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**Minutes of January 20, 2026 Meeting of the Youth Sports Working Group's Subcommittee  
on Coaches and Licensing**

The Subcommittee was called to order at approximately 11:05 AM following the full committee meeting.

**Members Present:**

Sarah Wilkinson, Commissioner  
Michael Vaughan

**Member Not Present:**

Marcus S. Vaughn, Representative

**Staff Present:**

Jamie Dalton, Board Counsel  
John Moreschi, First Deputy Commissioner  
Sean Pierce, Deputy Chief of Staff

All Board Members and staff appeared by video conference.

**Discussion:**

The members began the meeting by discussing the licensure of officials and coaches. They discussed that terms – certification or licensure – matter.

For leagues, the subcommittee is leaning towards registering them in an optional system that collects a certain level of data and tracks training. If a coach fails to do required training, they can be suspended. The subcommittee wants to work with leagues; many leagues have standard certifications, and the goal is a single point of contact.

For licensure, the state can run a database of licensees, run a CORI check on applicants and confirm that applicants meet the requirements for licensure, including continuing education. This information will be able to be looked up on the website.

If someone behaves poorly, a person can be reported and other leagues can see the flag. The idea is something like the building code – the state sets the standard and local government or the league confirms it.



The members discussed licensing individuals and an agency promulgating regulations for certification of a coach or official. But leagues would also have some requirements – they can only use licensed coaches and officials. The requirement may result in a league facing legal repercussions for using unlicensed officials or coaches. This would also implicate insurance.

Mr. Vaughan believes that a lot of leagues would sign up to use licensed coaches or officials, but notes smaller ones may not. The members discussed potential exemptions, including exemptions for flag football or for a certain league size.

The members discussed minimum requirements and included a CORI check as well as training for bias, concussions, SafeSport and player safety. Leagues would be able to add other courses. And the database would allow the sharing of training information, so that a person can do a required training once and be OK across all leagues. The members decided to recommend that coaches and officials be licensed.

The members then turned to discussing league certification or registration. This may be a tougher lift but it can be voluntary for data sharing and data collection.

The members discussed the league registration providing access to a code-of-conduct database that includes non-licensee behavior (for example, parents). The members discussed the idea of the state simply housing the data and users getting to decide how to use it. The registration would also require a guarantee of minimum due process by a league in order for them to post information. This would include notice, a hearing and an appeal. The state would also lay out how the investigation would have to work before a league could register, use the database or report a parent. Most large leagues have a process like this now.

The members discussed heightened penalties for assault on officials and coaches. Mr. Vaughan noted that other states do this. Commissioner Wilkinson referenced a recent Massachusetts law creating heightened penalties for assault and battery on transit workers.

The members discussed that officials are not doing this for the money – they do it to stay involved and for love of the game. The Working Group is potentially asking coaches and officials to get licensed as one part of the recommendations – the heightened penalties is something that they would get and may get their support.

Commissioner Wilkinson moved to adjourn, Mr. Vaughan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.