

Press Release

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### **Oklahoma Coaches Association and OAHPERD Announce Strategic Partnership to Strengthen Education-Based Athletics and Lifelong Health**

Oklahoma City, OK — The Oklahoma Coaches Association (OCA) and the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD) are proud to announce a new strategic partnership aimed at strengthening education-based athletics and advancing high-quality physical and health education for all Oklahoma students.

Grounded in shared values, the partnership reflects both organizations' commitment to student-centered learning, character development, and the promotion of lifelong health and wellness. By aligning efforts, OCA and OAHPERD seek to bridge the connection between athletics and physical education, recognizing that both play essential roles in shaping well-rounded students.

“This partnership reinforces our belief that athletics and physical education are not separate initiatives, but complementary components of a student’s educational experience,” said a spokesperson for the Oklahoma Coaches Association. “Together, we can elevate the impact coaches and physical educators have on young people across our state.”

The collaboration will emphasize education-based athletics, a model that prioritizes academic success, leadership development, sportsmanship, and personal growth alongside competitive performance. Similarly, high-quality physical education programs promote physical literacy, personal fitness, and health knowledge that extend far beyond the school years.

By working together, OCA and OAHPERD aim to:

- Promote consistent messaging around the importance of physical activity and health education in schools
- Encourage collaboration between coaches and physical education instructors
- Support professional development that reflects shared goals in student wellness and achievement

- Advocate for policies that prioritize both athletic opportunity and comprehensive physical education

The partnership recognizes that the cooperation between athletics and physical fitness initiatives influences the daily decisions of coaches and physical education instructors. When aligned, these professionals can collectively foster environments that emphasize safe training practices, positive team culture, inclusive participation, and long-term health outcomes.

Importantly, this joint effort underscores the responsibility schools share in helping students and student-athletes develop lifelong health and exercise habits. By reinforcing consistent values, including discipline, perseverance, teamwork, and personal responsibility, both organizations seek to prepare young people not only for success in competition, but for healthy transitions into adulthood.

Through coordinated initiatives, shared professional learning opportunities, and unified advocacy, the Oklahoma Coaches Association and OAHPERD are committed to ensuring that every student in Oklahoma benefits from quality instruction, meaningful athletic experiences, and a strong foundation for lifelong wellness.

For more information about the Oklahoma Coaches Association [[www.okcoaches.org](http://www.okcoaches.org)] or OAHPERD [[www.oahperd.org](http://www.oahperd.org)], please visit their respective websites.

*The Oklahoma Coaches Association is the state's leading professional organization for interscholastic coaches, dedicated to supporting coaches through education, advocacy, and professional development. OAHPERD is Oklahoma's affiliate of SHAPE America, advancing quality health and physical education, recreation, and dance for students and educators statewide.*