



PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE – 6A PILOT

Approved February 2017 for a one year trial during the 2017-18 School Year

54. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A Pilot)** *(Approved February 2017 for a one-year trial during the 2017-18 school year)*
- A. **Philosophy/Rationale.** The following statements outline the philosophy of *this policy* regarding in-season and out-of-season sports.
- 1) ***The spirit of the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot) is that every school and participant shall have the same opportunity to practice prior to the first contest.***
 - 2) The mission of OSAA member schools is to foster well-rounded individuals. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to help educate boys and girls and not to prepare students for college athletics, which is a by-product of interscholastic competition available to a very small percentage of high school athletes.
 - 3) For most students, specialization in a single athletic activity is not in their best long-term interests.
 - 4) Students should be encouraged by coaches, administrators and parents to participate in a variety of school activities, including more than one sport during the school year.
 - 5) Schools should not allow use of school equipment, including uniforms and school district vehicles, and facilities by non-school organizations that promote a philosophy contrary to the above statements.
 - 6) ***6A schools are looking to provide coaches with more opportunities for fundamental skill development at specified times during the Association Year.***
 - 7) ***6A schools believe that high school coaches are the individuals best-trained to guide and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.***
 - 8) ***6A schools want to work with the OSAA to educate parents regarding the impact on the health and physical welfare of students who choose to specialize in one sport, year-round.***
 - 9) There should be no promotion or publicity within a school for non-school programs, which promote a philosophy contrary to the above statements.
- B. **Individual Sports Limitation.** Schools may conduct practices and/or contests in individual sports (cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track & field, wrestling) only during the designated OSAA sports seasons as outlined in Rule 6. Local school districts and/or leagues should establish their own policy restricting the involvement of their individual sports coaches in out-of-season programs.
- C. **Closed Period.** ***The Closed Period for out-of-season team sports begins on the first practice date of each Fall, Winter, and Spring season. Dates shall follow the NFHS Numbered Calendar, as adopted by the OSAA. The Closed Period shall last six weeks. During the six-week Closed Period, the only activity allowed is conditioning.*** Conditioning is defined as a session where students work on physical fitness and conditioning by use of weights, running, and/or exercises. Conditioning does not allow for the use of individualized and specialized sports equipment or apparatus, including but not limited to: balls, bats, protective equipment, blocking dummies, batting cages, charging sleds and other implements related to specific OSAA activities. ***Participation in conditioning activities must be optional.***
- D. **Open Period.** ***The Open Period for all out-of-season team sports begins on the first Monday following the six-week Closed Period and ends when the next OSAA defined season begins. Dates shall follow the NFHS Numbered Calendar, as adopted by the OSAA. Fundamental skill development with an unlimited number of the school's student-athletes is allowed for a maximum of nine hours each week per program. Schools may conduct fundamental skill development sessions. It shall be a violation of the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot) if there is any attempt by a coach during the Open Period to coach student-athletes from his/her high school in a contest in a sport he/she coaches at that high school. For the purpose of this rule, a contest is any event (practice, scrimmage, game, etc.) that involves anyone other than the students at your high school. Participation in Open Period fundamental skill development and/or conditioning must be optional.***

E. **Dates for the 2017-18 School Year**

- 1) **OSAA Fall Season.**
 - a) **Official Practices begin for Fall Team Sport Coaches – Monday, August 14 (Week 7).**
 - b) **Closed Period for all Winter and Spring Team Sport Coaches – Monday, August 14-Sunday, September 24 (Weeks 7-12).**
 - c) **Open Period for all Winter and Spring Team Sport Coaches – Monday, September 25-Sunday, November 12 (Weeks 13-19).**
 - d) **Coaching Ends for Fall Team Sport Coaches – Day Following Last Varsity Contest.**
- 2) **OSAA Winter Season.**
 - a) **Official Practices begin for Winter Team Sport Coaches – Monday, November 13 (Week 20).**
 - b) **Closed Period for all Fall and Spring Team Sport Coaches – Monday, November 13-Sunday, December 24 (Weeks 20-25).**
 - c) **Open Period for all Fall and Spring Team Sport Coaches – Monday, December 25-Sunday, February 25 (Weeks 26-34).**
 - d) **Coaching Ends for Winter Team Sport Coaches – Day Following Last Varsity Contest.**
- 3) **OSAA Spring Season.**
 - a) **Official Practices begin for Spring Team Sport Coaches – Monday, February 26 (Week 35)**
 - b) **Closed Period for all Fall and Winter Team Sport Coaches – Monday, February 26-Sunday, April 8 (Weeks 35-40)**
 - c) **Open Period for all Fall and Winter Team Sport Coaches – Monday, April 9-Monday, May 28 (Weeks 41-47)**
 - d) **Coaching Ends for Spring Team Sport Coaches – Day Following Last Varsity Contest**
- 4) **OSAA Summer Season.**
 - a) **Summer Season for Fall, Winter, and Spring Team Sport Coaches – Tuesday, May 29-Sunday, August 12 (Weeks 48-6).**
 - b) **Moratorium Week – Sunday, July 22-Saturday, July 28 (Week 4).**

