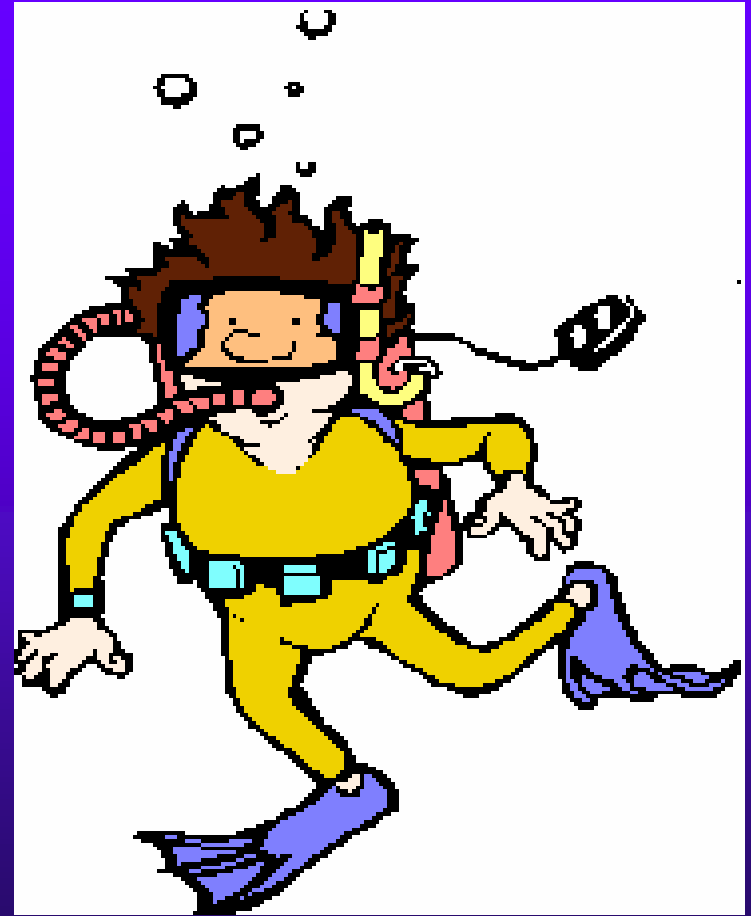


MYTH – PRACTICE PLANS

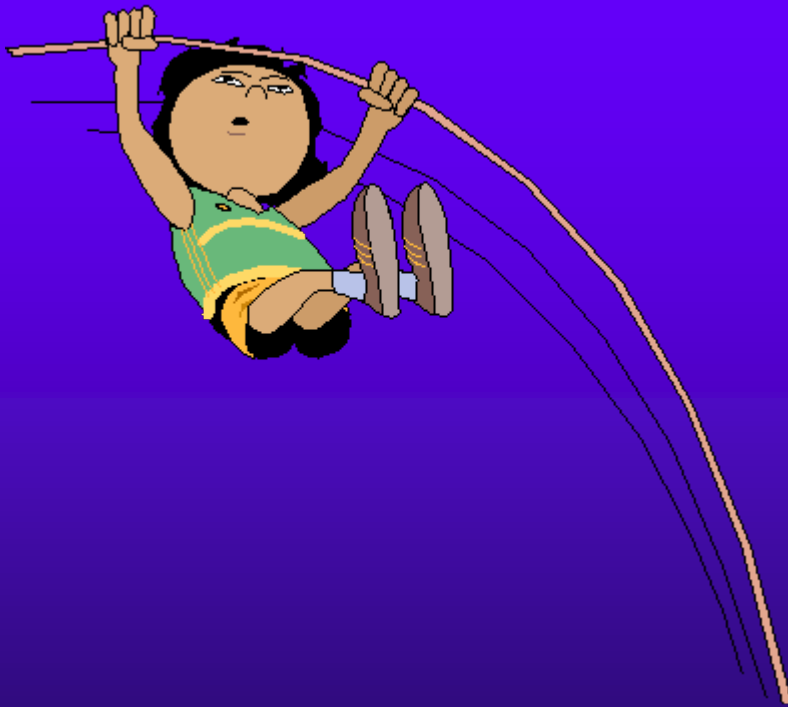
Written planning may be important for the rookies, but those of us with more experience can better use our time in other ways and can be more flexible in our practice planning and classroom instruction.

MYTH - PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- ◆ Appropriate
- ◆ Provided
- ◆ Condition
- ◆ Worn
- ◆ Clean
- ◆ Discipline
- ◆ Code of Conduct



MYTH – ASSUMPTION OF RISK



Don't discuss the possible dangers of an activity with the athletes. It will raise their fears and make it more likely that they will sue if injured.

