



# THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association Advice for AAU Coaches/Teams

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SO many questions arise from non-school coaches. Please keep in mind, our regulations are communicated with our SCHOOL athletic administrators. They in turn impart the regulations who in turn communicate them to players on their teams. The OHSAA serves the member schools and it becomes nearly impossible to field all calls and emails from non-school coaches. This posting is designed to answer many of the questions non-school coaches have. Though there are dozens of non-school programs, many use the general term "AAU" in discussing non-school programs. "AAU" is simply one of those many non-interscholastic (non-school) programs

## Guidance for Non-School Basketball Players/Coaches/Teams

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

Sports Regulation 7 of the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation 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/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> (page 66) 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 not coach or instruct players that played for their school teams the previous season anytime outside the school basketball season. There is an exception to this during June and July.

### Did You Know?

Due to the passage of House Bill 143 2 years ago, are you aware that YOU as a non-school coach (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](http://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.healthyohioprogram.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 8<sup>th</sup> 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?

He/She may do so as soon as the school season is complete – not a day before. In the above example, if the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 COACHES do (and NOT do)???

**If you are a 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade SCHOOL coach:** You ARE NOW permitted (effective 2016-17) to coach players that played for your school's 7-8 teams in TEAM PLAY outside the season of play **provided the 50% limitation is in place on that non-school team**. You MAY also provide individual instruction within the parameters of General Sports Regulation 8.2.1.

**If you are a 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade SCHOOL coach also:** You are **NOT** permitted to coach players that played for your school's 9-12 teams in TEAM PLAY anytime outside the season of play EXCEPT for 10 days during June and July. You MAY provide individual instruction within the parameters of General Sports Regulation 8.6 (newly adopted in September, 2013)

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

**Q: If I am a school GIRLS coach, can I coach players from my school's BOYS team?**

**A: Yes, and vice versa**

Do not confuse any of the above coaching restrictions with the General Sports Regulation (8.2) that permits individual instruction to up to 4 players at the same time. That regulation is entirely separate and does not have any effect on coaching individuals in TEAM play.

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> grader play with 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> graders?**

**A: No, there are no restrictions out of season**

**Q: Using the same above question, are 8<sup>th</sup> 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). Therefore, unless it is game competition, players would violate the '2 player limitation' by having more than 2 players together in a practice regardless of how many teams were present.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams (School Teams)**

Many schools sponsor a separate 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and an 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and another 2 from the same school's 8<sup>th</sup> grade team? The answer is "No". 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are grouped together as our 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **So....does that mean 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> graders could play on an AAU team with 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> graders?**

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

### **At What Point Is an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Considered to be a 9<sup>th</sup> Grader (for this regulation)**

August 1. Example: Bobby Smith is an 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grader and therefore would be limited to playing with only ONE other player from the same high school

### **When Does is an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Considered to be a 9<sup>th</sup> Grader?**

August 1. Example: Bobby Smith is an 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grader and therefore would be limited to playing with only ONE other player from the same high school.

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> grade Coach of Alfred E. Neuman Jr. High's 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls team is permitted to coach a non-school (AAU) team that has 2 players from Alfred E. Neuman's 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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/sports/bk/ReboundersReport/OffseasonBasketballQandA.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.

## **Important Out of Season Coaching Change Effective 2016-17**

Effective the 2016-17 school year, all school coaches may coach players from their school on non-school teams (such as but not limited to "AAU" teams) outside the season of play **AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL ONLY**. Keep in mind that on non-school teams outside the season, the 50% limitation (2) remains in effect.

This was done for 2 basic reasons:

1. More and more parents are coaching in middle schools and junior highs across the state. The previous regulation would not permit coaches the opportunity coach players from their school teams on non-school teams and there was no exception provided for parents. Rather than just permit this for PARENTS (almost impossible), the permission was granted to ALL school coaches.
2. This promotes the infusion of SCHOOL coaches into the non-school environment.