

# Nonschool Participation During the School Year

The WIAA membership has several rules in the Rules of Eligibility which affect the non-school participation of WIAA member athletes during the school year.

## **NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION - INSEASON**

The first rule, during the season of the sport: It is the philosophy of this Association that a student owes loyalty and allegiance to the school and team of which he/she is a member during the season of a given sport. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in a nonschool game, meet, or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school. (ROE, page 37, Art VI, Sect 1, Par A and WIAA Rules at a Glance III - Students - D)

WIAA rules do not prevent athletes from practicing with non-school teams or from receiving private skills instruction during the school season. However, they may not participate in any nonschool competitions or races, including scrimmages, against other teams. This restriction applies to normal non-school games as well as "gimmicks," such as reduced numbers competition (3-on-3 basketball, 6 player soccer, 3-on-3 soccer, 7-on-7 football, etc.), specific skill contests (punt, pass, and kick, shooting contests e.g., free throws, 3 point), fun runs (including "banditing"), etc. Additionally, a student who was a member of a school team during the previous year may not delay reporting for the school team beyond the school's official opening day of practice in order to continue non-school training or competition. (RE - Art. VI)

## **NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION - OUT-OF-SEASON**

A second rule during the school year is the preseason assembly rule: It is the philosophy of this Association that athletes should not be unreasonably restricted. Subsequently, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement. (ROE, page 37, Art VI, Sect 1, Par A)

The third part of the rule is the All-Star competition rule: A student becomes ineligible in a sport for a maximum of one year from date of last offense for participating in an all-star game or similar activity. (ROE, Page 38, Art VI, Sect 3, Par B)

### **Athletes**

In the rule, "Subsequently, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement." Students may assemble out-of-season in any manner they choose during the school year and during the summer. However, their high school coaches and high schools may not be involved. The assembly must be open to any and all along with being voluntary.

### **Coaches**

The fundamental rule with coaching contact has not changed. Coaches may not have coaching contact with any athletes they will be coaching the following school season during restricted times (except their own children). "Coaches" include head coaches, assistant coaches, volunteer coaches, and coaches who may be coaching the next year. Coach involvement does include organizing, determining nonschool rosters, providing instruction, coaching at the contest, etc.

### **In Season**

Also, the athlete may not compete with a non-school team in the same sport during the school season. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in a nonschool game, meet, or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school. ■