

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

BETTY IRELAND

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

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2005 JUL 15 P 3:33

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 127

CITE AUTHORITY: W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W.Va. Code §18-2-25

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

W.Va. Code §§ 29A-3B-1, et seq.; W.Va. Board of Education
v. Hechler, 180 W.Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988).

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO _____

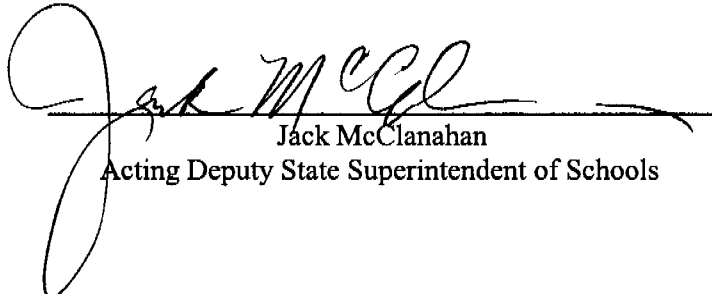
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 2

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS September 13, 2005.


Jack McClanahan
Acting Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

POLICY NUMBER AND TITLE: 127CSR2 and 127CSR3
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: June 15, 2005

BACKGROUND

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each year, the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education for its review and approval.

PURPOSE

These amendments are brought forth to keep the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission current on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs.

These proposals will be distributed for public comment for thirty days. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission will present to the Board the comments received for its review following the close of the comment period.

The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission staff, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Board of Control respectfully request that the proposed rule changes to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Rules and Regulations Handbook be placed on public comment for thirty days.

CONTENT

Four proposals are being submitted to the State Board by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each rule change is presented with the whole rule being included. This will help the State Board members understand the significance of the rule change. (See attached summary)

The following is a brief summary of the effect of each proposal:

1. To bring cheerleading in line with other team sports. (Vote: Yes-119 No-11)
2. To allow athletic directors to be admitted to games. (Vote: Yes-127 No-2)
3. To allow administrators and coaches to attend events to supervise students. (Vote: Yes-126 No-3)
4. To make the residence-transfer rule educationally sound. (Vote: Yes-122 No-8)

IMPACT

Instruction

None

Leadership

None

Financial

Proposal 2 and 3 could cause a decrease in revenue from gate receipts for member schools.

Administrative

None

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS, PRINCIPALS, AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS WILL NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER THEIR SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT RULES. THERE IS NO MAJOR CHANGE THAT WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

There were 101 comments on Proposal One (1) to amend the rule related to identifying cheerleading as a team sport. The 29 comments supporting a change in the rule were mainly from school-based individuals. The 72 comments which indicated that the rule should not be changed were primarily from individuals who were associated with local gyms. In addition, several individuals commented that parents should have the right to determine a student's participation in cheerleading programs provided by local gyms. All comments to retain the current policy were carefully considered, but it is recommended that the policy change be approved.

No comments were filed for or against Proposals Two (2) and Three (3). It is recommended that the policies be approved.

Proposal Four (4) was a recommended change in the residence-transfer rule for student athletes. Four (4) comments were received from public school officials supporting the change. Three comments from private schools indicated that the rule should not be changed because it did not allow the same opportunity for the transfer of student athletes in private schools as those enrolled in public schools. After a careful review of all comments, it is recommended that Proposal Four be approved.

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FILED

TITLE 127

LEGISLATIVE RULE

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

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SERIES 2

ATHLETICS, PROVISIONS GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

§127-2-1. General.

1.1. Scope. - These rules establish the provisions governing student eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics.

1.2. Authority. - W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W.Va. Code §18-2-25.

1.3. Filing Date. - July 15, 2005

1.4. Effective Date. - September 13, 2005

§127-2-2. Waivers.

2.1. The Board of Directors is authorized to grant a waiver to a rule when it determines the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended or when the rule works extreme and undue hardship upon the student.

2.2. Speculative loss of college scholarship is not considered a basis for granting a waiver to these rules.

§127-2-3. Enrollment and Team Membership.

3.1. To be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled full-time in a member school as described in Rule 127-2-6 on or before the eleventh instructional day of the school year. Enrollment must be continuous after the student has officially enrolled in the school.

3.2. Students can participate only in schools in which they are enrolled; however, an exception may be granted by the Board of Directors as follows:

3.2.1. if a feeder school does not afford students the opportunity to participate and they are otherwise eligible.

3.2.2. for students from the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (hereinafter WVSD&B) to participate at Hampshire High School or Romney Middle School (only in sports not available at WVSD&B).

3.2.3. if member schools containing grades 6 and/or 7 and/or 8 and/or 9 may combine students from two or more schools within the county to form one interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same non-public or public school system must be submitted annually to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (hereinafter WVSSAC) in writing by the superintendent of the non-public or public school system. Schools which are combining to form one team must be feeder schools for the same high school and at least one school does not have sufficient numbers for a team. If more than two schools are involved, principals are to evaluate the number of available participants in each school and shall combine schools to provide as many teams that sufficient numbers will allow. Sufficient numbers will be defined as the number of a starting line-up plus 50% (for odd number line-ups, round up).

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3.2.4. Students enrolled in the ninth grade of a four, five or six year high school may participate on the high school team. Also, ninth graders of a feeder school may participate on their high school team and sixth grade students of a K-6 elementary feeder school may participate on their junior high team if granted permission by the county board of education or governing body of a private/parochial school and the school principals involved. Once a ninth grade student becomes a member of the high school team said student will be ineligible for the junior high team in that sport.

3.2.5. Students at a junior high or middle feeder school who are not provided the opportunity to participate because of age may move up to their high school if granted permission by the county board of education or governing body of a private/parochial school and the school principals involved.

3.3. A student academically ineligible by rule may begin practicing 15 school days immediately prior to the dates of regaining full eligibility provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

3.4. Students enrolled in the following grades in member schools will be eligible for junior high participation:

<i>Junior High Schools</i>	<i>High Schools</i>	<i>Middle Schools</i>
Grades 7 and 8	7, 8 and 9 (six year school)	6, 7, 8 (3-year or 4-year school)
Grades 7, 8, and 9	8 and 9 (five year school)	
Grades 8 and 9	9 (four year school)	

3.5. Sixth grade students may be eligible to participate in interscholastic sport teams except football in the middle school in which they are enrolled.

3.6. Students who are enrolled in a grade below the ninth are not eligible for a high school team, and students enrolled in a grade below the seventh will not be eligible for a junior high team. Students enrolled in a grade below the sixth will not be eligible for a middle school team.

3.7. Senior students will be eligible for spring sports until the close of the school's season.

3.8. Schools may sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill. If a school sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one sex but sponsors no such team for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities for members of that sex previously have been limited, members of the excluded sex must be allowed to try out for the team offered. For example, because overall athletic opportunities for females have previously been limited, females will be allowed to try out for baseball, but males will not be allowed to try out for volleyball or softball.

3.9. Students enrolled at WV School for the Deaf will be allowed to participate in sports at the WV School for the Blind. Students from the WV School for the Blind will be allowed to participate in sports at the WV School for the Deaf.

3.10. Boarding students at member schools are not eligible. (Definition: A boarding student is one who receives room and board that is provided by said school unless such residence is based on Court Order or State Action.)

§127-2-4. Age.

4.1. A student in high school who becomes 19 and a student in junior high school who becomes 16 before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition.

4.2. A student in high school who becomes 19 and a student in junior high school who becomes 16 on or after

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August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire year.

4.3. A student in a middle school (eighth grade being the highest grade) who becomes 15 before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition at that level.

4.4. A student in a middle school (eighth grade being the highest grade) who becomes 15 on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year at that level.

§127-2-5. Semester and Season.

5.1. A student may have the privilege to participate in the interscholastic program for four consecutive years (eight consecutive semesters or equivalent) after entering the ninth grade of a four-year high school or the ninth grade in a 7-9 junior high school.

5.2. A student shall not participate for more than two seasons while in grades 7-8 of a junior high/high school or no more than three seasons while in grades 6-7-8 of a middle school in any interscholastic activity.

5.3. Students retained without failing.

5.3.1. *Loss of eligibility.* A student held back in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade without failing shall lose one of the four years of high school eligibility for each year the student is held back.

5.3.2. *Loss of fourth year.* A student held back one year in the seventh or eighth grade without failing shall lose the fourth year of eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

5.3.3. *Loss of third and fourth years.* A student held back for two years in the seventh or eighth grade without failing shall lose both the third and fourth years of eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

5.4. Ten days of attendance or enrollment shall constitute a semester. Said ten days includes the day of enrollment, the last day of attendance and the elapsed time between, provided that they are days when school was actually in session.

5.5. The number of semesters of athletic eligibility of a student is determined by semesters of enrollment and attendance and not by semesters of participation. (This applies for students in grades 9-12 only).

5.6. A student whose eligibility expires with the end of a semester shall not become ineligible until report cards are issued or five school days into the next semester, whichever is less. The student will be considered eligible any days between the two semesters.

5.7. Any part of a contest or interscholastic event in which a student competes shall be counted as a season for that sport in grades 6-12 and a semester of participation in grades 9-12.

5.8. The Board of Directors is authorized to grant a waiver to the Semester and Season Rule when it feels the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended and when the rule works extreme and undue hardship upon the student. Waivers may be granted in the following circumstances:

5.8.1. The Board is authorized to consider cases in which a student entering high school (explained in Rule 5.1) did not stay in continuous enrollment because of personal illness, or no school was available, or because of other undue hardship reasons ascertained through investigation.

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5.8.2. The Board may provide release from the continuous enrollment restriction provided no participation had occurred during the semester(s) in question.

5.8.3. In no event may a student be allowed to participate in more than four (4) seasons in any one sport in grades 9-12.

5.9. The Board may also assess appropriate penalties to the student or to the school if said Board determines through its investigation that said student or said school did try to evade the rule by subterfuge.

§127-2-6. Scholarship.

6.1. A student is required to do passing work in the equivalent of at least 20 periods (four subjects with full credit toward graduation) per week. Failure to earn passing marks in four full credit subjects during a semester shall render a student ineligible for the following semester.

6.1.1. A semester course that constitutes 8100 minutes of instruction (block schedule) will count as two subjects.

6.1.2. The student may select four full credits from any area of the curriculum offered by the school.

6.1.3. If a student is taking a multiple period subject, such as block or vocational courses for a full morning or afternoon, it may be counted as more than one subject. The number of subjects counted will be equal to the units of full credits given.

6.1.4. If a student has been declared ineligible according to the standards outlined above, the student may attend summer school and have eligibility reinstated if the student meets the standards at the conclusion of summer school.

6.1.5. If a student has been declared ineligible according to the standards outlined above, the student may have eligibility reinstated at midsemester if the student is meeting the standards at that time.

6.2. *Note:* Full credit is defined as one-half credit for a semester or 4050 minutes as provided by West Virginia Board of Education §126-42-1 et seq., "Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs" (Policy 2510).

6.3. Schools providing for planned programs of independent learning during the regular school term may wish not to require all students to attend classes for 4050 minutes during a semester. In such instances, full credit may be awarded for satisfactory performance provided that it meets standards established by the county and West Virginia Department of Education.

6.4. Full credit may be awarded for subjects in addition to those offered by the school as well as experimental programs developed by the school itself provided that it meets standards established by the county and West Virginia Department of Education.

6.5. A student not attempting four (4) full credit subjects during a semester must complete one semester of school work to regain eligibility.

6.6. Any student who withdraws from school and does not re-enroll within 10 school days of that withdrawal date will lose eligibility for the remainder of that semester.

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6.7. Credit deficiencies cannot be made up after the last day of the semester, except in a case where a student whose final examinations and course credit are delayed due to illness which can be verified by a physician.

6.8. The official school transcript will be used to determine a student's eligibility and will be regarded as final.

6.9. In accordance with West Virginia Board of Education §126-26-1 et seq., "Participation in Extracurricular Activities" (Policy 2436.10, C-Rule), students must maintain a 2.0 average to participate in interscholastic athletics. (See Appendix.)

§127-2-7. Residence.

7.1. Part A - Residence. This residence rule applies to all students enrolled in grades 6-12 in both public and non-public member schools.

7.1.1. A student shall be eligible in the zone in which the student's parents reside. Public secondary school attendance zones shall be established by official action by each county Board of Education. Zones of nonpublic member schools shall be established by their governing board and subject to approval by Board of Directors. Said non-public member schools attendance zones shall not exceed the boundaries of the county in which they are located.

7.1.2. A student shall be eligible when enrolling to attend a member secondary school for the first time in the zone in which the parents reside, unless the student has established eligibility under Rule 127-2-7.2.3 in another attendance zone.

7.1.3. When a town or city is located in two counties and only one public secondary school is located in the town or city, students living in the town or city may attend this secondary school if mutually agreed upon by the two county boards of education and approved by the Board of Directors.

7.1.4. A student who is in the care of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics as a member of the athletic teams of the secondary school in the zone in which said West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources places the student in a home, provided the student is otherwise eligible.

7.1.5. A student may be eligible outside the specified zone of attendance if the student has been in attendance in that zone the immediate preceding year (365 days) prior to entering a member secondary school. There can be no change of residence involving change of attendance zone during the immediate preceding year (365 days).

a. Should the parents make a bona fide change of residence to a new school zone during the school term, a student may remain in the school zone from which the parents moved and retain eligibility.

b. A student whose parents have resided in the school zone for a minimum of one academic year at which the student has been in attendance for a minimum of one academic year and whose parents move out of the school zone may:

A. Retain eligibility as long as said student retains continuous enrollment and attendance or:

B. Transfer at time of change of residence to the school in the attendance zone in which the parents are now residing and be eligible in that school or:

C. Transfer at any time prior to the start of the next school year to the school in the attendance zone in which his parents are residing and be eligible for interscholastic activities at the receiving school.

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7.1.6. Foreign exchange students, attending a member school under the auspices of a Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (hereinafter CSIET) student exchange program, shall be considered eligible regarding residence for a maximum period of one calendar year. Said foreign exchange student may not be a graduate of the secondary school of the home country and must maintain eligibility in a member school. A foreign exchange program must assign students to schools by a method which insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic purposes.

7.1.7. A student returning from an approved foreign exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in a member school at the point of interruption provided the student does not fulfill graduation requirements while participating in the exchange program and provided the student meets all requirements relative to age and semesters of eligibility.

7.2. Part B - Transfer.

7.2.1. A student becomes immediately eligible, providing all other eligibility requirements are met, when parents make a bona fide change of residence to a new school zone. Determination of a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case.

7.2.2. If a student transfers during the school year from a secondary school in one zone to a secondary school in another zone, said student shall be ineligible for the remainder of that school year unless the parents become residents of the zone to which the student transfers. Students transferring out of attendance zone shall immediately forfeit eligibility in the attendance zone unless exempted by Rule 127-2-7.2.8 and 127-2-7.2.9.

7.2.3. Students who transfer during the school year to or from a member school shall be ineligible for the remainder of that school year unless the parents move from one member school zone to another member school zone in conjunction with transfer of schools.

7.2.4. If the transfer is from a non-member school to a member school in the zone where the student's parents reside, a student is eligible providing; (1) the student is enrolling in a member school for the first time and (2) the principals of both non-member and member schools involved concur that undue influence is not involved with the transfer.

7.2.5. A student may be transferred from one-attendance zone to another zone within the same county by a county board of education and maintain eligibility. The transfer must be initiated by county board of education personnel to fulfill certain special education programs(s) not available in the attendance zone from which the student is transferred. Upon the completion of the special program, the student must return to the attendance zone of the student's residence.

7.2.6. For the purpose of athletic eligibility, the Commission does not recognize emancipated status as relates to transfer except as might occur in marriage and relocation to another school zone.

7.2.7. Notwithstanding any other provisions of WVSSAC rules and regulations, if a student transfers for athletic reasons, the student will be ineligible for 365 days from the date of enrollment.

7.2.8. If a student is released and accepted by formal actions of county boards of education or similar governing bodies of a non-public school which have verified that such transfer is not for athletic purposes, said student will be granted immediate eligibility provided all other rules are met. The transfer must occur at the beginning of the 9th grade school year with the student enrolled on or before the eleventh instructional day of the beginning of the school year and provided that said student is residing with the parents. Once a student has been a member of a team that has participated in a scrimmage or contest, the student has established eligibility at that school.

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7.2.9. During the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades, a student shall be entitled to one transfer back into the public member school located within the attendance zone where the student's parents residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring. A student shall be entitled to transfer back to a non-public member school if said student has been enrolled in said non-public member school or non-public member feeder school the 365 days prior to enrollment in the 9th grade. Any student transferring under the provisions of this rule will not become eligible until the completion of the school year in which said transfer occurs. Eligibility will begin with the succeeding fall sports season. Transfer must be completed prior to the first day of school.

7.2.10. The eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced or legally separated is determined by the following:

a. court decree establishing residency with one parent.

7.2.11. After establishing initial residency with one parent, all subsequent transfers will require a period of ineligibility for the remainder of that school year unless a change of residency is decreed by the court.

§127-2-8. Adoption/Guardianship.

8.1. A student shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics only if (1) residing with one or both of the parents; (2) residing with a testamentary guardian following the death of the parents; or (3) residing in a location where the student was placed by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources pursuant to WVSSAC Rule 127-2-7.1.5.

8.2. The residence of a testamentary guardian shall constitute the residence of the ward when, and only when, (1) such testamentary guardian has been duly appointed by the last will and testament of the student's last surviving parent; (2) said testamentary guardian has duly qualified as such before the proper tribunal in West Virginia; and (3) the student is actually residing in the household of the testamentary guardian at the time of the student's sport participation.

8.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of the WVSSAC rules and regulations, any student residing with a guardian/custodian other than a testamentary guardian may not compete for a school in any sport on the varsity level but may compete at the junior varsity level.

8.4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of WVSSAC rules and regulations, legal guardian/custodian may not be changed for athletic reasons. A transfer for athletic reasons is defined as, but not limited to:

8.4.1. Seeking a superior athletic team;

8.4.2. Seeking a team consistent with the student's ability;

8.4.3. Seeking relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to athletics;

8.4.4. Seeking a means to nullify punitive action by the previous school.

§127-2-9. Undue Influence - Recruiting.

9.1. The use of influence by a person or group connected or not connected with the school to secure or retain a student for athletic participation is not permitted and may cause the student to be ineligible and may cause certain sanctions to be placed against the member school.

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9.2. An employee of the school system shall not initiate any communication regarding athletic participation or enrollment with a student, parent of a student, guardian or family member, in person or through a third party prior to enrollment. This does not include the introduction of athletic programs to students at feeder schools during a school's scheduling process.

9.3. A student, parent of a student, or guardian shall not be offered for the purpose of encouraging enrollment in a school or participation in an athletic program any inducement, such as free tuition, jobs, supplies, uniforms, other than that which is provided for all students.

§127-2-10. Non-school Participation.

10.1. During the school year and while a member of a school team, a student shall neither participate on any formally organized non-school team in the same sport, nor shall the student compete as an individual unattached in non-school formally organized competition in the same sport. The following sports are exempted from the provisions of this rule: cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, and wrestling, providing:

10.1.1. participation is approved by the student's principal.

10.1.2. the student misses no school-sponsored athletic contest involving a team in that sport.

10.2. A student may participate as a member of a national team (and the actual, direct tryouts thereof) which is defined as:

10.2.1. one selected by the national governing body of the sport,

10.2.2. while representing the National Federation in an International Schoolsport Federation, or

10.2.3. as a representative of the United States in recognized national or international events.

