

9. PROHIBITION OF PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT SITE: Schools are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for sectional and State Tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

Points of clarification:

- *“Schools” include teams and their individual athletes. Even if an individual acts independently.
- *There is no distinction between a meet held on school property, a golf course, or public park. All would be considered tournament sites.
- *The host school may continue to practice on the meet site if they have an established history of practicing there.
- *If another school has a history of practicing at a public park that is now a site for a sectional meet, they may continue to practice there. For example, Team A runs a hill workout at XYZ Park on Wednesdays or Team B runs repeat halves at XYZ Park on Mondays. This does not mean that Team A or B may now run the race course just because they have a history of using the park for particular workouts.
- *Coaches, teams, and/or individuals are allowed to attend meets held at sectional courses as spectators. Spectating does not include running or walking the entire course. What do spectators usually do? They watch the start, go to the mile and two mile marks, watch the finish or go to an interesting feature of the course; a steep hill.
- *Teams are allowed to compete in meets held prior to the sectional meet at the sectional meet course. A conference meet held at the sectional meet course would not be considered a violation of the rule.
- *Coaches may videotape the course and show the tape to their athletes.

What you need to do:

Be certain that your athletes AND parents know and understand the rule.
Keep the “spirit” of the rule in mind. If it looks like practice it probably is!

This is the current interpretation of the language and it applies to almost all of the sports (except golf) sponsored by the WIAA.

The current language has been discussed by the Cross Country Coaches Advisory Committee and has been presented at the WCCCA Clinic by WIAA staff. Previous committees have not chosen to change the current language as it applies to cross country. Coaches with specific language changes should contact a member of the Advisory Committee or Marcy Thurwachter (WIAA).