

Summer Coaching Contact Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Ok, so I still cannot coach my school athletes during the club volleyball session (Nov-May), correct?

A: November to May is during the school year and not allowed.

Q: Our head wrestling coach is considering running a wrestling camp for both youth and high school age students. If we as a school sponsor a high school age camp, does this have to count against our contact days if another coach is doing the high school instruction and our head coach is not instructing any of our own high school athletes? Thanks.

A: Yes. If schools sponsor the camp, it is limited to five sanctioned school contact days. See page 26 of the WIAA Handbook. Schools may only sponsor sports during the season and five contact days.

Q: When is this contact allowed? Can the coach work with the kids throughout the year?

A: The rule reads:

b. Nonschool Programming – Coaches in all sports except football have been afforded nonschool program contact beyond the five sanctioned school contact days that is permitted to continue throughout the **summertime (when school is not in session from the last day of school to the start of school)** in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in Section 2 – A and C-1) of this section.

The contact is summer contact which is allowed from the last day of school to the first day of school. Coaches may NOT have coaching contact during the school year out-of-season.

Q: I am an assistant varsity hockey coach. Over the years, I have coached in various Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association programs. One of these WAHA programs is the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League which is a WAHA program designed to give high school aged hockey players a development opportunity before their high school hockey season begins and for some age groups, there is an "after" hockey season short program as well. The age groups are U14, U16, and U18. Programs are not restricted by school district and teams are selected on a tryout basis. Coaches are selected and work for WAHA (coaches receive a stipend to cover their expenses). Over the years I have avoided any age group that had my high school eligible players participating in accordance with WIAA contact restrictions. With the recent changes adding non-school program coaching contact, would I be violating any WIAA guidelines by coaching a WEHL team that had players who could also be part of the Tomah high school hockey program? The WEHL program holds tryouts in late July, early August, and plays there "before" season in Sept. and Oct., ending just ahead of the official high school hockey season. Thanks for any input and response you can provide.

A: If the WEHL team is run like an American Legion baseball team, coaches may work with their kids on that team during the summer from the last day of school to the first day of school. Coaching contact is not allowed out of season during the school year. You could work with them during tryouts through August. But not after the first day of school.

Q: We do not charge non-profits to use the building - but your memo said that facilities may be rented - does this mean they must be rented for nonschool contact? I guess the issue is - what is the definition of school resources as one of our coaches is involved in the youth organization and wants to run a camp for HS kids through the youth organization (although there is no HS team) and wants to use our facility and not pay rent - is this allowable?

A: Follow your policy. If rent is zero for non-profits and if your coach runs a nonschool contact via a non-profit, then rent the gym for zero. Yes, it is allowed. Best to run it via the nonschool organization for insurance purposes.

Q: I was wondering if you could help me out with this question? With the summer contact rules can our volleyball team use a school bus to go to a team camp during the summer and have the volleyball program pay for it?

A: The summer contact rules are the same (especially the rules about camp expenses). Volleyball, basketball, and hockey coaches now have been added to the list of sports that are allowed NONSCHOOL programming contact where no school resources may be used.

Here's what's in the Rules at a Glance:

F. EXPENSES – TRAINING AND COMPETING

1. The WIAA recognizes a distinction between training and competing. **Students must pay their own expenses, including transportation, to any nonschool (out-of-season) camps, clinics, or specialized training.** Schools may pay expenses and provide transportation to similar inseason activities in that sport and during sanctioned school contact days in the summer.
2. A student may be reimbursed actual and necessary costs associated with competing. This may include transportation, food, lodging and entry fees.
3. **A school may not become involved financially, through transportation or any other way in a student's nonschool participation outside the sport season and the five Board of Control approved sanctioned school contact days in the summer. (BL – Art. II, RE – Art. IV and Art. VI) Note: Funds kept in school activity accounts are considered school funds.**

If a coach is using the five sanctioned school contact days during the summer, the school may use school resources for a camp. If not, then the athletes must pay 100% of the costs associated with camps/clinics.

If the coach is using the five sanctioned SCHOOL coaching contact days via a nonschool organization, they may not use school resources (money in the general budget or an activity account and/or school transportation). Everything must be paid by the nonschool organization without any school resources.

Q: Our coaches are going to have a non-school shooting workout for 1 hour 15 minutes, which is the same hours we open our weight room daily. They will rent gym and basketballs through their outside booster club. Is this all within the rules? Example:

Lady T-Wolves “Gun” Workouts – Tues/Thurs mornings 6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

- Facility usage form
- Insurance?
- Board approval for use of basketballs
- “Gun” was purchased by booster club.