10.2.4. a qualifier for the West Virginia Golf Association's Amateur Championship or the United States Golf Association's United States Amateur Championship.

10.3. A student who has participated on a non-school team or as an individual unattached in non-school formally organized competition after the beginning practice date of that sport will be ineligible for participation on that school team for that season in that particular sport except as provided by Rules 127-2-10.1 and 10.2.

§127-2-11. Amateur.

11.1. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

11.1.1. competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted);

11.1.2. receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the WVSSAC;

11.1.3. capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted);

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11.1.4. signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

11.2. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if approved by the WVSSAC.

11.3. A student who loses amateur status may apply to the WVSSAC for reinstatement in the interscholastic program after a waiting period of one complete high school season (starting practice date through state tournament or end of season) for that sport.

11.4. A senior student may participate in a professional tryout either during or after the season of that sport provided

11.4.1. that it does not occur on the day of a school contest of that sport, or

11.4.2. that it meets with the principal's approval.

§127-2-12. Participation as an Ineligible.

12.1. Any student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest as an ineligible, either knowingly or inadvertently, shall be ineligible for a period not to exceed 365 days as determined by the Executive Director.

§127-2-13. Practice.

13.1. Only students enrolled in the specific member school are allowed to participate in that school's practices. Exceptions - Rules 127-2-3.2 and 127-2-3.5.

13.2. The frequency and length of practice is at the discretion of each member school.

13.3. Member schools of the WVSSAC may practice on any day of the year with the exception of Sunday practice. Rule 127-3-14.2 further clarifies Sunday practice.

13.4. Individual players of a team must have practiced

13.4.1. on 7 SEPARATE days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage.

13.4.2. on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf.

13.5. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. Rule 127-3-3 further explains this required form.

13.6. A student academically ineligible may begin practicing 15 school days immediately prior to the date of regaining full eligibility.

13.7. If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 14 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, the student may participate in another sport of the season after completing seven separate days of sport specific practice in the

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second sport.

13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete seven separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET

(Submit 4 Copies)

HD NO _____ DRAFT NO _____ BILL NO _____ RESOLUTION NO _____

SUBJECT West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission - Rule 2 FUND _____

SOURCE OF REVENUE: GENERAL FUND SPECIAL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

COST OF ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

SHOW OVER-ALL EFFECT IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 & GIVE EXPLANATION OF BREAKDOWN BY FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT <u>04</u>	NEXT <u>05</u>	THEREAFTER
1. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PERSONAL SERVICES CURRENT EXPENSES REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS EQUIPMENT OTHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

3. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

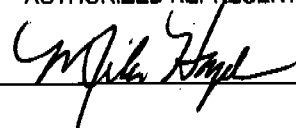
DATE

AGENCY

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

April 6, 2005

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission



JUN 27 2005

WVSSAC
2005 Rule Proposals
Public Comment Summary

Proposal 1 - Amend Rule 127-2-10 (Non-School Participation) (Vote: Yes-119, No-11)

- Comments For - 29 Most of the comments came from school based individuals
- Comments Against - 72 27 comments came from individuals associated with River City Gym in Hurricane
17 comments came from individuals associated with Ohio Valley Gym in Vienna
11 comments came from individuals located in other states
1 comment came from an individual who was undecided
3 comments were anonymous
13 comments came from other West Virginia locations
- Negative Comments Used 1. High Schools do not provide the same skills as All-Star Teams.
2. Cheerleading is not a team sport.
3. The WVSSAC should not be allowed to tell parents what they can or cannot do with their own children.
4. The rule would diminish opportunities to get scholarships.
5. Many girls will choose All-Star teams over school teams.
- Positive Comments Used 1. All-star gyms are the only opponents. Their interest is strictly financial.
2. It is difficult to serve two (2) master at the same time.
3. Many students cannot afford the expense of All-stars.
4. Allowing cheerleaders to do both would take away from academics by occupying too much time.
5. Will level the playing field-Competitive disadvantage to those communities who do not have "All-Star" teams.

Proposal 2 - Amend Rule 127-3-2.10 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal)
(Vote: Yes-127, No-2)

No comments were filed For or Against this proposal

Proposal 3 - Amend Rule 127-3-2.12 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal)
(Vote: Yes-126, No-3)

No comments were filed For or Against this proposal.

Proposal 4 - Amend Rule 127-2-7 (Residence-Transfer) (Vote: Yes-122, No-8)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Comments For - 4 | 4 comments came from individuals associated with public schools |
| Comments Against - 3 | 3 comments came from individuals associated with private schools |
| Negative Comments Used | 1. The rule would put private schools at a disadvantage. |
| Positive Comments Used | 2. The rule would help to curb school shopping and recruiting |

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 11:28 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-08 23:28:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-08 23:28:55
Posted from IP: 67.136.78.116

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Hi. I would just like to make the comment that this new rule IS NOT FAIR!!! Allstar cheerleading is what makes us become better cheerleaders and helps us develop the skills we need to cheer in college. BUT I also think that cheering for you HS is VERY important. It helps with school spirit and it also in ways helps prepare you for college cheerleading because in college you have to cheer at games. I really don't think that you should be making cheerleaders ALL OVER the state choose. MANY can not make the decision and trying to make it is heartbreaking. Being told to choose Allstars or HS is an internal battle causing many to stress and become very upset. All that will happen with this new rule being passed is have MANY upset confused you athletes. It may also cause WV schools to lose some of their BEST athletes. Sure maybe to some people it is "Just Cheerleading" but to cheerleaders, especially ones who cheer for 2 teams (they LOVE the sport that's why they cheer for allstars in their free time), it is their LIFE. PLEASE don't do this. It will really ruin some lives it will break hearts. And what about those HS seniors who have cheered for school and allstars forever. You can't make them choose it just isn't right. Please reconsidered what you are doing and think about the KIDS. This isn't about winning or losing at regionals or states atleast it shouldn't be. If someone would pass this rule to make HS comps. more fair then I feel awful for that person. I can't believe that they would do that. ITS ONLY A HS COMP.! Cheerleading is fun or atleast it should be and to makes these kids choose between HS and AS is crazy. I mean sure you can just ignore this letter and pass the rule but you really don't realize how many young athletes you will be hurting bby doing so. So PLEASE think this

6/9/2005

over and seriously think about the kids when making your decision. Use your heart. This is a VERY big choice to make so PLEASE make the right one. Thanks for your ti!
me.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 10:12 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-06 22:12:15)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-06 22:12:15
Posted from IP: 24.158.89.35

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

The WVSSAC needs to take into consideration, the length of the cheerleading season. These young ladies and men, dedicate their lives to this sport. The all star cheerleading squads and gyms, have brought a lot of much needed talent to the sport of cheerleading in WV. We need to keep the all star squads up and the school squads too, to be competitive with the other states. We represent our schools proudly and our towns that our gyms are in also. If this ruling should pass, the sport of cheerleading that it has become in WV, will do nothing but go downhill. As long as the all star competitions/teams, do not interfere with school squads, I feel that it is up to the parents to make the decision which or if not both they do. The parents are the rulers/providers for these students, not the WVSSAC. I think if this should pass, cheerleading in WV will never be the sport that it has become today.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 04, 2005 6:41 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-04 18:41:44)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role:
Posted: 2005-06-04 18:41:44
Posted from IP: 141.153.25.139

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I disagree with the proposal to force cheerleaders to make a choice between cheering for their school or an all-star team. Both are important to my daughter, she enjoys both, and the two work together to make her the best cheerleader she can be. Since when does the school dictate what my child can do for a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon? All-star cheering does not interfere with school practice or game time, the coach always tells the cheerleaders that school comes first. She will miss her friends on the school team but will choose all-stars as it is safer, more competitive and not ruined by disgruntled parents and school officials. Why do golf, tennis and track not have "team sport" status?

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 9:50 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 09:50:26)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Lisa L. Willis
Organization:
Email: wildwillisworld@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 817 Big Bend Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Barboursville, WV 25504
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-05-23 09:50:26
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Dear Mr. Hayden,
Please consider the best interests of young athletes in making the decision to prohibit participation for cheerleaders in non-school teams.
Cheerleading in WV schools is the only sport that spans two seasons. If the WVSSAC prohibits participation in non-school teams for the entire cheer season there will be no time of year when these students can improve their abilities, increase their exposure to more advanced skills than school cheerleading will allow, and compete in an atmosphere that will increase their chances of obtaining college scholarships in their chosen sport. Surely the intention of this ruling is to allow students to participate on their school squads without becoming overextended or conflicted about their time. As a parent of daughters participating in other school sports, I can assure you that I want that same thing. To that purpose, my suggestion is to choose the competitive season for schools (Aug.-Dec. perhaps) to limit out of school team membership. This would still permit full participation with your school squad; lend a season to competitive individual and team competitors, and give other!
girls who do not choose outside team participation a chance to try out for a second season. Thank you for taking correspondence on this important ruling and for considering the needs of student athletes first. I have every faith that the WVSSAC wants what is best for our children. Sincerely, Lisa L. Willis

Kelly Geddis

From: "Kandi Oden" <kandioden@yahoo.com>
To: <Mike.hayden@wvssac.org>
Cc: <Gary.ray@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 9:31 AM
Subject: School Activities and Out of school activities

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a proud mother of a 3 year old child. My child has just started into an all-star cheer program here in WV. I am now hearing that the WV School Board is trying to make our children chose between their school and their out of school program. I know my daughter is not at the age to where this decision would effect her yet, but in years to come if she would stay in the all-star program she would not be able to cheer for her school. In my opinion this is wrong, to make a child choose in a sport that they love to either do it for school and no others or do it for the others and not the school. When I was a teenager people were always trying to get you in school activities as well as out of school activities to keep the kids from getting into trouble. Now the years have changed and society has gotten a lot dangerous to have our kids outside playing. These all star groups are great they are year round and they are having our children involved in something that they love and believe in. I think that if you make the decision for our kids to choose between a school activity and a out of school activity, shame on you. School sports and activities are not year round so during the summer months these children would not be able to participate in the sports that they love; this gives our children more time to find out how easy it is in this world to get into trouble. I for one would hope that you take this into your decision because these kids futures are in our hands and the more time they have occupied the less likely they would find trouble. The all-star group that my daughter is in, schedules their practices around school activities and has the kids show their report cards, also has a study group for 2 hours on Saturdays for the older girls to do their school work and if they need help, help is there. So I do not understand why you are trying to take out of school activities away from them, when it is not hurting our children or the activities at the school.

Thank you for your time

Kandi Oden
Proud All-star Cheer leading mother

Kandi Oden
B&M Painting Inc.



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6/1/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 4:30 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 16:30:14)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Jamie Tallman
Organization: Union High School
Email: jtallman@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Athletic Director
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-23 16:30:14
Posted from IP: 168.216.239.206

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

As President of the W. Va. Coaches Association, the Potomac Valley Conference, as well as Athletic Director at Union High School we overwhelmingly are in total support of this Proposal!! Cheerleading is a Team Sport that we are proud of in our schools and we do not want to play tug of war with our student-athletes during the Cheer season. Please approve this proposal as written and we thank you for your consideration!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 5:45 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 17:45:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: charles scott
Organization: berk county schools
Email: crscott@access.k12.wv.us
Title: principal
Address1: 101 poplar st
Address2:
City/State/Zip: hedg, wv 25428
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-05-23 17:45:19
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

cheerleaders MUST stay on squad and be non-eligible for other cheer teams UNTIL their season /competition is over.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 9:44 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 09:44:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Barry Smith
 Organization: Wyoming East High School
 Email: brwsmith@access.k12.wv.us
 Title: Principal
 Address1: PO Box 390, One Warrior Way
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: New Richmond, WV 24867
 Role: Principal
 Posted: 2005-05-24 09:44:20
 Posted from IP: 168.216.74.218

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I support the WVSSAC's position on cheerleader's participation on All Star squads. In fact, I feel the period for nonparticipation should be extended until the end of the boys basketball tourney. This would still allow 4 1/2 months to participate on these squads.

Cheerleading is a very demanding sport that requires numerous fund raisers and an inordinate amount of time to be competitive. The cheerleading squad feels obligated to compete at a high level and also show school spirit by cheering at football and boys and girls basketball games. Allowing participation on an All Star squad during these seasons is just too much. When you add a rigorous academic schedule, it becomes impossible!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 1:15 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 13:15:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Gladine T. Barner
Organization: North Marion High School
Email: Gtbarner@aol.com
Title: Athletic Director
Address1: 1 North Marion Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Farmington, WV 26571
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-24 13:15:47
Posted from IP: 168.216.192.163

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Cheerleading should be in compliance with other team sports. Be dedicated to the school they represent without outside influence during there season. Safety is a very important factor. Practicing for two Cheering squads at the same time, under two different coaches can have a negative effect on a young athlete.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 2:48 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 14:48:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Sarah Shveda
Organization: St. Jospheh Parish School
Email: sshveda@aol.com
Title: AD
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-24 14:48:20
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Looks good

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Looks good

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 3:01 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 15:01:08)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Denny Venderlic
Organization: St. Marys High School
Email: dvender1@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Teacher/ AD
Address1: 1002 2nd. St.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: St. Marys, WV 26170
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-24 15:01:08
Posted from IP: 168.216.99.92

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Cheerleading is not an individual sport, but rather a team sport. The members are cheering for thier school and should wait until after their season is over to cheer for an outside organization.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 3:49 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 15:49:32)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: RICHARD LANCE
Organization: ROANE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Email: rlance@access.k12.wv.us
Title: ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Address1: ONE RAIDER WAY
Address2:
City/State/Zip: SPENCER, WV 25276
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2005-05-24 15:49:32
Posted from IP: 168.216.80.187

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

THIS NEW POLICY WILL PROVIDE CONSISTENCY FOR ALL TEAM SPORTS AND CHEERLEADING IS CONSIDERED A SPORT. IT ALSO TAKES AWAY THE DECISION MAKING THAT THE ATHLETE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE IF THEY WERE PRESSURED INTO GOING TO A ALL-STAR EVENT. THEIR LOYALTY WOULD BE WITH THIER SCHOOL TEAM. THIS WOULD ALSO CUT DOWN THE CHANCE OF INJURY TO THE ATHLETE. MOST INJURIES HAPPEN DURING PRACTICE AND IF THEY WERE ALLOWED TO COMPETE ON TWO LEVELS, THERE IS TWICE THE PRACTICE TIME. IT ONLY MAKES GOOD SENCE TO APPROVE THIS RULE CHANGE .

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 12:22 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-26 12:22:38)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Dan Erenrich
Organization: Morgantown High School
Email: deren@mountain.net
Title: Athletic Director
Address1: 109 Wilson Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Morgantown, wv 26501
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2005-05-26 12:22:38
Posted from IP: 168.216.145.194

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

It is very important that we bring Cheer into compliance with all of the other "team" sports when it comes to participation on "other" teams during the season. Cheer is a team sport, and as such, should be treated like the other team sports, where individual team members cannot, cannot participate on other non-school teams during their season.
For Cheer members to participate on another team during their season exposes the entire team to problems if injuries occur, if conflicts arise, etc. If a team member becomes injured (or overworked and tired) practicing or competing with an outside team, it totally disrupts all that the school team and its other members have been working so hard to accomplish.
It just is not in the interests of all involved for cheer to be an exception to this fine rule of prohibiting involvement on other teams during one's competitive season.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2005 6:43 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-29 18:43:57)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Dorothy Smith
Organization:
Email: dssmith22@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: 3016 Sansom Court
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Milton, WV 25541
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-29 18:43:57
Posted from IP: 68.187.216.116

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Dear Mr. Hayden and pertinent WVSSAC members,

These comments will be brief and hopefully concise. I understand the reasoning behind this proposal. However, cheerleading as a school sport lasts from August through most of February with a small break between football and basketball. No other school sport has such a long season. It would be extremely difficult not to overlap with competitive cheering. It's my understanding that most of the "all-star" gyms would be more than willing to work out a compromise. If said gyms had a WVSSAC schedule the summer before school began, could we not at least TRY it for a season? My daughter loves cheering for her middle school team but since we've already put money into the competitive cheer gym, our hands are already tied. The result of this proposal (if it passes) may lead to West Virginia lagging behind neighboring states concerning good, competitive cheerleaders representing the very best this state has to offer. Please, at least make a statement to the Mountain State community by NO! T rushing to a quick and potentially disastrous resolution. My daughter is proud of her West Virginia heritage and what it represents, give her the courtesy of a well thought out decision. Sincerely, Dorothy Smith

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 1:05 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-25 13:05:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Allen Halley
Organization: Sherman High School
Email: ahalley@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Address1: P.O. Box AB
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Seth, WV 25181
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-05-25 13:05:27
Posted from IP: 168.216.92.99

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

In order to protect the integrity of the game, by reducing the unfair practice of recruiting players this revision is most necessary. Many parents and/or coaches have managed to work around the present policy to recruit players to help build a more successful program.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Athletics has changed over the years. Students are being asked to spend more and more time on their respective sports. When students are permitted to participate on more than one team, there is an unreasonable amount of pressure being placed on the student athlete. This undue pressure results in both mental and physical fatigue. Mental fatigue results in lower academic achievement, feelings of inadequacy, and failure. Physical fatigue results in the body shutting down, which results in injury to the athlete. Therefore, I believe that the Non-school participation revision is not only necessary, but if it is not passed, could result in more unwanted lawsuits.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 1:25 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-25 13:25:58)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Doug Lambert
Organization: Pendleton County Board of Education
Email: dslamber@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Superintendent
Address1: PO Box 888
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Franklin, WV 26897
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2005-05-25 13:25:58
Posted from IP: 168.216.130.13

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I readily support this provision - if cheerleaders want recognition as a "sport", they should follow the same provisions as other athletic teams - especially the non-school participation rule!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2005 4:51 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-11 16:51:49)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: jon
Organization: logan high school
Email: jonboy60@myway.com
Title: none
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: logan, wv 25601
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-11 16:51:49
Posted from IP: 24.177.26.112

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

thank you for considering the rule about cheering for 2 squads. I feel this evens up the level of competition for other squads. So many girls and guys cannot afford the luxury of cheering for both a high school squad and and all star squad. So I hope that this passes. Do not let these all star coaches push you all around.

Thank You

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 8:43 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-13 08:43:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: leo boissy
Organization: wheeling park high school
Email: lboissy@access.k12.wv.us
Title: coach/guidance counselor
Address1: wheeling park high school
Address2: park view rd
City/State/Zip: wheeling, wv 26003
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2005-06-13 08:43:00
Posted from IP: 168.216.240.37

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Please pass section 127-2-10 to level the playing field for all cheerleaders throughout the state. I have seen the frustration experienced by our cheerleaders due to competing against squads who have an unfair advantage enjoyed by no other sport governed by the WVSSAC. I cannot understand why cheerleaders are allowed to practice throughout the year with their squads allowing them this advantage. Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 9:07 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-13 09:07:04)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: DeEdra Lundeen
 Organization: Monongalia County Schools
 Email: dlundeen@access.k12.wv.us
 Title: Director of Special Education
 Address1: 13 S. High Street
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Morgantown, WV 26501
 Role: School System Staff
 Posted: 2005-06-13 09:07:04
 Posted from IP: 168.216.140.34

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Please know that West Virginia is progressive in its acknowledgement and recognition of Cheerleading as a team sport. As such, cheerleading is, and should continue to be, administered by the rules and regulations of the WVSSAC. All recognized team sports follow this overarching rule: a student participating in a team sport may not also be simultaneously (during the team season) involved in a non-school/community league or team. This rule was made to ensure the student's health and safety, as well as to ensure the integrity of the team the student is on. Specifically, a student athlete who is a member of a school team must commit to attend all practices, scrimmages, games and competitions as outlined by the team schedule. If a student athlete also must do the same simultaneously while on a community team/league, the student, at best, must choose which practice and/or game to attend. At worst, the student athlete is highly at risk for injury due to overwork. This is NOT be!
 st practice: the student athlete incurs health risks and the team does not meld and perform the way the WVSSAC and you envision. Please ensure that cheerleading continues to be a progressive team sport in this state, and support this policy.

