

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