

Recruiting Frequently Asked Questions

Questions #1: Can clubs hold open gyms prior to July 9?

Answer: CLUBS ARE ALLOWED TO HOLD OPEN GYMS — HOWEVER THEY MAY NOT USE THE OPEN GYMS AS A MEANS TO RECRUIT OR COMMUNICATE WITH PLAYERS OR PARENTS REGARDING OPENINGS IN THAT CLUB. CLUBS SHOULD CONDUCT OPEN GYMS JUST AS THAT, OPEN GYMS. NO PLAYER, PARENT OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY CAN BE INVOLVED IN ANY DISCUSSION OR SUGGESTED DISCUSSION ABOUT OPENINGS ON THAT CLUB OR PLAYING FOR THAT CLUB IN THE NEXT SEASON. IF THEY DO, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS.

Questions #2: Can clubs only invite players back from their club at the completion of that team's season/last match? If so, what does that accomplish?

Answer: Yes, clubs can only invite players prior to July 9 who played for that club and after their season is complete. No discussions are allowed with players outside of their club. What does it accomplish? IT DOES A LOT. IT ALLOWS CLUBS TO IDENTIFY PLAYERS THEY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE BACK. IF THE PLAYER THAT COMPLETES THEIR SEASON EARLY SIGNS AND COMMITS TO THAT CLUB.

Question #3: Once a player commits to a club in writing can they attend an open gym somewhere?

Answer: ANY PLAYER CAN ATTEND ANY OPEN GYM AT ANY TIME. THEY MUST NOT ENGAGE IN RECRUITMENT DISCUSSIONS WHILE ATTENDING OR AFTER ATTENDING THE OPEN GYM. However, ONCE A-PLAYER COMMITS IN WRITING THEY SHOULD NOT ATTEND ANY OTHER formal TRYOUT OTHER THAN FOR THE CLUB THEY HAVE COMMITTED TO PLAY FOR IN 2019-2020. IT IS THE ASSUMPTION THAT PLAYERS AND FAMILIES WILL DO THE RIGHT THING AND HONOR THEIR WRITTEN COMMITMENT TO THE CLUB.

Question #4: Can our club hold open gyms and still extend verbal offers to anyone in or out of our club once their season is finished?

Answer: No, THIS IS NOT ACCURATE. CLUBS MAY HOLD OPEN GYMS BUT THEY MUST NOT BE A TRYOUT IN ANY FORM OR FASHION. PLAYERS CAN BE CHARGED A FEE FOR PARTICIPATION IN AN OPEN GYM, A CLINIC OR A PRIVATE LESSON. BUT ALL SUCH OFFERINGS MUST NOT BE USED AS A RECRUITMENT VENUE IN ANY CAPACITY. NO OFFERS MAY BE EXTENDED TO ANY PLAYER THAT IS OUTSIDE THEIR CLUB EVEN IF THEIR SEASON IS COMPLETED. THEY MUST WAIT UNTIL JULY 9TH.

Question #5: What is the July 9th date for?

Answer: The July 9 date is to avoid outside recruiting prior to Nationals which disrupts the end of the season for those qualifying for Nationals. OPEN GYMS CAN BE CONDUCTED

BUT NOT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR TRYOUTS WHICH IF TRYOUTS ARE HELD, CANNOT BE CONDUCTED UNTIL AFTER JULY 9TH.

Question #6: What about camps and clinics?

Answer: Players of any club CAN ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE in camps and clinics BUT MUST NOT ENGAGE IN ANY RECRUITMENT to a club or TEAM or have discussions about team's openings. .

Question #7: So is everything forced into the July 9-July15 window?

Answer: TO BE CLEAR, ALL PLAYERS CAN ENGAGE IN CLINICS AND SAND LEAGUES AND OPEN GYMS AS LONG AS THOSE PLAYERS ARE NOT BEING CONTACTED OR REQUESTED TO PLAY AS PART OF A RECRUITMENT EFFORT. THERE INDEED WILL BE A BIT MORE OF A DELIBERATE TRYOUT EFFORT FOR CLUBS STARTING JULY 9TH TO SECURE PLAYERS BUT WE BELIEVE TRYOUTS IS A BALANCED APPROACH FOR GETTING PLAYERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED BY CLUBS OF THEIR CHOICE.

Question #8: Can teams going to nationals go ahead and place some of their other good players on a National Roster just to protect them until after Nationals?

YES, THAT COULD HAPPEN BUT WE BELIEVE THAT TO BE A FORM OF UNSCRUPULOUS BEHAVIOR. WE CANNOT CONTROL EVERY SITUATION. IF THIS DOES OCCUR IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY PARENTS AND NOT COMMIT AT THAT POINT OR REALIZE THE POTENTIAL SITUATION ACCORDINGLY. IF FAMILIES ALLOW THAT TO OCCUR AND BELIEVE THEY ARE BEING UNFAIRLY PLACED ON A NATIONAL ROSTER IN ORDER TO BE PROTECTED BY THEIR CLUB, THEY HAVE TWO OPTIONS: 1ST DO NOT ACCEPT THE INVITATION AND 2ND REPORT SUCH ACTIONS TO THE REGION.

Question #9: Why is HOA making such drastic changes?

Answer: PAST EXPERIENCES regarding recruiting abuses DICTATED these CHANGES. These rules WERE assembled BY SEVERAL CLUB REPRESENTATIVES.

Question #10: Are players going to Nationals not then allowed to look at other clubs?

Answer: THEY ARE ALLOWED TO LOOK AT OTHER CLUBS BUT NOT ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS UNTIL JULY 9TH. THESE CHANGES WERE MADE BASED ON WHAT IS VIEWED AS BEING THE BEST APPROACH TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF ALL PLAYERS BASED ON THE BEHAVIORS DEMONSTRATED BY CLUBS IN THE PAST.