6/15/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 7:56 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-15 07:56:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Larry West
Organization: New Martinsville School
Email:
Title: Principal
Address1: 20 East Benjamin Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: New Martinsville, WV 26155
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-06-15 07:56:07
Posted from IP: 168.216.129.17

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Cheer is a sport. Therefore it should follow the same guidelines as other sport activities.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 12:14 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 12:14:16)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role:
Posted: 2005-06-01 12:14:16
Posted from IP: 24.159.120.63

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

As a parent of a student who has been in all star cheerleading and high school cheerleading, one year both at the same time, I can see the disadvantage in participating in both at the same time. I've seen girls struggle to support both teams during the fall months.
I agree that it would be wise to limit the all star participation, however I do not see how it will solve the problem when schools like Brooke offer a credited cheerleading class that all are required to take and is coached by the all star coach. These girls will always have an advantage.
So if this passes then another policy that should go along with it is that cheerleading can not be offered as a credited school class that the high school cheerleaders is required to take. Football doesn't have one.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2005 1:29 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-07 13:29:34)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Tyler Gillispie
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Logan, WV 25652
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-07 13:29:34
Posted from IP: 168.216.83.216

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I believe that being on an all-star squad and cheering on a high school squad at the same time is not fair. It penalizes all the squad members, coaches, and team. If I were voting I would definitely vote against it.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 1:40 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 13:40:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Shelley Mazzie
Organization: Bridgeport High School
Email: SHEEMAZE@aol.com
Title: Cheerleading Coach
Address1: 515 Johnson Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Bridgeport, WV 26330
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2005-06-02 13:40:27
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am in favor of the all star rule regarding cheerleaders. I feel that they should be eligible to participate in all stars after their competition season. High school cheerleading should be their first priority. Thank you, Shelley Mazzie (head varsity cheer coach, Bridgeport)

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 5:49 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 17:49:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: toni g miller
Organization: bridgeport high school
Email: blakgold13@ma.rr.com
Title: asst. cheer coach
Address1: 36 mulberry lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: bridgeport, wv 26330
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2005-06-02 17:49:21
Posted from IP: 24.210.117.194

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

i agree that athletes should not be able to participate on an all star squad until their competitive season is finished. more injuries occur when athletes are worn out and most can not physically keep up with a rigorous high school practice schedule and then an equally difficult all -star practice... we need to keep all these athletes on the same schedules and participating in the same activities to keep things fair.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 5:15 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 17:15:16)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: karen r. kibble
 Organization:
 Email: krkibble@wirefire.com
 Title:
 Address1: 173 blenn wood lane
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: parkersburg, wv 26101
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-05-19 17:15:16
 Posted from IP: 166.123.208.120

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I have been involved with public school cheerleading for 30+ years in West Virginia as a coach, mentor, and judge. For the past few years, the issue surrounding the impact that all-star cheerleading has on school cheer squads has become a growing concern - and one that I am very pleased to know that the State Board of Education has agreed to address.

The first and foremost factor is one of "safety". Cheerleading is an integrated sport in that stunts (mounts) are inherently dependent on the training and abilities of those cheerleaders involved - the readiness of the athlete to perform a specific job. Public school coaches have long been faced with the problems created because of injuries sustained at an all-star event (practice or performance). Of course a cheerleader can be injured at school practice, too. But the risk of injury doubles when the student chooses to participate on both an all-star squad and a school team.

The ramifications of such an injury reaches far beyond the individual student. If the injury is one that causes the student to miss school squad practices or performances, the entire squad is impacted. Stunts are rearranged, formations changed, and confidence in your partner(s) is diminished because suddenly the stunt participants are changed. Lack of confidence in your teammates' abilities fosters an environment prone to frustration and physical injuries. What began as an injury to a single cheerleader that's of all-star caliber, can quickly demoralize the entire school squad.

5/20/2005

A second factor is one of authority. The knowledge and expertise of school coaches are frequently challenged because of the comparison to all-star coaches. From my perspective, there is no comparison. School coaches have an enormous responsibility re the development of the student -- not just as a cheerleader that supports athletic events, but also as a role model for other students. All-star coaches are typically operating a business that exists for the purpose of competition. They are not restricted to the state-mandated rules as are school squads, so they, in essence, ARE the authority. As a result, the objectives of the two types of cheer teams (and coaches) are conflictive and it can be very confusing to a young adult.

Finally, I believe that students need to make a commitment to a team - a commitment of time, effort, and loyalty. By trying out for a team and making the cut, an individual is implying that they will do their best to help the team be successful. It is impossible to be committed to two teams of the same sport when the basic premise for their existence is in direct conflict. Football, basketball, and baseball players in WV's secondary schools are not allowed to participate on private teams if they are playing for the school team. Accordingly, the rules for cheerleading should be aligned with this regulation precedent.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 10:53 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 22:53:39)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: LARRY POE
Organization: INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
Email: LTPOE@CHARTER.NET
Title: ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Address1: CHEERLEADING
Address2:
City/State/Zip: SOPHIA, WV 25921
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2005-05-24 22:53:39
Posted from IP: 24.241.206.171

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

TRANSFERS THAT ALLOW STUDENTS TO CONTINUE PLAY WITHOUT SITTING OUT
SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR A COMPLETE PHYSICAL MOVE OF THE RESIDENCE.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

CHEERLEADING IS A SPORT AS NOW RECOGNIZED. CHEERLEADING COMPETES FOR
A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP THE SAME AS OTHER SPORTS. CHEERLEADING SHOULD
FOLLOW THE SAME TEAM RULES AS OTHER SPORTS.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 7:57 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-22 07:57:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Bernie Dolan
Organization: Wheeling Park High School
Email: bdolan@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Athletic Director
Address1: 1976 Park View Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Wheeling, wv 26003
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-05-22 07:57:25
Posted from IP: 168.216.168.111

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

I am very much in favor of this rule change. It is not in the student's best interest to change from school to school. By encouraging the student to select a school as a freshman, hopefully the student will attend the same school for 4 years.
Ultimately very few make it to the next level for athletics, so it is very important that we do what is sound academically.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Cheerleading has been the only team sport that has allowed its players to participate on teams at the same time they are in season. It is very difficult for a student/athlete to serve two different coaches maybe with two different philosophies.
I believe the gyms are the biggest opponents. They have a financial interest in this rule. They are trying to protect their own interest, not the interest of the athletes. Let's not lose sight of the fact that they are student/athletes.
If this rule change fails, I wonder if basketball and soccer will not be far behind.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 1:13 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 13:13:42)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Barbara J. Born
Organization:
Email: bborn@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Teacher/Retired Coach
Address1: 109 wilson Ave
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Morgantown, wv 26541
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-20 13:13:42
Posted from IP: 168.216.238.205

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I believe cheerleading IS and should be governed as a TEAM SPORT just like basketball, softball etc.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 9:13 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 09:13:48)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Lisa Ann Gresko
Organization: Morgantown High School
Email: lgresko@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Physical Education Instructor
Address1: 109 Wilson Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Morgantown, WV 26501
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-05-20 09:13:48
Posted from IP: 168.216.243.80

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Cheerleading is a team sport and should be under the same guidelines as all other team sports in the state. If cheerleaders are allowed to compete as golf, etc. does, all other team sport members should also be allowed that opportunity.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2005 8:21 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-21 08:21:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Ron Allen
Organization: Hedgesville High School
Email: rwallen@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Athlthetic Director
Address1: 109 Ridge Rd. - North
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hedgesville, WV 25427
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2005-05-21 08:21:07
Posted from IP: 70.16.180.239

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

The cheer team is currently the only "team" sport that allows athletes to be with an "outside" team during the season. This causes the athlete to be influenced by people who do not care if the athlete misses practices or games. An athlete may decide once the season starts to quit the team, which means someone who was cut did not get a chance. If they know before they try out they can only be on one team this may eliminate headaches for coaches later.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2005 8:14 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-03 20:14:07)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Tom Steele
Organization: Lawyer and RESA Teacher
Email: tgs@steelelawoffice.com
Title:
Address1: 360 Lee Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Clarksburg, WV 26301
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-03 20:14:07
Posted from IP: 24.210.117.194

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

The proposed inclusion of cheerleaders in the non-school participation limitation is well justified, and is in the best interest of the students.

Training for cheerleading, like all team sports, has become a year round mission for some. While each individual and her/his family should be able to make decisions regarding the athlete's commitment level to any sport, many WVSSAC coaches utilize the "All-Star" teams or other similar organization as tools for year-round team practice.

The competitive disadvantage to those communities who do not have such organizations is obvious. However, more importantly, the non-participation restriction emphasizes the importance of balance and perspective in the life of a high schooler. (And perhaps the coach.)

After all, the restriction only applies while the cheerleaders are in fact "in season." If this new rule is not adopted, then should basketball players be allowed to play on year round AAU teams while competing for their high school team? Will official high school team sports be abandoned altogether in favor of private sports clubs?

The essence of a team sport in the school setting is that the participant proudly represents his/her school and puts the team ahead of individual interests. The current rule in effect for all team sports, which now seeks to include cheerleaders, only enhances this ideal.

OVAC

04/06/2005 - ALLSTAR VS.
HIGH SCHOOL

IT HAS COME TO OUR
ATTENTION THAT THE
WVSSAC (WV
SECONDARY SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES
COMMISSION) WILL
BE VOTING ON A NEW
RULE CONCERNING
ALL-STAR
CHEERLEADING. THEY
ARE VOTING TO
ENFORCE THAT YOUR
ATHLETE NOT BE
ALLOWED TO BE A
PRACTICING MEMBER
OF AN ALL-STAR
SQUAD AND BE A
MEMBER OF THEIR
HIGH SCHOOL SQUAD
AUGUST 1 -
DECEMBER 1. THIS
MEANS YOU WILL BE
FORCED TO CHOOSE
ALL-STARS OR HIGH
SCHOOL
CHEERLEADING.

WE HOPE THAT THIS
DOES NOT COME
ABOUT BUT WE WANT
YOU TO KNOW THAT
IT IS VERY CLOSE TO
BECOMING A
REALITY!

I ASK THAT IF YOU
HAVE AN OPINION -
THAT YOU LET IT BE
KNOWN! YOU CAN
CONTACT THE WV
BOARD OF ED AT
304-558-3360 OR
FAX THEM AT 304-
558-0198. (I WOULD
ALSO CONTACT MY

SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL!) WRITTEN
LETTERS CAN BE
SENT TO:

WV DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1900 KANAWHA
BLVD. EAST

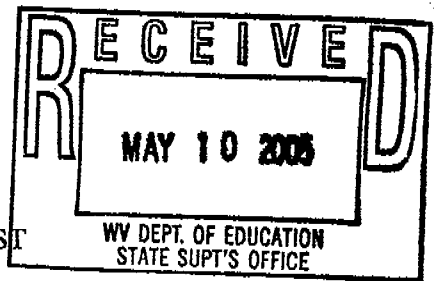
CHARLESTON, WV
25305

SEND LETTERS
ADDRESSED TO THE
FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

BARBARA FISH,
PRESIDENT; LOWELL
JOHNSON, VICE
PRESIDENT; AND
VIRGINIA HARRIS

AND TO THE
WVSSAC, 2875
STAUNTON
TURNPIKE,
PARKERSBURG, WV
26104; PHONE: 304-
485-5494 AND FAX:
304-428-5431

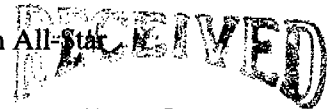
SEND LETTERS TO
THE WVSSAC
ADDRESSED TO THE
FOLLOWING PEOPLE:
KELLY GEDDIS, MIKE
HAYDEN, BUTCH
POWELL AND GARY
RAY.



PETITION with PROPOSAL

TO: WV DEPT OF EDUCATION 1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305

Re: WVSSAC policy that would not allow School Cheerleaders to be a member of an All-Star Cheer Team



PETITION

We, by affixing our signatures hereto, are hereby petitioning against the above-referenced policy that the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activity Commission has passed. It is our understanding that the WVSSAC has passed this policy - which states that a School Cheerleader may not be a member of an All-Star Cheer Team - and are now sending it to your office to be voted on. Please take our PETITION against this policy into consideration when voting on this issue.

WVSSAC

PROPOSAL

We are hereby proposing the following in:

- 1 WVSSAC add a committee to its cheerleading program consisting of members made up of representatives of the following: school cheerleading and all-star cheerleading.
- 2 In order for a school cheerleader to be a member of an all-star team, that all-star team would have to be a member of the WVSSAC cheerleading committee.
- 2 As a member of the WVSSAC cheerleading committee, all-star teams would have to adhere to certain guidelines (agreed upon by the committee members) in regards to school and all-star practices, school and all-star competitions, and cheering at school athletic games, etc.

Sign your name on the top line. Put your city and state on the line directly below it.

Jamie Bennett
Parkersburg, WV
Cathy Bennett
Florence, Ohio

Dwain D Beaver
Williams River, WV
Brian Dillner
Vienna, WV

Shawn R Miller
Mineral Wells, WV
Diane Busch
Washington, WV

Kristy R Haynes
Parkersburg, WV
Erika Burkhalter
Parkersburg, WV

Debbie Willison
Marietta, Ohio
Lisa Berry
Williamstown, WV

Karen Carney
Davisville, WV 26142
Crista Carpenter
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Paula Carney
Washington WV

Karen Bunge
Vienna WV

Kimberly Giffey
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Mitchell Davis
Parkersburg, WV 26104

DORIS C. HESTERSON
VIENNA WV 26105

Elaine Jenkins
Washington, WV

Wendy Wrede
Washington, WV 26181

Connie McCreary
Washington, WV 26181

Paul J. Hopkins
Parkersburg, WV

Thomas C. Carpenter
Parkersburg, WV 26101

David Lee Florence
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Tela Tennant
Parkersburg, WV

Beth Leichter
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Wendy Wright
Williamstown, WV 26187

Dee Dealey
Elizabeth, WV 26143

Charlotte White

Dina Hughes
Vienna, WV

Angi Jensen
Parkersburg, WV

Norabel W. Auck
P. Burg, WV

Garon Shipton
Parkersburg, WV

Dellie Auck
Parkersburg, WV

Paul F. Tappan
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Amy Aaley
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Joseph M. Jean
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Wilma Elder
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Roi DeLozier
Vienna, WV 26105

James S. Sheek
Williamstown, WV 26187

Michelle Antell
Parkersburg, WV

Shelia Caroll
Vienna, WV 26105

Leana McComas
mehalwells, WV

Parkersburg, WV

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 11:38 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 11:38:18)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Diana Moore
Organization:
Email: diamoore@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Health Occupations Instructor
Address1: 115 Luby Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Grafton, wv 26354
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-20 11:38:18
Posted from IP: 168.216.190.58

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I just want information regarding the WVSSAC training I would need to coach cheerleading. Please respond. Thanks

Kelly Geddis

From: "Jack McClanahan" <jcmclan@access.k12.wv.us>
To: "Kelly Geddis" <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 2:59 PM
Subject: RE: Rule Proposals

Kelly,

Steve indicated that he wanted me to also review the comments on the proposals—I can get copies of the emails from Fernando.

If you get any comments by letter, please fax or forward me copies when the comment period is over.
Thanks,

Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Geddis [mailto:kelly.geddis@wvssac.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 8:32 AM
To: Jack McClanahan
Subject: Rule Proposals

Jack,

Mr. Hayden would like for you to e-mail the public comments to me at kelly.geddis@wvssac.org
Thank you for your help.

Kelly

5/19/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 4:34 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-09 16:34:51)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: scott willison
Organization: ohio valley allstars,parkersburg wv
Email: osubuckeyefan@charter.net
Title:
Address1: 108 arborgate drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: marietta, oh 45750
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-09 16:34:51
Posted from IP: 169.128.237.99

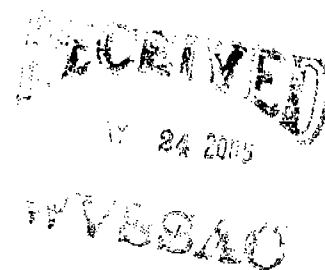
Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

many girls get college tuition paid for doing all-star cheerleading ,not high school cheerleading

Michael

From: "Michael Riley" <rileygolf@zoominternet.net>
To: <wvssac@wvssac.org>
Cc: <Governor@WVgov.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 5:41 PM
Subject: Multiple Team and Organization Participation



Mr. Michael Hayden
Executive Director
WVSSAC

CC: Governor Joe Manchin III

I have spent this week researching a rumor circulating within my daughters all-star gym. It is very important to establish that my daughter goes to Chesapeake High School and we live in Ohio, however our hearts belong to the state of West Virginia.

I am writing this letter from the view point of a previous: 3 sport letterman High School and Junior High, a College Baseball Player and a former Pro Golfer. I was raised in Man WV until the age of 5 and then moved to Huntington WV for a year before moving across the bridge to Chesapeake. I left Chesapeake in 1989 after attending Marshall University for a career in the Air Force, it was not long in the Air Force before I realized that I had a talent to compete at a small professional level in the game of golf. I returned to the area in 1996 at which time I started a job with the West Virginia Golf Association as the Assistant Director of the Golf Association. In 2001 I left the golf association to obtain my Master in Teaching.

I gave you a brief back ground of my life so you will understand that this letter is truly about the best for our children. I am sending a copy to the governor because it seems that your organization in the past month has not made any attempts to help yourself from the rumor that is circulating and your decision could be very detrimental to a Childs future in the state of WV.

It has been mentioned that in June the WVSSAC will pass another one of its ridiculous rules trying to take unnecessary control of a Childs life. This rule has to do with the multiple sport participation at the same time. I will use cheerleading as the example through out this letter because I understand it better because my daughter participates with girls from WV on her all-star team.

After speaking with MARSHALL, WVU, KENTUCKY and LOUISVILLE this past

week if you pass the rule that a child can not participate on both a school team and an all-star team you have all but eliminated your WV girls and boys from college scholarships. Your so called cheerleading coaches within your schools are not qualified, certified or experienced in the cheerleading sport. Most of them are old school cheerleaders that never made it past there senior year of high school athletics. Several of them have never been a cheerleader at all and are just doing it for the extra couple of dollars. They can not prepare the children for the opportunity to obtain thousands of dollars worth of scholarships.

I do not think you have thought this through, the WV parents are going to make the decision for their children and fight you legally when you kick a child off for trying to better their chances at college scholarships.

Recently, when Marshall and WVU were helped in their decision to play football the Governors speech included things about compromise and getting along! Let me give you an example incase you missed his participation in this event: When my daughter cheers against a WV team on Friday night there is no better seen than after the game my daughter asking if a friend from her all-star team and the opposing school cheerleading team can come home with us and spend the night and go to practice the next day. If this is not getting along what is?

There would not be any conflict with the all-star coaches if your high school and junior high coaches would let their jealousy go from their past. My daughters gym has seven schools that attend for tumbling, choreography and cheer camps all of these teachers and coaches seem to work things out with the owner of the gym because they understand what is BEST for the children and their FUTURES. this comes down to communication and respect for someone's profession.

