



# 2006-07 NOTES AND CLARIFICATIONS: OUT OF SEASON COACHING

## *Selections Reprinted from the 2006-07 MHSAA Handbook Regulation II, Section 11*

### 2. These limitations out of season apply to COACHES:

- a. Outside the school season during the school year (from Monday the week of Aug. 15 to the last day of the school year for that school), school coaches are prohibited from providing coaching at any one time under one roof, facility or campus to more than three students in grades 7-12 of the district or cooperative program for which they coach.

### 3. These limitations apply to member SCHOOLS year-round:

- a. At no time out of season may school transportation be used. There may be no use of school owned and issued warm-ups and/or uniforms. Neither the school nor its coaches shall allow the out-of-season activity to be mandatory or to be any part of the basis for selection of the school team.
- b. School operating funds may not be used in any way to support out-of-season activities; only funds from school-approved activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups and community, civic or service groups may be used to pay entry fees for individuals on some basis other than athletic ability or potential (qualification for federal school lunch program is a suggested criterion). The limit is \$200 per sport per student per year (Aug. 1 - July 31).

215. The regulation which permits a coach to coach a maximum of three students from the same school out of season during the school year does not allow two coaches to coach six students from the same school. No matter how many coaches are present, no more than three players from the same school district may be involved out of season during the school year. Structured and scheduled rotations throughout a facility of three-player groups moving from conditioning programs or weight training or open gyms to skill development sessions (e.g., hitting, throwing, running, lifting) are prohibited.

216. During, or in preparation for, the three-player limitation period, coaches shall not coordinate, officiate at, or in other ways assist with out-of-season school or non-school athletic events which involve more than three students from the same school district in grades 7-12 in a sport they coach that is sponsored by that school district in grades 7 through 12. This applies to coaches on all levels (varsity, junior varsity, etc.), for either gender, whether paid or volunteer. Violations of the three-player rule are likely, and allegations of violations are inevitable if coaches fail to heed this precaution. Administrators should work with coaches to keep them above suspicion, avoiding even the appearance of violations at out-of-season athletic events.

Some activities **generally prohibited** under Interpretations 215 and 216 are listed below. This is a partial list; there may be other unlisted activities not in compliance with out-of-season coaching controls:

- a. A coach may not book, schedule, or make other arrangements for more than three players to participate in an

out-of-season activity (e.g., batting cages, tennis lessons, indoor soccer or lacrosse leagues, indoor track, fall ice time, etc.).

- b. A coach may not post nor distribute a time or event schedule designed specifically for more than 3 players to attend out-of-season activities.
- c. A coach may not arrange for a parent or other non-staff person to act as coach in an out-of-season coaching activity. A coach may not arrange for a parent or non-staff person to do that which the coach is prohibited from doing under the regulation.
- d. A coach may not arrange transportation nor provide transportation on a regular basis to more than three players so they may be part of an out-of-season activity.
- e. The three-player limitation period applies to all out-of-season environments during the school year including club and AAU teams, camps, clinics, combines, leagues, profit or nonprofit facilities or enterprises.

Some activities **generally permitted** under Interpretations 215 and 216 are listed below. This is a partial list; there may be other unlisted activities that would be in compliance with out-of-season coaching controls:

- a. The coach may be a spectator at an out-of-season activity but should have no contact with the athletes in competition.
- b. The coach may be present as an employee of a facility where sport coaching is taking place and where the coach is not providing coaching directly to more than three players from his or her district but is providing coaching to other players from other school districts.
- c. The coach may be present as a school employee or volunteer at school-sponsored competition as an administrator or contest worker (scorer, timer, announcer, etc).
- d. The coach may discuss or distribute materials produced by others outside the school district that advertise out-of-season opportunities such as camps, clinics, competitions, or leagues that occur out of season and are not designed or arranged specifically for more than three players from the coach's school district. These communications must involve students enrolling and participating completely voluntarily of their own accord, disconnected from the school or coach, and in no way may be mandatory or part of team selection.
- e. A coach who is also a registered official may officiate an athletic event in which more than three players from the district in grades 7-12 are participating out of season provided that the coach/official working the athletic event was assigned by an independent agent or organization and the contest is a random assignment for the official or the result of a random tournament progression. In general, coaches shall not officiate when it is known in advance that they will encounter more than three players from the school district for which they coach.