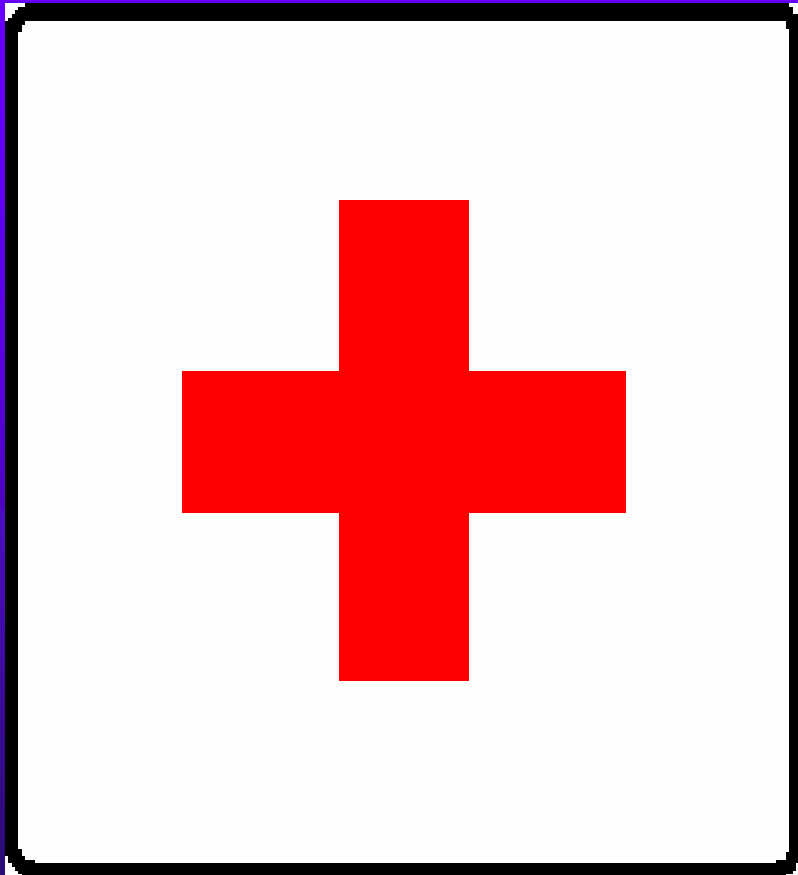


Waivers & Releases

- **Clearly Title the Document**
- **Indicate that the participant is aware of and understands the dangers of the specific activity**
- **The specific dangers to be anticipated in the activity should then be clearly explained.**



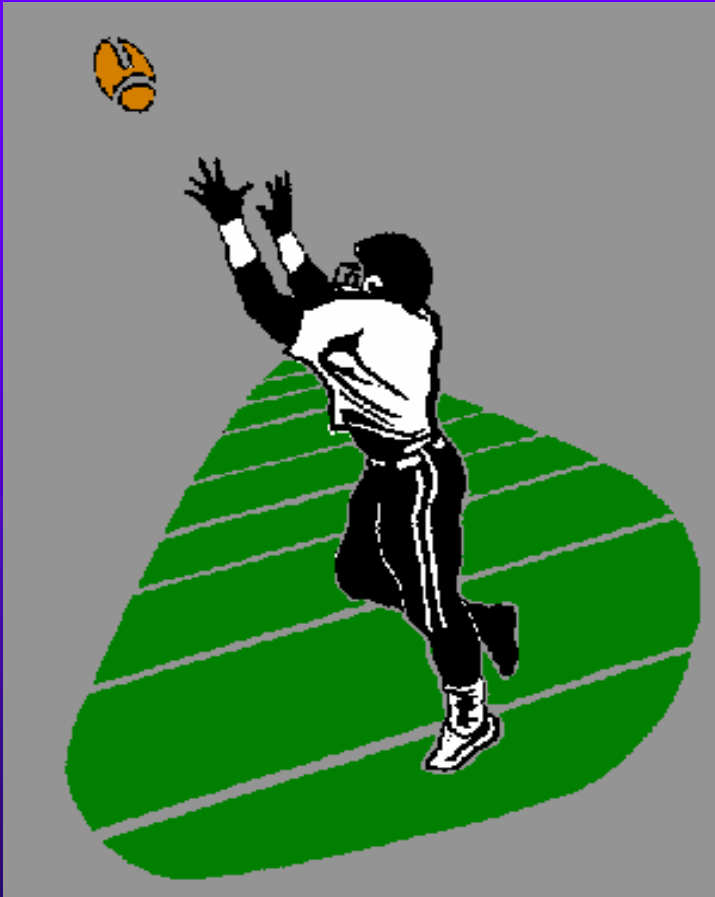
MYTH – TRAINERS



We have a full time trainer in our school. This relieves our coaches of worries about first aid.



