

Favorable_HB343_AthleticSchedule.pdf

Uploaded by: A.G. ELITE WARRIOR

Position: FAV



March 21, 2023

FAVORABLE: HB 343

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education Energy and Environment Committee

As a youth basketball organization, the A. G. Elite Warriors (“The Warriors”) organization cannot express how important it is to support Maryland HB 343. The bill aims to allow public school students additional participation in NCAA Live recruiting and evaluation periods and offers great equity. Maryland public school students are not allowed to participate in these events, while private school students are. Since the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, many tout the legislation’s comprehensive approach to ensuring students’ success, but it seems to overlook the student-athlete.

Let us remember that many young people need athletics as a pastime and a real opportunity for success, development, discipline, and mental health. Many of our team members rely on and appreciate the consistency playing basketball offers them. We have seen those same students improve their grades, taking pride in the ability and opportunity to go to college, where they may not have ever expected to have that opportunity. Athletics becomes a viable pathway to high education and financial stability.

The NCAA recruiting period is crucial for high school students who aspire to play college sports, particularly basketball. During this time, college coaches can evaluate players and offer scholarships. However, as things currently stand, Maryland public school students cannot participate, which puts them at a significant disadvantage compared to private school students. HB 343 aims to level the playing field. The fact that no public-school basketball player in Maryland was offered a sports-based collegiate scholarship during the 2022-23 school year is a concerning trend that needs to be addressed. The passage of HB 343 could be the solution to this program.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to support Maryland HB 343 fully! It takes an essential step in ensuring that all kids, including Public School students, have the same opportunities as their counterparts in Athletics. The NCAA recruiting period is limited, so regardless of their school, students should have the chance to showcase their skills during this time. Passing this bill is essential in ensuring equity and increasing the likelihood of securing a college scholarship.



For these reasons, The Warriors, urge a favorable report on HB 343!

A.G. Elite Warriors Organization
"The Warriors"
www.agelitewarriors.org

HB343 FN.pdf

Uploaded by: Nick Mosby

Position: FAV

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 343
Ways and Means

(Delegate Boyce, *et al.*)

Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule

This bill establishes statutory requirements for public school athletic schedules for basketball. A basketball team may not play more than 2 games per week, but a team may elect to play 3 games per week twice during the season. The basketball season must consist of 22 regular season games, or 20 regular season games for a team that elects to play in a tournament; tournament games are not counted as regular season games. Each county board of education must decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase game. Authorization may be given to play in an already scheduled tournament or showcase game or one scheduled by the county. Subject to this authorization, a team may play in up to 4 tournament games and a number of showcase games determined by the county board per year, including during a National Collegiate Athletic Association Evaluation Period. A tournament or showcase may be scheduled outside the normal basketball season. A team in the State may play in a tournament or showcase game against a team from outside the State if the out-of-state team has equivalent qualifications to those required of the in-state team. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal. The bill generally conforms statute to existing regulatory and league requirements. In counties where the county board of education authorizes out-of-season basketball tournament or showcase play, certain school system expenditures increase. However, the bill does not require county boards to authorize participation in tournaments or showcases outside of the regular basketball season. Therefore, the bill does not require a substantial increase in local government expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), as adopted by the State Superintendent of Schools, governs the athletic program for all high school students in Maryland public secondary schools that are members of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA.) Local school systems may adopt rules governing their athletic programs that are more restrictive than those of MPSSAA; less restrictive rules may not be adopted.

Per COMAR, basketball is limited to a 20-game regular season or 22 games with designated optional tournament play. Not more than 2 games per week are allowed, but 3 games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season. A team may elect to play in one designated optional 2- or 3-game tournament. If a team elects to play in a designated optional 3-game tournament, only 19 regular season games may be scheduled. A member MPSSAA school or school system may decide whether or not to participate in a tournament. Local school systems may approve the participation of member schools to practice and compete in sanctioned National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and MPSSAA events outside the defined sport season. Students or teams representing a member MPSSAA school must participate only in games, meets, or tournaments which are conducted by appropriate educational institutions.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill authorizes each public school team to make decisions as to whether to participate in tournament or showcase games outside of the winter sports season, including those not sanctioned by NFHS, subject to county board of education approval. The bill otherwise closely conforms to existing regulatory and MPSSAA standards for the number of contests in a season.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1429 of 2020.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2023
km/mcr

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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HB343-Boyce Testimony EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Regina T. Boyce

Position: FAV

REGINA T. BOYCE
Legislative District 43A
Baltimore City

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Housing and Real Property

Chair

Natural Resources, Agriculture
and Open Space



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Regina.Boyce@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 22, 2023

RE: Testimony HB343, Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce testifying today on **HB343 Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule**. This bill passed this committee and the House as HB1429 in 2020.

HB343 extends the current basketball schedule from 20 regular season games to 22 regular season games to accommodate tournament or showcase games. Each county board of elections must decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase game, but is not required to. HB343 will allow a team to play up to 4 tournament games and a number of showcase games determined by the county board per year including during a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Evaluation Period. This also includes play in a tournament or showcase game against a team from out of the state if the out of state team has equivalent qualifications to those qualifications of those required of the in-state team.

For reference, the NCAA Evaluation Periods occur in June for basketball student athletes. Per Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) school athletic teams may not participate in any contest representing their schools before or after the defined sports season and must conform practices to seasonal limitations. Due to this, public school basketball players cannot play and/or have the potential to be recruited during the NCAA June Evaluation Period.

HB343 creates equitable opportunity for public school students, aligning them with the same opportunities as their nonpublic school peers for basketball exposure, competitiveness, and recruitment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB343. I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce

House Bill 343 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Sam Brand

Position: FAV

March 21, 2023
FAVORABLE House Bill 343

Team Melo MD23 strongly supports HB 343.

