

COACH SAFELY ACT IS THE LAW

The Coach Safely Act became the law in Alabama in April of 2018. The law was the result of an advocacy campaign by thought leaders in coaching, sports medicine, and public health. The campaign was launched as the Youth Sports Injury Prevention Initiative (YSIPI) in 2016 by an ad-hoc committee working with government affairs and sports medicine at Children's of Alabama. The Coach Safely Act mandates a no-cost course in youth sports injury recognition and prevention for every volunteer coach of children aged 14 and under.

Since 2013, a course has been developed by the founder of the Coach Safely concept, Jack Crowe, and the Andrews Research and Education Foundation. The course is comprehensive and based on evidenced-based and peer-reviewed information provided by the STOP (Sports Trauma and Overuse Prevention) program of the American Orthopedic Society of Sports Medicine. The course became available in 2014 and was reviewed by the National Council of Sports Safety on its "Protecting Athletes and Sports Safety" eight-city tour.

A pilot program was initiated in 2015 through a strategic partnership with the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association. The municipal leadership in Trussville, Alabama mandated the course and engaged the community. Over 500 coaches were trained and the course content and delivery system were modified.

The Coach Safely Foundation was formed in October 2017 to accommodate the legislative requirement for the law to be classified as an unfunded mandate. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, the Foundation is able to provide this public service through strategic partnerships, public grants, and private sources. The Coach Safely Foundation has plans to support the continued work of the Youth Sports Injury Prevention Initiative (YSIPI) for policy mandates across the country.

The ubiquitous delivery of the course is available through a strategic partnership with ThreatAdvice, a regional leader in online cyber security training. The course is delivered on a learning management system using a series of short videos which are followed by a test and then registered for confirmation. The video series uses a qualified educational methodology.

Community engagement with a statewide network of certified athletic trainers is part of the Coach Safely strategy to raise awareness and promote education around the preventable nature of youth sports injuries. Working with individual municipalities, Coach Safely seeks to provide local access to sports medicine and pediatric professionals in support of injury triage and access to the right care at the right time. Our strategic partner in statewide community engagement is the state's largest provider, Encore Rehabilitation.

Coach Safely is positioned to advance policy mandates for coaching education and equipped with the technology to support online training, injury reporting, virtual triage, and collect data for research.



Children's
of Alabama®



Alabama Recreation
& Parks Association

