

HIGH SCHOOL OUT-OF-SEASON CONCERNS

WIAA Bylaw, Article II, Section 2, A., 2), indicates "A school may not assemble athletes or prospective athletes in physical education classes, or some other manner, for purposes of teaching fundamentals, techniques, plays, etc., except during the designated school season of a sport." This includes the summer period, meaning that schools cannot conduct a **summer school class**, or community education program, on basketball fundamentals, for their basketball players. It doesn't matter if the class is open to all students. The one exception is in the summertime during the Board of Control approved sanctioned school contact period between the end of school and July 31* (5 days in all WIAA sports). *Sanctioned school coach contact ends July 27, 2024 for **11-player** football.

This same Bylaw has another provision, indicating "A school may not organize conditioning programs limited to students with athletic team status, or to prospective athletes, except during the designated school season of a sport." Off-season weight-training programs are fine, as long as they are **not sport specific**. If a weight-training program is conducted, and is available to anyone interested, and the activities that go on are not sport specific, then it is acceptable under WIAA guidelines. There **cannot, however, be incentives** put in place to encourage athletes to be involved in these off-season programs. For example, it is not appropriate to indicate that any football player attending a given number of weight-training programs, will receive a T-shirt. It is also unacceptable for schools to provide a T-shirt to a basketball player, who attempts so many shots during the off-season. Another example of **unacceptable incentives** would be to include off-season activities into the determination of who gets to start during the season, or who gets to play, or for participation in these activities to be included in eligibility for a letter in that particular sport. Off-season programs must be **voluntary**. Administration should be aware of programming in disguise of nonschool programming that their high school coaches are involved in.

Captains Practices: WIAA Rules of Eligibility allow students to voluntarily assemble during the school year and in the summertime without school and/or coach involvement. These assemblies may sometimes be referred to as "captains practices."