

A photograph of a baseball player in a white pinstriped uniform sliding into a base. The player is wearing a red helmet and is in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground position. The background is a blurred green field. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# **Concepts of Athletic Training**

**FIFTH  
EDITION**

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## **Chapter 3**

### **The Law of Sports Injury**

# The Coach

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- The coach's decisions and actions are critical.
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- A recent study of high school coaches found:
  - A significant percentage of coaches lacked adequate first aid knowledge.
  - During a close game, a conflict of interest arose when a starting player was injured.

# Concept of Tort

- **Tort:**
  
- **Negligence:**

# Negligence

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## The Four Elements of Negligence:

1. Duty
2. A breach of duty
3. Proximate or legal cause
4. Damage

# Other Terms Relating to Tort Cases

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# What Is Your Liability?

**Doctrine of sovereign immunity does NOT**  
guarantee immunity for coaches.

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# What Is Your Liability?

**Potential liabilities for coaches include:**

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# Are You Protected?

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- Determine if employer provides liability protection for coaches and staff.



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# Steps to Avoid Legal Action

**To reduce the chances of going to court, coaches should have:**

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- First aid/CPR training.
- An emergency action plan.
- Parental consent forms for those under 18.
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- In-service seminars.
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- Effective lines of communication.
- Proper injury documentation.

# If You Get Sued

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- Write a detailed description of events related to the incident and obtain signed statements from witnesses.
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