

	ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEPN Code: JJIE
	POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

OPEN GYM/FIELD/ROAD

The South Dakota High School Activities Association holds local administrators responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Open Gym/Field/Road Policy within each member schools jurisdiction.

Member schools may provide an open gym/field/road opportunities for students during the regular school year or summer months provided the following criteria listed below is followed:

- (1) Local governing board has adopted an open gym/field/road policy that incorporates SDHSAA guidelines as well as any other matter that would be germane to this type of activity.
- (2) This is a program whereby the gymnasium, field, or road – or any other facility is made available to all students for recreational purposes. Attendance must be on a voluntary basis.
- (3) Member schools may furnish specific equipment related to the open gym/field/road activity such as balls, goals, nets, mats, etc.
- (4) The time and day(s) of the open gym/field/road shall be made known to the student body by the administration, in a timely manner, through announcements, bulletin board postings, school paper articles, etc. Local policy may designate certain schedules for girls only, boys only, or grade levels.
- (5) Participants must furnish their own clothing such as sweat shirts, shorts, shoes, etc.
- (6) Supervision of open gym/field/road shall be subject to local school board policy and must include but not be limited to the following:
 - A. The person(s) in charge of the supervising open gym/field/road may not coach – except during the summer period from midnight on the second day of the state track and field meet through the end of July. During this summer period coaches are allowed by SDHSAA rules to teach the fundamentals of the sport (coach).
 - B. During the summer period the SDHSAA has established a black-out period for seven consecutive days surrounding the Fourth of July national holiday. During the black-out period there will be no open gym/field/road scheduled.
 - C. The no connection rule disallows any connection/contact of any kind between coaches and athletes during the black-out period.

- D. The no connection rule prevents coaches from scheduling any team activity for their players, including camp participation, open gyms, conditioning programs, or outside entities providing instruction during the black-out period.
- E. Coaches are required to make every attempt to not participate in any situation that could fall under the definitions as listed in D above.
- F. Student athletes are not prevented from attending camps, clinics, or programs on their own accord, provided that no involvement of the school or school personnel takes place during the black-out period.
- G. Student athletes may attend non-member school affiliated events during the black-out period, including strength/conditioning programs, individual camps, and outside competitions.
- H. Football coaches/athletes contacts during the summer period are limited to a maximum of ten days of contact where any pads beyond a helmet may be worn. No more than five of these ten days can be consecutive in nature.

Aberdeen School District students may choose to participate in open gym/field/road even if they are currently involved in another sport. The Central High School Athletic Department subscribes to the SDHSAA philosophy of multi-sport athletes, rather than sports specialization. Because open gym/field/road may involved both In-Season and Out-of-Season athletes, supervisors shall advise In-Season athletes of their responsibilities to their current sport and restrict their activities to those that would be deemed non-detrimental to their In-Season sports team. To ensure compliance with SDHSAA regulations and address liability responsibilities, open gym/field/road activities will be supervised only by members of the Aberdeen Public Schools coaching staff.

Reference: SDHSAA Athletic Handbook

ADOPTED: May 12, 2008

REVIEWED: June 24, 2013

REVISED: April 25, 2016