MYTH - MISMATCHES



In activities where physical contact is possible, I never allow coed participation. This avoids the possibility of a lawsuit due to a mismatch.

MYTH - CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

If no one complains about the condition of equipment, a field(s), gym or notifies me of an unsafe condition, I am not likely to be held liable if an injury occurs.





MYTH - EQUIPMENT

All of our equipment is inspected before the season and the maintenance crew takes care of the facilities. Our coaches don't have to worry about liability in those areas.



MYTH ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE

No one can be expected to put away the portable goals, porta-pits, wrestling mats, or the heavy gymnastics equipment after each practice.



Sanity Saver

**Always listen to good
advice...**



SUPERVISION





STUDENT SUPERVISION

- ◆ **Genesis of all General Liability Claims**
- ◆ **Instances of Unsupervised Students Increasing in all Districts**
- ◆ **Negligent Supervision Claims**



NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION CLAIMS

- ◆ **School was cause of harm**
- ◆ **Student injured and no supervision was present**
- ◆ **Student injured and supervision was inattentive**

STANDARD OF CARE



An administrator, coach or teacher is required to exercise the same level of care and supervision as a parent would in like circumstances (Loco Parentis)



Sanity Saver

**Always look at where
you're going...**



COACHING ISSUES





Risk Management Strategies

- ◆ **Be Proactive – Safety Must be a Priority**
- ◆ **Educate Yourself and Staff**
- ◆ **Good Working Relationships with other Departments**
- ◆ **Develop a Safety Plan**



Risk Management Strategies

- ◆ **Review the Philosophy, Goals and Objectives of Program**
- ◆ **Establish a Record Keeping System**
- ◆ **Conduct Pre-Season Meetings for Parents/Guardians and Coaches**

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

- ◆ **Management and Supervision**
- ◆ **Facilities and Equipment**
- ◆ **Medical Practices**



PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS



- ◆ Proper Instruction/
Appropriate Activity
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Warnings
- ◆ Selection,
Training and
Supervision of
Coaches

LEGAL DUTIES OF COACHES

- ◆ **Duty to Plan the Activity**
- ◆ **Duty to Supervise**
- ◆ **Duty to Assess Athletes Readiness for Practice and Competition**



LEGAL DUTIES OF COACHES

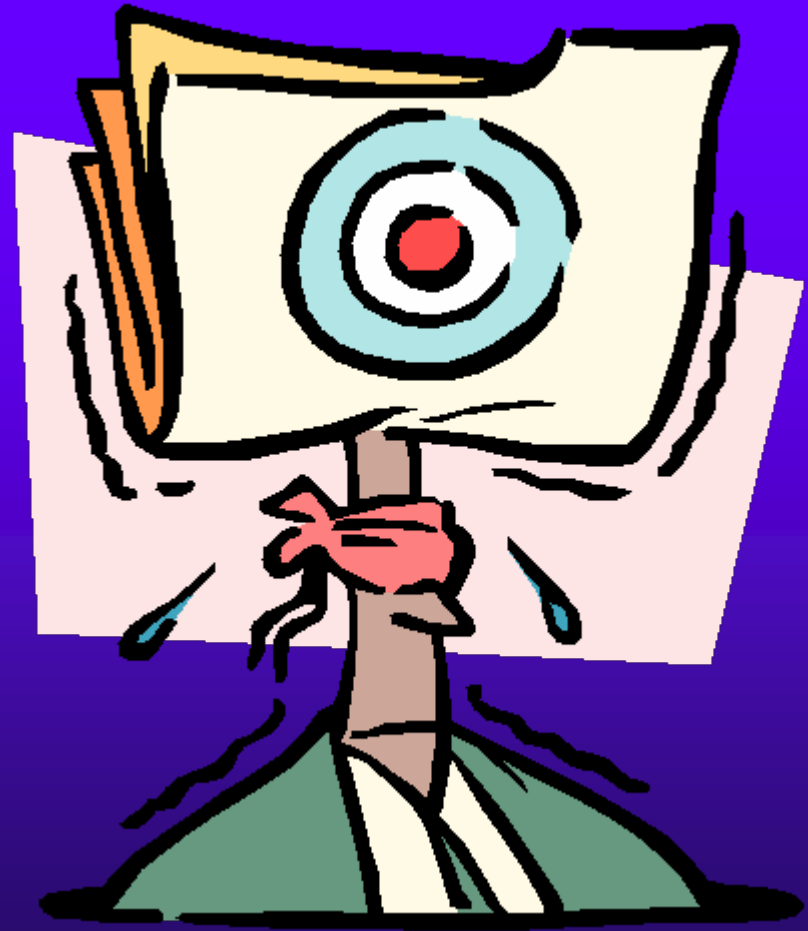


- ◆ **Duty to Maintain Safe Playing Surfaces**
- ◆ **Duty to Provide Proper Equipment**
- ◆ **Duty to Instruct Properly**