In the past 5 years, there have been major changes in the way high school basketball players are recruited by the NCAA. Spring and summer basketball (referred to often as AAU) have taken over with recruitable players participating on all star teams in events around the country where college coaches come to evaluate and offer scholarships. The problem this has created is that less student athletes get the opportunity at recruitment and high school coaches and institutions are often left out of the recruitment process in what is most of the time an academic driven decision. Since the high school season takes place in the winter, at the same time as the college season, many college coaches use the winter to focus on their current team and the spring and summer to recruit. In response to this trend, in 2019, the NCAA created two Scholastic Live Periods in the month of June where the only way college coaches can recruit is to watch student-athletes compete with their high school team at NCAA certified events.

In Maryland, DeMatha hosted an event where over 150 college institutions attended and over 200 new scholarships were offered. The event was a huge success and did exactly what was intended and connected college basketball recruiting back to high schools. The problem was that no public schools were allowed to participate. At the time, I was coaching at The Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and we had 9 players that were being looked at for scholarship that were denied the opportunity to showcase themselves in the scholastic live period simply because they were in public school.

With many college coaches looking to the transfer portal for recruitment, it is harder than ever for any high school senior to earn an athletic scholarship in basketball. It is the only sport with a separate calendar for scholastic recruitment and has a unique set of challenges for aspiring student athletes. This makes it more important than ever to make sure families don't feel that the only way to support their child in chasing a college scholarship in basketball is to go to private school. This is why a bill to support MD public schools adjusting to the NCAA's recruiting calendar is necessary.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on HB 343.

Contact: Sam Brand
Director of Team Melo MD23

1909 Greenberry Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone: 443-829-8381
sbrand@teammelobasketball.com

Coach Trulock Letter regarding HB0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Aaron Trulock

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

As a coach of the Montgomery County Public school system, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by **third-party for-profit organizations and promoters** that have **no educational oversight**. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and **without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation**.
- HB0343 sets a precedent and **different standard** for 396 boys and girls basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 **does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations** which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, we **ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,



Coach AJ Trulock
Cross County and Track & Field Coach
Magruder High School
5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20855
Email: Aaron_J_Trulock@mcpsmd.org
Phone: 240-740-5550

HB 343_ Education - Public School Athletics - Bask

Uploaded by: Alexa Thomas

Position: UNF



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director
1217 S. Potomac Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-935-7281
marypat.fannon@pssam.org

BILL: HB 343

TITLE: Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule

DATE: March 22, 2023

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes** House Bill 343.

House Bill 343 would establish rules for public school athletic schedules for boys basketball, including the maximum number of games played per week and season, and the number of tournament games played each year. Additionally, the bill requires each county board of education to decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase game. The bill also prohibits a student from being disciplined for not participating in a game or practice that occurs outside of the school year.

In Maryland, high school sports are regulated by rules established by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA). The MPSSAA receives its authority from the Master Agreement with PSSAM and each of the 24 local educational agencies (LEAs) is a signatory of that agreement. MPSSAA's governance provides for a well-balanced interscholastic program for the 100,000 public school participants, annually. Regulatory changes and proposals are derived from the LEA interscholastic athletics staff and ratified by the State Board of Education.

With regard to this legislation, the MPSSAA has already identified and resolved many of the issues and concerns as part of regulations adopted by the Maryland State Board in July, 2022. These LEA-requested regulations created provisions for high school teams to participate in events outside of the regular season. Most importantly, these regulations apply to all high school sports, not just boys basketball.

COMAR 13A.06.03.03A.(5) states, “Local school systems may approve the participation of member schools to participate and compete in sanctioned National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and MPSSAA events outside the defined sport season.” These approved regulations created opportunities for all students in interscholastic athletics to participate safely in bon-a-fide sanctioned events, including events for the purpose of NCAA recruitment.

The purpose of these regulations was to allow LEA approval for the participation in NCAA evaluation periods as sanctioned by the NFHS and NCAA. In fact, under these new regulations, basketball events during the 2023 NCAA June Scholastic Period are *already approved* by the MPSSAA. Furthermore, the MPSSAA is submitting applications for the Maryland Basketball Coaches Association for NFHS approval to run a girls’ basketball NCAA evaluation event.

PSSAM has a longstanding policy of opposing curriculum mandates and administrative directives by the Legislature; we ask that our local governing partnership with MPSSAA continue without policies driven by the Maryland General Assembly. This partnership allows the MPSSAA to safely and equitably govern all high school sports programs, leaving policy making decisions in the hands of those who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

For these reasons, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 343 and requests an **unfavorable** report.

BAshbyWrittenTestimonyHB34303212023.pdf

Uploaded by: bryan ashby

Position: UNF

WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1015 Beaglin Park Drive

Salisbury, Maryland 21804

PHONE (410) 677-5144 FAX (410) 677-5105

Bryan D. Ashby, Supervisor of Athletics

bashby@wcboe.org

March 21, 2023

I oppose HB 0343 for the following reasons:

- HB 343 places a burden on school athletic directors on explaining to the student-athletes and coaches of their school why the sport of basketball can play in unlimited showcase tournaments or have additional opportunities not provided to other sports and student-athletes. This in itself creates division and inequitable opportunities among our student athletes.
- HB 343 would supersede current COMAR language, thus removing the interscholastic athletic administrators from amending and modifying language. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.
- HB 343 places the burden on local educational agencies supervisors of athletics and athletic directors to determine if tournaments or showcases are bon-a-fide events and whether the teams they compete against have equivalent standards by superseding COMAR language on out-of-season participations, MPSSAA Sanctioning, and COMAR rules on eligible participants.
- HB 343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament. The current MPSSAA State Basketball Championships are provided in an open tournament format and are organized by the MPSSAA and its member schools.
- HB 343 does not authorize city, county, and conference championships nor does it allow for additional postponed contests to be played in addition to the weekly limitations. County championships are integral to the strength within each conference and are high anticipated by our individual communities.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation. It is unclear who enforces weekly and seasonal limitations and what penalties are applied for violations.

WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Salisbury, Maryland 21804

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- The legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports and shows a prioritization of one sport over the others. This would be disastrous to high school athletics within the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Bryan D. Ashby

hb0343 cm.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher McGuinness

Position: UNF

Dear Representatives,

As a long time coach and athletic Administrator for Baltimore County Public Schools, please oppose MD House Bill 0343 due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reason:

- HB0343 allows for the exploitation of student-athletes. These events must be sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA. There are no safeguards in place without the jurisdiction of the NFHS, MPSSAA, and COMAR.
- HB0343 increases the administrative duties and liability for the Athletic Director, Administration, School, and School system. It also negatively impacts the other interscholastic athletic programs by showcasing one sport over all the others.
- HB0343 could negatively impact already scheduled games, tournaments, and championships.
- HB0343 would supercede COMAR. COMAR has fair and equitable standards for all sports.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, we **ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Christopher McGuinness

Athletic Director

Patapsco High School

HB 0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Dan Feher

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

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In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, **we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Dan Feher
Athletics Specialist
Springbrook High School – Montgomery County Public Schools

Whitlow Letter regarding HB0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Whitlow

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

As an athletic administrator of Montgomery County Public schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

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- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, we **ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Daniel Whitlow II
Athletic Specialist

Richard Montgomery High School – Montgomery County Public Schools

HB343 (2) - Public School Athletics - Basketball S

Uploaded by: Dawana Sterrette

Position: UNF

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Opposition of
HB 343
Education – Public School Athletics –
Basketball Schedule**

March 22, 2023

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners understands the concerns raised by the sponsor, but has several fiscal and operational concerns regarding the legislation. Participation outside of the outlined basketball season increases not only the district's operating expenses, but it also increases the liability of school sponsored programs, eligibility compliance, and transportation requirements. Unfortunately, it is not possible to quantify some of the fiscal impact in areas related to coaching, as current basketball stipends cover a defined, contractual season. If coaches request to be compensated for the time outside of the season, we do not currently have a pay scale to estimate the increased expenditures.

Previously, there was a desire to have athletes participate in NCAA June Scholastic events for more visibility. This issue moved to resolution when the Maryland State Board of Education approved at their July 26, 2022 meeting proposed amendments by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) to COMAR 13A.06.03 interscholastic athletic regulation. The approved regulations went into effect on August 22, 2022. The change allowed for schools to participate in the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) and MPSSAA sanctioned events outside the defined sport season and provided opportunities for other sports to have those opportunities, as well.

The request to participate in tournaments outside of the defined season may result in participation in events not sanctioned by the NFHS and opens the door for third-party organizations that operate for profit. Also, allowing public schools students that participate against students that are not members of a state athletic association or a governing body that oversees equitable competition based on similar eligibility standards is concerning.

The school board is concerned by the program-wide ramifications of the proposed legislation based on a single sport focus. This bill would require all other sport offerings, several within the same sport season, to follow rule and regulations (agreed upon by association members) that would not be applicable to basketball players. This would make participation inequitable for other participants and would likely result in more single sport specialization legislation.

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

As a district with a commitment to all participating student athletes, the Board remains concerned that this legislation places a priority on basketball specifically. Current scheduling limitations allow for a maximum number of contests for basketball (21) that exceeds all other current sports. This bill sets a different standard statewide and makes exceptions for roughly less than 500 participating students versus the over 4,000 students participating in sports annually.

City Schools' teams have participated in multiple tournaments and showcase events each year, while excelling in the current state playoff format. In addition, while some supporter may advocate this provides greater visibility for college recruitment, it is important to note that a large part of the college recruiting process also takes place during the AAU and summer travel seasons. While nationally, only a small percentage of students play at the college level, we have students earning those opportunities and excelling.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 343 and urges an unfavorable report

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
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FINAL HB343 Basketball.pdf

Uploaded by: Grace Wilson

Position: UNF



HB343 EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS - BASKETBALL

March 22, 2023

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OPPOSE

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB343 Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball**. This bill establishes rules for public school athletic schedules for basketball, including the maximum number of games played per week and season, and the number of tournament games played each year. Specifically, a public school basketball team may not play more than two games per week, with an exception to play three games per week twice during the season. The basketball season may consist of a maximum of 22 regular season games. Further, the bill requires each county board of education to decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase. Subject to this authorization, a team may play in up to four tournament games and a number of showcase games as determined by the county board each year, including during a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) evaluation period. Finally, the bill as amended by the House of Delegates prohibits a student from being disciplined for not participating in a game or practice that occurs outside of the school year.

AACPS opposes this bill that makes unnecessary alterations to the administration of public secondary school basketball in the state, infringes on local school system decision making authority, creates inequities among student athletes, and imposes an unfunded mandate on county boards of education.

The AACPS athletic program is viewed as an extension of the child's total education experience. AACPS adheres to the rules and guidelines established by the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA). MPSSAA promotes, facilitates, and oversees all interscholastic athletic activities provided for public high school students in the State of Maryland. Accordingly, the Association collaborates with the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems to carry out its responsibilities.

HB343 makes alterations to public secondary school basketball that are not only unnecessary, but potentially detrimental to the administration of the sport. The purpose of this legislation is to allow student athletes in Maryland to participate in the NCAA evaluation period. However, local education agencies already have the authority to participate in these evaluation periods if they would like. COMAR 13A.06.03.03A.(5) states, "Local school systems may approve the participation of member schools to practice and compete in sanctioned National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and MPSSAA events outside the defined sport season." This language was adopted by the State Board of Education in July 2022 and created opportunities for all students in interscholastic athletics to participate safely in a bona fide sanctioned event, including events for the purpose of NCAA recruitment. This regulatory change was made for all sports to ensure opportunities are available for all programs operated by local education agencies. As such, HB343 is unnecessary to ensure student athletes participating in basketball in Maryland are able to partake in the NCAA evaluation period.

