



IHSAA SOFTBALL RULES AND NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED PARTICIPATION

Rule 15-1.2

During Authorized Contest Season – The Authorized Contest Season is the Period between dates of the first authorized season contest and the last contest played in the IHSAA tournament series in each sport.

- a. Participation in organized non-school sports competition during the authorized contest season, including the IHSAA tournament series, in that sport shall cause such students to become ineligible for their school team in that sport for a period not to exceed 365 days as determined by the Commissioner, unless an outstanding student-athlete waiver for said competition is approved by the coach, principal, and the IHSAA office. A maximum of two waivers may be granted during a contest season.
- b. Student-athletes may receive private lessons so long as:
 - (1.) they are not mandated, scheduled or paid for by the school;
 - (2.) no school practices or competitions are missed;
 - (3.) no student from another school is participating in the lesson; and
 - (4.) any Sunday lesson is one-on-one, with a single individual participating in the lesson. Note: see Rule 19-3 regarding Sunday practice.
 - (5.) no member of the school's coaching staff who provides lessons is compensated for the lesson beyond the compensation the coach earns from the school.
- c. Participation of students in an organized athletic competition with or against athletes not belonging to their school constitutes a game. An organized "scrimmage" or practice with or against athletes not belonging to their school is considered a game.
- d. Students who participate in an interschool contest when ineligible other than in scholarship, too many events or similar oversights, become ineligible only in that sport for a time period not to exceed 365 days to be determined by the Commissioner or his designee. When facts are purposely withheld or misrepresented, students become ineligible in all sports for the remainder of the semester and all of their next semester in school unless the school takes appropriate action as determined by the Commissioner.
- e. Coaches of grades 9-12 may not coach organized non-school sports competition during the authorized contest season in that sport in grades 9-12.
- f. Students may not participate in try-outs or demonstrations of athletic ability as a prospective college student-athlete.
- g. Students may not participate in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices and games held or sponsored by non-professional athletic organizations, clubs, or their representatives during the contest season.
- h. An ineligible student may practice with the team, but only at home in regular practices. The ineligible student may not appear in an athletic uniform at an interschool contest.

15-1.3 Camps

- a. Students may not attend.

15-1.4 Clinics

- a. Students may not attend student clinics.
- b. Students may participate for demonstration purposes in clinics held only within the State of Indiana when their coach is a presenter. Such is considered a practice.

- c. Students may attend all clinics other than student-clinics as observers.

Interpretations

- A. Student athletes who are playing on an IHSAA high school softball team may not begin participation on a non-school team until their high school team is eliminated from the IHSAA tournament series, or if they are not listed on the tournament entry form.
- B. If the high school team is eliminated from the tournament series prior to the end of the school year (prior to the last day of class or Monday of Week 49, June 9, 2014), the student athlete may begin participation on a non-school team but must adhere to the rules applied During the School Year Out of Season. No more than 5 students from the same high school team may participate on a non-school team, and the member school coach may not work with his/her own players.

Rule 15-2.2

During School Year Out of Season – The school year covers all time from Monday of Week 5, to the last day of the school year, excluding summer school. During the School Year Out of Season for softball includes all time from Monday of Week 5 (August 5, 2013) up until the first day of the softball Authorized Contest Season (March 24, 2014).

- a. Students may participate in team sport *practice and* contests as members of a non-school team provided no more than 5 student athletes, (i) who have participated in a contest the previous season as a member of one of their school teams in softball or (ii) who are incoming freshman, are rostered on the same non-school team, at the same time.
- b. The following standards also must be met:
 - (1.) Participation during school time must be approved by the school principal or his/her designee.
 - (2.) Fees, if charged, must be provided solely by the student, parent or guardian. No school or athletic funds shall be used for such when students of grades 9-12 are involved.
 - (3.) Participation shall be open to all students.
 - (4.) Merchandise and awards, other than those of symbolic value, may NOT be accepted for athletic proficiency. Student must remain an amateur.
- c. Students may not receive instruction from individuals who are members of their high school coaching staff.
- d. Coaches, from a member school coaching staff, may not instruct students who have participated in a contest as a member of their school's team or any freshman. (Exception: Coaches may instruct their sons or daughters.)
- e. Member schools may not organize, supervise or operate athletic practices.
- f. Member schools may not provide school-owned uniforms worn by the student in non-school contests.

