

**Explanation:** This resolution requires volunteer youth sports coaches that utilize any Township field or facility to attend a Volunteer Coaches' Safety Training Course prior to serving as a coach in order to meet minimum state standards for partial civil immunity, and to provide a basic and uniform level of education for volunteer coaches within Hopewell Township.

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**R E S O L U T I O N #22-156**

**A RESOLUTION REQUIRING YOUTH SPORT COACHES TO BE CERTIFIED IN  
A COACHES SAFETY TRAINING COURSE THAT PROVIDES BASIC AND  
UNIFORM EDUCATION FOR COACHING SAFTY PROCEDURES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 2A:62A 6, also known as the "New Jersey Little League Law," grants partial civil immunity to those who provide services or assistance free of charge, such as an athletic coach, manager, or official (other than a sports official accredited by a voluntary association) for a sports team which is organized or performing pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which is a member team in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department for damages to a player, participant, or spectator as a result of acts of commission or omission arising out of and in the course of rendering that service or assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the "New Jersey Little League Law" does not grant partial civil immunity to any person causing damage by his or her willful, wanton, or grossly negligent act of commission or omission, nor to any coach, manager, or official (other than a sports official accredited by a voluntary association) who has not participated in a safety orientation and training skills program, which program shall include but not be limited to injury prevention and first aid procedures and general coaching concepts; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the "New Jersey Little League Law," a coach, manager, or official shall be deemed to have satisfied the above requirements if the safety orientation and skills training program attended by the person has met the minimum standards established by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports in consultation with the Bureau of Recreation within the Department of Community Affairs, in accordance with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B 1 et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, the minimum standards established by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports state that in order to be covered by the provisions for civil immunity, the volunteer athletic coach, manager or official (other than a sports official

accredited by a voluntary association) must attend a safety orientation and skills training program of at least a three hour duration; the program may be provided by a local recreation department, non-profit organization, or national/state sports training organization; and the educational topics to be covered include medical, legal and first aid aspects of coaching; training and conditioning of athletes; psychological aspects of coaching; and general coaching concepts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rutgers Youth Sports Research Council sponsors the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic (Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth) – a three-hour program that meets the minimum standards for volunteer coach's safety orientation and training skills programs and provides partial civil immunity protection to volunteer coaches under the New Jersey Little League Law; and the program is offered at numerous locations statewide throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1986, the Rutgers Youth Sports Research Council, in cooperation with the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association, has trained more than 250,000 volunteer coaches in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Certificate and Youth Soccer "Y" Course meet the minimum standards for volunteer coaches safety orientation and training skills programs and would be an acceptable equivalent of the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Lacrosse Level 1 certification meets the minimum standards for volunteer coaches safety orientation and training skills programs and would be an acceptable equivalent of the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Recreation Department authorizes, through a permit process, the use of Hopewell Township facilities by various youth sports organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Recreation Department and the Township of Hopewell are committed to ensuring a safe environment within which youth sports organizations can successfully operate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Recreation Department and the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell desires to ensure that the public has the highest trust and confidence in volunteer coaches, managers, and officials (other than a sports official accredited by a voluntary association) for recreation sports programs, and that they meet the minimum standards established by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; and

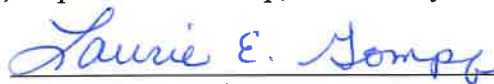
**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hopewell Recreation Department will maintain a current data base of volunteer coaches who attend and successfully complete a Youth Coaches Safety Orientation and Safety Training Program as stipulated in the below paragraph.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all those who wish to serve in the role of a volunteer coach, manager, assistant, or other position of on-field responsibility (other than a sports official accredited by a voluntary association), for any program servicing minors that is a) organized by the Township of Hopewell; b) sponsored by the Hopewell Township Recreation Department; or c) considered an independent youth recreation sports organization by the Township of Hopewell, that utilizes Township facilities, must attend a Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic or equivalent Safety Training Course that meets the Minimum Standards for Volunteer Coaches' Safety Orientation and Training Skills according to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Chapter 52; Subchapter 1, prior to serving in any of the above roles. Proof of successful completion and certification will be required to be submitted to the Hopewell Township Recreation Department within 30 days of each youth sport organization's official registration closing date. This policy will be effective beginning April 5, 2022. Failure to provide proof of successful completion will prevent the individual from serving in the above mentioned roles. In addition, all youth sport organizations must submit to the Recreation Department, a roster from their organization with the names of all coaches, managers, assistant coaches or persons with on-field responsibility for each season upon request of the Recreation Director. In the event that any organization fails to provide this roster, a field/facility permit will not be awarded.

Date Adopted: April 18, 2022

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Laurie E. Gompf, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022, in the Municipal Building Auditorium, Hopewell Township, New Jersey.



Laurie E. Gompf, RMC, CMC  
Municipal Clerk