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|  | The Role of  Your Athletic Director  & Athletics  in Your School  C:\Documents and Settings\jthomson\Desktop\all%20sportrs.jpg |

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| An Athletic Director   * Spends approximately 20 hours to check the eligibility of the athletes for the fall season and then repeats the process for the winter and spring seasons * Hires, mentors, supervises and evaluates a staff of 70 - 80 coaches – the largest unit within a high school * Impacts the lives of the largest number of students in the building * Recognizes and promotes the value of an education-based athletic program * Has a great responsibility for risk management within the building * May put in a 14-hour day serving as a game manager of a stadium event * Needs more time to effectively handle all of the increase responsibilities that have been added over the years   Athletes   * Earn higher GPA’s during the season * Have better attendance rates while playing a sport * Cause less behavioral problems as a member of a team * Serve as positive ambassadors for the school   Athletics   * Is the most visible – not most important (academic achievement is) – aspect of education and as such, many judge the effectiveness of a school based upon athletics * Provides learning opportunities for the participants such as leadership, teamwork and goal setting that can’t be found elsewhere within the educational arena * Can be a great motivational and binding agent for a community | **Get to Know your AD**  **Your athletic director is a dedicated person who …**   * Hires, mentors, leads and evaluates a staff of 60 -70 coaches and is responsible for a school program which encompasses the largest number of students – 500 -700. * Spends more time in the building or on campus than anyone else. * Filling game management responsibilities often includes Saturdays and over holiday breaks * Attends professional conferences and takes courses to enhance his/her background and to improve his/her competencies and effectiveness * Is a team player by covering classes, attending faculty and department chair meetings, taking part in Back-to-School Nights, proctoring high school assessment tests, and numerous other activities and functions throughout the year. Who helps the athletic director? * Also oversees all Transportation functions for the school * Is a highly qualified professional, even though athletics does not fall under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 * Constantly juggles the efforts for checking student-athlete eligibility, scheduling contests for each season, submitting playoff entries and completing equipment order to meet due dates – several of these responsibilities overlap * Collects, deposits and manages gate receipts and fund raising efforts for the athletic program * Does not take a lunch break and eats a sandwich while answering e-mail messages from parents and coaches * Works under a constant state of fatigue and usually under considerable stress * Is usually taken for granted when everything goes smoothly, which is 99% of the time * Becomes the central point of criticism when there is a rare problem, since the athletic program is the most visible aspect of education |