For the Governors interest, you may want to be aware of this decision because of the financial situation. You have six all-star gyms in WV and many other small town tumbling facilities that provide good paying jobs. Tumbling instructors, All-Star Cheerleading coaches and Choreographers make upwards of \$18.00 an hour, this is because they are considered professionals at their sport and certified to instruct the sport of cheerleading. These owners have spent millions on facilities and equipment. They carry huge insurance premiums and pay large amounts of utilities and taxes. All this to provide our children with the opportunity for a college scholarship. Another point to consider is, we have had two girls transfer to Chesapeake in the past 3 months because of this. And more are looking at how to make it happen.

The WVSSAC should not be allowed to decide what children do in their off

time as long as it is not illegal or unsafe to sports. Why not tell them they can not be a GIRL SCOUT or even the member of a church youth group, those are all year activities like all-stars and it to has conflicting schedules with school events that have to be communicated and worked out. Cheerleading has become the hobby of many boys and girls and you do not have the legal recourse to decide if they can participate. This is the angle the parents and attorneys are taking.

Cheerleading is no longer a recreational after thought, it is its own sport and yes you can become a professional at this sport easier than you can any other. My daughters gym has a pro-open team that competes about once a month and they are paid to do this. They win big money for there efforts. This sport is now like any other it starts when your young and your can make a great living at it, as long as you do not have any road bumps like this that hinder your opportunity for advancement. These people become sponsored athletes like any other sport, these events are now on ESPN and Fox Sports more so than SOCCER.

Not all rules are bad but how do we teach our children right from wrong when the parents say it does not matter what they say, we will do it anyways and sue them if they mess with my kid. You may have forgotten, as an example, on my daughter's all-star team four of the parents are attorneys. Can you say PRO-BONE-O, no legal cost for them to fight.

As a previous professional and college athlete, non of the abilities acquired from just high school alone would have provided me with the life I have had, there were many camps, leagues, all-star events and many hours of practice. I can remember practicing high school baseball for three hours and then going on a 1 hour car ride to take batting practice for another 2 - 3 hours at an indoor instruction facility. Playing three game a week in high school and then playing Saturday on one league and Sunday on another. Golf is the same way now, if all you do is play on your school team and do not compete on your own you will watch golf on Sundays instead of playing it. Is the WVSSAC office qualified with the knowledge of how to prepare athletes for their future, it does not seem so at this point. Is that why the majority of the scholarships at our area universities are going to kids outside of the state of WV. Take a look of the rosters and the kids hometowns, it is terrible and with rules as ridicules as this it will only get worse. You can probably count on one hand the number of successful professional athletes from WV as well. You should be encouraging kids to practice as much as they can and to make EVERY effort to become better.

There is over 400 students at my daughters gym this is a great indication that the parents and the kids know the road to success in this sport. This is just one gym, I would urge you to take a year and research the opportunities and benefits from these outside organization before you start making rules like this. If you are

looking for a good rule, try this: "Your school activities must take priority", "If you let your school team down you will not be allowed to participate in the future". This would force the organizations to work together and GET ALONG. Communicating goes along ways. My daughters gym does not schedule any competitions during or on any school activities dates. However, if the situation ever happened there needs to be some flexibility in working with the child.

This letter could go on and on, the good thing is I have the experience and knowledge to know what is correct on this matter and you and your organization are very wrong!

I can only hope your organization does not continue to look at this one sided! Ask yourself and answer honestly, What good is this rule really?

Even though I am from Ohio and do not teach or coach in WV I have an interest in children becoming what they dream of! How can they when unqualified individuals try to change their course.


No matter how you try to word it, you can not hide from the meaning! If All-Stars is out then any other activity during the same season will have to be out as well. Legally not a good decision. I remember my days at the golf association when we could not give the kids a gift certificate because the WVSSAC said so! You do not make the rules for golf the USGA does and that is why we continued to issue the certificates to the parents. This is another example of your poor decision making for children in WV. Nothing illegal about this as a matter of fact the two largest bodies of golf (USGA and the RNA) that govern the game of golf make a RULE and you think you are more qualified! GET REAL!

I now can look my daughter in the face and say I have done all I can do, it hurts her to see her friends in this position. I would like to move across the bridge just to be in the middle of this.

Please make smart decisions these kids are our future and they have great futures ahead of them with hard work!

Thank You

Michael S Riley


15805 St. Rt. 243
Chesapeake, OH 45619

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2005 10:08 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-03 10:08:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Angi Johnson
Organization:
Email: angidawn2000@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 1129 Greene St
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Marietta, OH 45750
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-03 10:08:55
Posted from IP: 63.173.239.99

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I think that if you pass the proposal not allowing cheerleaders to cheer for both school and all star it is going to hurt both the schools and the girls. All star cheerleading is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and helps the girls prepare for cheerleading on the college level, more so that high school cheerleading. All star cheerleading helps the girls develop the skills necessary for colligate cheerleading. WV has one of the top twenty all star cheer gyms in the country and I know several people who have moved to the area so that their child can cheer there, which in turn puts more students in your schools. I myself have been looking into moving to WV, but if this proposal passes, I will not move to WV, and I'm sure that other parents feel the same way. As long as the girls are doing well in school and keeping their grades up there shouldnt be a problem with doing both school and all star. It should be the girls decision not yours.

Thank you
Angi Johnson

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 11:20 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 23:20:23)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Mallory Ortiz
Organization: Rebels cheerleading
Email: cheerchickidy08@aol.com
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role:
Posted: 2005-06-02 23:20:23
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I don't live in west virginis, but this is an outrage. You have no right to tell someone they cant cheer both all star and high school. Leave the cheerleaders be, there's no reason not to!!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 9:05 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 09:05:13)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Susan Ray
Organization: River Cities Rebels
Email: DMEJ0219@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 1207 Lester Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Flatwoods, KY 41139
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-02 09:05:13
Posted from IP: 24.154.128.17

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I think it is ludicrous to limit your students to either high school cheerleading or all star cheerleading. It is very possible to do both, and let those kids have the best of both worlds. They enjoy cheering for their school teams and their friends, but they are also very competitive kids who enjoy the competition cheerleading. To limit them, is just wrong. Please reconsider this decision before you force those kids to have to choose. Thank you.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 7:12 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 19:12:37)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Ashley Beckett

Organization:

Email: beckett_14@hotmail.com

Title: student

Address1: 2413 Crittenden Drive

Address2:

City/State/Zip: Louisville, KY 40217

Role: Business-Industry

Posted: 2005-06-01 19:12:37

Posted from IP: 12.223.125.18

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

This is in regard to cheerleading participation. I cheered all-stars while in school after being urged to by several colleges. My teammates and I were forced to realize that High school cheerleading is not highly looked upon when getting recruited by colleges and universities. So we did what we had to in order to achieve our dreams of being competitive collegiate cheerleaders. I now cheer for the University of Louisville in Kentucky where there are over 25 national cheerleading titles to our name. In order to receive scholarships and to make a team it requires a very high level of skill and talent. It's not just about cheering for games in college. There is a whole lot more to it. When you ask around in the cheerleading world (in college) the majority of athletes have come from some sort of all-star program and 90% didn't even cheer in high school. I now coach cheerleading (while still in school and cheering) at duPont Manual Magnet High School in Louisville where they are defending 5 time national champs. Over half of my girls cheer for all-stars and school and there is no conflict. In fact it just helps out program. The girls take more responsibility and realize that both are very important. My girls who compete with all-stars only get better because of it. Schools in Kentucky and Texas are known for cheerleading and if you would look in to any number of programs you would see that non-school participation only opens more doors and gives more opportunity to those who want it. Non-school participation only helps those in and out of school. By prohibiting this you will be making kids choose which they want to do. This will hinder the school's programs. It's school, kids should be able to access as many opportunities as possible and by taking this away you are taking away

6/7/2005

from thier future and holding them back.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 12:53 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 12:53:14)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Jill Riley
 Organization: Tumble World
 Email: flip4Jill@zoominternet.net
 Title: owner
 Address1: 15805 state route 243
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: chesapeake, oh 45619
 Role: Business-Industry
 Posted: 2005-05-24 12:53:14
 Posted from IP: 24.239.76.53

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I personally have a gym that totally respects school cheerleaders and I have always had a rule that says school comes 1st. Our practices, competitions, and activities absolutely NEVER interfere with school. If a competition matter arises, the child is excused to their MANDATORY (by us) school function no matter what it might be. We have taken our kids out of competitions that interfere.

Our kids scholarships are based on safety, abilities, and experience, is there a way we can work this out in the child's favor.

My participants cheer for me in their spare time, not during the week and not during a ball game or school activity.

Must we all be punished because of the actions of one high school cheer team that involved a competition and a game? Please reconsider this and just make it a requirement that school is the 1st priority. I will honor it!!! I think we are making them chose between popularity (at school) and scholarships (all stars).

Please reconsider this rule!!!

5/24/2005

Thank you very much for your time,

Jill Riley
Tumble World All Stars
Chesapeake, OH

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 9:20 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-26 09:20:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Chad Lemon
 Organization:
 Email: chad_lemon@yahoo.com
 Title:
 Address1: 2030 Edgewood Drive #1
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Richmond, KY 40475
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-05-26 09:20:21
 Posted from IP: 70.105.147.146

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My name is Chad Lemon. I am writing to you concerning the proposed rule that would ban cheerleaders from participating in both high school and all star programs at the same time. I hope that I do not take too much of your time, but I would like to share my concerns and thoughts upon this matter.

I am a former student of St. Albans High School. I am now a resident of Kentucky. While I lived in West Virginia, I was very involved with gymnastics. As funding is quite little these days, it always bothered me that there were no gymnastics programs in schools like it other states. I however, found an outlet in training and competing for a local gym in Charleston. When I came to Kentucky for college, on a whim, I tried out to cheer in college so that I could also continue with my gymnastic training. I actually made it, and it was and still is one of the best experiences of my life. I only wish I would have taken the chance to cheer in high school. That was my own fault. But males didn't cheer in high school in West Virginia.

Now, however, they do. In both high school, and especially in all star gyms, more and more males are beginning to see how fun and physically demanding cheerleading really is. Gyms such as River Cities and Ohio Valley are actually making a name for West Virginia on a national level. That is a good thing... better yet, it is a great thing. As high school teams do not compete in out of state competitions, it is giving a chance for these athletes to compete and share their skills with people from all over the

5/31/2005

country and the world.

I recall that my senior year of high school, my baseball team played in a tourney in South Carolina or Florida (I can't remember which). I always found it odd that cheerleaders were not allowed the same respect.

It would also seem odd to me that should should this rule pass, that while other athletes would be allowed to participate in club teams (spring baseball, basketball leagues, etc.) cheerleaders would not be allowed the same respect.

I coach a high school varisty cheerleading team in Kentucky. Likewise, I work at an all star training gym. Last year, we sent three athletes from or gym onto college with SCHOLARSHIP money to cheer. I can not begin to express to you the amount of happiness their parents proclaimed to me and the gym I work for over and over and over again for our help in training their child.

When it comes down to it, I can not see how this rule could possibly be fair to these athletes. Unless all club/ rec/ all star teams would be banned from all sports... meaning no child could participate in anything other then school sports... there is simply no way that this rulling is fair and gives the respect that I think most athletes deserve.

I ask you to please consider the fairness to these athletes when considering this rule. Moreover, I ask you to please fully look into the reasons that such a rule would even come up. In a day where most people complain that all children do is watch television and play on the computer, these athletes are not only participating in school sports, but outside as well. Let these athletes do what they are capable of. Let them excel. Let them be the ones who make the call. Let them be the ones who go to college on a full scholarship due to the training they recieved. But most of all, let them be the ones you are fair to, respect, and what credit they deserve.

Thank you for your time,
Chad Lemon

Please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions you may have. I will be happy to express my views and ideas on both sides of this topic.

chad_lemon@yahoo.com
(859) 582-1278

2030 Edgewood Drive #1
Richmond, Kentcky 40475

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 1:21 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 13:21:29)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Erica Parsons
Organization: Lawrence Co. Board of Education
Email: eparsons@lawrence.k12.ky.us
Title: Librarian/Coach
Address1: 1046 Pansy Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Louisa, KY 41230
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-19 13:21:29
Posted from IP: 205.204.242.22

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

First let me state that I am a former resident of West Virginia. I currently reside in Kentucky.

I am concerned about the proposal concerning cheerleading that is being considered. I am a teacher/coach in Kentucky and I have a daughter that cheers both high school and all stars. Therefore, I live the experience. I'm sure every proposal you consider is what you feel is best for the athlete. Hopefully, I can enlighten you on all of these matters. My experience with both has been nothing but positive. Many times with school sports girls become part of a team for different reasons. Maybe just to be a part of a team, popular, or just to support their school etc. Nothing is wrong with their decision, but you also have girls on the same team who take the sport seriously and want more from it. My daughter was one of those girls who wanted more. She often became very frustrated with her high school squad because they did not have the same desire, determination, and work ethic. All stars filled this void for her which in return made everyone happy. The girls who make ! up an all star team are there because of this fire and love to compete. As a parent the benefits from all star cheerleading has been immeasurable. It has taught my daughter to not be complacent with what you have but, to strive and be the best you can be. To reach out for more and to be successful. Her dream was to win a national title. To win something of this magnitude everyone must be on the same page. All star cheerleading and Gods blessing aloud this dream to become a reality. As a coach I wanted this dream for my team and so did many of the girls but, there were also girls and parents that thought the idea was crazy and did not support me as a coach nor the girls who did want this dream. Consequently, they still insisted on their child cheering. The girls did well that year but not to their full potential because some girls on the team did not make competing a priority.

I said all of that to say this, we do not punish those athletes on the high school squad who are there just to be a part of a group and/or demonstrate school spirit and may not have the desire and/or

5/19/2005

athleticism to advance. So, why would one want to punish those who do want to commit their time to something they love and have a talent for? I feel the ultimate decision should be between the parent and the child. I would hate to think that my child would have to make a choice. My daughter hopes to cheer in college like many boys who hope to play sports in college. Athletes who advance on to play college sports usually have to spend double the time working than an athlete that does not have this dream.

Please remember this before making your decision! One of the values I have instilled in my children is heart and work ethic is most important to succeed in sports/life and talent is only an added bonus. Those who are willing to commit and have a passion will ultimately become successful. Please don't take this opportunity away for these young athletes!

Sincerely,

Erica Parsons

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 8:56 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 08:56:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Rebecca Meadows
Organization: Buffalo Elementary/River Cities Rebels
Email: rlmeadow@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Principal
Address1: Rt. 2, Box 93
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buffalo, WV 25033
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-05-19 08:56:20
Posted from IP: 168.216.31.122

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Speaking as a former high school assistant principal, currently an elementary principal, and mother of a 7 year old all star cheerleader; I am opposed to the current rule under consideration by the WVSSAC. I feel that the students, parents, and coaches should make the decision based on whether they can work out an appropriate schedule. Almost always, the all star cheerleaders practice and compete solely on Saturday and Sunday days, which should seldom conflict with schools.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 7:38 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-18 19:38:18)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Tracy Arnold
Organization: River Cities Cheerleading and Gymnastics
Email: mrsrcadpm@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 1 Shamber Forrest
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hamlin, WV 25523
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-18 19:38:18
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I strongly disagree with you proposal of making a child choose between an allstar team and a school team. If you could just watch the kids that do allstar cheerleading you would see why the majority of the middle and high school cheerleading squads are so good. They get special training in gymnastics and technique and it is very obvious. Last year my 7th grade daughter cheered for her middle school team and of the 16 girls on that squad 15 of them participate on an allstar squad. If asked to choose between allstars and school the majority will choose allstars and where does that leave your middle/high school squads? I know that our gym owner is very conscious of the school teams and he does whatever it takes to make it work. There is never a choice to be made there. He works around it all. With that said I do not feel that you have the right to choose what our kids do FOR us. That is something that we pay for and attend on the weekends and it is not your place to say! that we have to choose. My daughter has already chosen River Cities. Thank you .

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 6:42 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 06:42:16)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Sheryl L. Smith
Organization: Cheerleading parent
Email: r.c.rebelermom@att.net
Title:
Address1: 119 Hampton Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-19 06:42:16
Posted from IP: 209.247.222.86

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

I really hate to think it is alright with some people to think discrimination is okay for certain areas. I DO NOT feel it is right that my daughter could possibly not have the chance to cheer for high school because some people do like that she also does an All Stars cheer team. I thought we all have rights but I guess some people don't want girls on cheerleading squads that are able to perform all movements and stunts with safety. Just think how dangerous it could get without that. But as parent with 2 children, one of both sexes, girls are always getting the short end of the stick in good 'ol West Virginia. Maybe a lot of you do not realize just how in shape and healthy these girls are. They are definitely not your obese state of people. I really hate to think that you have the right to tell me what my child can do after school and on the weekends, if you ask me that could very well end up with a lot of trouble because all of this goes against everyone's constitutional rights!
!!!!!!

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 10:57 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 10:57:54)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Lisa Bowles
Organization: River Cities Rebels
Email: lisa@zmm.com
Title:
Address1: 48 Doral Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-19 10:57:54
Posted from IP: 66.109.176.10

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

As a new participant for River Cities All-Star Cheerleading Squad, I would like specific reasons as to why students cannot participate for both organizations. Is this applicable just to cheerleading? What exactly has prompted this decision? Thank you in advance for your response.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 10:33 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 10:33:40)

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#####

Name: Suzette Miller
 Organization: all star cheerleader parent
 Email: themillers@wvaccess.net
 Title:
 Address1: HC 62 Box1
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Alma, WV 26320
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-05-19 10:33:40
 Posted from IP: 168.216.255.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I disagree with the WVSSAC's decision to make cheerleading a team sport. I seems very unfair to me that my daughter puts hours/money into learning the skills necessary to be a cheerleader and then is only offered one cheerleading tournament per year offered by the WVSSAC. Other organization won't offer competitions in WV because of all of the regulations. I am also offended that the WVSSAC has the power to tell me what I can/cannot do with my children on our time that is outside of the school day. I feel as a parent I should have the right to pay and have my child participate in what I wish as long as it doesn't interfere with the school activity. So far, we have always scheduled our all star events around the high school schedules. I feel the WVSSAC has become entirely too powerful and if they are that interested in controlling my children's lives, maybe they would also be interested in paying for their college education. If cheerleading is going to made a team sport!
then there needs to be more competitions made available for them to participate. Do you think that any other sport would settle for just one game a season?????? Cheerleading is a very expensive sport and I think more and more girls will opt to go the all star route and the high school programs will suffer.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 12:39 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 12:39:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Joni Eddy
 Organization: all star cheerleader parent
 Email: jonieddy@hotmail.com
 Title:
 Address1: 1734 Woodland Dr.
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Vienna, WV 26105
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-05-19 12:39:55
 Posted from IP: 168.216.255.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am enraged to think that the WVSSAC is trying to take on the position of being my child's parent. What right does this organization have to inform me how to spend my money and time? All-Star cheerleading does not conflict with my child's extra curricular activities in any case. Our practices are held on Sunday, and as you know, schools do not permit practices on Sunday. The last time I checked, I gave birth to my child and I am also the one who is paying for this activity. Another concern I have is that if cheerleading is considered a sport, where are their games. There is one competition a year in this state, sponsored by none other than the WVSSAC. The cheering season is from August-February (don't forget 3 weeks in June). What other sport requires this much time and only gets to participate in one competitive event? If WVSSAC wants to dictate what I execute with my child, I will encourage my child to participate in the all-star program rather than at the school level. I am speaking on behalf of the majority of the all-star squad's parents. We would much rather see our children competing competitively throughout the year than watching them stand on the sidelines. This organization is making our children chose between cheering for their school or doing what they love, competing! The school programs are going to suffer if this law goes in to effect!!!

