

By-Law 3.110: Coaching School Participation

In 1937, the first rule governing coaching schools or camp participation was adopted by the IHSA membership. It prohibited schools from sending their football players to a camp with the school coach. The purpose was to enforce the spirit of the season limitation for football, which had gone into effect just five years earlier, and which prohibited schools from organizing and practicing their football teams during the summer.

Since the initial adoption of the coaching school rule, season limitations have been adopted for all sports, and the rationale for restrictions on coaching school or camp attendance has been extended to those other sports as well. The general essence for the rule is to protect students from being exploited or limited to participating in only one program offered at his/her school. However, as the rule has evolved, it does allow for students to receive instruction from someone other than a high school coach within some defined parameters.

During the school year, students shall not participate in any coaching school, camp or clinic for any interscholastic sport or which provides instruction in any skill of an interscholastic sport. It is important to know that a coaching school, camp or clinic is defined as any program, sponsored by an organization or individual, which provides instruction in sports theory and/or skill, which does not culminate in competition, and which is attended by more than two (2) persons from the school which the student attends.

This does not preclude students from receiving private lessons. Students may receive private lessons at anytime, even during their respective school season. However, a private lesson shall not include more than two students from the same school receiving instruction at the same place and at the same time from the same instructor.

Furthermore, during the school year, but outside of the sports season, students that participate on non-school teams may only practice with their non-school team under the following circumstances:

- There are not more than two students from the same school on the non-school team or that will be present during practice and instructional settings.
- If there are more than two students from the same school on the non-school team or that are present during practice and instructional settings, the non-school team must have a contest within 14 days of their first practice. They must continue to have competition on a regular basis (at least every 14 days).

The following are a couple of illustrations from the 2006-07 IHSA Member School Handbook that address this situation. A more complete description of the Coaching School Participation Rule can be accessed at <http://www.ihsa.org/-org/policy/section3.pdf>

Illustrations

Q: A non-school softball team with 3 team members from the same school plans to begin practice in January for its summer competitive season, and continue these practices

twice a week until its first competition in June. Would a student violate the by-laws by participating in these practice sessions?

A: Yes, on two possible grounds: a) not more than two students from the same school can be involved in any sports lesson or instructional setting at the same time. b) competition must follow the first practice session of a team within no more than two weeks and in this case it would not.

Q: What is the eligibility of 4 students from the same school who attend the same baseball camp in Arizona during Winter Break under the following circumstances:

a) Two students are Seniors and where on the varsity baseball team, one is a sophomore and will be trying out for the varsity in the Spring; one is a freshman and has not played for the school baseball team?

b) Three of the four students are in a group taught by the same instructor?

c) Only two of the students are receiving instruction, but the other two are present and watching and listening?

A: In (a), (b), and (c) the students would be in violation of the rule and would be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one year. The grade and/or competition level of the students involved is irrelevant, not more than two students from the same school shall be involved in any lesson.

Don't Forget

March 9 Music Organization Entries (List of Participants) due on-line



The future plays here.™

Porter's Pen ...

While this month's essay centers on basketball, it really applies to all sports. Enjoy.

Self Control

The fundamental requirement of any basketball player is self control. It is the first attribute required by an experienced coach. One of the laws that is most impressed on players in a school that is known for its good teams is the following: "Loss of self-control on the basketball floor either in informal practice scrimmages or in a game means a free ticket to the showers for the season." Another well known coach states that he puts his men through a severe test before he chooses his first squad. He puts about fifty boys on the floor with one ball and lets them scrimmage without an official or any supervision. They are made to understand that no matter what happens on the basketball court, the good of the game demands that self control is the most essential virtue.

One of the best high school players of several years ago, a center, was recently observed in an independent game where the official called nothing but time in at the beginning of quarters. The coach of the opposing team sent in an ex-football man to make the center lose his head. In the first encounter the center was caught unawares, was tripped and thrown several feet. He did a half handspring, recovered the ball and dribbled under for a basket. He came back to center with a grin at the apparent ignorance of a man who did not have a clear conception of the fundamental ethical rules of the game. He had been schooled in the ways of basketball as it was meant to be played.

Self-control is the first essential to good playing. No matter what happens on the playing court, the skilled player will continue playing the ball. If he can't do this he is participating in the wrong sport. He hadn't mastered the fundamental law of the game.

One-Minute Manager

Advisory Committee Recommendations: At their February meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors approved a series of terms and conditions recommendations from various athletic advisory committees. Click [here](#) for a link to those.

Summer Football Participation Guidelines Clarified: Also at their February meeting, the Board reviewed and reaffirmed illustrations for what football programs can do during the summer contact period, as outlined by IHSA By-law 3.150. The attached document will also be sent to each football-playing school later this spring. Schools with additional questions should contact Dave Gannaway at the IHSA Office.

New By-Law Brochure: In December, IHSA member schools approved a proposal to create IHSA By-law 2.170, which prohibits the distribution of steroids and performance-enhancing dietary supplements to student-athletes. The attached brochure is designed to explain in greater detail the specifics of the new by-law, which will take effect on July 1, 2007. The brochure also addresses those substances that will be a part of the IHSA's banned substance list for the 2007-08 school term. Schools are encouraged to reproduce this brochure as needed to share with students, coaches, and parents. Those with questions can contact Kurt Gibson at the IHSA Office.

Coming in March

By-law review: Summer Participation



- Anthony Smedley's heroics in 1963?
- Jay Shidler's one-man gang in 1976?
- Vincent Jackson's buzzer-beater in 1989?
- Shaun Livingston's leaner in 2003?
- Or Derrick Rose's hanging floater in 2006?

What's your favorite March Madness moment?

Log on to www.ihsa.org
to view historic video clips and vote for
your favorite moment in IHSA Basketball Tournament History.