

# HOUSE BILL 343

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HB 1429/20 – W&M

3lr1201

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By: **Delegates Boyce, Bridges, Edelson, Embry, Kaufman, Lehman, McCaskill,  
Phillips, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public School Athletics – Basketball Schedule**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing rules for public school athletic schedules for basketball,  
4 including the maximum number of games played per week and season and the  
5 number of tournament games played each year; requiring each county board of  
6 education to decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase  
7 game; and generally relating to the basketball schedule for public schools.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–118

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–118.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(2) “GAME” MEANS A SINGLE SPORTS COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO**  
20 **TEAMS.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(3) "TOURNAMENT" MEANS A SERIES OF GAMES THAT MAKE UP A**  
2 **SINGLE UNIT OF COMPETITION IN WHICH MULTIPLE TEAMS PLAY UNTIL ONE TEAM**  
3 **WINS.**

4           **(B) ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES FOR BASKETBALL SHALL**  
5 **COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.**

6           **(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
7 **BASKETBALL TEAM MAY NOT PLAY MORE THAN TWO GAMES PER WEEK.**

8           **(2) A TEAM MAY ELECT TO PLAY THREE GAMES PER WEEK TWICE**  
9 **DURING THE BASKETBALL SEASON.**

10          **(D) (1) THE BASKETBALL SEASON SHALL CONSIST OF:**

11                   **(I) 20 REGULAR SEASON GAMES FOR A TEAM THAT ELECTS TO**  
12 **PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT; AND**

13                   **(II) 22 REGULAR SEASON GAMES FOR A TEAM THAT DOES NOT**  
14 **ELECT TO PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT.**

15           **(2) THE BASKETBALL SEASON DOES NOT INCLUDE GAMES PLAYED AS**  
16 **PART OF A TOURNAMENT.**

17          **(E) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS**  
18 **SUBSECTION, IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR SEASON GAMES AUTHORIZED UNDER**  
19 **SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION, EACH YEAR A TEAM MAY PLAY IN UP TO FOUR**  
20 **TOURNAMENT GAMES AND A NUMBER OF SHOWCASE GAMES DETERMINED BY THE**  
21 **COUNTY BOARD, INCLUDING DURING A NCAA EVALUATION PERIOD.**

22                   **(II) A TOURNAMENT OR SHOWCASE MAY BE SCHEDULED**  
23 **OUTSIDE THE NORMAL BASKETBALL SEASON.**

24                   **(III) A STATE TEAM MAY PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT OR SHOWCASE**  
25 **GAME AGAINST A TEAM FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE OUT-OF-STATE TEAM HAS**  
26 **EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS TO THOSE REQUIRED OF THE STATE TEAM.**

27           **(2) (I) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DECIDE WHETHER TO**  
28 **AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT.**

29                   **(II) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO:**

30                           **1. PLAY IN AN ALREADY SCHEDULED TOURNAMENT; OR**

1   2.     **PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED BY THE COUNTY**  
2 **BOARD.**

3                           **(3) (I) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DECIDE WHETHER TO**  
4 **AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO PLAY IN SHOWCASE GAMES.**

5   **(II) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE A TEAM TO:**

6   1.     **PLAY IN AN ALREADY SCHEDULED SHOWCASE GAME**  
7 **OR SERIES OF GAMES; OR**

8   2.     **PLAY IN SHOWCASE GAMES SCHEDULED BY A COUNTY**  
9 **BOARD.**

10    **(III) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE TEAMS TO PLAY IN ANY**  
11 **NUMBER OF SHOWCASE GAMES.**

12                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2023.