5/19/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fbanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 7:36 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 07:36:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Anne D Crabtree
Organization:
Email: my2fly@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: 2 Olympia Fields
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Winfield, WV 25213
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-20 07:36:56
Posted from IP: 129.71.207.142

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

How can they consider cheerleading a team sport when you could have 1 cheerleader or 20? There is not a required number of members like the other team sports. Also, how can you single out cheerleading as the ONLY sport that is year long? That is just plain unfair to these kids!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 7:02 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0010 (2005-05-19 07:02:10)

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Comment Received for Policy 0010

#####

Name: Anne D Crabtree
Organization:
Email: my2fly@hotmail.com
Title: MOTHER
Address1: 2 Olympia Fields
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Winfield, WV
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-19 07:02:10
Posted from IP: 129.71.207.142

Comments for section §127-3-2 10 Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal

Comments for section §127-3-2 12 Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal

Comments for section §127-3-23 2 2 Football

I am opposed to the rule that will prohibit cheerleaders from participating in all star cheerleading while cheering for their school!!!!

Comments for section §127-3-23 9 2 Football

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fbanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2005 9:13 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-21 09:13:12)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Tonja Kramer
Organization:
Email: tonja@homeinwv.com
Title:
Address1: 27 Meadow Brook Circle
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-21 09:13:12
Posted from IP: 151.205.90.19

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I believe it should be my decision & not the decision of the school board as to whether or not my child can or can not participate on non- school teams or activities. As an active and involved parent and church member, our family participates on many teams and activites that are involved in our community as well as our church. I do not believe it is not fair for this, or any other board to take away our rights as parents to decide what's in the best interest of our children.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 3:06 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 15:06:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Kristy Lindgren
Organization: Cheer Gemz All-Starz
Email: diamondzmom@msn.com
Title: Parent
Address1: 914 N queen st
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Martinsburg, wv 25401
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-19 15:06:24
Posted from IP: 70.106.38.248

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I would highly rec. that this not happen. First, what my daughter does outside of school hours and with my personal finances aren't any of the school administrations business. All-Star organizations are on the raise and is a known fact that as the sport becomes more competitive that the level of our athletes are also on the rise. In most cases you cannot attribute this to ANY high school coaching besides Brooke who has a very close affiliation with a trained all star coach. Most top notch cheerleading athletes are trained by these "outside" organizations. They are taught by certified, trained staff with safety equipment that schools cannot provide.

If you ask my daughter to choose to be a school cheerleader (which at this point is mostly a social step up only) or her all-star team there will be no choice that she will continue to cheer for her all star organization. **YOU ARE FORCING PARENTS TO GIVE UP THE CONTROL OF WHAT OUR CHILDREN DOES AFTER SCHOOL HOURS!!!! ALSO IN MOST CASES...THE SAFER OF THE TWO...**

You have no basis for this. This is obviously a proposal made by persons who have not had a child involved in all-star cheerleading.

How is this legal if the two do not conflict?

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 2:04 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 14:04:29)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Delilah Barker
 Organization: Rivercities Allstar Rebels
 Email: delilah_barker@yahoo.com
 Title:
 Address1: 25 Egnor Drive
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Chapmanville, WV 25508
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-05-19 14:04:29
 Posted from IP: 69.43.0.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

My daughter is Caitlyn Barker she is 10 years old and is in her 2nd year at Rivercities. We started going to Rivercities after watching the high school regional competition several years ago. The girls from Hurricane, Winfield, and Spring Valley just amazed my daughter and her friends. Their skill level was so much higher than the other squads. Caitlyn was cheering for our local midget league at the time and so we started trying to find out where these girls attended gymnastics and if anything was available for children her age. That's when we found Rivercities. My daughter and 2 others started gymnastics there and it wasn't long until they were members of Rivercities PeeWee allstars.

In this past year my daughter and her friends have traveled together, meet many new friends and been exposed to a level of competition that far exceeds anything we have available to our children.

All of this we did so that when our daughters where in Middle School and High school they would be able to have the skills and ability to make our community proud of their cheerleading squad.

I would hope that you would reconsider letting the cheerleaders cheer for allstars and their local high school because I feel that allstars only makes them stronger athletes for the school. Unfortunately if the ruling is made that they can not cheer for both then my daughter and several of her friends will not get to cheer for Chapmanville High School because they have already said if made to choose they will chose allstars. I know this is several years away for our daughters but I wanted to make you aware of the effect your decision will have for may years to come. This will be a negative effect on the school's cheerleading programs.

5/19/2005

In closing I would also like to express my concern that you are making a decision on behalf of our children that should ultimately be made by each individual child and their parents.

Thank you for your time,

Delilah Barker

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 10:33 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-22 22:33:38)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Gary Mitchell
Organization:
Email: garymitchell38@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: P.O. Box 424
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Omar, WV 25638
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-22 22:33:38
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am against the ruling that would prevent cheerleaders from cheering at allstar gyms and their school. If forced to choose, my daughter and her friends would choose to stay at their allstar gym. I feel that this will hurt school participation, not help it. Furthermore, the only way that my daughter will likely be recognized for possible scholarships is to cheer at an allstar gym. This is because the SSAC will not allow middle/high school cheerleaders to compete outside of the state--therefore significantly reducing their opportunities. I feel that allstar cheeringleading provides added conditioning, training and talent that is beneficial to the school squads. Many schools have coaches that have never cheered in their life and whose only qualification is that they teach a class at the school. Additionally, cheerleading is the only sport that lasts almost the whole shcool year. Therefore, they would not be allowed to compete on another squad, ever. But basketball and bas! eball teams have competitive leagues outside of school once their seasons are over. This ruling should never be allowed to pass. Leave the decisions about activities outside school time to the parents--where it should be.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 10:19 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-22 22:19:13)

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#####

Name: Kimberly Mitchell
Organization:
Email: mitchell_kimberly@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: P.O. Box 424
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Omar, WV 25638
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-22 22:19:13
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am totally against the proposed ruling that would prevent my daughter from cheering at her school and at her all-star gym. I currently drive an hour and a half to her all-star gym to assure that she is instructed by certified coaches who have been trained in what they teach. She has learned the proper techniques to stunt and tumble because of the all star gym. Many coaches in my surrounding area have no training in these areas and are only required to pass a WVSSAC rules test and first aide class. I do not feel that my daughter should have to choose between the two. She has looked forward to being old enough to cheer for her school and now this option will be taken away. I do not feel that the SSAC should be able to regulate what my child does in her free time outside of school. If she is able to manage doing both, I feel the decision should be up to her parents.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2005 10:40 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-22 22:40:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Ashlee Mitchell
Organization:
Email: mitchell_ashlee@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: Box 424
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Omar, WV 25638
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-22 22:40:21
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am a sixth grade student. I have cheered for 3 years at an allstar gym. I was looking forward to being able to cheer at my middle school this coming year. I don't want to choose between the friends that I have made from 3 different states at my all star gym and my friends at school. I love to compete but I would also like to cheer my school teams on at their games. Please give me the opportunity to prove that both can be done. If I have to choose, I guess I won't be cheering at the school because the coaches there cannot teach me as much as the trainers I have at my all star gym.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 11:08 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 11:07:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Cindy Neil
Organization: Middle School and All Star Cheerleading
Email: clineil2@aol.com
Title: Mother
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Barboursville, WV 25504
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-05-20 11:07:59
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

To Whom it may concern:

I am a parent of an All Star Cheerleader AND Middle School Cheerleader. I have overheard a lot of conversation on the upcoming voting on cheering both all star and school related cheerleading squads. I wanted to let my voice and opinion be heard as well.

My daughter has dreamed of attending and cheering for the University of Kentucky since the 3rd grade. She is now completing her 7th grade year at Barboursville Middle School. She has known from an early age, the only way this dream will be fulfilled is through a type of scholarship program. She is very talented in her tumbling and stunting abilities, thanks be to the All Star Cheerleading program she has been involved with for the last four years. I realize most all other sports are currently following this ruling already. I need to make one thing perfectly clear to you and others who may be voting soon. College "scouts" frequently attend games of players for basketball, baseball, soccer, etc. As you know, this is how they determine if what that player has is something they need or want, and so it leads to a scholarship for some lucky young person to attend a fine University and keep doing what they love to do! You will NEVER find a college "scout" for cheerleading, and!

they do have them by the way, at a high school game. These people know that in order to find the best, they go to the All Star National Championships for cheerleading.

The decision to only participate in one or the other hurts these young people very much! My daughter LOVES cheering for her school. She has many friends at the All Star gym, but only 2 attend her

school. Cheering for her classmates from her school gives her a sense of pride and belonging. If you take one or the other away, she will be left with a choice to give up a life long dream, or give up a leadership position in her school that will benefit her for the rest of her life. I know from experience, cheering for one's school is very rewarding and teaches great lessons you will use for the rest of your life. It helps to grow confidence and self esteem you may not get from any where else.

We are a Christian family and are trying to build within our children great faith and perseverance. Only the Lord knows what is in store for us all, but it is nice to know we do have choices in this life to help or hinder others with their plans for life. We, the cheerleading parents of both All Star and School, want to be heard and taken seriously. I only hope that you, as well as the others, will find this issue as important as it deserves and give it great consideration.

Thank you for your time and I sincerely hope you will be praying about this matter before voting.

A concerned mother

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 9:57 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 09:57:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: DEVONNA DUTY
Organization:
Email: JKCLEARING@MSN.COM
Title:
Address1: PO BOX 118
Address2:
City/State/Zip: NAUGATUCK, WV 25685
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-20 09:57:55
Posted from IP: 68.191.28.43

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I FEEL THIS RULING IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CHEERLEADERS BECAUSE
CHEERLEADERS CHEER THRU BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL SEASONS WHICH ADDS UP
TO 8 MONTHS OF A YEAR. IF A CHEERLEADER CAN KEEP UP THE DEMANDS OF
PARTICIPATING ON BOTH WHY LIMIT THEM? ALL STAR CHEERLEADING IS A POSITIVE
EXPERIENCE FOR THESE CHILDREN IT TEACHES DISCIPLINE, TEAMWORK &
SPORTSMANSHIP & MAKES THEM BETTER FOR SCHOOL SQUADS

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 11:32 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 11:32:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Jennifer Stauffer
Organization: Winfield Middle/River Cities
Email: staufferdj@aol.com
Title: parent
Address1: 140 Ranch Lake Blvd.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Scott Depot, WV 25560
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-20 11:32:59
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My daughter has successfully cheered for both River Cites and her middle school. I think it is very upsetting that she now has to choose between the two her last year at the middle school. As her parent, I believe that it should be my decision to decide if both is too much for her to handle. You are taking away a very important part of her life. She enjoys both very much and would be torn between the decision. I have found that River Cities takes nothing away from her cheerleading at the middle school. In fact, if it has done anything it has made her a better, safer, cheerleader. Please reconsider what you are deciding.

Thanks!
Jennifer Stauffer

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2005 11:44 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-20 11:44:43)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Julie A Cremeans
 Organization: mother of HMS & AllStar Cheerleaders
 Email: JULIE.CREMEANS@SSA.GOV
 Title:
 Address1: 67 Willowood Circle
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-05-20 11:44:43
 Posted from IP: 199.173.225.28

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

It is my understanding that as the rule is now Cheerleading is considered and individual sport and that the Bd of Ed is going to vote as to whether to consider it a team sport and subjected to the rule prohibiting participation in outside school teams. I do not think School Cheerleading is a team sport. The purpose of School Cheerleading is to support the Football and Boys & Girls Basketball teams. There is no minimum nor maximum number of girls required to cheer. One girl could Cheer on the football and/or basketball teams. All TEAM SPORTS have a maximum and/or minimum number of players required or allowed to participate (Football 11, Basketball 5, etc). The school coaches tell the girls that they are their to Cheer at the Football and Basketball games, that any competitions they attend are up to the coach. It is not Mandatory that School Cheerleaders compete as a team (they can pay a penalty/fine and not compete at the only require competition--the Conference). Last ! year of the 9 teams (I think) in the same conference as Hurricane Middle School, only 4 competed at the Conference Competition. The remaining teams paid the penalty/fine. Some schools NEVER compete.

If there is not a minimum and/or maximum limit to how many Cheerleaders can be on a SQUAD (not team), then how can it be considered a TEAM SPORT.

Cheerleading as an All Star is a team sport because all they do is compete.

5/23/2005

School cheerleading in West Virginia does not get the girls recognition from colleges for scholarships because they are not allowed to compete outside the state of West Virginia. Competing for All Stars does get them recognition from colleges.

These girls/boys work hard to be the best Athletes they can. They enjoy Competing and Cheering for their Peers. To make them choose one or the other is NOT FAIR to them, their schools, nor their All Star Squads.

I know over 200 All Star Cheerleaders and about 1/2 of them cheer for their schools also. To half to make a choice is not fair to them, nor does it prepare them for their futures. All of us must learn to balance various activities during our lives (School, work, parenting, household chores, etc). The kids doing both School and All Star Cheerleading are learning this in a positive way.

If these kids have to make a choice, it will be a huge loss for the Schools, because over 90% of these kids will choose All Star cheerleading. This will mean that the schools will lose their BEST ATHLETES IN CHEERING. Would the board of education be willing to lose their best athletes in all the other sports? Hurricane Middle School had 16 Varsity Cheerleaders in the 2004-2005 school year. Fifteen of these Cheerleaders were also All Star Cheerleaders (on 5 different squads for 2 different All Star gyms). When asked, all 15 of these Cheerleaders stated if they had to choose between School Cheering and All Star Cheering, they would choose All Stars.

The BOTTOM LINE to me is and should be whether or not School Cheerleading is a TEAM SPORT and as the schools look at what a Cheerleading Squad is for, it CANNOT be considered a team sport.

Thank you for considering the Public Opinion on this very important issue.

Julie Cremeans

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 6:22 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-19 18:22:54)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Terri Thevenin
Organization: Hurricane Middle, Hurricane High and River Cities All Stars
Email: RCRebelMom05@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 104 Millard Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-19 18:22:54
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I just don't feel that it is right for the school board or the WVSSAC to tell me what my child can and cannot do in her sparetime. You are attempting to take away my childs constitutional rights and it isn't fair. All Star Cheerleading is the only sport that you are hitting with this new proposed rule and it is discrimination. Please vote NO...turn this proposed rule down.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 11:05 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 11:05:13)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Debbie Clark
Organization: Hurricane Middle, Hurricane High, River Cities All Stars
Email: RedsCheer07@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 104 Millard Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-23 11:05:13
Posted from IP: 207.68.84.198

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am writing to you asking that you please not make me choose between the sport that I love. I think it is unfair for you to have to make me choose between cheering at the high school level and the all star level. Our coach always works around the school schedules, never does it interfere with any function that I am attending. What I do on my time after school hours is mine and my parents business and should only be our business. What you are doing is taking away my right, my amendment right. This is justly unfair and should not be allowed. Please as a cheerleader and a student in the public school system do not take away my freedom to choose.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 11:06 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 11:06:12)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Chelsea Smith
Organization: Hurricane
Email: r.c.rebelermom@att.net
Title:
Address1: 119 Hampton Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-23 11:06:12
Posted from IP: 207.68.84.198

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I really think it is unfair that I would have to choose between my school sport and an all star facility because i feel like I am being punished because my parents have taken the time and money to interested in me and my ability. And not to be able to have the oppurtunity to get to try out but I can tell you have after 3 years of cheering on the all star level I am confident in my abilities that I know what I am doing and from a saftey stand point, what's more IMPORTANT!!!!!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2005 12:32 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-21 12:32:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Debbie Clark
Organization: Cheerleading
Email: Debccc3@aol.com
Title: Parent
Address1: 511 Washington Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Nitro, WV 25143
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-21 12:32:20
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Please DO NOT make my daughter have to choose between the 2 things she enjoys the most. Cheering on her all star squad and for her school.
One enhances the other. The two have NEVER conflicted, ever.
I am having a hard time understanding how you have the right to tell us what we do on our time with our money. This is wrong, and needs to be reconsidered.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 8:20 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 08:20:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Stephanie Morrow
Organization: Rebels
Email: smorrow@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-24 08:20:55
Posted from IP: 168.216.100.37

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I'm not sure that those behind this movement have done enough research on HOW it could effect the future of these young, talented athletes. I HAVE done a lot of research on how young men and women receive college scholarships through cheerleading. The best of the best universities REQUIRE All-Star team participation, but who has the connections and receives the information to fill-out on these athletes, HIGH SCHOOL CHEER COACHES. We need to find a common ground in order to ensure that those who deserve college scholarships receive them!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Lucas, Raymond C LRH" <Raymond.C.Lucas@lrh01.usace.army.mil>
To: <Mike.hayden@wvssac.org>
Cc: <Gary.ray@wvssac.org>; <Kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>; <butch.powell@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 9:39 AM
Subject: Cheerleading Rule Change

My name is Raymond C. Lucas and I have been actively involved in coaching kids for more than 30 years at various levels. I have also had the privilege of seeing my daughter and granddaughter participate as cheerleaders in the school system as well as with outside organizations.

I'm not sure why this issue is even being brought forth. I'm guessing it is like most other situations; an individual or some small minority felt that the current system did not meet their purposes and therefore started being a squeaky wheel. Or does someone want to be in control? The decision should be made based on what is best for the majority of the students, not about who is the "master". I feel the parents should be able to control this situation rather than have it dictated by an organization removed from the individual desires and needs of the students.

I have a few observations that I would like those making the final decision to consider:

- I feel the primary purpose of cheerleaders is to support team sports such as football and basketball. If those teams did not exist, I doubt that you would have a cheerleading squad at the schools.
- Cheerleaders do not have a competitive season. All they have is a state competition once a year. If that is considered their season, why not have it at the beginning of the school year and then it is over and they could participate wherever they choose.
- If these students are forced to choose, the talent level of cheerleading will diminish. The skills that most of these cheerleaders possess are learned outside the school system at no cost to them. The parents pay for it because they feel it is important to the development of their child, plus it is not being provided by the schools. Why would the school systems not continue to take advantage of this free training!
- I personally do not see any substantial benefit to be derived from forcing these students to choose. I have, however, observed some benefits of participating in outside cheerleading competitions:
 1. It allows students to be a part of a group from other schools and even other states, which has promoted much better sportsmanship between schools as these kids become friends.
 2. As mentioned above I have seen the skill level of these kids sore beyond what could even be imagined by just participating as a high school cheerleader.
 3. I have seen these kids learn how to win gracefully and loose with dignity.
 4. Several of these outside organizations have represented the state of WV on a national level and have received praises from the Governor and other political positions.

I see these students having fun participating in both cheerleading sponsored by the school system as well as with outside organizations. We should be trying to expand their horizons

5/24/2005

rather than trying to control them.

I almost hesitate to say that it should be what is best for the students because this has been watered down so much by various organizations by saying that without actually meaning it or acting it out.

Bottom line, it goes back to the old saying that my parents passed on to me: **"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"**. **I do not feel there is anything wrong with leaving it the way it is.**

Thanks for considering my thoughts on this matter.