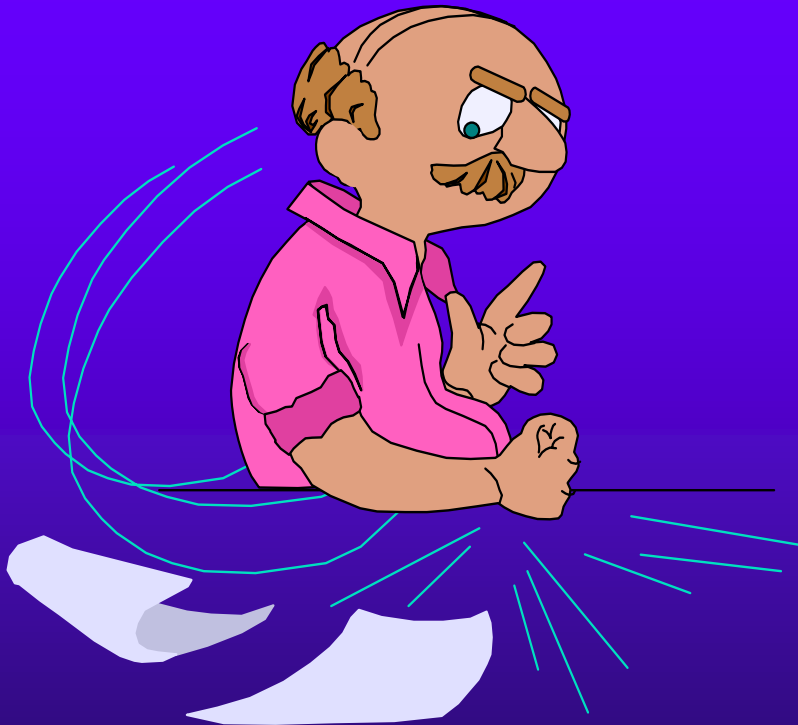


LEGAL DUTIES OF COACHES

- ◆ **Duty to Match Athletes**
- ◆ **Duty to Condition Properly**
- ◆ **Duty to Warn**
- ◆ **Duty to Provide Emergency Care**



COACHING ISSUES



- ◆ **Failure to Control**
- ◆ **Supervision**
- ◆ **“No Blood - No Foul”
Attitude**
- ◆ **Aggressiveness**
- ◆ **Civility**
- ◆ **Taunting**
- ◆ **F-U-N**

CONTROL



Supervisors must maintain control of participants or teams at all times. They are expected to guide the actions of participants and to detect and correct inappropriate behaviors.

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SUPERVISION



- ◆ **First and Foremost - You Are a Role Model!**
- ◆ **Stay Calm When Making Corrections**
- ◆ **Be an “Educator”**

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SUPERVISION

- ◆ Know and Understand the Athletes' Expectations
- ◆ Implement Corrections Consistently
- ◆ Interact Positively - You Set the Tone





READINESS

- ◆ **Physical Exams**
- ◆ **Fitness**
- ◆ **Injury Exacerbation**
- ◆ **Trainer/Physician Clearance**
- ◆ **Instruction**
- ◆ **Skill Testing - Lead Up Activities**




SPORTSMENSHIP

Where have you gone?



“The measure of man is what he does with power”.

Pittacus



“Bullying is as old as
childhood. Adults dismiss it
as a playground rite of
passage, but it is serious and
can not be ignored.”

Source: *The Education Digest*, March 1993

We can also refer to this as establishing a
Power Dynamic



CIVILITY, HARASSMENT & HAZING

- ◆ **Peer-to-Peer**
- ◆ **Improper Actions**
- ◆ **Bullying/Taunting**
- ◆ **“Rites of Passage”**
- ◆ **Failure to Report**

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONDUCT

◆ Ground Rules

- Establish
- Communicate
- Enforce

◆ Code of Conduct





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ◆ NYSIR WEBSITE - www.nysir.org
- ◆ ID – nysir
- ◆ Password - nysir

SUMMARY & QUESTIONS