Additionally, the bill will result in fewer permissible games for student athletes participating in basketball and the elimination of the state basketball championship tournament, as well as city, county, and conference championships. HB343 permits a maximum of 24 games in a season, consisting of 20 regular season games and 4 tournament games. MPSSAA currently permits a maximum number of 29 games per season, 20 regular season games, 2 optional tournament games, one conference championship, and six state tournament games. HB343 does not authorize teams

to play in state, city, county, or conference championships, and, thus, would eliminate these championship tournaments in Maryland.

Furthermore, HB343 takes away the administrative control of the 24 local education agencies for interscholastic athletics. AACPS opposes legislation that infringes on local school system decision-making authority. HB343 also creates inequities between sports and student athletes in the state by identifying one sport and a single group of athletes to benefit from these changes. AACPS currently offers 23 sports and only two would benefit from the opportunities outlined in this bill – boys' and girls' basketball. Legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation to address the administration of other high school sports, thus prioritizing certain sports over others and creating inequity among student athletes.

Finally, this bill would create an unfunded mandate for local education agencies. This bill will result in increased expenditures to cover additional coaching stipends, general supervision and oversight, building security, transportation, and potentially increased liability to allow teams to play outside of the winter sports season.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB343.

AD letter regarding HB0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Irwin Schtierman

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

As an athletic administrator of Wicomico County Public Schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
- House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys and girls basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, we **ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Irwin Schtierman , CMAA
Athletic Director
Wicomico High School
Wicomico County Public Schools

HB 343 CCPS Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Lawson

Position: UNF



Serving Learners, Families, and the Community

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CENTER
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Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Diana B. Hawley
President, Board of Education

BILL: HB343
TITLE: Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule
DATE: March 21, 2023
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: Jeffrey A. Lawson, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools

On behalf of Cecil County Public Schools, I oppose House Bill 343.

House Bill 343 would establish rules for public school athletic schedules for basketball, including the maximum number of games played per week and season and the number of tournament games played yearly. Additionally, the bill requires the Cecil County Board of Education to decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or a showcase game. Likewise, the bill prohibits a student from being disciplined for not participating in a game or practice outside the school year.

As superintendent, I have concerns about this bill's fiscal feasibility and future ramifications. Student participation outside of the outlined basketball season increases system operating expenses, school-sponsored programs' liability, eligibility compliance, and transportation requirements. Additionally, many systems do not have a pay scale accommodating coaches' compensation outside the regular basketball season. Typically, coaches are provided with a stipend to cover a defined contractual season. Since it is difficult to quantify many of the fiscal costs associated with coaching, providing additional compensation for singular tournaments poses a challenge to our school system.

Additionally, I am very concerned by the policy ramifications of the proposed legislation based on a single sport focus. This bill would require all other sports offerings, several within the same sport season, to follow the rules and regulations (agreed upon by association members) that would not be applicable to basketball players. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent-setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other twenty-two administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priority over other sports.

I am committed to equitably supporting our student-athletes who choose to partake in school sporting events. Therefore, I am very concerned that this legislation prioritizes basketball over other sports. Current scheduling limitations already allow for a maximum of twenty-one basketball games, exceeding the maximum for all other sports. This bill continues to set a different standard statewide and makes exceptions for a subset participating students versus all other students participating in sports annually.

I oppose House Bill 343 and request an unfavorable report for the reasons contained therein.

Sullivan Testimony-HB 343-3.22.23.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Sullivan

Position: UNF

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SUPPORT AND WELL-BEING

March 21, 2023

Bill: HB 343

Title: Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule

Position: OPPOSE

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Good afternoon,

My name is Jeffrey Sullivan and I am the director of systemwide athletics for Montgomery County Public Schools and the President-Elect of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA). I am writing today in direct opposition of House Bill 343.

This bill creates a larger impact than modifying programming in the sport of basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 state-administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priority over other sports. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without National Federation of State High School Associations and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.

House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys' and girls' basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching compensation, and student safety.

HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the existing state tournament. March Madness in Maryland as we know it would become a thing of the past.

ATHLETICS UNIT

HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games. We have recently added county championship games for basketball in Montgomery County, with the support of our student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and our communities and they have been well-received and celebrated. This bill does not account for these games, which would directly impact MCPS and other districts around the state.

HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the ability to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering.

Finally, new COMAR language passed by the MPSSAA and the Maryland Department of Education now allows for school teams to participate in sanctioned out-of-season events, along with increased engagement opportunities during the summer months. These changes were achieved through a collaborative process and are rooted in promoting equity and access across the state.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association and allow us to continue advocating for our student athletes, we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system and for championing the value and importance of education-based athletics to the well-being of our student-athletes and the mission of our schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeffrey K. Sullivan, CMAA
Director, Systemwide Athletics
Montgomery County Public Schools
President-Elect
Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association

Coaches Letter regarding HB0343 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Brandt

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

As an athletic administrator of Prince George's County Public schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
- House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys and girls basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, we **ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Jessica Brandt, CAA
Athletic Director
Bowie High School
Prince George's County Public Schools

HB 343.Public School Athletics Basketball Tourname

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: House Bill 343
TITLE: Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: March 22, 2023
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 343, in favor of maintaining the balance of state and locally controlled system of interscholastic athletics governed by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and regulations adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education.

Interscholastic sports programs in Maryland's public schools are conducted in accordance with the standards developed by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. Since 1991, interscholastic sports in Maryland have operated in accordance with the "Master Agreement Outlining the Interscholastic Structure for Public Schools in Maryland," which establishes the responsibilities of MPSSAA, MSDE, and local school systems. Local boards of education believe that this system of regulations and oversight is working well.

MABE shares concerns and objections raised by local school systems and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to this legislation, which was also introduced and deliberated in the 2020 legislative session. Since 2020, the State Board of Education has approved revised regulations governing interscholastic sports in response to the concerns raised in this bill. In this context, MABE opposes stand-alone legislation regarding the scheduling of regular season and tournament games played by Maryland high school teams.

