Coaches Care Program 2019-2020

Athletic Director Responsibilities:

- Review the Athlete’s Rules of Conduct in the Student Handbook with coaches. Reference traffic safety as it pertains to the school policy.
- Invite a Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) representative, School Resource Officer or law enforcement officer to a coaches meeting if possible.
- Share the Graduated Driver Licensing Law “A Parent’s Guide” with each coach (provided by GTSC).
- Encourage the school administrators to conduct a Battle of the Belts, Survivor Advocacy Speaker, or other driving safety activity.
- Place Coaches Care posters in the locker room or other highly visible location in the school. Posters will be available at all AD workshops this fall.
- Complete a brief multiple-choice survey at the end of the year to help evaluate the program.

Coaches Responsibilities:
Review the Athlete’s Rule of Conduct with athlete and highlight that Vehicle & Traffic laws also apply.

Review the “5 to Drive” highlights with student athletes:
The “5 to Drive” campaign highlights the five necessary rules that teen drivers need to follow to stay safe behind the wheel. These rules address the greatest dangers for teen drivers: alcohol, texting, seat belts, speeding, and extra passengers.

1. **No Drinking and Driving.** Set a good example by not driving after drinking. Remind teens that drinking before the age of 21 is illegal, and alcohol and driving should never mix no matter your age.

2. **Buckle Up. Every Trip.** Every Time. Front Seat and Back. Lead by example. If you wear your seat belt every time you're in the car, teens are more likely to follow suit. Remind teens that it's important to buckle up on every trip, no matter how far or how fast.

3. **Put It Down. One Text or Call Could Wreck It All.** Remind teens about the dangers of texting or dialing while driving, and that the phone is off limits when they are on the road. It’s equally important to model safe driving habits for your teen—you shouldn’t text and drive either.

4. **Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.** Drive the speed limit and require teens to do the same. Explain that every time your speed doubles, stopping distance quadruples.

5. **No More Than One Passenger at Any Time.** With each passenger in the vehicle, a teen's risk of a fatal crash goes up.
Provide the student athletes the Graduated Driver Licensing Law (GDL) Parent’s Guide. Stress the following with the players on the team:

a. A school educational event must be a credit bearing activity. A football, basketball or volleyball contest is not an educational event unless the student receives a school credit towards their high school diploma.

b. Use the Parent’s GDL guide to determine who can be a supervising driver.

c. Know the number of passengers you can have in your vehicle.

d. The GDL rules apply to where you are driving, not where you live. If you live in Westchester County but are driving in Nassau County, the Long Island GDL rules apply.

e. There are three GDL regions: Long Island; New York City; and Upstate (all other counties).

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NYSPHSAA Survey Questions

Athletic Director:

At the end of the school year, Chris Joyce (NYSPHSAA) will send out the following survey questions.

1. How many varsity coaches participated in the Coaches Care program?

2. How many student athletes were reached?

3. Did the school district conduct a Battle of the Belts event? If yes, how many students participated?

4. Did your school district host a Survivor Advocate assembly? If yes, how many students attended?

5. On a scale of 1-10, how responsive were your students to the traffic safety messaging?

If you have any questions on the above material, please do not hesitate to reach out to the NYSPHSAA office.

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THANK YOU!