

Glen Rock Junior Football Association Coaching Certification Requirements

New Jersey's "Little League Law" was passed in order to protect volunteer youth coaches or managers from *personal exposure* to liability suits¹. In order to be protected by the law, the coach or manager must participate in a "safety orientation and training skill program." Taking this course is in the best interest of the children and the coaches involved in the Association's football games.

Therefore, the GRJFA Board of Directors has made it a *requirement* to take such a course in order to act as a coach either in practice or during the Association's games. Additionally, whether the coach fulfills this requirement after receiving this notice or has attended the class in the past, the coach *must* provide the Association with proof of participation in the safety orientation class. If the coach takes or has taken the course "The Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic – Sports Awareness For Educating Today's Youth" through the Youth Sport Research Council (YSRC), a certification card is given to the attendee. This card, or one issued by a similar class, will act as proof of course participation.

The 'S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic' is given at Valley Hospital, generally on the first Thursday of the month. The Association understands that this is placing an additional time burden on our already busy volunteers. However, it must be understood that this is in the best interest of the children that participate in the Association's football program *and* the volunteer coaches. Note that:

- The class is only required **once**.
- The course's protection does **not expire**.

The Association feels that the course is well worth the time spent. "Not one successful lawsuit has been brought against any volunteer coach who has been trained by a Rutgers' Clinician since the YSRC began training coaches in 1986²." The YSRC course covers the legal basic coaching techniques including psychological aspects of coaching, some first aid, and legal aspects of volunteer coaching. You can call Valley Hospital at 1-800-825-5391 or Rutgers University directly at (732) 932-7178 for other locations and dates of course.

The GRJFA will reimburse the cost (\$35) for all volunteer coaches and managers taking the course. If the volunteer coach has already taken the course through the YSRC and has lost the certification card, call 732-932-6537 in order to obtain a replacement card or proof of having attended the class.

¹ Law does not cover willful, wanton, or grossly negligent acts or acts caused by negligent operation of an automobile.

² Coach's Reference Manual Copy right 2001