

BASKETBALL OFF SEASON LEAGUE TEAMS/

Beginning the Tuesday after Labor Day basketball players are limited **to no more than three members** (in basketball) of the same school squad the previous season playing or practicing on the same non-school team. A squad roster may not contain more than three players from the same school squad and rotate in and out each week or tournament which player participates. This applies grades 7-12 (see exception below).

School Year is defined as the Tuesday after Labor Day until the Saturday before Memorial Day.

School squad is defined as Varsity, JV, 9th, A-team, B-team, etc. - Any amount of time played in a contest (pinch-runner, 1 quarter, etc) constitutes team membership.

While a member of the school team a player may not participate on an outside team in that same sport. They may participate in other activities, but should inform the school coach.

School coaches (head or assistants) may not coach these outside teams during the school year, outside the season of sport.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NON-SCHOOL TEAM EXCEPTION

In April, 2015 the KSHSAA Board of Directors voted to provide an exception for 7th and 8th grade players in regards to non-school team participation outside the season of sport. From October 22, 2023 (SCW #17) through February 25, 2024 (Sunday of SCW #35) there are no restrictions on the number of players that may participate together on a non-school team. While a member of the school team a player may not play or practice with a non-school team. The school coach may not coach their potential players outside the season of sport. The school team may not extend their season by continuing to play as the school team after the school season is complete. The rule change was made to provide equity between girls and boys participating on non-school teams outside the season of sport.

Rationale for Limiting Participation

The rationale member schools have given for limiting participation on non-school teams during the school year prior to the season of sport is detailed below.

- Schools want to avoid perpetuation of a single sport on a year around basis. This avoids pressure on students to forgo other school activities or sports in the name of specializing in a single sport.
- Overly demanding or aggressive coaches could dominate student athletes' time in the off season and summer months by demanding they play on certain teams or by controlling who plays with whom on non-school rosters. This would erode the fundamental purpose of schools offering a variety of activities to students, namely variety of participation and formulating different relationships with other coaches and sponsors as well as different groups of students. Schools do believe students shouldn't feel pressured or obligated to give up an interest in another sport or activity, to pursue sport specialization.
- There is a legitimate concern for economically disadvantaged students who aren't able to afford participation in club sports and traveling select teams. Students know very well their ability to make the cut for school teams is often determined by their non-school participation. Schools feel an obligation to protect the interests of all students insofar as possible.
- Socially, schools want to encourage youngsters to meet and interact with young people from other schools. Friendships and experiences are enriched when young people broaden themselves beyond their immediate school. Kids benefit from meeting and playing with students from other schools and communities.

- Transfer students and physical “late bloomers” are accommodated by a rule limiting outside team membership. This reduces the likelihood of entire school teams remaining intact during the off season thereby reducing the opportunity for transferring students and players of less experience and ability to develop in hopes of making the school team next season.
- Seeks to protect student-athletes from overuse injuries which are becoming epidemic as young athletes who specialize in one sport play year round.

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