COMAR 13A.03.06 limits interscholastic athletic participation on behalf of the public schools to a defined sports season. House Bill 1429 provides an exception for the sport of basketball to participate in four tournament contests outside the defined sport season whereas, all other sports and school programs would be still regulated by out-of-season interscholastic athletic contest participation (COMAR 13A.06.03C(3), out-of-season practice regulations (COMAR 13A.06.03.04E), and sanctioning regulations (COMAR 13A.06.03.09). House Bill 343, regarding participation in tournaments outside of the normal basketball season, would not address health and safety factors of practice and gradual assimilation to play. Local school systems will be affected by participation outside the defined sport season with increased liability of school sponsored programs, parental oversight of student participation during out-of-season tournaments, record-keeping, eligibility compliance, transportation requirements, and supervision of students. When this bill was considered in 2020, MSDE estimated that local school systems would have increased expenditures to cover the costs of out-of-season basketball coaching stipends, school security, transportation, building services, and general supervision and oversight.

Again, state regulations have already been amended to address a concern that athletes have additional opportunities to participate in NCAA June Scholastic events for more visibility. MSDE adopted at their July 26, 2022 meeting proposed amendments by the MPSSAA interscholastic athletic regulations under COMAR 13A.06.03. The approved regulations went into effect on August 22, 2022. The change allowed for schools to participate in the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) and MPSSAA sanctioned events outside the defined sport season and provided opportunities for other sports to have those opportunities, as well.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 343.

HB 343 - Education- Public Schools Atheltics - Bas

Uploaded by: Justin Dayhoff

Position: UNF

ORGANIZED 1946

TELEPHONE: (410) 767-0376
FAX: (410) 333-3111



MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATIONS

R. ANDREW WARNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

BILL:	House Bill 343	DATE:	March 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule	COMMITTEE:	Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
POSITION:	Oppose		
CONTACT:	R. Andrew Warner 410-767-0376 robert.warner1@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is opposing House Bill 343 – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedules. House Bill 343 would, for the first time, legislate the season for a single sport, creating both inequity and uncertainty about how the sport of basketball operates within the statewide framework set forth in COMAR 13A.06.03 *Interscholastic Athletics in the State*. House Bill 343 is based on a misunderstanding of NCAA Evaluation Periods and would reduce protections from exploitation of students and schools by putting basketball outside of educational oversight.

Interscholastic athletics in Maryland public schools are governed by the MPSSAA. The MPSSAA receives its authority from the Master Agreement Outlining the Interscholastic Athletic Structure for Public Schools in Maryland. Each of the 24 local educational agencies (LEAs) is a signatory of that agreement. Existing regulations provide for a well-balanced interscholastic program and competition fairness for over 100,000 public school participants, annually.

Impact of Legislating a High School Sports Season

House Bill 343 is bigger than just basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this kind is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports, politicizing which sports take priority over other sports. Legislating high school sports takes away administrative control from the 24 local educational agencies, whose athletics administrators are in the best position to educate, coach, and mentor students through education-based athletic programs. Notably, House Bill 343 does not legislate private or parochial schools, where the athletic administrators who oversee their programs are allowed to control their seasonal scheduling.

Inequity Among Sport Offerings

There are 198 public high schools that are members of the MPSSAA. Those 198 member high schools support 4,215 varsity high school interscholastic sports teams annually that have collectively agreed upon the regulations found in COMAR 13A.06.03. House Bill 343 sets a different standard for 396 boys and girls basketball programs as compared

to all other varsity high school sports teams. Sports like girls volleyball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls lacrosse, have seasonal limitations of 12 games while the sport of basketball is being legislated to have more.

Uncertainty Related To Authorization Of State Tournament, Conference Championships, and Postponed Contests

House Bill 343 requires that “all public school athletic schedules shall comply with this section.” The section describes weekly limitations, seasonal limitations, up to four tournament games, and showcase events. House Bill 343 does not authorize a state tournament as defined in COMAR 13A.06.03.03 A(2) and 13A.06.03.07 C(2), does not authorize additional city, county, conference championships as defined in COMAR 13A.06.03.03 B(2), and does not authorize additional contests to the maximum weekly limitations for postponed contests as defined in COMAR 13A.06.03.03 B(3). House Bill 343 creates confusion as to which contests would violate state law and which contests are eligible for school and student participation.

Inconsistent Application Of First Play Dates And Inequitable Participation Opportunities

House Bill 343 allows for local county boards to approve of any number of showcase games during or outside of the sport season. COMAR 13A.06.03.03 A(6) requires 20 calendar days of practice before the first allowable play date of regular season games. House Bill 343 would allow schools to schedule any number of showcase games prior to the first allowable play date, creating an environment that is unsafe because it lacks gradual assimilation to game participation. This also creates inequitable opportunities prior to the collective start of the season; misconceptions about the tryout process; and inequities related to contest results, standings, and seeding of any allowable postseason opportunities.

Misunderstanding Of NCAA Evaluation Periods And Authorizations Of Participation

NCAA Evaluation Periods are the product of a commission that included the NCAA, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and high school athletic administrators designed to return NCAA basketball recruiting to the scholastic world. NCAA Evaluation Periods require member high schools of a state association to have NFHS and state association sanctioning. Schools who are not members of a state association have a separate process directly through the NCAA.

The Maryland State Board of Education in July 2022, at the request of the MPSSAA and 24 local educational agency Superintendents, approved adding to the interscholastic athletic regulations provisions for high school teams to participate in events outside the defined sport season. COMAR 13A.06.03.03 A(5) states, “*Local school systems may approve the participation of member schools to participate and compete in sanctioned National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and MPSSAA events outside the defined sport season.*” The approved July 2022 amendments created opportunities for all students in interscholastic athletics to participate safely in bona-fide sanctioned events, including events for the purpose of NCAA recruitment.

The purpose of the recent change to COMAR 13A.06.03.03 was to enable local educational agency approval for the participation in NCAA evaluation periods as sanctioned by the NFHS and NCAA. The regulation change was made for all sports to ensure opportunities are available for all programs operated within local educational agencies. Currently, under these new regulations, basketball events during the 2023 NCAA June Scholastic Period are approved by the MPSSAA, and the MPSSAA is submitting applications for the Maryland Basketball Coaches Association for NFHS approval to run boys’ and girls’ basketball NCAA evaluation events.

