

Open Gyms

Due to the increased questions and inquires about open gyms, the WBCA, with the help of the NCAA, has decided to put together some information regarding open gyms. This is not to be confused with an NCAA interpretation. This is educational information sent to WBCA members by the WBCA. The WBCA does NOT have the authority to determine if an event is permissible, but is trying to help WBCA members understand these assessments. Your Compliance Administrator on campus can help you to determine if an event constitutes an open gym and whether it is permissible for you to attend.

- An open gym is typically a time where the gym is “open” for individuals to participate in activities such as basketball. The gym may be open for identified periods of time, but there is no organization of the activity (e.g., no pre-identified teams, scoring, coaching).
 - Scheduling/organizing the activities so there is designated 3 on 3 time or 5 on 5 time and assigning teams is tantamount to an organized tryout or activities typically associated with a practice, and is not an open gym.
- Pre-arranged activity (pre-planning) for the purpose of a prospective student-athlete displaying her athletics ability for a collegiate coach is **NOT** an open gym.
 - Providing a list of names of prospective student-athletes participating in the open gym indicates pre-planning and an arrangement for intercollegiate coaches to come and watch.
- When may evaluations at pick-up games/open gyms occur?
 - Only during prescribed evaluation periods during the prospective student-athlete’s academic year.
- Do open gyms need to be certified by the NCAA basketball event certification staff?
 - No.
- May collegiate coaches go to open gyms organized by non-scholastic coaches?
 - Yes. There are not restrictions on who may host or conduct the open gym.
- Participation on an invitation-only basis or otherwise limiting participation to specific prospective student-athletes is not an open gym. For example: saying “Open Gym for 2010 and 2011 prospective student-athletes” -would be impermissible. Some facilities/high schools may limit participation due to liability concerns, but participation in an open gym should not be limited arbitrarily or for the purpose of allowing evaluations by collegiate coaches.
- References: Bylaws 13.1.6.4, 13.1.6.5, 13.1.8.8-(b) and 13.1.8.8-(c)-(2).