

## MIAA POSITION ON OUT-OF-SEASON ACTIVITIES

The MIAA position on out-of-season activity is simple. Student athletes may do whatever they and their parents chose when they are not participating in interscholastic athletics during a specific high school sport season. In addition, high school coaches are not to have direct influence over those decisions.

The spirit of MIAA Out-of-Season Rules 40 and 41 is probably more important than the letter of the rules. The fundamental concept of these standards is fairness. All student athletes and their families across the state should feel free to make choices about the use of their out-of-season time, without the fear of being placed at a disadvantage within their local school athletic program or in eventual in-season competition against high school opponents. It is the MIAA position that fairness to the student athletes in competing schools can only be ensured if *all* coaches and *all* school administrators are in compliance with the stipulations of these rules.

### SPECIFIC INTERPRETATIONS OF OUT-OF-SEASON COACH/ATHLETE CONTACT LIMITATIONS:

#### Acceptable:

1. Coaches may offer *general* counsel to student-athletes and parents about credible and beneficial out-of-season activities via handouts or website postings.
2. Conditioning and weightlifting programs *open to all students* which include no sport-specific activity may be sponsored by a school and supervised by members of the coaching staff.
3. Each school, through the administrators and coaches, must make it emphatically clear in all communications with student athletes and parents, including handbooks and/or website postings, that there are no requirements or expectations for student athletes involving participation in out-of-season activities, nor will there be any consequences if they chose not to participate.
4. High School Coaches (paid or volunteer) of one sport may be involved in out-of-season activity of another sport during the summer.
5. High School Coaches may attend out-of-season sport competitions (i.e. formal teams, officials, etc.) of their student athletes.
6. High School Coaches who give private lessons, may provide that service to their candidates provided that: The opportunity for private lessons is open to all; The candidates represent fewer than 50% of those who are receiving private lessons from that coach; and candidates are given no special consideration.

#### Not-Acceptable:

1. A school's name and/or school uniforms may not be used by teams and/or student athletes participating in out-of-season activities.
2. No member of a school's athletic staff (paid or volunteer) in any sport may avoid the applications of the MIAA rules.
3. A student athlete's status relative to tryouts, cuts, and playing time may not be impacted in any way due to their participation or non-participation in out-of-season activities.
4. Coaches may not communicate with their student-athletes regarding their ongoing attendance at or participation in a specific out-of-season activity.
5. Out-of-season sport camps that offer enticements to coaches or teams to participate must be avoided.