

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place
Columbus, OH 43214

Basketball 'Off-Season'
Frequently Asked Questions

Can Middle School Players participate in Open Gyms at the High School level?

Answer: Yes. OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations do not prevent anyone from participating in Open Gyms.

What can we as coaches do during an Open Gym?

Answer: Coaches may play during an open gym setting. Open Gyms cannot be made mandatory. Open Gyms must be 'free and unstructured play, so NO coaching may take place during an Open Gym. Open Gyms are defined in their entirety in Sports' Regulation #7 on pages 66-67.

What can we as coaches do during Conditioning Programs?

Answer: Conditioning programs cannot be made mandatory. Sports' Regulation #6 on page 66 of the OHSAA Handbook defines Physical Fitness/Conditioning Programs. Obviously, conditioning programs cannot be used as a 'disguise' for conducting out of season practices.

Who can volunteer to be a member of the coaching staff?

Answer: To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education and be approved by the school's Board of Education. Once achieving these requirements, a volunteer falls under all Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA.

Can a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic team(s) at the same time as the season?

Answer: No. Sports' Regulation #4 prohibits student-athletes from participating in programs such as "AAU", "Club", "Travel" and like programs during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams.

When CAN a player on my team participate in Non-Interscholastic Basketball?

Answer: As soon as his/her season is complete. This means a Varsity player may participate as soon as his/her last game (including tournament) is played. Any sub-varsity player may play non-interscholastically when his/her season is complete but it must be kept in mind that he/she cannot return to dress/participate in any OHSAA tournament game. Many Athletic Administrations will safeguard this by allowing no level of player to participate in non-interscholastic basketball until the varsity's last tournament game. Though not entirely necessary, this DOES safeguard all athletes.

How many players can play together on a Non-Interscholastic team such as AAU?

Answer: TWO (2). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In basketball, that magic number is 2. The only exception to this is explained on page 65 in Sports' Regulation 4.11 in which all members of the non-interscholastic squad are siblings (by blood or adoption) and no other player from the same school squad is a participant on the non-school team.

Is the above true for 3 on 3 Tournaments such as "Gus Macker" (and like) tournaments?

Answer: Yes. That same 50% rule pertains to all types of non-interscholastic play.

How are players 'classified' when in Middle School/Junior High and High School relative to playing on non-interscholastic teams?

Answer: Players are considered middle school/junior high until the beginning of their 9th grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; 2 - 8th graders could participate on an "AAU" (non-interscholastic) team along with 2 - 9th graders from the same school. They are considered separate. Please keep in mind this cannot occur during the season of play.

Can I rotate players in and out and only have 2 on the floor at the same time in a non-interscholastic game?

Answer: No. Only 2 from any one school are permitted on the entire roster.

Do 6th graders count in the total permitted on a roster with junior high players in a non-interscholastic game (such as AAU)?

Answer: No.. 6th graders are not permitted to compete interscholastically therefore there are no restrictions on 6th graders.

May a Junior High School coach coach his or her players in non-interscholastic basketball?

Answer: No, not until June 1. From June 1 – July 31, coaching staffs are permitted 10 TOTAL instructional (coaching) days (per staff) to use.

Does the above apply to volunteer coaches?

Answer: Yes. Since ALL coaches are required to meet requirements of the Ohio Department of Education, all coaches paid and volunteer, are prohibited from coaching players from their own school (except from June 1 – July 31).

If I am a Parent and also a school coach, am I permitted to coach my own son or daughter who is a member of my school's team in non-interscholastic basketball outside of the season and outside of the June 1 – July 31 window?

Answer: No. The General Sports' Regulations do not exempt parents from coaching players from their school outside the season of play.

If I am a Board approved coach and I will not coach at that school the next school year, am I exempt from the limitation on coaching players from my school teams in non-interscholastic basketball outside the season and outside the June 1 – July 31 window?

Answer: No. Coaches are considered the 'coach of record' for the school they served at the previous season.

What about Players who plan on attending another school next season? Are they still considered in the 2 player limit for non-interscholastic teams?

Answer: Yes. Players are still considered to be members of the previous year's school team until the next school year begins and they are enrolled and attending that school.

May coaches open the gym for open gyms following the season?

Answer: Not for 28 days following the team's last game. A mandatory 'dead period' exists for 28 days following a team's last game.

May 8th graders and 9th graders (or other high school aged players) play together on a non-interscholastic team (such as AAU)?

Answer: Yes.. The restriction that prohibits Junior High aged players from competing and practicing with High School aged players is only in effect during the official OHSAA season of play. 8th graders are considered a 'separate school', therefore are permitted to participate with 2 8th graders on a non-interscholastic team and 2 high school aged players on the same team.

Does the above apply also to Open Gyms?

Answer: Yes. Once open gyms are permitted (after the 'dead period') they may be attended by any age individual.

The above Questions and Answers have been taken from the Ohio High School Athletic Association's General Sports Regulations as well as the Basketball Sports Regulations that are adopted annually by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

These same "Q & A's" were contained within the 2010 Pre-Season Manual provided to ALL Coaches and Officials in Ohio.

Complete BASKETBALL Regulations may be found at the following link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/BBK09-10.pdf>

Complete GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS may be found at the following link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg09-10.pdf>