Ohio High School Athletic Association
Administrative Overview
Out-of-Season Individual Instruction Regulation
(OHSAA General Sports Regulation 8.6)

On September 3, 2013, the OHSAA’s Sports Regulations added a regulation (General Sports Regulation 8.6) that now permits school coaches the ability to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction to any student and student-athlete on a limited basis outside the season of play. Since any instruction, whether individual OR team, was limited to a 10-day period between June 1 and July 31, this is a radical departure that now provides significant opportunity for coaches while also presenting concerns for administrators, student-athletes and parents. This is designed as an overview to the regulation while attempting to answer questions that may arise while administrating this ‘new’ General Sports Regulation.

WHY Was This Enacted?
The OHSAA’s elected Board of Directors heard repeated proposals by various recognized coaches’ associations to permit school coaches the ability to provide the same instruction only “private” instructors could provide outside the school season. Up until the time this regulation was enacted, those student-athletes that wished to obtain instruction outside the season were basically forced to obtain this instruction (such as “hitting instruction,” “pitching instruction”, “shooting instruction” etc). from non-school individuals -- often at considerable expense. A committee was created that met for nearly 18 months to develop a recommendation to the Board of Directors that would provide SCHOOL coaches this opportunity as an alternative. This was NOT designed to increase any “team coaching” or “team training” outside the season of play.

HOW Did This Get Enacted….Did the schools vote on this?
This regulation is part of the OHSAA’s General Sports Regulations -- the change/addition was not a change in the Bylaws or Constitution. The OHSAA’s Constitution states that schools vote on changes to the Constitution and Bylaws annually while the elected Board of Directors approves any changes to the General Sports Regulations. The Board of Directors are elected representatives from the schools and were to provide feedback prior to voting for this regulation. The 2012-13 Board of Directors voted to approve this change in October of 2012 with an implementation date of September 3, 2013.

So, What Actually Changes?
School coaches (those approved by Boards of Education or other governing boards) are now permitted to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction to no more than FOUR individuals at a time. To further define and clarify this, no more than FOUR individuals are permitted in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place. There is no time limit, no defined period of time, etc., except none of this instruction can take place during defined No-Contact Periods and participation cannot be made mandatory. As stated, it was NOT designed to permit more TEAM time for coaches with their team. School coaches are provided the opportunity to work with teams for 10 days during June and July and there was no change in that regulation.

How was this change communicated?
This may have been the most significant effort to communicate a major General Sports Regulation change. The OHSAA committed to doing its part by providing detailed explanations of this regulation to head coaches through mailings, mandatory Rules Interpretation Meetings, email correspondence, and face-to-face communication at Association sponsored coaches’ clinics. Athletic Administrators received several communications to help understand the limitations and interpretations of this regulation and in turn communicated this to their respective staffs.

What are the consequences for violations?
While the committee and the Board of Directors have struggled for the last several years listening to proposals from Coaches Associations that wanted more time with student-athletes, its ultimate acceptance was also a commitment to enforce the regulation STRICTLY. Since the OHSAA is a voluntary, self-enforcing organization, each school has agreed through its signed membership authorization to educate, enforce and oversee this and all other regulations. With this in mind, consequences for violations are covered within Bylaw 11. Utilizing all the various communication methods possible, school coaches are being held accountable and fines and suspensions will result for violations.
What about all the possible ‘Interpretations’?
Back when the ‘10 day rule’ was enacted; it took little time for coaches to develop their own interpretations that were not clearly stated. (24 hours in a day, 10 days permitted in June/July - some wanted to falsely interpret that coaches received 240 hours of instruction time in June/July). This new regulation was vetted carefully and nearly all ‘what if’s’ were addressed prior to releasing it to coaches and school administrators. Both coaches and administrators were included in the different scenarios and the “Q and A’s” associated with this regulation have been updated frequently and provided to coaches.

Who is affected by this Sports Regulation?
Any individual that supervises or instructs student-athletes in a school is required by Ohio Administrative Code to receive a Pupil Activity Coaching Permit through the ODE and must be approved by a school’s board of education (or other governing body); regardless of whether they are paid or not paid (volunteer). Therefore, all coaches – paid AND volunteer – are bound by this (and all other) OHSAA regulation.

What is the Athletic Administrator’s Responsibility?
As mentioned, it is the OHSAA’s goal to provide you with all resources possible to help in the education of coaches. Each member school has approved membership to the OHSAA through its board of education and agreed to abide by all rules and regulations of the OHSAA. This places a challenging task on all Athletic Administrators to educate coaches and oversee the compliance of the OHSAA’s regulations. As a result, we:
- Recommend requiring ALL Coaches (Head Coaches, Paid Assistant Coaches and Volunteer Assistant Coaches) watch the online version of their Rules Interpretation Meeting.
- Recommend ALL Coaches (Head Coaches, Paid Assistant Coaches and Volunteer Assistant Coaches) watch the online explanation of this regulation at: http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503. It is short, concise and to the point.
- Review this regulation at the mandatory Pre-Season Meeting for parents/players so all parties understand the voluntary nature of this regulation and that it is not a mandatory out of season practice.
- Recommend providing the link to all NEW coaches to a school district.

What is the Head Coach’s Responsibility?
- Recommend ALL Assistant Coaches (paid and volunteer) on your staff watch the online version of the Rules Interpretation meeting prior to the start of the season. Currently only the HEAD coach must ‘attend’ (view) this, however it would be beneficial to all.
- Recommend ALL Assistant Coaches (paid and volunteer) watch the online explanation of this regulation at: http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503

Is this General Sports’ Regulation being reviewed on a regular basis?
Yes. When this was recommended to the Board of Directors, it was also indicated that a review of this would be done after the first year (at least). This has been done through surveys to coaches’ associations as well as other groups. The original committee that recommended this will receive correspondence in late April to review the first year of its implementation.