A: Yes. Be sure that it is known as open to any and all interested students and it is done via the booster club which is a nonschool organization.

Q: Not using any school anything, can our JV coach give private lessons IF those lessons are an option for everyone? We have a rule here that you can't use equipment or facility for personal gains so we would not allow this coach anywhere near our field house or equipment.

A: Yes. Coaches may be self-employed. Remember, contact may only be during the summertime.

Q: Can the basketball coach provide unlimited nonschool coaching contact during an open gym?

A: No. Open gyms are **SCHOOL** run recreational opportunities for any and all students in the school's population to recreate. The coach or anyone else may **NOT** provide instruction. Nothing has changed in open gyms.

Q: What are common nonschool organizations?

A: American Legion, local recreation department, booster club, golf club, local Lions Club. A key question would be does the organization have liability insurance. If the nonschool organization invited the coach, the coach could provide unlimited nonschool instruction.

Q: Can coaches coach the summer league teams?

A: If the summer league team is sponsored and organized by a nonschool organization (booster club, Lions Club, etc.), the coach could work (coach) for that nonschool organization.

Q: Can they take their team to an AAU tournament?

A: Provided the above stipulations are met, coaches may coach an AAU team.

Q: Can coaches use money from the school or activity account to pay entry fees?

A: No funds from the schools Fund 10 or Fund 60 accounts may be used. Programs run via the community education department or recreation department are allowed.

Q: Can a parent rent the gym, open it to basketball players and provide instruction? Can the coach provide instruction?

A: Yes, but not the best practice. The parent would be considered nonschool (no school funds) as long as the parent followed district (and/or school) policy to rent the gym.

Q: Can coaches make either sanctioned school or nonschool program contact mandatory?

A: No. Coaches may not mandate athletes participate in nonschool competition, or determine who may or may not participate in nonschool activity. It must be open to any and all interested students. It must be voluntary.

Q: Can coaches determine nonschool rosters?

A: The unlimited non-school coaching contact is open to any and all interested students. Rosters could be determined by try-outs and not previous team status.

Q: Can coaches provide transportation to nonschool competition?

A: Only if the coach and event is directly related to the nonschool program. This includes school vehicles.

Q: Can the nonschool organization provide camps for athletes and have the coach work the camp?

A: Yes. But the nonschool organization may not provide monies for camps run by other organizations (UW camps, etc.). Athletes must pay 100% of costs associated with camps/clinics.

Q: If the local basketball association (our youth association) signs up for gym time at our schools for the purpose of providing instruction to any girls interested and the basketball coach is providing that instruction, could a high school athlete show up for that instruction. Is that considered non-school contact?

A: Yes provided the camp is run during the summer.

Q: If a group of local high school girls decides to play in a league or tournament at another area high school this summer could I coach them if the school provides nothing (transportation, league fees, etc.)?

A: Yes. Provided the team is a nonschool team and try-outs are open to any and all students.

Q: If our basketball team is in a summer league and the youth booster club paid their entry and no school transportation is used for these nights, may our coach work with these kids in the summer?

A: Yes.

Q: If we ran all our open gyms and summer leagues under the umbrella of the community youth organization (as I am sure many people will do), how can our coach be involved?

A: Don't match open gyms (a school sponsored activity) with any other nonschool format or nonschool organization. Keep them separate to avoid confusion. Schools don't run summer leagues and may not be involved. A youth organization may rent the gym to provide an instructional opportunity. A nonschool group may organize a team for a league and ask your coach to coach.

Have the youth organization call it something else. They can call it a camp, a practice, instructional time, or a clinic. But avoid calling it an open gym. Using the same name will only add confusion. Coaches organizing and disguising the activity as nonschool is circumvention. It is best to have the nonschool organization initiate and actually develop the programs and teams.

Q: Basketball and volleyball coaches can coach their athletes' summer league teams as long as they are open to everyone in the school, no school funds are used, and no transportation by the school is used.

A: Correct. But I would add: Keep in mind that coaches do not organize nonschool teams. The students or nonschool group can organize the teams either the nonschool group or the athletes could ask the coach to work with them.

Other reminders:

- Coaches may not require involvement in out-of-season activities as part of the requirements for making a school team, earning a school letter award, etc.
- Coaches may not provide incentives such as T-shirts, etc., for participation in the off-season.