

# Memo



Date: August 12, 2021

To: NMAA Member School Athletic Directors & Football Coaches

From: Dusty Young - NMAA Associate Director, Director of Football

Re: Football Coach Education/Certification – USA Football Heads Up Program

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Football Coaches and Athletic Directors:

NMAA Football Coaches Education Bylaws currently require that all football coaches be “Heads Up Certified” through a program offered by USA Football via [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). This certification is valid for four (4) years from the date of completion.

There are four courses offered through NFHS Learn that must be taken to receive this certification. These are the following:

- Concussion in Sports
- Heat Illness Prevention
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- USA Football Tackling and Contact

The first three courses are Free, but there is a \$10 fee associated with the USA Football Tackling course. In the past, however, we were also able to offer this course to our coaches for free because of a partnership with the Denver Broncos. This partnership has now lapsed, thus the USA Football course is now asking for \$10 when registering.

After speaking with the NFHS about options moving forward, we were made aware that a new Football course is being created that will be available in the Spring of 2022 and will be 100% free through the NFHS Learn platform. The NMAA will adopt this new/free course for the 2022-2023 school year, but in the meantime, coaches that received Heads Up Certification in 2017 will be given an extension to their certification period through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This will ensure that coaches who completed the program in 2017 will not have to pay the \$10 fee to renew their certification for the Fall 2021 season.

NEW coaches who have yet to become “Heads Up Certified” will still need to go through the program and will thus be subject to the \$10 fee for the USA Football Tackling and Contact course. The other three courses are still complimentary.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, at (505) 923-3268 or [dusty@nmact.org](mailto:dusty@nmact.org).