



THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Advice for AAU Coaches & Players

Updated Jan. 8, 2018

The Basic Premise of the OHSAA Out of Season Non-Interscholastic Rule(s)

Sports Regulation 7 of the OHSAA's General Sports Regulations is the basis for players and coaches and the 'do's and don'ts' of non-school teams. You can reference this at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> In a nutshell, it basically indicates the following:

- During the season, team members may not tryout, practice OR compete with non-school (AAU) teams
- Outside the season, there is a limit of 2 players that played for the same school teams during the previous season on the same non-school team. There is an exception to this during June and July.
- School coaches, paid or volunteer, MAY (effective 2017-18) coach players that played for their school teams the previous season on non-school teams with limitations. There is an exception to this during June and July.
- School coaches, paid or volunteer, may instruct players that played for their school teams the previous season in individual skill 'lessons' with very strict parameters (the Individual Instruction Regulation)

Did You Know?

Due to the passage of House Bill 143 3 years ago, are you aware that **ALL NON-SCHOOL COACHES** (ANY coach school or non-school) must now receive education on Concussions? You can access a FREE, and approved course to meet this requirement from the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations at www.nfhslearn.com. Since it is required and free, for the sake of our youth...I recommend you take it now. The law says you **must** anyhow.

REQUIRED Form for Non-School/Youth Sport Participants

Part of House Bill 143 **requires** that all participants read and acknowledge an Concussion Information Sheet. I encourage you to get 'ahead of the game' and obtain the form, print copies for your AAU/non-school team and collect them. It is the law. You can access/print that form at: <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Youth%20Sports%20Organization%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%203.ashx>

When Does the School Basketball Season End?

The school team's season ends upon their last scheduled contest. So, if an 8th grade team plays their last game on February 12 (example), the season ends on February 12 for the players and coaches of that team, even though the high school season may not end until March 4.

When EXACTLY Can a Player Start Participating for the Non-School team?

Actually, he/she may do so as soon as the school season is complete – not a day before. In the above example, if the 8th grade season ends on February 12 as described...he/she may begin participating (tryout, practice or playing games) with the non-school team on February 13. He/She does not need to wait until the Varsity team is out of the tournament.

What Can I Do (and NOT do)???

If you are a 7-12 Coach:

- You may coach players from your school's teams on non-school (such as "AAU") teams with a limit of 2 total players from your school teams. This became effective in 2017-18 and you may NOT coach at any time during the No-Contact Period.
- You may INSTRUCT players from your school in Individual skills provided there are no more than FOUR TOTAL individuals (other than coaches) present in all the combined facilities where the instruction is taking place. You may NOT instruct at any time during the No-Contact Period.

If you are NOT A SCHOOL coach also: The OHSAA does not provide restrictions for non-school coaches.

What Can PLAYERS Do (and NOT do)??

1. During the School Basketball Season, Players CANNOT participate in any tryout, practice, workout or competition for a non-school team/program at any time.
2. After the season is complete, players from a school team may practice, tryout and compete with non-school teams (AAU).
3. There is a limit of TWO (2) players that played for the same 7-8 teams or the same 9-12 teams the previous season on the same non-school team.

Q: Is there a restriction on 'who plays with who'...in other words, can a 8th grader play with 9th or 10th graders?

A: No, there are no restrictions out of season

Q: Using the same above question, are 8th graders able to play with 9-12 graders in an "Open Gym"?

A: Yes, for the same reason given above

Is it Permissible to have MORE than 2 players on a non-school team and Rotate them in Tournaments (so only 2 play at a time)?

No. The regulation permits 2 – and ONLY 2 – on the same non-school (i.e. AAU) team whether it be for practice OR for games. Otherwise, school teams would put an unlimited number of players on teams, practice all week but only use 2 players from their school team on weekends. 2....means 2.

Is it Permissible for 2 (or more) AAU teams to Practice Together?

Though the OHSAA does not regulate practice times/locations for non-school teams, anytime there are 2 individuals from a school team on a non-school team, they are limited to 2 total during practice and games (see above). Many “AAU” teams share gym space, which is understandable. If they are separate, not drilling together, etc. there would be nothing wrong with it. Keep in mind the idea/spirit of the regulation is to not permit TEAMS to load up with players from any one school – for MANY reasons.

Separate Junior Highs/Middle Schools

Schools that have more than one middle school are afforded the opportunity to have ‘2 per school’ just as the regulation reads. In other words, 2 players from Ronald Reagan Junior High are counted separately from 2 players that attend Richard Nixon Junior High even though they feed into the same High School. This permits 2 from RRJH to play on the same team as 2 players from RNJH.

Separate 7th grade teams and 8th grade teams (School Teams)

Many schools sponsor a separate 7th grade team and an 8th grade team. It leads to the question of whether these individuals are considered ‘separate’ when playing on non-school teams. For example, does this mean an “AAU” team can consist of 2 players from the school’s 7th grade team and another 2 from the same school’s 8th grade team? The answer is “No”. 7th and 8th graders are grouped together as our 9th-12th graders.

So....does that mean 2 – 8th graders could play on an AAU team with 2 – 9th graders?

And based upon the above explanation...the answer is ‘yes’. Since 7th and 8th are ‘grouped together’ for this regulation and 9th – 12th graders are ‘grouped together’, it permits 2 – 8th graders from Smalltown Junior High to play along with 2 – 9th graders from Smalltown High School.

At What Point Is an 8th Grader Considered to be a 9th Grader (for this regulation)

August 1. Example: Bobby Smith is an 8th grader that played for Ronald Reagan Jr. High. By interpretation, he is permitted to play along with 2 players that attend his high school. Effective August 1, however, he is considered a 9th grader and therefore would be limited to playing with only ONE other player from the same high school

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May Girls Play on a Boys’ Non-School Team and be ‘Counted’ Separately?

“yes”. Our regulations limiting the number of players from the same school team on the same non-school team in the off-season are ‘gender specific’ so 1 or 2 girls from a school are permitted to play on a team with 1 or 2 boys from the same school.

May a Coach from a Girls’ Team Coach Boys’ Players from the Same School

Based upon the above interpretation as it relates to players...the answer is “Yes”. In other words, the 8th grade Coach of Alfred E. Neuman Jr. High’s 8th grade girls team is permitted to coach a non-school (AAU) team that has 2 players from Alfred E. Neuman’s 7th or 8th grade boys’ team.

Is there Any Regulation that would prohibit a SCHOOL coach from coaching AAU teams comprised of Players NOT from his/her School?

No. There is no regulation that would prohibit this. There is also no regulation that would prohibit a school coach from coaching a non-school team during the school season. Often times school coaches (especially sub-varsity coaches) coach a local “CYO” team. There is no regulation that would prohibit this.

More Questions?

Many other questions, especially as they relate to school coaches can be answered by downloading the “Off-Season FAQ’s” posted on the OHSAA’s website at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Basketball-Boys/OffseasonFAQ.pdf>

Have Another Question Not Answered Here?

Since it is impossible to service our member schools AND non-member athletic teams, PLEASE consult with the school coach (or the school Athletic Administrator) when questions arise that are not answered here. This protects the eligibility of student-athletes. If the coach or school Athletic Director needs an answer, they most likely will receive a quicker response from the OHSAA.