

LIABILITY ADVISORY

This document is meant to serve the purpose of clarifying the rules and providing information regarding the liability of school personnel conducting any athletic activities that take place out of season. The seasons of sport (as defined by CIF) are:

Fall: August - November (football, girls' volleyball, cross country, girls' tennis, boys' water polo, girls' golf)

Winter: November - February (wrestling, basketball, soccer, girls' water polo)

Spring: February - June (baseball, softball, swimming, track and field, boys' volleyball, boys' tennis, boys' golf, lacrosse)

- Seasons may be extended due to playoff success. See playoff brackets on www.cif-la.org

MAY SCHOOL TEAMS COMPETE IN OUT OF SEASON LEAGUES?

Every year, questions arise about the "legality" of out of season leagues. School teams as such, may compete **only** in CIF sanctioned activity and there is **no such activity, with the exception of the LA Watts Summer Games.** Therefore, by definition **NO SCHOOL TEAM** may participate in any other out of season competition.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL TEAM?

A school team is one that represents a school, uses school equipment and/or facilities, is funded by a school district (either district office funds, funds raised on behalf of the school's athletic program, school's athletic team, school's booster club or ASB funds), is under the direction of a person who is assigned by the school district, and/or identifies itself as being a school team in name or by use of school uniforms. In short, direct terms; **a school team cannot compete or practice in out of season.**

MAY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OUT OF SEASON COMPETITION?

The foregoing is specific; however, it does **not** say that students must refrain from out of season athletic activity. Students may participate in **non-school** sponsored athletic competition out of season so long as they do not violate amateur standing requirements. Undergraduates (grades 9 – 11) may **not** participate in high school All-Star games between September 1st and the last CIF sanctioned event for that school year.

MAY SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL OUT OF SEASON?

Persons who coach school teams during the school year may also associate with students out of season. They may coach, organize, transport, and otherwise be involved with students out of season, as **private citizens** or **employees** of a recreation department or other **non-school entity**. They may **not** coach out of season teams as an employee of the school (district), use or issue school equipment or school uniforms, and they may **not** use school funds for entry fees, transportation, officials, or salary for themselves or others. They may **not** use school facilities on a different basis than any member of the general public may use them.

MAY SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS OUT OF SEASON?

Persons who coach school teams during the school year may also associate with students in out of season athletic activity. Since neither the CIF nor LAUSD regulates athletic activities out of season, coaches **may** associate with students who do not attend the school where the coach is employed. However, the coach **MAY NOT** provide any information to a student from another school, which can be inferred as an inducement of that student to transfer. This is a violation of CIF rule 510 regarding undue influence, and is applicable at any time during the calendar year.

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This document is to serve the purpose of providing information to students and parents regarding the participation of students and/or school coaches in out of season activities. The seasons of sport (as defined by CIF) are:

Fall: August - November (football, girls' volleyball, cross country, girls' tennis, boys' water polo, girls' golf)

Winter: November - February (wrestling, basketball, soccer, girls' water polo)

Spring: February - June (baseball, softball, swimming, track and field, boys' volleyball, boys' tennis, boys' golf, lacrosse)

Seasons may be extended due to playoff success. See playoff brackets on www.cif-la.org

The California Interscholastic Federation does not sanction out of season athletic competition. LAUSD schools are not permitted to sponsor or to assist teams that participate in out of season competition, with the exception of the LA Watts Summer Games.

Many students and parents are not aware that out of season competition is not school sponsored because such teams are often composed exclusively of participants who attend the same school, and the school's coach, acting as a private citizen, is coaching the out of season team. In view of the possibility that liability might be incurred by the school district in the event of injury, the LAUSD Athletics Office strongly urges that the school use the enclosed notice to inform parents that the school, the Los Angeles City Section and/or the Los Angeles Unified School District are not responsible for the supervision, transportation, or conduct of these summer athletic competition activities.

Coaches should be made to understand the potential liability that they may be assuming when they act as private individuals in transporting and/or coaching out of season teams. The Athletics Office recommends that the principal or athletic director have each coach sign a statement in which the coach acknowledges that he/she understands the potential liability he/she may be assuming when coaching outside of the sponsorship of the school. Furthermore, that as representatives of the school, coaches will not influence students to participate in out of season programs as a condition or prerequisite for participation during the season of sport.

It is strongly recommended that schools send the following notice to parents and guardians of students involved in the interscholastic athletic program.

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

OUT OF SEASON TEAMS

_____ High School does not sponsor any out of season athletic teams, nor do such teams have sanction for these activities from the California Interscholastic Federation, Los Angeles City Section, or the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Participation on out of season athletic teams is a voluntary and private activity on the part of students, and is not a requirement for participation on the school's athletic teams during the season of sport. The school is not responsible for the supervision, transportation, or conduct of these out of season athletic competition activities. The school is not responsible for injuries that might occur while participating on out of season athletic teams.

An out of season athletic team may be coached by a regular school employee, however, such coach is not employed by the school in the capacity of an out of season athletic team coach, and the coach is serving either as a private individual or employee of an agency other than the school district.