

UIL Rules

Public School Coaches coaching outside the School Season

Legal guidelines are imposed by the UIL (University Interscholastic League) which prohibits public school coaches from instructing any player or team of players from within their attendance zone outside the normal school practices within the school team season.

The rules are imposed to promote fair competition between schools and to allow every athlete an equal opportunity to try out for and represent their school teams. Without such rules teams of athletes can be assembled to practice together year around. Those athletes not part of the off-season squad have a diminished likelihood of making the school team the following season.

When considering a club a part of your research should be to verify if your child's school coach is affiliated with a club and if so, which one. If your child's school coach also coaches at your chosen club it could possibly affect which team your child plays on or which coach they will be assigned. Even if they are not your child's coach within the club they cannot in any way instruct your child during club practices, private skills, summer camps, etc. If your school coach is going to be the National team coach at your child's age group within the club you have selected your child cannot participate on that team. Extending this rule further you will also need to know if any other schools within your child's attendance zone (The attendance zone includes all schools grades 7-12, middle schools and high schools leading up to, or funneling into, your child's Senior High) also have coaches employed by volleyball clubs. They are also prohibited from coaching your child.

Those clubs that employ school coaches and are adhering to these rules will determine the teams following the legal tryout periods and then adjust the coaching staff accordingly. At least one known club during the 2007-2008 season had to make this sort of adjustment and then announced the coaching shift on their website. This particular club's concern for the players and fair competition is testament to the Region's outstanding dedication to our youth.

We believe that the utmost integrity exists in the North Texas Region and all clubs will adhere to the policies. The intent of this notice is to inform all families that may be affected by these rules so they can make the right choice for their child when selecting a club team for the upcoming season.

Below is an excerpt from the UIL Rules pertaining to coaching. If you are aware of any violations to the UIL coaching rules and wish to discuss them with the UIL Athletic Coordinator you can do so by going to (<http://www.uil.utexas.edu/contact.html>), or if you would like to read the rules in it's entirety you can go to the UIL Website at:

<http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/rules/index.html>

The UIL rules states: A 7-12 grade coach shall not provide instruction in a non-school camp or clinic or coach a non-school team on which any 7-12 grade students from his/her attendance zone are involved, other than his/her own adopted or birth children.

School coaches shall not require student-athletes to participate in non-school activities. School coaches and personnel should make every effort to insure that student-athletes realize that participation in non-school activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation in non-school activities shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a school team.

IT IS A VIOLATION for a school coach to require of a non-school coach which offense to use, which drills to use or which students should participate or not participate on a specific team.

IT IS A VIOLATION for a school coach to require school players to participate on any non-school team or to play on a specific non-school team. It is a violation for a school coach to make arrangements with another coach to hold competitions or scrimmages for their teams. It is a violation for a school coach to handle the money for a non-school league or team involving students in grades 7-12 from their attendance zone.

The penalties that may be imposed on UIL coaches and contest sponsors for violations of UIL rules by the State Executive Committee are reprimand, public reprimand or suspension for a period of one day to three years.