1. Q. **Under the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot), may a coach work on fundamental skill development with two students a day as was allowed previously?**
 - A. **Yes, but only during the Open Period. During the Open Period coaches may work with an unlimited number of students on fundamental skill development for a maximum of nine hours each week per program. During the Closed Period coaches are prohibited from working on fundamental skill development with any students.**
2. Q. **Under the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot), is a coach allowed to coach student-athletes from his/her high school in a contest during the Association Year outside their sport season in a sport he/she coaches at that high school?**
 - A. **No.**
3. Q. **Under the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot), are coaches allowed to work on fundamental skill development with their students during the Open Period and organize their students to participate in contests while being coached by someone else?**
 - A. **No.**
4. Q. **Under the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot), how does the maximum of nine hours each week per program work during the Open Period?**
 - A. **Any fundamental skill development involving a coach and any number of students from the coach's school in a sport he/she coaches at that high school counts toward the maximum of nine hours each week per program (football, girls basketball, boys basketball, etc.). A week is defined as Monday-Sunday.**
5. Q. **Are open gyms still permissible under the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot)?**
 - A. **Yes, provided they occur during the Open Period and fall within the maximum of nine hours each week per program. The terminology has been changed to "open facility" and is applicable to gymnasiums, fields, tracks, etc.**
6. Q. **What are the penalties if a high school coach violates the Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot) by coaching members of his or her team during the Closed Period or in an out-of-season contest?**
 - A. **Rule 5, "Violations of Regulations – Penalties" - outlines violations of rules and penalties. As outlined in Rule 5.2., violations of any rule of the OSAA could include probation, forfeiture, fines, suspension or expulsion from the Association. The Executive Board would determine the penalty.**

7. Q. Is a school in violation of the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**) if an unpaid volunteer coach coaches both the high school team and **an** out-of-season team during the OSAA year?
- A. Yes, this would be a violation. **The Practice Limitation Rule (6A Pilot) applies to any coach associated with a high school program (paid, volunteer, etc.).**
8. Q. Under the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**), may two high school coaches “trade” teams and coach each other’s teams in an out-of-season **contest**, or may a person coach a high school team and then **arrange for** his/her **parent/spouse/family member** to coach the out-of-season club team **during the Association Year**?
- A. No. The intent of the rule is to **provide high school coaches with more opportunities to teach fundamental skill development during specified times during the Association Year.**
9. Q. A coach of a high school team **arranges for** a **parent/spouse/family member** to coach that same team in an out-of-season **contest during the Association Year**. Is this legal under the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**)?
- A. **No, this would be considered a violation.**
10. Q. Under the Practice Limitation Rule, may a high school coach work with a group of 9th graders before they turn out for a sport?
- A. **Yes, provided it occurs during the Open Period.**
11. Q. Under the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**), may a high school coach conduct club team try-outs prior to the end of the Association Year?
- A. No.
12. Q. Under the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**), may students serve as demonstrators at a clinic or camp at which their school coach is making a presentation outside of the OSAA season for that sport?
- A. Yes, **provided the clinic or camp occurs during the Open Period or Summer Season.**
13. Q. Under the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**), may a coach own a club on which there are teams, which include members of his/her school?
- A. Yes, but the coach may not personally coach a team with members of his/her school **during the Closed Period. During the Open Period the coach may conduct fundamental skill development and/or conditioning but may not coach members of his/her school in a contest in a sport he/she coaches at that high school.**
14. Q. May a coach be present at a camp, clinic or practice during the **Closed Period** if his/her high school students are attending as participants?
- A. No, a coach may not attend as an instructor or observer.
15. Q. Would it be a violation of the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**) for a coach to teach members of the high school program in a sport-specific class outside of the season for that sport during the Association Year?
- A. No, so long as the sport-specific class meets the following conditions:
1. The coach must be the teacher of record for the sport-specific class, and
 2. The sport-specific class must be part of the regular school curriculum for which credit is granted, and
 3. Enrollment in the sport-specific class must not be limited to team members.
16. Q. Would it be a violation of the Practice Limitation Rule (**6A Pilot**) if a school was to offer a sport specific class for which the coach is not the teacher of record, and the coach was allowed to attend the class as a guest and teach sport specific skills to members of the high school program outside of the season for that sport during the Association Year?
- A. Yes.
17. Q. At what point does the OSAA consider a person to be a school’s coach?
- A. Once a person and a school have verbally agreed that the person will perform coaching duties for the school, he/she is considered to be that schools coach by the OSAA. At that time, all OSAA policies are in effect for that coach until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school.
18. Q. May a returning coach work with students outside their designated sports season since the coach working under a one-year contract and has not signed a contract for the coming year?
- A. No. Once a person becomes a school’s coach, the OSAA considers that person to be a coach for the school until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school. Coaches who resign and are then brought back in a coaching capacity by the same school in an attempt to circumvent OSAA policy are subject to penalties as outlined in **Rule 5, “Violations of Regulations - Penalties.”**
19. Q. A school is conducting interviews for a vacant coaching position. Is the interviewee allowed to conduct a practice in part of the interview process?
- A. Yes, but the trial practice session shall be no longer than 30 minutes in length.