There are two weeks of NCAA Evaluation Periods. House Bill 343 states that schools may only play in up to four tournament games outside the defined sport season. House Bill 343 could actually limit schools to only be able to play in one of the two NCAA Evaluation Periods, whereas current COMAR allows for participation in all weekends of NCAA Evaluation Periods.

Arbitrary Assessment Of Eligible Bona-Fide High School Teams For Safe And Equitable Participation

House Bill 343 allows for any number of showcase contests as well as participation against high schools with “Equivalent Qualifications.” COMAR 13A.06.03.04H(2) stipulates who eligible competitors are for the participation of high school sports. House Bill 343 leads to further confusion and arbitrary assessment of what is considered an eligible opponent.

Reduced Protections From Exploitation Of Students And Schools

House Bill 343 does not require any sanctioning for tournaments or showcases as described in COMAR 13A.06.03.09. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party, for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection from exploitation.

Misinterpretation Of Interwoven COMAR Regulations By Legislating A Portion Of One Sport Offering

The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the real potential to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering.

The MPSSAA respectfully requests that you consider an unfavorable report as you deliberate **House Bill 343**. Please contact R. Andrew Warner, at 410-767-0376, or robert.warner1@maryland.gov, for any additional information.

MPSSAA COMAR and HB 343 Comparison Chart

	Current COMAR and MPSSAA	HB 343
Weekly Limitations	2 games in a week, two weeks with 3 games	2 games in a week, two weeks with 3 games
Postponed Contests	1 Postponed contest in addition to maximum allowed in weekly limitations. This allows 3 games in a week, two weeks with 4 games if postponed games are necessary.	Does not authorize additional games based on postponed contests. Specifically, states, “expect as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, A basketball team may not play more than two games per week. MORE RESTRICTIVE
Seasonal Limitation	<p>20 Regular Season games and 2 game designated optional tournament; or, 19 games and a 3-game designated optional tournament.</p> <p>The sport season is defined as from Nov. 15 to the last game of the State Championships. 13A.06.03.07 authorizes schools to participate in the state tournament.</p> <p>NOTE: MPSSAA Regulations reflect the number of weeks of regular season play and the ability to administer the seasonal limitations within the weekly limitations.</p> <p>Total in season games that includes city/county/conference championship and state tournament – 29 games (20 regular season, 2 designated optional tournament, 1 conference championship, and 6 state tournament)</p>	<p>20 regular season games and upwards of 4 tournament games, or 22 regular season games and no tournament.</p> <p>NOTE: HB 343 does not account for weather issues for winter sports and if the number of games can be played within the defined sport season.</p> <p>Total in season games – 24 (20 regular season and 4 tournament games).</p> <p>MORE RESTRICTIVE</p>
Tournament Authorization and Limits	MPSSAA allows any number of tournaments cases during the season if they are either declared as regular season games or	HB 343 limits schools to 4 tournament games and defines a tournament as a series of games until a winner is decided. Schools

	<p>designated as an optional tournament. Tournaments can be predetermined and round-robin events.</p> <p>NOTE: The NCAA does not allow college coaches to attend NCAA Evaluation Period events unless it has NFHS and MPSSAA Sanctioning.</p>	<p>would be limited to the number of tournaments they could play in.</p> <p>MORE RESTRICTIVE ON NUMBER OF EVENTS</p>
State Tournament	<p>MPSSAA authorizes and conducts a high school state championship for public schools (13A.06.03.07). The current tournament format is a 64-line bracketed tournament with six rounds to determine the state champion.</p>	<p>HB 343 does not authorize a state tournament, allow for six tournament games, and specifically states that, “All public-school athletic schedules for basketball shall comply with this section.”</p> <p>ELIMINATES BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS</p>
City/County/Conference Championships	<p>MPSSAA authorizes one additional contest beyond the maximum allowable number may be played to determine a conference/league championship.</p>	<p>HB 343 does not authorize the additional contests, thus not allowing local educational agencies to host city/county/conference championship games.</p> <p>ELIMINATES CITY/COUNTY/CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS</p>
NCAA Evaluation Period/Out of Season Showcases and Tournaments	<p>MPSSAA authorizes local educational agencies to approve participation in sanctioned events by the NFHS and MPSSAA. All NCAA events are sanctioned by the NFHS. Showcases and tournament games are unlimited if they are sanctioned by NFHS and approved by LEA.</p>	<p>HB 343 authorizes unlimited showcase games and 4 tournament games. It is unclear if 4 tournament games are included with regular season authorization. Does not require any educational entity oversight of events.</p> <p>MORE RESTRICTIVE ON NUMBER OF EVENTS</p>
Eligible Opponents	<p>COMAR allows public schools to compete against high school teams that are members of a state association or are approved members of a state association to</p>	<p>HB 343 states that a team from outside the state has equivalent qualifications. This regulation is arbitrary on what the standard of equivalent would mean as it relates to age restrictions,</p>

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
 House Bill 343 - Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedules
 March 22, 2023

	play against that association’s member schools.	enrollment/attendance, residency, maximum participation seasons, transfer rules, academic standards, pre-participation physicals, amateurism, etc.
Out of season practice	COMAR does not allow for out-of-season practice outside the defined sport season unless schools are playing in approved sanctioned events.	HB 343 allows unlimited showcase participation outside the defined sport season but makes no provisions for out-of-season practice. COMAR regulations would limit schools to no practice yet contest participation under state law. This could lead to health and safety concerns for student-athletes.
Penalties	Failure to comply with COMAR 13A.06.03 requires forfeiture of games in which the violation occurred. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.	HB 343 does not provide any provisions if a school inadvertently or intentionally violates state law related to contests played. Where do violations get referred, who adjudicates, and who imposes penalties.
Amendments	MPSSAA and COMAR regulations are amended by the 24 local educational agencies and the State Board. Member schools, local superintendent of schools, MPSSAA Committee, or the MPSSAA Executive Director may submit amendments to the regulations, which need approval of the 24 LEAs and State Board of Education.	HB 343 removes control of the local educational agencies and the state board of education. Amendments would require a change in state law through the General Assembly.

