

Club Sports: Can They Coexist With High School Sports?

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NFHS participation
numbers are trending up
for 29 consecutive years

National Federation of State High School Associations

Youth club sports is a
\$15.3 billion market
that has grown 55%
since 2010

WinterGreen Research

CHSAA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article 21 - Outside Competition/Practice

▶ 2100. OUTSIDE COMPETITION

- ▶ 2100.1 DEFINITION SPORTS SEASON -- A sports season begins with the first formal practice session as established in the CHSAA Bylaws and ends with the final state championship in that sport.
 - ▶ 2100.11 EXCEPTION: The sports season ends for a member of a high school athletic team on the day following the completion of his or her school's competition at the level at which the student competes.
- ▶ 2100.2 Players certified to participate as members of any high school sport team may compete on any other team, in any non-school activity or event in that sport during that sports season with the express written permission of the principal. Permission shall be granted if:
 - ▶ (a) the student's class attendance is not compromised; and
 - ▶ (b) the student is in good academic standing under the school's activities policy applicable to all students.

CHSAA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article 21 - Outside Competition/Practice

What does 2100 mean for the AD, coach and athlete? In our bylaws, we provide Q&As to help clarify the meaning of the bylaw.

- ▶ Q1: When may a principal prohibit a student from competing on an outside team in the same sport during that sports season?
- ▶ A1: The principal may deny permission only when the student fails to meet the requirements of (a) and (b) above.

THIS ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM COLORADO STATE STATUTES

Is this effective or enforceable?

CHSAA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article 21 - Outside Competition/Practice

▶ 2110 PRACTICE WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS

Members of any high school sport team may not practice with any non-school group without prior approval of the high school principal.

- ▶ Q1: May a high school cross country runner PRACTICE with a non-school running club in addition to high school practice?
- ▶ A1: Yes, provided the student has received permission from his/her principal.

NOTE: This is not to be construed to allow non-school people to participate in school practices or scrimmages.

▶ 2120. VIOLATION OUTSIDE COMPETITION RULE

Any student who does so participate in violation of Bylaw 2100.2 shall be ineligible to participate in a specific or all interscholastic athletic activities for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner.

CHSAA Outside Competition Form

Based entirely off of Colorado Revised Statute 22-33-116.5-1. Does not include coach or AD signature, but is being considered for revision to do so

PERMISSION FOR COMPETITION/PRACTICE WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS

(A voluntary form used to seek permission for participation in practice/training sessions.
 Keep on file at the school - does not need to be sent to the CHSAA office.)

The following person(s) _____ has permission to participate in practice/training sessions with _____ during the high school season. It is understood that all eligibility requirements set forth by the Colorado High School Activities Association will be observed.

Activity _____	Date(s) _____
Activity _____	Date(s) _____
Activity _____	Date(s) _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

CHSAA By-law 2100

OUTSIDE COMPETITION

2100.1 DEFINITION SPORTS SEASON - A sports season begins with the first formal practice session as established in the CHSAA by-laws and ends with the final state championship in that sport.

2100.11 EXCEPTION: The sports season ends for a member of a high school athletic team on the day following the completion of his or her school's competition at the level at which the student competes.

2100.2 Players certified to participate as members of any high school sport may compete on any other team, in any non-school activity or event in that sport during that sports season with the express written permission of the principal, which permission shall be granted if:

- (a) the student's class attendance is not compromised; and
- (b) the student is in good academic standing under the school's activities policy applicable to all students.

2100.21 MEMBER DEFINED – Member is defined as a student who reports out for formal practice and is actively in contention for a berth on the team; or a student who has been certified to another school as eligible to participate in an interscholastic activity; or a student who has been issued the necessary equipment for game competition. A student ceases to be a member when he/she is out from the team.

CHSAA By-law 2110

PRACTICE WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS

Members of any high school sport may not practice with any individual or non-school group without prior approval of the high school principal.

CHSAA By-law 2120

VIOLATION OUTSIDE COMPETITION RULE

Any student who does so participate in violation of By-Law 2100.2 shall be ineligible to participate in a specific or all interscholastic athletic activities for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner.

What do our Athletic Directors think?

Q: Are club sports a positive or negative for high school sports?