15-2.3 Camps and Clinics

Students may attend *camps and clinics* provided the following standards are met.

- a. Attendance is limited to non-school time and *may begin on or after* Monday of Week 7 or the first day of school, whichever comes first, unless camp is a verified Olympic development camp.
- b. Fees, if charged, must be provided solely by the student, parent or guardian except for underprivileged students. No school or athletic funds shall be used for such.
- c. No school-owned uniforms (jerseys, shirts, shorts, pants, singlets, or swimsuits, etc.) shall be worn by the student.
- d. No more than five students in softball who have participated in a contest the previous year as a member of one of their school teams in that sport may participate on the same team or in the same work station or drill at the same time. All work stations or drills must be held independent of each other and may not be integrated to simulate a game.
- e. Member schools may not organize, supervise or operate school-sponsored camps;

however, schools may rent or lease their facilities to non-school sponsors.

- f. Coaches from a member school coaching staff may not instruct students (1) who have participated in a contest as a member of their school's team in that sport or (2) any freshman.
- g. Competition must be limited to intra-camp or intra-clinic practices, contests and instruction.
- h. Merchandise and awards, other than those of symbolic value, may NOT be accepted for athletic proficiency. Student must remain an amateur.
- i. Length of attendance is unlimited.
- j. Seniors or graduates who plan to attend should check with appropriate college rules and regulations regarding recruiting before participating.
- k. Coaches may use students, school owned equipment in schools, camps and/or coaches clinics held in the State of Indiana or in adjacent state, when the coach is presenter. A record of students used as demonstrators must be kept by the school. Coaches may not use a student for demonstration purposes in more than three (3) such clinics per sport between July 1 and June 30 each year. No more than one (1) such clinic may be in an adjacent state.

Interpretations

- A. Student athletes who are participating on a non-school softball team must adhere to IHSAA rules applied During the School Year Out of Season beginning on Monday of Week 5, (August 5, 2013) and ending prior to the first Authorized Contest Date. No more than 5 students from the same high school team, including incoming freshmen, may participate on a non-school team, and the member school coach may not work with his/her own players.
- B. Students may participate in non-school softball provided no more than 5 students who have participated in a softball contest the previous season as a member of their high school softball team, are rostered on the same non-school softball team at the same time. **Incoming freshman would be counted towards the number limitation.** Also, student athletes who have previously participated on their high school softball team at any level (freshman, junior varsity, or varsity), must be counted toward the limit of 5 per non-school team.

Rule 15-3

During Summer – Summer begins with Monday of Week 49 (June 9, 2014), or the close of the school year, whichever comes first. Student athletes who are playing on an IHSAA high school softball team may not begin participation on a non-school team until their high school team is eliminated from the IHSAA tournament series, or if they are not released from their high school softball team. During the summer, unlimited numbers of players from the same high school team may participate on a non-school softball team until the end of summer, which is Monday of Week 5 (August 5, 2014).

- A. Whether summer athletic activities are sponsored by a member school or a non-school organization, students may participate so long as:
 - 1. Participation is voluntary;
 - 2. Merchandise and awards, other than those of symbolic value, may NOT be accepted for athletic proficiency. Students must remain an amateur.
- B. Attendance at all school sponsored camps and clinics must be terminated prior to Monday of Week 4 (July 28, 2014).
- C. Operation of open facility programs must be terminated prior to Monday of Week 4 (July 28, 2014).
- D. A conditioning program may be extended through Saturday of Week 4 (August 2, 2014).

Summer Moratorium

Each member school shall observe a moratorium week during the week which includes July 4th, (June 30-July 6, 2014). During this seven day period, there shall be no contact between athletes and coaches.