Informal Basketball Scrimmage Reminders

Conducted in Privacy vs. Closed to the General Public
- Informal practice scrimmages in basketball must be conducted in privacy.
- To satisfy this standard, an institution must ensure that no one from the general public can view the scrimmages.
- The facility where the scrimmage is occurring must be closed to the general public and the department of athletics must keep anyone from the general public from entering the gym.
- Further, the legislation specifically requires an institution to ensure that no one other than department of athletics staff members and those individuals necessary to conduct the practice scrimmage are present.
- In contrast, the legislation regulating skill-related instruction specifies that skill related instruction sessions shall not be conducted in view of a general public audience.
- The intent of the legislation is to prohibit institutions from creating special activities or events in conjunction with skill-instruction sessions as a way of creating the appearance of full-fledged practice outside of the playing season or creating a celebrity atmosphere during prospective student-athletes' campus visits.

Rules to Live By
- An informal practice scrimmage with outside competition exempted per Bylaw 17.3.5.3 (h) may occur at any point during the permissible playing and practice season provided it is conducted in privacy and without publicity or official scoring.
- Individuals other than athletics department staff members and those necessary to conduct a basketball practice scrimmage against outside competition may not be present during such a scrimmage.
- The institution shall ensure that the scrimmage is free from public view.
- No class time shall be missed by basketball student-athletes in conjunction with such a scrimmage, including all associated activities (e.g., travel, pregame and postgame activities).
- Practice scrimmages CANNOT be advertised or promoted prior to the game.
- Practice scrimmages must be conducted in private and be closed to the general public. Only exception is for:
  - Athletics department staff members and individuals with a working purpose. This includes officiating the scrimmage, working the scorer’s table, tracking statistics, filming, security, other managerial/administrative tasks, etc. If an individual is not an athletics department staff member and/or serving a working purpose, he/she will be asked to leave the building; or
  - Prospective student-athletes and their guests on official or unofficial visits.
- There are no restrictions on publicity of the game AFTER it concludes (e.g., box score, interviews, press release)
- Scores and statistics do NOT count towards official records.
- Practice scrimmages are considered official competition and should be logged as a competition in CARA logs.
- Only eligible student-athletes may participate in practice scrimmages.
- Participation in the scrimmages does NOT utilize a season of competition.
- Outside officials may be brought in to officiate the game.