

Community College League of California  
Commission on Athletics Board of Directors

Position Statement on Out of Season Activities  
By  
Member Colleges

*The issue of out of season athletically related activities arranged, conducted and/or supervised by staff members or institutional representatives within the California Community Colleges has been discussed and debated for many years without arriving at a suitable conclusion and common understanding of what is permissible. The COA Board in issuing this statement intends to provide a clear directive for all member institutions with the expectation that all members fulfill their obligation of compliance and enforcement, first at the institutional level.*

The COA Board met on June 20, 2007 during which an amended version of legislative proposal P-27 (non-traditional season) was passed as an emergency item effective immediately. You may find the approved version at the following link:

[http://www.coasports.org/meetings/board\\_decision\\_p27-062007.pdf](http://www.coasports.org/meetings/board_decision_p27-062007.pdf)

The COA Board fully expects all members to adhere to the limitations as identified by sport. Any deviation from the identified permissible season of sport (see COA Bylaw 3.11 in addition to the document *linked* above) will result in severe penalties as outlined in the specific legislation and Article 7 of the COA Constitution. COA Bylaw 3.11 (Sports Season Chart) is very clear in identifying when formal practice may begin and when the *traditional* sport season ends. Further, COA Bylaw 3.5.2. states the following:

“Any meeting, activity, or instruction of varsity or separate squads held at the direction of, or supervised by, any employee or representative of the college shall be considered a practice. “Practice” also includes field or floor practice, chalk talks, lectures, demonstrations, and showing of game or training films, etc. There shall be no “practice” between seasons of a sport.”

At a recent meeting of the Constitution Committee the following “editorial” revisions were made to Bylaw 3.5.2 as a means of clarifying the intent. The revised version is as follows:

*“Any meeting, activity, or instruction of **more than 1 member** of varsity or separate squads held at the direction of, or supervised by, any employee or representative of the college shall be considered a practice. “Practice” also includes field or floor practice, chalk talks, lectures, demonstrations, and showing of game or training films, etc. There shall be no **time period in which** “practice” may occur ~~between seasons of sport~~ except that which is identified under COA Bylaw 3.11”*

**Please note: Only those student-athletes who are enrolled in the sport specific physical education activity/conditioning class in those sports with a non-traditional segment are eligible to compete during the non-traditional segment.**

These two references alone provide the basis for identifying what is and is not permissible during time periods between seasons of sport. In addition, Bylaw 3.17.1 states:

“No college may schedule any varsity or separate squad scrimmages, practices, games, meets, matches, or tournaments outside the established sport seasons without the express written consent of the COA Board.”

We have heard many references to whether the COA has the authority to restrict the activities of individuals while they are not under contract with a member institution. In addressing this “concern” we call your attention to COA Bylaw 2.2.1 which states:

“All things prohibited by this *Constitution* to colleges, faculty, staff, and representatives are also prohibited to anyone acting as a representative or agent of the college; i.e., non-employees, volunteers, alumni, boosters, relatives, friends, students, and any others speaking for or on behalf of the college and its programs.”

It is the position of the Board that while individuals are not under a formal contract, they remain “representatives” of the college and are therefore bound to comply with COA policies as signified by their signature on the COA form R-2. In addition, the “...*College* is responsible for the actions of any person acting as an agent of the college.”(COA Bylaw 2.2.3)

The Board also recognizes the unique opportunities that the California climate provides for year round activities including “exposure” events for our student athletes. It is not the position of the Board to all together eliminate these opportunities but rather to provide reasonable accommodation to permit a limited number of these types of events to be sanctioned out of season.

While the Board recognizes that these stated positions may be in conflict with current or past practices, it is imperative that current practices are being conducted in compliance with current COA Policy. Therefore it is the position of the Board that the identified season of sport as listed in the COA Policies will be enforced and applied.

The Board also recognizes the difficulty presented with the timing of this decision and how it might impact “completed” plans even though those situations are in violation of existing COA Policies. The Board is considering only those waiver requests received as of June 20, 2007 as per COA Bylaw 3.17.1.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Board position or the specific legislation should be directed to the COA Executive Director.

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COA Board Chair

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