Opposition to HB343.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kendro

Position: UNF

**Athletics & Extracurricular Activities
School Administration & Leadership**
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301.696.6801 fax
www.fcps.org



ATHLETICS
*"Creating a Culture Committed to Excellence
in Academics, Athletics, & Character Development"*

Kevin Kendro
Supervisor
kevin.kendro@fcps.org

Theresa Wisner
Administrative Secretary
theresa.wisner@fcps.org

March 21, 2023

Dear Representative,

As the Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities for Frederick County Public schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
- House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys and girls basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEA's would be impacted by student athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, **we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kendro
Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
Frederick County (MD) Public Schools

CCPS Basketball Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Duffy

Position: UNF



Building the Future
Cynthia McCabe
Superintendent

Carroll County Public Schools

125 N. Court Street | Westminster, MD 21157

410-751-3000
410-751-3034 TTY
410-751-3003 FAX

March 21, 2023

We, the athletic administrators of Carroll County Public Schools, are **adamantly opposed to MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student-athletes in Maryland public schools. House Bill 343 creates a larger impact than modifying sports contests in the sport of basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priorities over other sports. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies' administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student-athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
- House Bill 343 sets a precedent and different standard for 396 boys' and girls' basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEAs (Local Education Agencies) would be impacted by student-athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.





Building the Future

Cynthia McCabe
Superintendent

- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. This ensures compliance with season and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and sets a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the ability to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association and allow us to advocate for our student athletes, **we ask that you help keep Maryland’s 24 LEAs and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Ashley Hoyt, CAA
Century High School

Tim Novotny, RAA
South Carroll High School

Ryan Kimble, RAA
Francis Scott Key High School

Terry Molloy
Westminster High School

Ed DeVincent, CAA
Liberty High School

Jen Gosselin, RAA
Winters Mill High School

Liz Padgett
Manchester Valley High School

Michael Duffy, CMAA
Supervisor of Athletics



Michael Duffy HB0343 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Duffy

Position: UNF



Building the Future

Cynthia McCabe
Superintendent

Carroll County Public Schools

125 N. Court Street | Westminster, MD 21157

410-751-3000
410-751-3034 TTY
410-751-3003 FAX

March 20, 2023

As a Supervisor of Athletics for Carroll County Public Schools and the Past President of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343 due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student-athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland public schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 challenges the exploitation of student-athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards which ensure student safety and protection from exploitation.
- House Bill 343 is precedent setting and establishes a different standard for 396 boys' and girls' basketball programs out of the annual 4,215 varsity high school sports teams. In addition, the 24 LEAs would be impacted by student-athlete participation in other sports seasons, the increased liability of school-sponsored athletic activities, oversight of tournaments, eligibility compliance, transportation, facilities, coaching payment, and student safety.
- HB0343 does not authorize state tournament games for basketball or a tournament consisting of six games, which is the maximum number of games a team could play in the state tournament.
- HB0343 does not take into consideration Conference/League Championships and postponed games.
- HB0343 does not provide oversight regarding rules and regulations which are not outlined in the bill, as this house bill supersedes COMAR language. The rules already in place through COMAR ensure compliance with seasonal and weekly limitations, out-of-season practice, and set a fair and equitable standard for statewide participation.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, **I ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEAs and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Michael Duffy, CMAA
Supervisor of Athletics

House Bill 343 opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sye

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

The 24 Athletic Supervisors of the Local Educational Agencies in the State of Maryland are **adamantly opposed to MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools. House Bill 343 creates a larger impact than modifying sports contests in the sport of basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priorities over other sports. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

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The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the ability to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering.

To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association and allow us to advocate for our student athletes, we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

The 24 Maryland High School Local Educational Agency Athletic Supervisors

X 

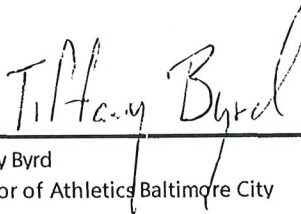
Michael Sye
MPSSAA President/Director of Athletics Balti...

X **Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan**

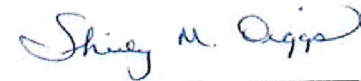
Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan
MPSSAA President-Elect/Director of
Athletics...

X 

Michael Duffy
MPSSAA Past-President/Supervisor of Athleti...

X 

Tiffany Byrd
Director of Athletics Baltimore City

X 

Shirley Diggins
Coordinating Supervisor of Athletics Prince ...

X **Clayton Culp**

Clayton Culp
Coordinator of Athletics Anne Arundle Cou...

X **John Davis**

John Davis
Coordinator of Athletics Howard County

X **Deborah Basler**

Deborah Basler
Supervisor of Athletics Harford County

X Kevin Kendro

Kevin Kendro
Supervisor of Athletics Fredrick County

X Tracey Leonard

Tracey Leonard
Supervisor of Athletics Alleqany County

X Kevin Hook

Kevin Hook, J.D.
Supervisor of Athletics Calvert County

X Jon Marketto

Jon Marketto
Supervisor of Athletics Caroline County

X Amy Sexton

Amy Sexton
Coordinator of Athletics Cecil County

X Steve Lee

Steve Lee
Coordinator of Student Activities Charles Co...

