

IHSA By-law 3.150: Special Provisions For Summer Participation

IHSA By-law 3.150 often referred to as the 25 contact day rule, allows for persons who coach a sport at a member school to have up to 25 contact days with students from that school during the summer. The only programs exempt from this rule are baseball and softball, and schools with questions regarding the activity limits for those programs are encouraged to contact the IHSA Office. This article is directed at a school's remaining programs. More information on summer baseball and softball can also be found in this month's "From the Staff" article.

The contact period begins on the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA standardized calendar (whichever date is earlier) and ends on Sunday of Week 5 (the date this summer is August 3rd, 2008). A day of contact is defined as, "any date on which any coaching or instruction in

the skills and techniques of any sport takes place." A contact day is one 24 hour period. There is no limit to the amount of time a coach can spend with a player on a particular day in a given 24 hour period.

During the summer period, coaches may transport students to and from contests, camps, clinics, or other non-school contests. However, coaches may not require students to attend summer work-outs, camp, clinics or other non-school contests as a prerequisite of being on the school team during the school term. If a school has a conditioning program during the summer contact period that is designed for a specific population (ex. a school's football team), that is considered a contact day, even if no sport specific instruction occurs.

Contact days are designed to allow coaches and students from member schools to continue to work together to improve team and individual skills, as well as maintain the positive, educationally-based influences that high school coaches have with their student-athletes. It also offers up some parameters by which schools can monitor and control their respective summer sports programs. Please encourage your coaches to maintain a detailed accounting of their contact days. They should submit to you prior to the start of the contact period each day's activities (camps, summer league game, conditioning, etc.) so that there are no questions later about what should and should not occur during contact days. Administrators can then follow up at the end of the summer period with their coaches to verify that each program stayed within the 25 allowed days.

From the Staff

As the school year nears the end and your summer programs get geared up, here is a reminder to register your summer baseball/softball programs. Many times schools forget that there is an IHSA recognized summer season for baseball and softball (Monday of Week 46 through Saturday of Week 7). If your school is going to field a school sponsored summer baseball or softball team; be sure to complete the Summer Baseball/Softball Registration Form found online on the baseball or softball pages of the IHSA website. The forms are included in the Bat and Ball Manuals for schools.

<http://www.ihsa.org/activity/ba/2007-08/school-manual.pdf>

While the IHSA does not sponsor a state series for summer baseball or softball schools can field teams and compete just as they do in the spring. The Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association does conduct a state series for baseball and those interested in participating can visit their website for more information <http://illinoishighschoolbaseball.org/home/>



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Adherence to Athletic Law

*"No law can make a man do the right thing,
although it may punish him for doing the wrong."*

- Edmund J. James

Athletic laws are designed to be a guide by which a progressive administrator may chart the athletic course of his school, and not as threats for intimidation purposes. They are designed to protect the administrator who insists on placing educational values as of first importance against the one who believes in building winning athletic teams at any cost, to protect the student who is regular in his attendance and school habits and to protect the school district against exploitation by forces not connected with the educational system. They have been built up through years of careful study and are based on the best thought of school leaders.

An administrator should shape his policies to conform to them, not because it is compulsory but because they represent the most progressive thought of the educational world. They should be adhered to because of his desire to be progressive rather than for fear of punishment. They are his laws and are not imposed from without. To any school in which the athletic policies are educationally sound, the laws are boon. They hamper only those schools in which other school work is made subservient to athletics or which seek unfair advantages over neighboring schools.

These laws can be made effective only when the member representatives use their efforts to encourage strict adherence and enforcement. The administrator who takes the attitude that it is none of his business what his neighbor does in the way of eligibility or who contends that it is not necessary for himself to submit eligibility lists or otherwise conform to the by-laws, is doing untold damage through encouraging disrespect for law. Furthermore he is being unfair to his own competitors if he fails to report irregularities that come to his attention.

One Minute Manager

Advisory Committee Recommendations: The IHSA Board of Directors will consider the next round of advisory committee recommendations at their June meeting. A number of advisory committees from winter sports meet in March, April, and May to make potential changes to the Terms and Conditions in IHSA sports and activities. Administrators and coaches are encouraged to review the [minutes](#) of those meetings and contact IHSA Board members with any feedback concerning each recommendation prior to the board's June 9th meeting.

NFHS Basketball Rule Change: The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has announced a new rules change in basketball for the 2008-09 season that warrants your immediate attention. Beginning next season, all players will move up one marked lane space, leaving the two spaces closest to the end line vacant. A new mark (2 inches by 8 inches) must be reapplied to the lane line near the free-throw line to designate the three-foot marked lane space. A copy of the [new basketball floor diagram](#) can also be accessed on the IHSA website. Individuals with additional questions should contact Beth Sauser or Kurt Gibson at the IHSA Office.

IHSA Foundation Golf Outing: On June 10th, the IHSA Foundation will hold its 14th annual golf outing at the Den Golf Course in Bloomington. The IHSA Foundation supports a number of initiatives of the association and is one of the highlights of the summer calendar. [Registration information](#) can be accessed on the IHSA's homepage under the "Announcements" heading.

Pre-Season Rules Meetings: Although the fall seems a ways off, member schools are reminded that pre-season rules meetings for fall sports will begin in August at various sites around the state. A complete list of meetings by sport can be accessed through the [IHSA Officials Department](#). Once there, click on individual sports to see when next year's meetings are being held.

Don't Forget

May 20

- Boys' Tennis State Final Seed Meeting

May 26

- Memorial Day (IHSA Office closed)

June 9

- IHSA Board of Directors Meeting
- IHSA Distinguished Service Banquet

June 10

- IHSA Foundation Golf Outing

June 13

- IHSA Office closed