Raymond C. Lucas, CPCM
Phone (304) 399-5917
Fax (304) 399-5157

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 2:09 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 14:09:51)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Lori Williamson
 Organization: Wood County Board of Ed Member
 Email: lori@zides.com
 Title:
 Address1: 701 Henderson Ave
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Williamstown, WV 26187
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-05-24 14:09:51
 Posted from IP: 24.159.86.4

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I don't believe Cheerleading should be included in the Non-school Participation rule. Unlike other team sports, there aren't regularly scheduled competitions for school cheerleading teams. In fact, while cheerleaders often practice 6 days a week, for several hours a day, most of them get to compete only once during the school year - at their regional competition. Given the choice between the limited competition of a school team versus the opportunity to compete regularly by participating in non-school programs, I believe most cheerleaders will opt to compete on non-school teams. The result will be a watering down of the quality of cheerleading in West Virginia.

How many football or baseball players do you think would stick with their sports if they practiced for several months but only got to play one game?

Another option would be to schedule cheerleading competitions throughout the season. It would benefit the cheerleaders to perform in front of judges and an audience prior to the Regional competition. And it would eliminate the boredom and frustration of endless practices.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2005 5:48 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-24 17:48:01)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Roger Thevenin
Organization: River Cities All Stars, HMS and HHS
Email: MudRacinNut05@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 104 Millard Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-24 17:48:01
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My stepdaughter takes great pride in cheering for the middle school and her all star squad. I feel as a stepparent that the WVSSAC has gone just a little far with this Non-School Participation ruling. Who are they to say what my stepdaughter can do on her free time? Who are they to tell me as a step parent where my money is to be spent and how I can spend it. It is not fair to these girls and guys to that practice so hard and learn the proper techniques for stunts and tumbling for the WVSSAC to tell them that they can't do both. Please do not pass this rule.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2005 12:07 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-27 00:07:52)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: BARB LINDSEY
Organization:
Email: colton_896@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: 85 twp rd 1389
Address2:
City/State/Zip: chesapeake, ohio 45619
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-27 00:07:52
Posted from IP: 24.239.73.238

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

I really dont understand how it is possible that you can tell a person what he or she can do on their free time. I feel if that child is able to cheer on a team other then a school team then why would you punish that child it is something that the child likes to do. Also i do believe that there are other sports that the children do while a school function is going on like for example SOFTBALL...and they play ASA too another example BASKETBALL.....and they play AAU. So as far as a child not being able to cheer on a all-star team and a school cheerleading team i do believe that is very wrong. Sorry but i dont think i am telling you what you can or can not do on your spare time so why are you trying to tell me what my child can do on their's? That would be like me telling you that your not allow to have another job when you already have one, **IF THIS IS WHAT THE CHILD LIKES TO DO AND IT IS NOT HURTING HER/HIS GRADES THEN WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE ABLE TO DO SO.** I didn't know our world was now gonna start having such dumb rules when there is other things that are more serious then this. The way i see it i would rather have my child busy and knowing what he/she is doing than not know what he/she is doing because you know just as well as i do that if the kids are not doing more than one sport than they could be out doing **DRUGS AND DRINKING** and causing alot of **T R O U B L E**. So why dont you all just let the kids be kids and leave them alone. **THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MS. LINDSEY**

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fbanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 3:12 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 15:12:08)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Cynthia Narkevic
 Organization:
 Email: cnark70@hotmail.com
 Title:
 Address1: 120 Robert E. Lee Avenue
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Elkins, WV 26241
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-05-23 15:12:08
 Posted from IP: 63.116.142.146

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My daughter and several other Middle School cheerleaders are members of an All-Star Squad. School cheerleading is not really considered a sport at our school. One competition a year is all our cheerleaders have been allowed for the past two years. I am unsure what was done before my daughter went to Middle School. Our Middle School Cheerleaders practice every night of the week and sometimes on Saturday and for what, to cheer on the sidelines of basketball and football games and for one competition. Our All Star squad practices one night a week and maybe two if they are nearing a competition. If the cheerleaders are not allowed to be on an All Star Squad, they should be required to attend the same number of competitions as there are basketball and football games. Also, our cheerleaders attend one away football game and one away basketball game. They should be required to attend all games.

The cheerleading coaches in school can be teachers that have absolutely no idea what they are doing. We experienced this my daughters first year of cheering for the middle school.

In my opinion, the All Star Cheerleaders are being punished for going the extra mile to learn things they normally would not in school cheerleading.

My daughters ultimate goal is to become a cheerleader at Fairmont State University and with one

5/23/2005

competition a year in school, she is afraid she will not attain that goal.

Our All Star Coaches realize that school cheerleading is important to all the girls that participate in both and have scheduled our practices around the school practices.

All Star Cheerleading offers girls the opportunity to compete in as many competitions as they want. All Star Cheerleading offers girls the opportunity to learn proper stunt building and proper gymnastic skills. Our All Star coaches are certified in both. Our school cheerleading coach has assisted in All Star Cheerleading but is in no way certified in either stunt building or gymnastics.

School cheerleading offers the girls a chance to be somewhat popular in school and show team spirit. All Star Cheerleading is for the love of cheerleading and competition.

All Star Cheerleading is an expensive sport but one I choose to let my daughter do because she absolutely loves the sport and she is a very competitive person. I feel she needs the competitive edge in a very competitive world. She loves to do both but if she has to make a choice, she will definately choose All Star Cheerleading over school cheerleading because she learns so much more.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Narkevic

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 12:49 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-13 12:49:02)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: donna seaman
Organization: ohio valley all stars
Email: ddonnasea@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 94 hickory st
Address2:
City/State/Zip: parkersburg, wv 26104
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-13 12:49:02
Posted from IP: 166.123.208.120

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

I oppose the the pending rules on outside gyms in cheerleading not being able to participate in school cheer athletics. The gyms give our children extra training and guidance to make it a much safer sport. This is an asset to the school activity and not a disadvantage to other students. Our children have been looking forward to cheering for their school also. They are also your students. thank you.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 12:57 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-13 12:57:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Martha
Organization:
Email: Mardar98@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 965 Masonic Park Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Vieanna, WV 90821
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-13 12:57:25
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I can't believe that you are trying to tell my family how to spend their time. All Star Cheerleading is a family event, we go out of town and travel together as a family. There is no logical reason for your policy to be put in place-- If my daughter makes an all star and high school team, then she will be committed to both, not just one or the other. If we felt that this would become a problem, then us as parents would make the decision to let our kids do one or the other, you do not have the right to do it for us. We have been doing this for years, as my older daughter also was involved in both all stars and school cheerleading, and it has worked out just fine and has been fun and educational. Don't do this to us.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 1:53 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-13 13:53:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Consandra Leonard
 Organization:
 Email: conchaerr@aol.com
 Title:
 Address1: 931 Hanna Drive
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Charleston , WV 25312
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-06-13 13:53:47
 Posted from IP: 167.239.217.26

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

This comment is in regards to the WVSSAC Proposal under consideration by the State Board of Education regarding the state cheerleading rules/ program. By making children and parents decide on cheering for their local schools or All- start programs is unfair the child and parents. Many of the states cheerleading programs do not offer the skill training that is required of individuals to obtain scholarships in college for cheerleading. As many individuals know, major colleges offer full scholarships for cheerleading as well as basketball and football. So individuals parent provide their children a second alternative to obtain this skill level by participating in all-star. All-start has not replaced the sport of cheerleading in schools, because children still fill a seen of loyalty and pride for the school. Over the years I have seen many children receive information and letter of intention on college cheerleading scholarships, at All-start events, but never have I seen cheerleading scout come to a local high school to view a student on their cheerleading ability to present them with information or a letter of intention. By limiting these children on participating in both programs you are doing the school system a great dishonor as well as the All-start programs. When surveying a group of young ladies who participate on All-stars and school teams, 9/10 states that they would prefer to cheer for All-starts then schools, because to the lack of techniques, training and skill level that is involved in school cheerleading. If they had to make a choose between to two.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 12:18 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-15 12:18:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Al Conaway
Organization:
Email: alconaway@charter.net
Title:
Address1: 23 White Rock Dr
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-15 12:18:53
Posted from IP: 209.197.40.215

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am against removing the cheerleading exemption from this rule. The rule (10.1.1) has already given the individual schools the ability to prohibit specific athletics on a case-by-case basis. As long as the student's academic and athletic performance is not adversely affected, it seems unconstitutional to prohibit what one does outside of school. It also seems that there are a few who are simply interested in increasing the number of trophies for their children, at the expense of everyone else's children. If approved, students will be forced to choose between private all-star squads and school sponsored squads. Inevitably, there will be a split that will effectively reduce the quality of both squads. Where is the good in that?

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 5:28 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-15 17:28:37)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Kari Long
 Organization: parent
 Email: klong4@wvu.edu
 Title:
 Address1: 15 Chasewood Lane
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Morgantown, WV 26508
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-06-15 17:28:37
 Posted from IP: 157.182.105.1

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I object to the thought that the school system can regulate what my daughter does outside of her school time if it does not conflict with her commitment to the school team. Participation in all-star cheerleading squads can only enhance my daughter's participation on her school squad. I do not see the problem with the current situation. It is made clear that on the school squad that you must be present at all practices and competitions. If the all-star squad works around that schedule, I do not understand where the problem is. If the all-star squad does not work around that schedule, then my daughter would have to make a choice.

The focus should be on attendance/participation requirements to maintain eligibility to participate on the school squad - NOT on what my daughter does in her spare time outside of this time commitment.

Are you next going to regulate that dance squad members cannot take dance classes? How do you think the interest to participate in high school cheerleading and dance squads/teams was developed? Through classes and participation in other offerings to develop these skills. You should not expect the child to drop everything else that they have worked for, just to be on a school squad IF they can make the commitment for attendance and participation that is required.

Thank you.

6/21/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 11:31 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 11:31:36)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Kevin Trippett
Organization:
Email: ktrippett@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 276 Trail Ridge Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, WV 26104
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-01 11:31:36
Posted from IP: 66.109.166.218

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I'm writing this letter to speak of the issue of All-Star Cheerleading vs. High School Cheerleading. Some of my qualifications and former and present experiences in cheerleading include the following: Assistant High School Cheer Coach, Judge for WV Cheerleading Competitions, Choreography for high school and junior high school routines, Universal Cheer Association Staff, WVU Cheerleader, Certification in Safety for Cheerleading, and All-Star Cheerleading Coach.

It is my understanding that the WVSSAC has proposed a rule to disallow a cheer athlete to participate in school sponsored cheerleading and All-Star cheerleading at the same time. I feel this is extremely unfair to the athletes and is a violation of their rights. These student athletes should be allowed to choose how they spend their time outside of school activities without the school interfering. These athletes pay to participate in all-star cheerleading to improve upon their skill level and assist them in becoming the best athlete possible. All-star cheerleading exposes the athletes to opportunities they may never have the chance to experience through high school cheerleading. As a result, they are better prepared and equipped for cheering in college. Instead of allowing cheer athletes to broaden their horizons and increase their potential, this proposed rule will narrow their exposure and will greatly decrease the skill level of the cheer athletes in our state high schools.

Furthermore, I find it interesting that a member of the high school swim team can compete and participate as a member of their local YMCA swim team at the same time and the same goes for many

6/7/2005

other sports, yet, cheerleading is the only target of this proposed rule change.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 11:33 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 11:33:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Terry Johnson
 Organization:
 Email: tojo2ccn@aol.com
 Title: RN
 Address1: 704 Garvin Avenue
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25302
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-06-01 11:33:24
 Posted from IP: 206.193.127.2

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

In regard to the ruling that prevents high school cheerleaders from competing in both school and private cheerleading competition during the academic year. In recognizing cheerleading as a sport you have set the guidelines for participation to follow that of all other sports in the high schools. If you don't allow these athletes to travel out of the state of WV to compete, because of conflicting schedules with the other sports they cheer for, you are denying the cheerleaders of the chance to be selected for scholarship money. It is unfair and very biased to make them choose between participation in the extracurricular activities of high school and the chance to be seen at large venues by college coaches seeking scholarship candidates. What you are proposing can only be seen as prejudiced and borders on male chauvenism, in lew of the fact that 99.9% of cheerleaders are of the female gender. It is my sincere opinion that this proposal be reevaluated to allow fairness and consistancy for all involved.

6/7/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 2:36 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 14:36:07)

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#####

Name: Dee Ann Florence
Organization: Cheerleading & Dance
Email: theflorences@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 36 Wyndemere Dr
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, wv 26104
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-01 14:36:07
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I strongly disagree with any ruling which does not allow an athlete to practice and compete with an organization other than the school organization during x amount of months of per year. Why should my daughter not be allowed to improve her skills and technique any time I allow her to do so and bring those perfected skills back to the school atmosphere. By regulating these activities you bring the level of the sport for the State of West Virginia down!!! These athletes are then weaker to other athletes when they audition for college teams.

By adding these regulations you force parents to chose between school activities and professionally coached activities. These organizations are already declining forcing groups to move the acceptable tryout grade down just to obtain members. Regulations like this will only worsen the problem. Anyone with their childs best interest would not choose the school activity which is a shame because I would like my daughters to master all options of her sport.
Thank you

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 12:34 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-31 12:34:02)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: John Miller
Organization:
Email: John_Miller@simonton.com
Title:
Address1: 1 Cochrane Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Pennsboro, WV 26415
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-31 12:34:02
Posted from IP: 168.216.255.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I do not support the WVSSAC's recommendation to make cheerleading a team sport without giving them a competitive schedule like every other sport sanctioned the commission. It seems very unfair that they only have one tournament, game, per year and other "team sports" have between 10 and 30. I think this ruling is very discriminatory against cheerleading unless it is backed up with a competitive cheerleading schedule throughout the year.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 1:48 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-31 13:48:58)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: Keith Graley
Organization: River Cities Cheerleading
Email: KGraley@charter.net
Title: Father/Taxpayer/Safety Manager
Address1: 1102 Ivywood lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: South Charleston, WV 25309-1708
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-31 13:48:58
Posted from IP: 56.0.163.16

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I think this rule is designed to keep avenues open for individuals that did not take the time to pursue a sports oriented function earlier in life. The organizations that you will be handicapping will survive but the children which learn teamwork, sportmanship, discipline, healthy lifestyles and hardwork are the ones you will be hurting.

Why punish youngsters that are learning good values at an early age by enforcing such a useless proposal. Just remember that the children of today are the leaders of tommorrow.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fbanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 10:33 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-31 22:33:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Debbie Clark
Organization:
Email: Debccc3@aol.com
Title: Parent of Cheerleader
Address1: 511 Washington Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Nitro, WV 25143
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-05-31 22:33:55
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Please do not make us have to make a choice between cheering for school or All-stars, that is ridiculous!
One enhances the other. Please think before making such a rash decision. It is wrong.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 9:52 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 09:52:48)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Cathy Bennett
Organization: Ohio Valley All-Stars
Email: catandjamie@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 414 37th Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, WV 26101
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-01 09:52:48
Posted from IP: 64.12.116.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am very concerned that you are trying to limit the middle and high school cheerleaders to only school participation thru their competitive seasons. My concern stems from the fact that I have raised a competitive cheerleader, who also cheered high school, who went on to cheer in college - the experiences that she had while in the competitive arena is what made her the great college athlete that she became. If any of you think that all the sideline cheers, poster making, pep rallies and bus rides that she took while on a school team molded her into a great athlete - you are sadly mistaken! The hours in the gym stunting and tumbling did that! I was also told that a local high school coach had told their candidates that if they wanted to cheer in college that they defenitely needed to cheer high school. I found that very interesting so I contacted several coaches, including Fairmont State College and University of Kentucky. I was told by their coaches that the "majority of our ! kids come from all-stars". With that being said, I will tell you how come they feel that way. They feel that all-star kids are extensively doing cheerleading and practicing and improving their skills. With HS - they focus on skills for only a few months, compete, and then stop trying to better themselves and their team. They then become that postermaker and sideline talker that you see at games. You also state that this is not allowed in any other team sport, such as basketball or baseball - but what you are not allowing for is that they also have their version of all-star teams sucha s traveling or AAU. They just have a different season for that particular sport that does not run the same as school. With cheerleading - we are not at the mercy of changing season. We are at the mercy of the cheer organizations that sponsor these

events. After checking with several of them I have found out that they can't possibly change their season either - they have made commitments to these venues for the next 5 years to secure a competition site. Please understand the feelings of all of these families that are involved.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 10:50 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 10:50:45)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Jamie Bennett
 Organization:
 Email: rocketscoach@aol.com
 Title:
 Address1: 406 59th St.
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Vienna, WV 26105
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-06-01 10:50:45
 Posted from IP: 24.151.157.159

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I feel this ruling is unfair and will limit these kids to what they are allowed to accomplish. Many colleges look to the allstar facilities to recruit athletes and give scholarships. If you don't know much about cheerleading you would say that there are not many scholarships available to cheerleaders. I would beg to differ. I personally receive American Cheerleader Magazine in the mail, and they put out a scholarship guide every year with all the schools that give cheerleading scholarships. There are probably 200 or more schools listed, many giving full rides. The opportunity for these scholarships is not at a high school game when you are cheering on the sidelines it is at a competition with 200 of the best teams in the country competing and representing their area!! I don't know how everyone can think it's ok just because it only affects August through December. That is when the major qualifiers are to be able to compete in January-March. If you do not attend any of the competitions up through December then you are not eligible to compete in the competitions that start in January. In other words, the ruling is basically saying-CHOOSE! Why should these kids choose something that does not conflict with each other, and is totally different. Allstar cheerleading is nothing like high school and shouldn't even be considered the same sport. Which poses my next question. What about dance teams? You dance in cheerleading. Should you be allowed to do an extracurricular dance team. What about tumbling classes? Should you be able to take tumbling classes to better your skills? If so, why can't you be on allstars and better your skills. The allstar teams is who is making these kids good anyway! Most school cheerleading coaches are someone's MOM!!! Boy that's real safe!

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Anyway, I will bring my comment to an end now, otherwise it will go on forever as to why this rule should not pass. I'm sure my comment does not mean anything. These are probably not even getting read, cuz the decision was made along time ago by people who have NO clue about cheerleading especially ALLSTARS!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 11:09 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 11:09:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Sarah Carroll
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1: 6 Mill Creek Crossing
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, wv 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-01 11:09:25
Posted from IP: 206.193.127.2

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Parent of two all star cheerleaders, I oppose the possible change in the guidelines regarding cheerleading.. When do you propose that the student obtain any kind of specialized training for cheerleading??? Also if the student is not allowed to participate in all star cheerleading how and when do you think that they can be seen for scholarship opportunities??? My child last year as a 9th grader won a national championship, and their was a coach that approached the girls regarding cheering in college, do you think that that would have happened cheering in the state of WV for their school??? Do not get me wrong, I think it is very important for the student to be active in school activities, and that, is partially why I enrolled them in all star cheerleading, so that they could be the best that they can be. I agree that the school functions come first, and that is the policy in the all star program that we are affiliated.. Please reconsider this move...it is only hurting the student...With cheerleading there is no "off season" so if this rule is changed there is no time for the student to participate in all star cheerleading...(along with the rest of the nation)...do the right thing!!!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 11:14 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 11:14:46)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Carrie Smith
Organization:
Email: cstar@aol.com
Title:
Address1: Rt 1
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Davisville, WV 26101
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-01 11:14:46
Posted from IP: 24.151.157.159

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I feel that you are telling my daughter what she can do in her free time. I'm her mother and I will be the one who tell's her what to do. As long as my child is where she is supposed to be at and when I don't think it should be a problem. We have been a part of allstars for many years and have never had to miss a school activity because of it. I think you need to let the parents do their job of getting the kids where they need to be if they choose to partake in allstars. This would be absolutely absurd to pass this rule. Doesn't the board have better things to spend their time on other than cheerleading. Leave well enough alone!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 3:35 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 15:35:35)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Suzanne Johnson
 Organization: Ohio Valley All Stars / Hamilton Jr High Cheerleader
 Email: suzanne@wheelsrv.com
 Title: VP/GM Sales
 Address1: 1705 25th Street
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, WV 26101
 Role: Community Member
 Posted: 2005-06-01 15:35:35
 Posted from IP: 12.20.121.52

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am aware of the proposed ruling prohibiting cheerleaders from being on a school team and an All Star team at the same time. I am respectfully against this decision. My daughter has been doing this for a couple years and has juggled both teams very well. We attended the accademic banquet last night for Hamilton Jr High where my daughter recieved and award for maintaining at least a 3.5 grade point average for the past two years. My daughter is not the onlt cheerleader to achieve this. The average grade point average for Ohio Valley All Stars is over 3.0.

