

A STUDY OF FEMALE COACHING QUALIFICATIONS
IN THE STATE OF KANSAS
FOR CLASSES 1A, 2A AND 3A HIGH SCHOOLS

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Many administrators, educators and female athletes are questioning the ability of women to serve as coaches. A recent survey by the Kansas High School Activities Association revealed that 399 high schools totaling 40,865 female students have interscholastic athletics available to them. There are a growing number of sports offered to females which have stimulated student interest and participation. But increased student participation has not always been reinforced with the addition of more qualified coaches and it is this situation that poses a significant problem. Not only is it difficult to obtain the numbers of coaches needed, but more importantly an adequate number of qualified coaches.

With the large numbers of females participating in sports it would seem essential for well-qualified individuals to serve as coaches. Those coaching at the high school level are responsible for the safety, health and welfare of their students, yet many coaches lack the professional preparation and certification standards for their coaching assignments (4).

According to Arthur A. Esslinger (4), the major problem confronting intrascholastic athletics in this country today is that approximately one-fourth of all head coaches of secondary school teams have had no preparation for such responsibility (4:27). The only qualification for many present coaches has been past experience on a university team. Participation and practical experience are important,

but a coach should have professional preparation. In the past the physical education teacher has been responsible for the coaching tasks, but with seven to ten sports now being offered in most secondary schools it is impossible for one or two physical education teachers to handle the coaching assignments. One obvious solution to the problem would seem to be additional coaches from other academic areas. These individuals may want a teaching career and also want to coach, but do not want to major in or teach in the area of physical education. However, these "teacher-coaches" should be required to meet minimum qualifications for coaching. At the present time the only requirement for coaches in the state of Kansas is that they be certified as a teacher by the Kansas State Board of Education (13).

The AAHPER Division of Men's Athletics has long been aware that many coaches are not adequately prepared for coaching assignments (4:28). To attack this problem, a Task Force on Certification of High School Coaches was appointed. This Task Force concluded that the best way to "liquidate" unqualified coaches is for each state to establish certification standards for all coaches (4:28). The Task Force suggested the following program that includes minimum essentials which every secondary school coach should have. The suggested areas of study include the following:

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