

Memorandum



To: Softball Athletic Directors
Head Softball Coaches

From: Scott Owen, Assistant Director

RE: **OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING RULES/REGULATIONS**

Coaches and Athletic Directors, there have been some concerns as well as questions regarding the rules and regulations surrounding the NMAA out-of-season coaching policy. I would like to clarify some of these issues specific to softball to help ensure a greater deal of understanding and compliance.

1. Out-of-Season Defined

- Out-of-season is the period of time during the school year outside of the regular softball season. The regular softball season is between weeks 32-46. Anything before or after these weeks is considered out of season.
 - Summer activities are not considered "out-of-season" coaching.

2. "7.5 Hour Rule"

- You have 7.5 hours of total contact time per school week to work with your prospective student-athletes during the off-season (**Grades 8-12 only; 7th graders cannot be included in out-of-season coaching practices**)
 - Monday thru Friday only and only when school is in session.
 - NO WEEKENDS
 - MAY NOT have contact on snow days, holidays or in-service days.
- Each athlete DOES NOT have his own 7.5 hours.
 - If you work 3 hours with athletes in group A and another 3 hours with athletes in group B you only have a remaining 1.5 hours for your program.
 - Time is cumulative.
- Sports Specific athletic classes count toward your 7.5 hours.
- Athletes 8th grade and up count against your 7.5 hours

3. Club Teams

- Coaches (head, assistant, volunteer) MAY NOT coach club teams involving your sport's athletes while out of season.
 - You may supervise a "junior league" club team for student-athletes 6th grade and below at your discretion (7th grade and below if your district does not allow 8th grade participation).

4. Competitions

- Any coach associated with your program MAY NOT transport, supervise or coach athletes in your program during out-of-season competitions. Coaches are also prohibited from organizing events.
 - Coaches may be in the competition venue but are precluded from coaching or instructing athletes during competition.

5. **Out-of-Season Violations**

- 1st Offense: Member school fined \$2500 to be paid prior to its participation in any further contests.
- 2nd Offense: Member school fined \$5000 to be paid prior to its participation in any further contests and the offending coach will be reported by the NMAA to the Public Education Department.

6. **Summer Activities**

- Summer activities are under the guidance of the local school district.
- The NMAA has limited jurisdiction during summer activities but does prohibit the following scenarios:
 - Requiring athletes to attend summer activities
 - Using summer camp or program participation as a prerequisite for participation in the regular sports season.
 - Using summer performance to determine upcoming season's depth chart.
- Coaching club teams as well as transporting athletes to competition is permissible at the discretion of your local school district.
- Summer regulations begin on the last day of school or Memorial Day weekend; whichever occurs first.

7. **Transfer Considerations**

- Remember, while holding out-of-season or summer practices is permissible, beginning with the summer prior to entering the 7th grade, should a student who has been affiliated with your program or club and attends a school outside of your district choose to enroll in/transfer to your school, regardless of a change in bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the student has been recruited to attend your school or transferred to your school for athletic reasons and that student will be ineligible for all high school athletic participation for 180 school/calendar days.

These should help clarify any questions or concerns. Please make sure you are adhering to the policies set forth to ensure compliance while also promoting a well-rounded athletic experience. Make sure you use your best judgment and if there are still some uncertain areas regarding the policy please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to answer any question I can.

Sincerely,



Scott Owen
NMAA Softball Director