I feel that this decision should be left to the individual coaches and parents. The majority of coaches are willing to share their cheerleaders and work with the cheerleader's scheduling. Coaches would much rather do that, than have the alternative...great cheerleaders quitting one squad for another.

I do not feel that life is black and white, nor that all decisions are black and white. I feel that all the facts should be present, then a decision made to benefit the majority.

I was told by someone at the WVSSAC that this decision would open up spots for girls that normally would not make cheerleader. I wonder how the football coaches would feel about that same mentality, and the schools that recieve funds for football games. If Parkersburg High School had second and third rate players because they had to choose between something else, I wonder how exciting the games

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Page 2 of 2

would be. I wonder how many tickets and food they would sell. The fact that these students/athletes did not make it to begin with is called life. That's why tryouts exist. I realize that these students can't do everything. I realize there are sports that interfere with one another. These two cheerleading teams do not. You are asking these girls to choose between a team that brings home National Championship trophies that are good for the community, and one that promotes school spirit. Obviously these are two totally different teams. All Stars practice one time during the week, and one time on a weekend. I am sure that Jr High and High School teams can work with those times. The majority of All Star competitions are in the winter and spring. School competitions are in the fall to winter...usually one or two total.

In regards to competitions, All Star teams and school teams are not, or should not be in the same category when competing. I have heard reference to All Star teams having an unfair advantage over school teams when competing. Again, they are not in the same category. If schools in other counties are placing themselves there, then it is the coaches fault. Change that, not the entire system.

Another idea may be to adjust this ruling county to county. Don't punish everyone for problems with a few.

The real people who lose by this ruling are the children. As a parent, I try to keep my children as active as they can handle. My daughter has done an excellent job. She also ran track, as did many other cheerleaders. All of the coaches worked together. I have two boys who play Little League and run track during the same time. Again, all the coaches work together.

My daughter has had a dream of being a PHS cheerleader from the time she was a little girl. It is, however, the Ohio Valley All Stars who have made her who she is today. What does it teach our children if we ask them to give up their dreams, or to abandon their loyalty to those who helped make them who they are today?

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 8:04 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 20:04:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Elizabeth LeMasters
Organization:
Email: liza77xx@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 914 Summers Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkerburg, WV 26101
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-01 20:04:00
Posted from IP: 24.159.118.112

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I do not think that this a very fair policy, since these kids/students work very hard to keep their grades up and practice very hard for both School Cheer and All Star Cheer. I think that you will find that the schools will be short on cheerleaders, since most of them like the competition. They strive for these titles and to participate in school cheer. The parents pay for these sports, why should you decide what they can participate in? I just don't agree.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 9:47 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 21:47:40)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: mollie sopranik
Organization: all star cheerleader
Email: ladyjbass@yahoo.com
Title: student
Address1: 607 23rd st
Address2:
City/State/Zip: vienna, wv 26105
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-01 21:47:40
Posted from IP: 24.158.88.148

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

You shouldn't tell us what type of cheerleading we can and cannot do. If we choose to do all-star and school you shouldn't have the right to tell us we can't because it's not on the schools time and the coaches should not complain about it. If they don't like it, they should just stop coaching or get over it. By law your'e not allowed to dictate what activities we participate in during after school hours. So I don't think you should ban cheering for both all-star and schools.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 2:13 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 14:13:48)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Stephanie Gaskins
Organization:
Email: gaskinsstephanie@verizon.net
Title:
Address1: 440 Captain Ames Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, WV 26104
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-02 14:13:48
Posted from IP: 24.197.75.202

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I do not think that cheerleaders should be limited to choosing school cheerleader or all-star cheerleader. These girls work hard and they want to do their best, either for their team or their community. No other states have limited the cheerleaders from choosing between school and all-star cheerleading. This means that the all-star cheerleading teams that will lose a lot of their members because of the new rule will be at a disadvantage at competitions because they compete against cheerleading teams from other states. This just doesn't sound fair to make the cheerleaders choose between cheering for their region or cheering for their school. Don't put our teams at a disadvantage against other squads.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 6:02 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 18:02:26)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Brianna maze
Organization: Ohio Valley Allstars
Email: tunaorchicken@charter.net
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Community Member
Posted: 2005-06-02 18:02:26
Posted from IP: 24.159.120.149

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I think not letting allstar cheerleaders be on a school team is ridiculous. The school teams will lose a lot of their girls to allstar squads and the girl's allstar fellow cheeleaders will feel letdown if the girl does school cheerleading and quits the allstar team.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 04, 2005 1:18 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-04 13:18:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Shellie Terry
 Organization: Spirit Elite Gym Club Ltd.
 Email: shellie@spiritelite.com
 Title: Owner
 Address1: 261 Staunton Ave.
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: South Charleston, WV 25303
 Role: Business-Industry
 Posted: 2005-06-04 13:18:19
 Posted from IP: 64.181.32.5

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I feel that it should be up to the parent to decide what is to much for their child to do. I really think it is going to destroy public school cheer squads if these girls choose to do allstars over school cheer. Most of these girls have been on cheer squads since they began cheering at an younger age. I as a squad coach and business owner have always encourage school team sports before outside activities. I have always asked for schedules as soon as they get theirs and worked my once a week practice around their high school or middle school practices. If unexpected practices come up, I have allowed girls to miss my practices to make public school practices. We are doing a service for these girls that could give them potential scholarships for college. PLEASE REMEMBER it is about the child or student not the school. I feel that with a little bit of communication we could solve this problem.

Shellie Terry
 Spirit Elite

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 10:23 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-05 10:23:03)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Terri Thevenin
Organization: River Cities, Hurricane Middle and Hurricane High
Email: LuvTweety2002@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 104 Millard Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Hurricane, WV 25526
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-05 10:23:03
Posted from IP: 205.188.116.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am once again emailing you in hopes that when this rule comes before the State Board on June 15, 2005 that you think long and hard about what you are doing to our children. Our children strive for their extra curricular activities and their school activities. To make them choose between school cheerleading and all star cheerleading is absolutely ridiculous and an attempt to take away their First Amendment right of the US Constitution. All Star cheerleading and School cheerleading do not interfere with one another. All Star coach's are more than willing to work around the school schedules throughout the school season. This attempt to take away my child's right is wrong and you know it. Please vote NO on this rule.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 8:15 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-05 20:15:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Christie Garrett
Organization:
Email: lcfstar@aol.com
Title:
Address1: 2501 Garfield
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parkersburg, WV 26104
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-05 20:15:11
Posted from IP: 152.163.100.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Where did this backward thinking come from? This will push the talented athletes out of the school activities and only into the allstar activities!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 11:41 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-05 23:41:35)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Susan Beaver
Organization: Ohio Valley All Stars
Email: rbeaver9118@charter.net
Title: cheerleading
Address1: 111 w. 10th st
Address2:
City/State/Zip: williamstown, wv 26187
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-05 23:41:35
Posted from IP: 24.158.84.202

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

williamstown, wv

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I feel that our family should decide what should be done with our money and our free time...no elected staff should vote and decide for us telling us what we are or are not allowed to do with our free time...these girls have never had a problem with schedule conflicts and should be allowed to do what they chose to do with their talent and time...and personally without the talent of allstar girls high school cheerleading would s _____!!!!

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 1:24 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-06 13:24:38)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Susan Buck
Organization:
Email: buck@wvaccess.net
Title:
Address1: 421 Buck Run Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Sistersville, WV 26320
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-06 13:24:38
Posted from IP: 168.216.255.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

How do you plan to monitor this proposal??? These competitions are all over the US and unless you are competing as an individual or stunt team, individual names aren't listed any where? Also, how can you justify calling cheerleading a "team" sport when there is only one team event??? I feel with the expense and time that goes into belonging to a "team" that there should be more than one event on their competitive schedule.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 2:28 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-06 14:28:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Floyd Eddy
Organization:
Email: coacheddy89@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: 81 Paddock Green Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: New Martinsville, WV 26155
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-06 14:28:11
Posted from IP: 168.216.255.83

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence
-----Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am strongly opposed to this proposal. I do not understand how participating on an allstar team will affect being a member of a high school squad as long as schedules do not conflict. My daughter's gym plans everything around the high school's schedule. Also, I feel with the time and money that I've invested in cheerleading, that there should be more than one competitive event offered through the WVSSAC. Most organizations won't step foot in WV because of the strict regulations. I feel if this proposal passes, it will hurt cheerleading in WV because these students see themselves as athletes and athletes love to compete. Many of the school cheerleaders in our gym said that they would choose All star cheerleading over high school. And at this point, I am encouraging my daughter to do the same. Also, how do you plan to enforce this rule?????? At the competitions we went to last year, there were usually between 200-450 squads with 20-40 members on each squad..... It ! seems impossible that the WVSSAC would have the "manpower" to make sure that all of the cheerleaders in West Virginia were not competing anywhere else in the US. Thanks for allowing me to comment on this issue.

6/7/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fbanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 3:28 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-06 15:28:32)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: jamie jackson
Organization:
Email: cjackson4822@charter.net
Title:
Address1: 654 4th street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: new martinsville, wv 26155
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-06 15:28:32
Posted from IP: 24.151.144.155

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am writing about not being allowed to allstar cheer and participate in cheerleading in school. I want to know who has the right to tell my child what she can participate in on weekends and in the summer when I not you pay for this? If a person wants to cheer in college you have to allstar cheer or your not even considered. Almost of your squads that are state champions are allstar cheerleaders. This teaches my daughter what hard work and dedication is all about. It makes her a better person and it keeps her out of trouble. She loves to allstar cheer. She wants to cheer in college , without allstar cheerleading for these girls I don't feel they will get what they need to do that. I feel that by denying these girls the right to allstar cheer is a violation of their civil rights. What will you take from them next gymnastics?dance classes?

Thank You

Jamie Jackson

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2005 5:35 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-06 17:35:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Angela Martin
 Organization: Milton Middle School
 Email: Stephen_Martin2@msn.com
 Title: Parent
 Address1: PO Box 212
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Milton, WV 25541
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-06-06 17:35:55
 Posted from IP: 141.153.6.110

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am concerned about the ruling related to cheerleading and no organized non school team participation. First of all cheerleading is the only sport that spans more than one season and therefore would eliminate any participation in a non school team unlike other teams. I feel that competitive cheerleading is a very positive influence and I know many times money has been brought up as a concern. Officials say that not everyone can participate because of this, however this is untrue. If the child is motivated enough our gym provides fund raising opportunities that would pay for your participation. I feel that unlike other sports cheerleading is more specialized. You can practice basketball, football, etc in your back yard but to be competitive in cheerleading you must tumble and be able to stunt. You sure can't go out and practice a full twist in your back yard without proper instruction. WV has preached about safety and made many positive changes to go along with their's! Stand on this issue, but without proper instruction from those that have participated on such a team stunting is very dangerous. Many times coaches are teachers or parents with no specialized training in this sport. How safe is it to limit the instruction they do receive in all star cheerleading. Another factor I would like to point out is that colleges outside of WV for qualification for their cheerleading squads require the participant to have cheered on a competitive team, for example the University of Louisville. You are limiting our children in the opportunities that they have. I also understand that there has been some conflict with school cheerleading and allstars. I personally have not experienced that. Our all star coach works with us. She knows that school comes first. If all school coaches made it clear that this is

6/7/2005

the rule from the start I think you would eliminate problems. If a person misses a school event for an all star event they should be immediately!

removed and made not eligible to try out the next year. If coaches would stick to the Sundays off from practice and limit the Saturday practices this would not be a problem. Our coach did not abuse this in middle school, but I know high schools did. Like MU and WVU the two sports, school and allstars need to learn to get along. Dont punish our kids for coaches inability to do so. By putting this rule in place you are creating a safety issue and limiting our scholarship opportunities. Many allstar teams have already had try outs this year and financial commitments that are not refundable have been made. If you feel this ruling is necessary please do not enforce until the next year. If you must make a ruling please consider that cheerleading has 2 seasons and put dates with the ruling so our children have the opportunity to do both. When this ruling is voted upon I would appreciate and email with the ruling and if dates apply, the dates also. Thanks for your considerati!

on. Remember, cheerleading is a sport like no other and is the number 1 sports injury related sport. Make safe choices and encourage proper instruction from skilled, trained gyms.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 2:28 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-10 14:28:58)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011
 #####

Name: Sarajha Hale
 Organization: Spirit Elite Gym Club
 Email: Sarajha@spiritelite.com
 Title: Instructor / All-Star Coach
 Address1: 1452 6th Avenue
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25312
 Role: Business-Industry
 Posted: 2005-06-10 14:28:58
 Posted from IP: 208.11.8.3

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My name is Sarajha Hale and I would like to voice my very strong opinion regarding the proposed rule, which states the following:

"During the school year and while a member of a school team, a student shall neither participate on any formally organized non-school team in the same sort, nor shall the student compete as an individual unattached in non-school formally organized competition in the same sport"

I have had the privilege of working with two amazing organizations, River Cities All-Stars and Spirit Elite All-Stars. I have worked at both of these facilities and I assure you that both of these businesses prosper because they are child- oriented and commitment driven. I am currently an instructor, and coach at Spirit Elite, and I am beginning my career in this field, because I love the kids I work with. As a former all-star and high school cheerleader, I must say that this rule is disturbing, and that it would be a shame to take away the honor of participating in either sport or activity.

If you ask any high school cheerleading coach who her most dedicated athletes are, she will likely point out the cheerleaders on her team who also participate in all-star cheerleading. All-star cheerleaders are individuals who dedicate themselves to the sport, and enjoy the challenge. These kids have a wonderful opportunity to compete against other squads from different backgrounds and cultures; from other kids all over the entire country who share the same passion for the sport. Most importantly, these kids get to bond with, and form lasting friendships with other kids in the community, with whom they would otherwise never have the chance to meet. It is a beautiful thing to watch these kids come together from

6/11/2005

so many diverse backgrounds and work together as a team toward a shared dream, a goal to become better athletes, better people. Although they compete (of course for the first place trophy) we try to instill a sense of satisfaction just by reaching the goals we set out to reach. As long as our kids try to do their best, they can be satisfied with that.

Almost all of our all-star cheerleaders also participate in school cheerleading, and all-star cheerleading. We encourage this because we feel that participation in sports helps build character, and also teaches the importance of dedication, commitment, and responsibility. Participating in both programs also gives the cheerleaders an opportunity to participate in both statewide and nation-wide competitions- in a sense, two different worlds. I had the privilege of participating in both sports and although my schedule was packed, I learned a lot about life, about commitment, and about friendships. I also had the opportunity to travel the country and compete- and win two national titles. Since the WVSSAC does not allow athletes to travel outside a five -hundred-mile radius, it is impossible for high school squads in our area to compete in high-school nationals- there aren't any around.

Instead of taking either of these opportunities away from the children, the all-star community and the WVSSAC should attempt to come to a compromise.

I would like to propose that instead of outlawing coinciding all-star and school participation in these sports, we should come together and develop a means by which we may work together for the kids. For example, all-star organizations should require that all participants have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in the season, which if I am not mistaken is the WVSSAC policy for school sports participants. Like all the others opposed to this rule, I am thinking about the kids, and the opportunities they may miss if they must chose between the two sports. The amount of activity deemed as "too much" should be left to the discretion of the parents who dedicate their time and effort to their kids. We as coaches, teachers, adults need to remember that the children participate in both sports because that is what they want to do. We spend our lives teaching future generations that they can be anything they want to be- so we should let them be who they want to be. I'll c!

conclude with a quote that I shared with my cheerleaders at our last practice, "There are two ways of meeting difficulties; you alter the difficulties or you alter yourself to meet them"- Phyllis Bottome. Thank you for listening to what I had to say; I sincerely hope that we can work around these issues.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 2:02 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-09 14:02:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: Erica Smith
Organization:
Email:
Title: parent
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-09 14:02:21
Posted from IP: 24.151.157.159

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I think that letting the kids do extracurricular activities outside of school enhances their social skills along with building friendships. I have noticed that my child does better with her work when she is involved with activities that take up time. It makes them a more independant person and teaches them to prioitize. I recomend allstars to anyone interested in cheering in college due to the fact that colleges look for someone who is involved with allstars rather than school. As fas as I'm concerned it's just cheerleading why is everyone taking the fun out of it by making so many rules.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 2:53 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-08 14:53:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: K Allowatt
Organization:
Email: kallowatt@msbcbs.com
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-08 14:53:56
Posted from IP: 12.29.175.2

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

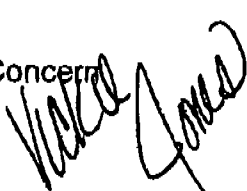
Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

My daughter has cheered both for school and a competition squad for years. She cheers for the school to support her school and fellow athletes. She cheers for the competition squad to gain the expertise and skills she will need to cheer in college. The Jr. High and High School cheerleaders compete in one competition a year. I do not feel it is fair to make the student pick between one or the other because of one competition they are involved in for the school team. If the student is able to keep good grades and be active in sports it should be between the student and the parent. My daughter would appreciate it if you would please reconsider this change and leave cheerleading exempt from this rule. Thank You!

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 14, 2005

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Vickie Jones 

Re: Ruling for School Cheerleading/Allstar Cheerleading

I am writing in response to the ruling the Board of Education is preparing to pass regarding the inability for middle school and high school cheerleaders to compete on both an allstar cheerleading squad and a school cheerleading squad. While I respect your enthusiasm for school sports, I believe it is not your role or responsibility to require my child to choose between these two sports. Each of these squads offer entirely different opportunities and to make my child choose between the two is inappropriate.

School cheerleading offers my daughter an opportunity to be part of a team, physical and social opportunities, discipline and competitiveness. Allstar cheerleading offers my daughter all these opportunities as well as an opportunity to further her education with scholarships and travel throughout the United States. Allstar cheerleading has never interfered with any school activities and due to the current ruling in place requires that her allstar squad work around school functions. While I agree school functions come first, each of these are extracurricular activities that are separate and distinct from educational requirements. In addition, allstar cheerleading competitions occur only on Saturdays or Sundays and should be excluded from educational oversight.

It is my belief that as a Board, it is your responsibility to monitor safety for your school related activities/sports. School cheerleading does not require mats or "qualified" cheerleading coaches. Allstar cheerleading does. Of all the cheerleading injuries that occurred this year (related to our allstar squad), the only injuries we experienced were those that occurred at school practices/competitions. In addition, our allstar coaches are nationally trained/accredited and school cheerleading coaches are teachers (or preferred teachers) even if an allstar coach is willing to accept the position at the same salary that is currently offered.

