



Building the Future

Cynthia McCabe  
Superintendent

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# Carroll County Public Schools

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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