- ▶ “As a young athletic director, I tried to stop it. Now, as I have grown in this position, I have worked to be more accommodating and less restrictive. We have athletes involved in club sports year round but want them to enjoy and be a part of the high school experience.” - AD with 7 years experience at school that has won 3 state championships and 5 runners-up in last 6 months , largely due to embracing club athletes on high school teams.
- ▶ “I am neutral. Playing the same sport in school and with an outside team can help with fundamental development and understanding. However, it can also lead to insufficient rest and recovery.” - Head soccer coach (7 yrs) and AD (5 yrs) of a mid-classification private school.

What do our Athletic Directors think?

Q: Are club sports a positive or negative for high school sports?

- ▶ “We are proactive in that we meet with the athlete, parents, coaches and the athletic director to discuss pros and cons and to make certain there is good communication with an understanding that the school team is the priority during the school season.” - AD (6 yrs), league president and member of CHSAA Board of Directors.
- ▶ Overall a positive. A significant piece of our success we have can be attributed to the access and opportunity provided to our kids at a young age via non-school activities. That said, the clubs are designed as a business and ultimately to make money, so we face issues where the club is delivering information to kids and parents to justify the money spent so at times we (the school) have to deal with that conflict.” - AD (10 yrs) at one of the most successful 4A schools in CO

What do our Athletic Directors think?

Q: Are club sports a positive or negative for high school sports?

- ▶ Our experience is mostly negative. Even with agreements around playing time and participation expectations, there are always conflicts. And in those conflicts, the family always chooses to participate with the outside group.” - **AD with 12 years experience in large metro schools**
- ▶ It depends on your approach as a school and as a coach. As long as the expectations are clearly set for how the athlete will participate between the two sports, and all are working on behalf of the athlete and his/her teammates, this can be a very good experience. - **AD with 10 years experience in a successful 4A school**

What are ADs doing to promote participation in high school sports?

- ▶ Work with clubs to maximize the high school experience for kids.
- ▶ Travel to different areas of the state for non-league games.
- ▶ Give recognition awards for high school multi-sport participation.
- ▶ Make the high school game an 'event'
 - ▶ Video introductions of players before game
 - ▶ Inflatable tunnels and smoke machines at intro.
 - ▶ Harley Davidson's leading out players before the game
- ▶ Strategic and constant use of social media to promote school activities
- ▶ Require participation in high school sport in order to be part of school signing day for that sport.
- ▶ Culture of multi-sport athletes already exists; actively recruit our halls and recognize multi-sport athletes.
- ▶ Allow student input into design and style of new uniforms.

So, why embrace the club athlete on the high school team?

- ▶ Opportunity for those athletes to compete in their primary sport with their school friends
- ▶ Opportunity to represent their school and community while wearing their school name and colors
- ▶ Allows the club athlete to enjoy the high school experience that doesn't happen with clubs (crowds, bonding on school bus, state playoffs, etc)
- ▶ FUN!!! Competing in a sport that you might not play again after high school.
- ▶ May increase the talent level for your team if club players are on the roster.
- ▶ Builds school spirit by raising participation numbers, involving more students in opportunities to represent their school community

High profile examples of success in CO: Elite athletes who continued to play for their high school sports team.

- ▶ Henry Cejudo - wrestling
- ▶ 4-time state champion in wrestling (AZ & CO)
- ▶ Worked out with US national team in off-season between Jr and Sr seasons
- ▶ After graduation, was resident athlete at OTC
- ▶ Olympic gold medalist at 2008 Summer Olympics, 1 year after hs
- ▶ Missy Franklin - swimming
- ▶ Broke several world records during her Jr year in high school.
- ▶ Olympic gold medalist (x5) at 2012 Summer Olympics, between Jr & Sr year in high school
- ▶ Returned to her high school and continued to swim in high school meets her Sr year
- ▶ Welcomed and loved by teammates and her competitors.

High profile examples of success in CO: Elite athletes who continued to play for their high school sports team.

- ▶ Mallory Pugh - soccer
 - ▶ 2015 Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year as a Jr
 - ▶ Captain of US U20 national team as a Sr
 - ▶ Played 3 yrs in HS, planned on 4th before being called up to Women's National Team in Spring of 2016
 - ▶ Olympic gold medalist at 2016 Summer Olympics, in summer after HS graduation
- ▶ Mackenzie Fidelak - Volleyball
 - ▶ CO 4A Player of the Year as a Sr, 2x All-State in vb
 - ▶ 4 yr starter, 2x Conference Player of the Year in vb
 - ▶ 4 yr all-state in track & field
 - ▶ Asked club and school to work together to allow her to run track as a Sr, with the blessing of her college coach
 - ▶ Currently on scholarship for vb at Stanford University

Questions?

