FAQs - Summer Camps and Sports Leagues

Risk Management was asked, what liabilities are associated with a school district lending its name, equipment, coach and/or buses to a summer sports league? Here is general guidance on that topic as well as summer camps for sports or other activities:

May a school district run a summer sports league, sports camp or other type of camp?

> *Yes, if there is a legitimate, school related reason for doing so. A summer camp may be related to the school's mission. For example, a science camp may aid or extend the teaching of science in the school while motivating kids with a less traditional, fun activity. A sports camp may be related to a high school recognized and supported league. Examples of non-legitimate activities would be a sports camp that exists to produce extra income for the coach.*

If a school district elects to do this, what does it need to do to minimize risk and liability?

> *The school district needs to take full responsibility for the activity and treat it like other school activities.*
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> - *This would include adequate supervision.*
> - *Issuing and collecting signed informed consents detailing for the participants and their parents/guardians what will occur during the activity.*
> - *Collecting money and paying coaches/supervisors through an established system at the school, not letting the coaches/supervisors collect and keep money.*
> - *Implementing reasonable and effective loss control measures to minimize claims. As with other school sponsored activities, Risk Management loss control professionals are available to help identify and address potential hazards.*

What if the school district does not want to run a summer sports league, sports camp or other type of camp, can it just provide indirect support and let the coach or other sponsor run it?

> *If the school district is unwilling to directly run these programs, it must have a clear separation of itself from the activity.*
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> - *The school district may allow these programs to use school facilities but it should do so on the same basis it allows other third parties to use facilities including: requiring the signing of use agreements and requiring indemnification and insurance; charge rent if other users would pay rent.*
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> *<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> If your school district does not have a use/rental agreement and policies in place setting forth guidelines for using buildings and other facilities, establishing when a group must pay rent, and requiring indemnification and insurance, please contact Risk Management immediately to correct that.*

- *Similarly, the school district may allow these programs to use school supplies and equipment if it would allow others to do so or if a fair rental is charged. Non-consumable items like bats, helmets, footballs, pads, etc. may be lent but have a signed agreement setting forth the terms of the use and be prepared to offer the same equipment on the same terms to other third parties who ask for it.*
- *It would be a good idea to require an informed consent stating that the school district and school are not sponsors of the program.*
- *The school district should NOT:*
  - *Allow the program to be advertised with the implication the school district or school is sponsoring it.*
  - *Let the coach recruit during school or make it an implied or explicit requirement to be on the school team.*
  - *Let the program use school owned baseball or football jerseys with the school's name on them. It is okay for the team itself to be called "Alta" "Brighton" or "Skyview" but don't let them use your actual jerseys.*