X Dr. Derek Sabedra

Dr. Derek Sabedra
Supervisor of Athletics Dorchester County

X Paul Edwards

Paul Edwards
Supervisor of Athletics Garrett County

X Kevin Taylor

Kevin Taylor
Supervisor of Athletics Kent County

X Sidney Pinder

Sidney Pinder
Chief Operating Officer Queen Anne's County

X Michael A. Watson

Michael A. Watson
Director of Athletics St. Mary's County

X Cortney Monar

Cortney Monar
Supervisor of Athletics Somerset County

X *Kurisha Hoffman*

Kurisha Hoffman
Supervisor of Athletics Talbot County

X Eric Michael

Eric Michael
Supervisor of Athletics Washington County

X Bryan Ashby

Bryan D. Ashby
Supervisor of Athletics Wicomico County

X Sam Slacum

Sam Slacum
Coordinator of Athletics Worcester County

Opposition to Maryland HB0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Hambor

Position: UNF

March 21, 2023

Dear Delegate Boyce,

As an athletic director of Baltimore County Public Schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on student athletes in Maryland public schools.

HB0343 is harmful to Maryland schools for several reasons:

- HB0343 increases the possibility of exploitation of student athletes. Events without NFHS and MPSSAA sanctioning may be run by third-party for-profit organizations and promoters that have no educational oversight. Events not sanctioned by the NFHS and MPSSAA may place public school students in events run by non-educational agencies and without safeguards to ensure student safety and protection of exploitation.
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In order to maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association, **we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,

Richard Hambor, C.A.A.
Athletic Director
Catonsville High School – Baltimore County Public Schools

HBO343 document opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Robin Welsh

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

The 24 Athletic Supervisors of the Local Educational Agencies in the State of Maryland are **adamantly opposed to MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools. House Bill 343 creates a larger impact than modifying sports contests in the sport of basketball. Ultimately, legislation of this nature is precedent setting and could lead to additional legislation for the other 22 administered high school sports and politicizing which sports take priorities over other sports. Legislating high school sports to this nature takes away the administrative control of the 24 local educational agencies administrators for interscholastic athletics who best know how to educate, coach, and mentor through education-based athletic programs.

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HBO343 is harmful to Specific Individual District Rules and Regulations:

- HBO343 does not take into consideration the monitoring aspect of each individual school system protocols for athletic participation and individual athletes as a participant for the basketball teams. Responsibility of physicals, parent permission slips, eligibility, practice times and availability of facilities, field trip packets which are all part of individual district rules and regulations set by the School System and Board of Education.
- HBO343 does not respect the inequity of different schools incapable of participation and travel expenses that each team may incur to participate in the events. (i.e., Title 1 schools)

- HBO343 will permit unfairness to the schools that do not participate. Schools that do participate will have more opportunities and an advantage to develop as a school team.
- HBO343 does not specify if schools will be responsible financially for teams to travel, overtime coaches pay, athlete/coach liability, officials for tournaments, facility usage fees, insurance and overtime custodial fees.
- HBO343 does not take in account that districts function under strategic rules, regulations and guidelines for the overall safety of our coaches and students athletes.

The interscholastic athletic regulations in COMAR 13A.06.03 are intertwined to ensure safe environments and fair competition that upholds the values of school-based athletics while protecting students from exploitation. Interwoven are regulations on eligibility, sport seasons, limits of participation, penalties for violation of regulations, state tournament authorization, and sanctioning of contests. The amendment process is derived from the local educational leaders for interscholastic athletics and ratified by the State Board of Education. House Bill 343 has the ability to complicate all sections of COMAR by focusing on one sport offering. To maintain the equity and integrity of our state athletic association and allow us to advocate for our student athletes, **we ask that you help keep Maryland's 24 LEA's and the MPSSAA strong by opposing House Bill 0343.**

Thank you for your continued service and support of the Maryland public school system.

Sincerely,



Shirley Diggs
Coordinating Supervisor of Interscholastic Athletics - Area 3
Prince George's County Public Schools

Coaches Letter regarding HB0343.pdf

Uploaded by: Rolynda Contee

Position: UNF

Dear Representative,

As an athletic administrator of Baltimore City Public schools, **I am writing to ask you to oppose MD House Bill (HB) 0343** due to the equity concerns and negative impact that it will have on the student athletes in Maryland public schools.

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Rolynda Contee
Athletic Director
Baltimore City College
Baltimore City Public Schools

HBO343 document.pdf

Uploaded by: Shirley Diggs

Position: UNF

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Sincerely,



Shirley Diggs
Coordinating Supervisor of Interscholastic Athletics - Area 3
Prince George's County Public Schools

HB 343 - MBCA.pdf

Uploaded by: Teresa Waters

Position: UNF

BILL: House Bill 343

DATE: March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

POSITION: Oppose

CONTACT: Teresa Waters
Maryland Basketball Coaches Association President

The Maryland Basketball Coaches Association (MBCA) opposes House Bill 343 – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedules. House Bill 343 is not in the best interest of all of our student athletes as a whole.

The MBCA needs a collective working relationship with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) in order to meet the requirements established by the NCAA and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for evaluation periods. This working relationship led to the MPSSAA requesting changes to the state interscholastic athletic regulations in order to allow schools to not only participate in Evaluation periods, but additional events that are sanctioned outside the defined sport season by MPSSAA and NFHS.

House Bill 343 does not understand the different structures of Evaluation Periods, that could include showcase, team camp, jamboree, metro area of individuals and teams, and multi-states that requires state sanctioning for different states involved. House Bill 343 stipulates one tournament of four games whereas the Evaluation period may consist of various contents over the course of two weeks.

Currently the MBCA and MPSSAA are submitting requests to the NFHS for the hosting of these events in June 2023.

While not specifically stated, it appears that the House Bill 343 emphasis is more focused on creating opportunities for boys basketball programs, as they are typically the ones who have the most for-profit organizations and promoters putting on showcase events year-round. The MBCA supports the current structure in place that promotes and provides equal opportunities for both genders to participate.

As the President of the Maryland Basketball Coaches Association and Maryland's Representative to the National High School Basketball Coaches Association, I respectfully ask that you give an unfavorable report to House Bill 343.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at teresa_waters@hcpss.org.

Teresa Waters,
MBCA President
Girls Basketball Head Coach/Education