

Tryouts: What You Need to Know

Definition of a Tryout

A **tryout** is any event conducted by an institution where any prospect displays their athletics ability in any sport. Tryouts are not permissible unless they are explicitly permitted in the legislation.

Note: Tryouts are not gender specific (e.g., men's soccer coach observing a women's soccer prospect display athletics ability is a tryout).



ADDITIONAL TRYOUT RESTRICTIONS



Tryout Events

Schools cannot host, sponsor or conduct any portion of an event focused on prospects' agility, flexibility, speed or strength.



Private Lessons

In sports other than equestrian, men's gymnastics and women's golf, athletics staff may not conduct private lessons with prospects. Private lessons may only be provided in equestrian, men's gymnastics and women's golf if specified criteria are met.



Nonscholastic Basketball and Football

Generally, schools may not host, sponsor or conduct a nonscholastic basketball or football practice or competition on their campus.



FREQUENTLY USED TRYOUT EXCEPTIONS



Local Sports Clubs

Definition

A local sports club is a club in the institution's home community (i.e., 50-mile radius from the school).

Involvement of Coaching Staff

In sports other than basketball and football, a coach may work for a local sports club only if all prospects live within a 50-mile radius of the institution. Local sports club restrictions do not apply if a coach is involved with a team or club comprised entirely of non-prospects.

- If a coach serves in a coaching role, only the prospects on the coach's team must live within a 50-mile radius.
- If a coach serves in an administrative role, all prospects from all teams at the local sports club must live within the 50-mile radius.



Activities Not Involving Institutional Staff

Generally, a group involving prospects may use athletics facilities if no athletics staff or boosters are involved in the conduct, promotion or administration of the activity (other than activities incidental to supervising the use of the facilities).



State, Regional, National or International Training Programs

Athletics staff may participate in a recognized state, regional, national or international training program or competition organized by the national governing body if the staff member is selected by the governing body and participants are selected by a subgroup of the governing body. A staff member may not participate only in noncoaching activities except in limited circumstances.



Open Events

A prospect may participate in an open event hosted on campus. An open event is an event not classified by age group or level of institution represented, or where the selection of participants is not limited except by number, by geographical area or on the basis of some objective standard of performance.



On-Campus Evaluations

In basketball and FCS football, a coach may conduct an on-campus evaluation with a prospect, if specified criteria are met.

