



The Role of the Athletic Director

December 17, 2018

The role of the Athletic Director is actually governed by Connecticut State Statute 10-149d which was enacted by the legislature and became effective on October 1, 2013. Simply having a love of high school athletics and the ability to schedule events is not enough to qualify for the role. An athletic director who is tasked with the administration of the athletic program of a school district must hold both a coaching permit and a 092 intermediate administrator or

supervisor endorsement to a teaching certificate or a master certificate issued by a national athletic administrators association. Seymour's AD, Ms. Tara Yusko holds all three of these certifications.

Per the statute, an "Athletic Director" means an individual responsible for administering the athletic program of a school or school district under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, and who is responsible for the supervision of athletic coaches. Further to that it clearly outlines the duties of the athletic director as follows:

- (1) Ensuring that each athletic coach in the athletic program holds a coaching permit issued by the state board,
- (2) supervising and evaluating athletic coaches, pursuant to section 10-222e,
- (3) supervising students participating in interscholastic athletics,
- (4) possessing knowledge and understanding of all rules and regulations of the governing authority for interscholastic athletics,
- (5) administering and arranging the scheduling of and transportation to athletic activities and events,
- (6) administering and arranging the hiring of officials,
- (7) ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all athletic activities and events, and
- (8) any other duties relevant to the organization and administration of the athletic program for the school or school district.

In Seymour, we are very fortunate in that we have enjoyed quite a bit of success with our athletic programs with many of them moving on to post-season play. On any given day there could be up to five different sports competing simultaneously. Our AD oversees seventeen high school and seven middle school sports teams. Along with that comes the task of evaluating 24 head coaches. Head coaches in turn evaluate any paid assistant coaches on their staff. The AD does receive some support with middle school sports scheduling. The AD position in Seymour is a part-time position. Ms. Yusko also serves as an assistant principal at Seymour Middle School.

I love sports and have successfully run a local sports league for years, could I be an AD?

You would only meet the qualifications for the position if you were an educator who held a 092 certification as well as a coaching permit issued by the state of CT or you held a master certificate issued by a national athletic administrators association that was approved by the State Department of Education.

What is a 092 certification?

A 092 certification is one that allows for a teacher to become a principal. It requires the completion of an additional 30 credits of coursework on top of their bachelor's degree.

Who makes up the rules by which our athletic teams must abide?

The CIAC is the governing body for athletics in the state of Connecticut. Beyond that there is a student athlete handbook for Seymour athletes with additional information and guidelines that can be reviewed [here](https://www.seymourschools.org/uploaded/files/SMS/SeymourAthletic_Handbook_2018-2019.pdf)

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Who actually makes the schedules?

For the high school schedules there is an AD from the league who serves as the scheduler for most sports (except cross country that is done by another AD). There is a formula that is followed in order to determine opponents based on a two year record. In some sports like basketball – there are schools who are dropped as opponents based on that power. Each sport's formula is created based on the number of schools with participating programs. Dates of games/meets are decided on the overall league schedule. The schedule is then shared in draft form with Athletic Director's and once approved is sent to CIAC. The basic schedule is uploaded and then AD's must add times and places for events.

Are there other responsibilities that go along with the athletic director position outside of responsibilities to the district?

An athletic director also has obligations to the league as well as the state associations. There are league athletic director meetings monthly to discuss things like possible rule changes from CIAC or NFHS, scheduling, league tournaments, etc. There are four executive board positions for the league – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Ms. Yusko has served as treasurer since she became AD. In addition all AD's must oversee sports throughout the league. For example, Ms. Yusko is the AD who oversees volleyball and weightlifting. For this AD's attend the league coaches meetings for their assigned sports, run the league voting at the end of the season, ensure the sports rules are up to date, and bring forth any new requests or changes brought up by coaches at these meetings. In addition there are two yearly state AD meetings to discuss important information and possible changes at the state level, as well as a state conference/workshop every March. This is a time of year for athletic director's to get together to discuss some of the pertinent issues with colleagues as well as attend training seminars.