

# Memo



Date: July 1, 2022  
To: NMAA Member School Athletic Directors & Football Coaches  
From: Dusty Young - NMAA Associate Director, Director of Football  
Re: Football Coach Education/Certification – NFHS Football Tackling Course

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Dear Football Coaches and Athletic Directors:

Per the June 2016 NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting, all football coaches (head, assistant, sub-varsity, mid school, etc.) must complete a tackling education course through the NFHS Learn platform. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each coach has this certification, which is current for four (4) years from the date of completion.

Initially, the program offered through NFHS Learn provided USA Football Heads Up Certification which consisted of four different online courses. These were Concussion in Sports, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Heat Illness Prevention, and USA Football's Blocking/Tackling/Equipment Fitting.

The NFHS no longer offers this USA Football program nor the course specific to blocking, tackling, & equipment fitting, however, so the NMAA requirement was adjusted per Board and member school approval in June of 2022.

NMAA Bylaws regarding Football Coaches Education now read as follows:

### **7.15.1.K - Coaches Education**

Football Coaches must complete the NFHS Learn Football Tackling Course. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each coach has this certification, which is current for four (4) years from the date of completion. This requirement is for ALL middle school / junior high and high school coaches.

\*NOTE – Coaches that have previously taken the USA Football Heads Up Course do not need to take the new course until their original certification expires (expiration is 4-years from the date of completion).

With this update, please note that the other three courses (Concussion in Sports, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, & Heat Illness Prevention) are no longer required as part of the mandatory football coach's certification. Concussion in Sports, however, is still a yearly requirement for coaches in all sports per New Mexico State Statute.

The FREE NFHS Football Tackling Course can be accessed from the NFHS Learn website at:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/football-tackling>

Please contact Dusty Young at (505) 923-3268 or [dusty@nmact.org](mailto:dusty@nmact.org) with questions.