



Building the Future
Cynthia McCabe
Superintendent

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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.





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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.

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

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Manchester Valley High School

Michael Duffy, CMAA
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