



Learning Center
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FAQs

The NFHS Office and its support Help Center receive a number of questions regarding how the NFHS Learning Center interacts with the state associations regarding courses and requirements. Here are some of our users Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and answers:

Q. What is the difference between my state certification and the AIC and CIC certifications?

A. Your state determines the requirements needed in your state (to coach, to officiate, for remediation), and some people refer to those as their certifications. Attainment of the Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC) and/or Certified Interscholastic Coach (CIC) does not supersede the coaching requirements set by your state.

Q. Why don't I receive a separate certificate for the state component part of the Fundamentals of Coaching course?

A. Eighteen (18) states have state components that serve as the 6th Unit within Fundamentals of Coaching. Completion of these state components does not always include a separate completion certificate. If an individual takes Fundamentals of Coaching and it includes a state component, the certificate will not become available until the state component has been completed. Nine (9) of these states offer a stand-alone state component, which does include a separate completion certificate. Stand-alone state components are designed to deliver state-specific content to individuals who are not required to take Fundamentals of Coaching.

States that have state components are the following: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.

Q. What happens when a person completes the Fundamentals of Coaching course in one state but then moves to another?

A. You must check with the new state athletic/activities association for its full list of requirements. For example, you may need to take a state test or an online stand-alone state component.

Q. How long are my courses "good for?" Do I ever have to retake them?

A. Most NFHS coursework can be reviewed for one year. Concussion in Sports is available for review for 3 months. The only "course expiration" that is considered by the NFHS is the First Aid component if you are applying for AIC or CIC certification (see below). Otherwise, you need to check with your school district and/or your state association. For example, some states require their coaches and officials to order and complete a concussion course each year.

Q. What about the First Aid, Health and Safety requirement for AIC and CIC?

A. For AIC certification, some specific exemptions and equivalents apply, and they are listed at [First Aid Course Exemptions and Equivalents](#).

For CIC, there are no exemptions or equivalents; the NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches course must be completed. For both AIC and CIC, the First Aid requirement must have been completed within three (3) years of applying for certification.