



S.B. 159

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Mumper

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to develop a conduct and ethics policy for the volunteer coaches of recreational youth athletics.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill requires the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to develop a conduct and ethics policy for volunteer coaches of recreational youth athletic programs. The Association must develop the policy within 90 days after the bill's effective date and then must provide a copy of it to each individual who participates in recreational youth athletics.¹ (R.C. 1541.80(A).)

The bill provides that the conduct and ethics policy must require a volunteer coach to pledge to do all of the following (R.C. 1541.80(B)):

- (1) Treat every coach, player, official, parent, and administrator associated with the recreational activity with respect and dignity;
- (2) Prevent participants from being placed in a situation that may jeopardize their health or safety;
- (3) Conduct all activities under the control of the volunteer coach in a manner that is not harmful to the mental and physical welfare of the participants;
- (4) Cooperate with administrators of the recreational athletic activity in the enforcement of the rules associated with the activity;

¹ *The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association is not an entity created in state law (but see COMMENT 2); it is a private, nonprofit public interest group (see COMMENT 1). It appears that the Association's jurisdiction over recreational youth athletic programs extends only to individuals or entities who elect to become members of the Association.*

(5) Manage all games, competitions, and practices so that all participants have an equal opportunity to improve their athletic skills through active participation;

(6) Learn the strengths and weaknesses of the participants and encourage them to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the athletic activity as well as good sportsmanship;

(7) Report to an administrator of the athletic activity any situation or practice that violates reasonable recreational guidelines;

(8) Comply with any other requirement that the Association determines is beneficial to recreational youth athletics.

The bill also requires the Association to include in the policy a statement that explains the possible disciplinary actions that may occur if a volunteer coach violates any requirement in the policy (R.C. 1541.80(C)).

COMMENT

1. The Association's Internet website describes its structure as follows:

The Ohio Parks & Recreation Association is...
a non-profit, public interest organization representing over 1600 professionals and citizen board members involved in providing leisure facilities and opportunities to all Ohioans as well as the tourists who visit our state each year. . . .

OPRA was initially organized in 1934 as the Ohio Recreation Association, with a separate organization, the Ohio Parks Association, formed in 1942. In 1963 ORA and OPA Incorporated to become OPRA. The Association is directed by a Board, executive director and administrative staff.

2. Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly included one nonvoting member of the Association (appointed by it) on the Local Government and Library Revenue Distribution Task Force (Section 503.12) and one representative of the Association (apparently appointed by it) on the School Physical Fitness and Wellness Advisory Council (Section 206.10.12).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	07-01-05	p. 1353

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