It should also be noted that school cheerleaders are being treated the same as other sports for this ruling but do not enjoy the same benefits as the other sports. For example, we pay for our cheerleading uniforms, drinks at half time, transportation to and from the events, no trainer at practices or games (for injuries etc.), and "gym time" for practices is either not available or we are last on the list for the schedule. Our cheerleading season is longer than any other sport, which requires more time than any other sport with fewer rewards. Cheerleading

today is different than when I went to school and has grown throughout the years with the support of our educational system and our principals and teachers. We have pushed our children to become the most they can be in everything they do. To limit their ability to cheer where and when they want is not a choice our educational system should make. To provide a safe environment for school functions is.

I believe that if a vote is to be taken on any issue related to cheerleading, it should be related to the use of mats, the type of "stunts" or gymnastics that are allowed, the "coaches" that are selected and the competitions that should be permitted. This is all related to safety issues, which should be your main concern.

I appreciate all that you do and understand your concern that allstar cheerleading may "interfere" with school functions or offer cheerleading opportunities to some children that others do not enjoy. However, if allstar cheerleading does not interfere with school functions, it should not matter. After all, society has allowed and will continue to allow opportunities for some that not everyone will receive. Otherwise, everyone that tried out for every sport would be on the team, would compete at the competitions and would enjoy equal time on the field.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and thank you for your careful consideration of this ruling prior to passing something that is unfair to our children.

Kelly Geddis

From: <RcChEeR52@aol.com>
To: <Kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2005 11:26 PM
Subject: New Cheer Rule

My name is Anna Adkins, and I am a coach for the River Cities All-Stars. I would just like to voice my opinion on the new ruling. I am 19 years old, and I cheered for River Cities for 8 years, and I also cheered for Spring Valley High School all four years I was in high school. I balanced both teams quite well. I was captain for the SV cheerleading squad when I was a Senior, and I also graduated first in my class while cheering for both squads. I think it is unfair for the state of West Virginia to limit what a child can and cannot do. If the child believes that he or she can balance both, then let that be his or her own decision.

I also think that the WVSSAC does not realize how many cheerleaders the schools will be losing if the choice has to be made between all stars and school cheerleading. All star cheerleading, in our area, does not take up as much time as school cheerleading, and he or she would have much more free time by choosing all stars. Also, he or she gets to travel with all-stars, unlike school. And I have also heard mention of money being a problem with all stars, but there are many fundraising possibilities, and if taken advantage of, all stars could be potentially free. So I know that could not be a reason. I'm sorry to bother you, I'm sure you have heard many comments on this subject, but I find it completely and totally unfair for someone besides the parent to decide what that child is allowed to do.

Thank you for your time,
Anna Adkins

6/7/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Jack McClanahan" <jmcclan@access.k12.wv.us>
To: <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 11:18 AM
Subject: FW: Providing Feedback to BOE

Kelly,

I will send you any inquires that I receive on the proposals with my response.
 Please share with Mike.

Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Jack McClanahan [mailto:jmcclan@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 10:06 AM
To: Julie Hewett
Cc: Steve Paine
Subject: RE: Providing Feedback to BOE

Dear Ms. Hewett,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the process used for collecting public comments on the WVSSAC proposals which are now out for public review. Although I understand your concern regarding this matter, let me explain the process that is used by the State Board of Education before they vote. As you probably know, school principals develop and approve all recommendations for changes in the WVSSAC guidelines. The recommendations are presented to the State Board by the Executive Director of the WVSSAC and placed out for public comment. I serve as a liaison between the State Board of Education and the WVSSAC. One of my jobs is to review public comments on WVSSAC proposals. I work with our legal department and the State Superintendent of Schools to insure the legality of the change and whether the Superintendent believes it is in the best interest of students. Although public comments are collected by the WVSSAC Executive Director's office, I also receive a copy of the comments. Ultimately the comments are sent to each Board member for review before a vote is taken. I can assure you that issues such as cheerleading receive a large number of comments. The vote on the proposed changes is taken by the State Board members in a public meeting and interested parties have an opportunity to address the Board on the issue at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers must register before the meeting and a 5 minute time limit is established.

I can assure you that the State Superintendent of Schools understands the issues and communicates with State Board members to insure that they have a clear understanding of the matter on which they will vote. I hope this explanation helps alleviate any concerns that you have regarding this issue. Feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Jack McClanahan
 Assistant State Superintendent of Schools

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Hewett [mailto:jkhewett@julnet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 5:20 PM
To: jmcclan@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Providing Feedback to BOE

Mr. McClanahan,

5/19/2005

I am writing to you out of frustration and concern. Recently the WVSSAC proposed a change to the eligibility rules governing cheerleading. This change is now being considered by the West Virginia Board of Education. It is my understanding that this issue is now open to public comment.

While looking at the Department of Education Website I see that feedback is being directed to Mr. Mike Hayden, the Executive Director of WVSSAC who has publicly spoken in favor of this proposal. When parents have tried to contact Mr. Hayden or his staff regarding this topic they have been turned away stating that this is a closed subject as WWSAAC is in full support of the change. Thus my concern. Why isn't this feedback being sent directly to the Board of Education?

If this is open to Public Comment, shouldn't the comments be received by an independent, objective party?

How can we as parents trust that Mr. Hayden will provide our feedback to the Board of Education when he and his staff will no longer discuss the proposal?

I thank you for your time and consideration concerning this issue.

Julie K. Hewett
Huntington, WV

May 17, 2005

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2005

WVSSAC

WVSSAC
2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Dear Board Members:

As a parent of a High School cheerleader, I am writing in protest to the proposed new rule soon to be presented to you. My daughter, Erika, has been involved in tumbling since the age of three and has been cheerleading on some form of organized team since the age of seven. Yes, she also cheers on an all star team. She has been very dedicated and disciplined for many years while participating in school cheerleading as well as all stars. Cheerleading is her passion and she, like many other cheerleaders in the state hope to obtain a scholarship in her most favorite sport. She is currently making plans to attend West Virginia University, and has high hopes to cheer for WVU.

Cheering for all stars since the age of eleven has been a wonderful learning experience for Erika. Her all star coaches have taught her tumbling and stunt maneuvers that could not possibly be taught by a middle or high school coach. These talents are crucial to the college sport of cheerleading. Erika has had the pleasure of meeting many college cheerleaders who encourage her to work hard and continue participating in the all star program which is where the college recruits pay most attention to. Without participating in high school cheerleading, a scholarship can not be offered. Without participating on an all star team, the chances for an offer are minimal. I have been attending high school cheerleading competitions for approximately seven years now and have never seen recruits approach the cheerleaders. I have also been attending all star competitions for approximately six years and have known several participants who have been approached by recruiters.

As you all know, the sport of high school cheerleading runs from August to March. No other sport I can think of runs two seasons. If this were not the case, this rule would not be an issue. I strongly feel it is unfair to prohibit high school athletes who are only trying to prepare themselves for college athletics by such a ruling. Please consider the many letters from concerned parents prior to making any decisions on this rule. Thank you for your time and respect.

Sincerely,



Dena L. Furioli
1516 Charles Street
Wellsburg, WV 26070
(304) 737-0439

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 3:10 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-01 15:10:05)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: vickie thomas
Organization: allstar cheerleading
Email: vickiethom@aol.com
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-01 15:10:05
Posted from IP: 206.193.127.2

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I am sending this e-mail to oppose the ruling that would not allow participation in allstar cheerleading during the school year. As a parent of a young daughter that is involved in allstar cheerleading she wants to someday be a middle and high school cheerleader. The allstar squad has greatly improved her skill as a cheerleader as well as her tumbling and self esteem. Her participation in the allstar squad was originally to prepare her for a future position on the middle and high school teams. If she had to make a choice between the two I believe she would choose the allstar team. In allstar cheerleading there are alot of national competitions that allow the girls exposure to college recruiters and possible scholarships. This keeps them very busy and active in a positive situation which makes them role models for their peers. The girls also form strong bonds which gives them lifelong friendships with each other. At the gym, where my daughter attends, the coaches always pu!
t their school activities first. Please reconsider your thoughts regarding this matter, I believe the positive ruling to allow the girls to participate in the school and allstar cheerleading simultaneously would only be a winning decision for all involved. Thanks so much, Vickie Thomas

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 9:57 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-02 09:57:04)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: Brian Delozier
 Organization:
 Email: Bpdlad3@charter.net
 Title:
 Address1:
 Address2:
 City/State/Zip: Vienna, WV 26105
 Role: Parent-Family
 Posted: 2005-06-02 09:57:04
 Posted from IP: 52.128.30.10

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

In regards to this ruling on cheerleading participation I understand the WVSSAC in their attempt to provide a more consistent policy for middle and high school sports. My major point of contention is that certain sports are exempted from the ruling. What could possibly be the rationale behind this. The ruling, for example, is saying that it is O.K. to swim, or to play tennis for two teams during the season but not to cheer. This also holds true for the other sports listed. Why would one sport be singled out. I did not see any mention of soccer teams mentioned either. I know of several students who participate in year round soccer traveling teams while they are members of their school teams at the same time. Is the WVSSAC going to again say that this is O.K.? I have spoken to the WVSSAC executive director on this matter and I do see some valid points for the ruling (i.e. not missing any school sponsored contest). I, along with many other parents, simply want the ruling to be fair and just. It is unjust to tell a student that they can participate in a school and non school athletic sport only if they pick the right one! Why not leave it up to the individual coaches as to who they would select for their school teams and hold the students accountable for following the rules. I keep coming back to the point that the ruling should be all or nothing. All sports should be treated equally!

6/7/2005

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2005 9:02 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-31 09:02:32)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: Elizabeth Keatley
Organization: Matewan High School
Email: ekeatley@hotmail.com
Title: Cheer Coach
Address1: Rt. 2 Box 110
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Delbarton, WV 25670
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2005-05-31 09:02:32
Posted from IP: 168.216.92.107

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I have a hard time deciding how I feel about this proposal. Cheerleading has fought long and hard to be considered a sport. This proposal keeps us in line with all other sports. However, without a doubt, my cheerleaders who participate in All Stars improve more quickly, help their team mates advance, and most of the time end up being the best athletes on my team. The only negative I can fathom is possible injury. Last fall, unfortunately, this did happen to my team just prior to the State Competition. Even so, I still am undecided on this proposal.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2005 10:01 AM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-06-12 10:01:55)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

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Name: Lynda Berry
Organization:
Email: lynda_adkins@merck.com
Title:
Address1: 12 Lakeview Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Nitro, WV 25143
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2005-06-12 10:01:55
Posted from IP: 68.119.135.135

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

I support this provision. School teams are not college teams. The recruiting is out of hand. School teams should give all athletes equal opportunity for participation. If students want to go somewhere for more exposure or a chance to play with certain players, then they need to go to an outside team (AAU, all stars, etc.) Recruiting causes disruption of teams who have played together in midget league, little league, etc. Example, John has always played 1st base and plays well with his team. All of the sudden here is Mike who transferred and he will now play 1st base, not because John is bad, but because the coach is trying to make Mike look good for college. This really happens.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

I oppose this provision. For cheerleaders in particular, school teams do not provide the skills or exposure necessary to cheer in college. There is much more opportunity when cheering for an all star team. Additionally, by forcing them to choose between school and all stars, I am certain that 99% will choose all stars over school. This will prevent many of the best cheerleaders from competing at school, and thereby further decrease the level of competition within the school environment.

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 4:03 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-18 16:03:50)

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Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Debra K. Sullivan
 Organization: Charleston Catholic HS
 Email: debraksullivan@hotmail.com
 Title: Principal
 Address1: Charleston Catholic HS
 Address2: 1033 Virginia Street
 City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25301
 Role: Principal
 Posted: 2005-05-18 16:03:50
 Posted from IP: 24.179.69.236

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

(new 7.2.9) As I understand the rule, it appears that a student may attend any high school in 9th grade and not be penalized. A student who chooses to attend 9th grade outside of his home district zone may then, I understand, transfer back to his home school at some later point and not be penalized. On the other hand, a student who attends his home district school in the 9th grade and then wishes to transfer at a later date IS PENALIZED. The first student (who attended 9th grade elsewhere and then transfers back to home district later) actually gets TWO transfers without penalty. The second student (who attended his home district school in 9th but wants to transfer later) gets NO TRANSFERS. This is the reason I voted against the proposed transfer rule at the WVSSAC meeting earlier this Spring. Perhaps everyone should get one transfer during grades 9 - 12 without penalty.

7.2.10 (new 10, old 9) -- Either the "a. court decree. . ." should be included in the original sentence or 7.2.11 (new 11, old 10) should become "b" in 7.2.10.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation

Kelly Geddis

From: "Nobody" <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>
To: <fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us>; <kelly.geddis@wvssac.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 1:57 PM
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 0011 (2005-05-23 13:57:50)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.
The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=c52959423efa3105d4a429ebcbd4272e>
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 0011

#####

Name: Corey Murphy
Organization: Wheeling Central Catholic High School
Email: cmurphy@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Dean of Student/ Athletic Director
Address1: 75 - 14th Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Wheeling, WV 26003
Role: Principal
Posted: 2005-05-23 13:57:50
Posted from IP: 129.71.22.73

Comments for section §127-2-7 Residence

My concern is with 7.1.1 that a private school's attendance zone cannot exceed the school's county. However, the public school zone can be set by the board and no limitations are being set on their attendance zone. This is clearly discrimination on the private schools. If this is the case then the public schools should be made to stay within their county.
My second concern is 7.2.9 where a student is entitled to one free transfer back into their home public school. This clearly is discrimination! (If for example, a middle school student from the public schools decides to attend Wheeling Central and decides to transfer to Wheeling Park in the 10th grade he/she can & will be eligible to play sports. However, if the student starts at Park and transfers to Central in the 10th grade he/she would have to sit out one year athletically) I hope this will be brought to the attention of the board and they reconsider this ruling. This clearly is discriminatory.

Comments for section §127-2-10 Non-school Participation



NATALIE J. SAL, ESQ.
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FAX COVER SHEET

to: Mr. Mike Hayden

fax #: (304) 428-5431

from: Natalie J. Sal, Esq.

date: June 8, 2005

subject: WVSSAC Public Comment

pages: 5 including cover

notes: Please see attached letter in response to public comment period on proposed rule changes to "Residence - Transfer Emergency Rule Proposal" CSR §127-2-7. Original to follow by mail.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

IF A PROBLEM OF THIS TRANSMISSION ARISES, CALL: (304) 599-5291
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June 8, 2005

West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard E
Charleston, WV 25305

Mr. Mike Hayden
Executive Director
West Virginia Secondary
School Activities Commission
2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, WV 26104

Re: Proposed Rule Changes
"Residence - Transfer Emergency Rule Proposal"
CSR §127-2-7

Dear Sirs:

I have had the opportunity to review the proposed changes to CSR §127-2-7 of WVSSAC Series 2: Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility, and have some serious concerns regarding said proposed changes which have prompted me to submit the following comments during the designated public comment period.

My first concern is with regard to the proposed changes to what will be designated as CSR §127-2-7.1, which states the following in pertinent part:

7.1.1. A student shall be eligible in the zone in which the student's parents reside. Public secondary school attendance zones shall be established by official action by each county Board of Education. Zones of nonpublic member schools shall be established by their governing board and subject to approval by Board of Directors. Said nonpublic member schools attendance zones shall not exceed the boundaries of the county in which they are located.

Under the proposed Rule 7.1.1, the attendance zone for public schools is to be established by official action of its county Board of Education, but there are no limitations placed on said Board of Education that would limit the zone of attendance to the boundaries of the county in which the public school is located. Some county Boards of Education have expanded their zone of attendance beyond the boundaries of their county, and some have even gone so far as to permit 'open attendance' and allow a student from anywhere in the State to attend school in their county. Proposed Rule 7.1.1 limits a nonpublic school's zone of attendance to the boundaries of the county

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in which the school is located. Thus, in each county where the county Board of Education has established a zone of attendance beyond the boundaries of the county, proposed Rule 7.1.1 will mandate clearly different treatment for public and nonpublic schools.

My second concern relates to the proposed changes to what will be designated as CSR §127-2-7.2.9, which states the following in pertinent part:

During the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades, a student shall be entitled to one transfer back into the public member school located within the attendance zone where the student's parents residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring. A student shall be entitled to transfer back to a non-public member school if said student has been enrolled in said non-public member school or non-public member feeder school the 365 days prior to enrollment in the 9th grade. Any student transferring under the provisions of this rule will not become eligible until the completion of the school year in which said transfer occurs. Eligibility will begin with the succeeding fall sports season. Transfer must be complete prior to the first day of school.

Rule 7.2.9 clearly treats students transferring to a public school differently than students transferring to a nonpublic school. For example, applying the proposed rule as written, if a student attends a nonpublic school and wishes to transfer to a public school in the zone in which the student's parents reside, he or she may do so one time, at any time, and retain his or her eligibility without interruption. However, the same student may not transfer from a public school to a nonpublic school without suffering ineligibility for the year unless that student had already been attending that nonpublic school (in which case there is not truly a transfer) or a nonpublic member feeder school (again, there is not truly a transfer) at least 365 days prior to enrollment in the 9th grade. Students wishing to attend nonpublic schools are at a clear disadvantage to students wishing to attend public schools in terms of eligibility as the proposed rule is written.

The SSAC has made public statements to the effect that it is not their intent to treat public and nonpublic schools and their students any differently from one another. Unfortunately, the language of these two proposed rules is, on its face, contrary to that assertion.

More importantly, any SSAC rule which mandates or permits different treatment for public and nonpublic schools is in direct violation of the statute authorizing creation of the WVSSAC and promulgation of rules governing eligibility for athletics. The enabling statute, West Virginia Code §18-2-25, states, in pertinent part:

The West Virginia secondary school activities commission shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations providing for the control, supervision and regulation of the interscholastic athletic events and other extracurricular activities of such private and parochial secondary schools as elect to delegate to such commission such

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control, supervision and regulation, **upon the same terms and conditions, subject to the same regulations and requirements** and upon payment of the same fees and charges as those provided for public secondary schools. Any such private or parochial secondary school shall receive any monetary or other benefits in the same manner and in the same proportion as any public secondary school.
(Emphasis added.)

Thus, under the enabling statute, any rules promulgated by the SSAC must provide the same terms and conditions, and the exact same regulations and requirements, of *all* schools – public and nonpublic – and of *all* students – public and nonpublic. As the language of the current draft of the proposed rule permits different treatment of public and nonpublic schools, and public and nonpublic students, on its face, in violation of the enabling statute, it is likely that application of said rule will result in litigation at some point.

Relatively minor modification of the language of the proposed rules would accomplish the purpose of the rules, as stated by the SSAC. With regard to rule 7.1.1, application of the rule to public and nonpublic schools would be the same if the last sentence of the proposed rule, stating “Said nonpublic member schools attendance zones shall not exceed the boundaries of the county in which they are located,” is deleted. Rule 7.2.9 could be modified to conform with the requirements of West Virginia Code §18-2-25 if it were written as follows:

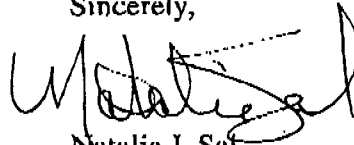
During the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades, a student shall be entitled to one transfer back into the member school located within the attendance zone where the student's parents residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring without any loss of eligibility. Any student transferring more than one time under the provisions of this rule will not become eligible until the completion of the school year in which said transfer occurs. Such eligibility will begin with the succeeding fall sports season. Transfer must be complete prior to the first day of school.

Both of these rule modifications would be consistent with West Virginia Code §18-2-25, and both would accomplish the stated purposes for the transfer rule, including but not limited to acting as a deterrent on recruiting or transferring for purely athletic reasons and providing a fundamentally fair and equitable framework for athletic competition in an academic setting. Regardless of what modifications the SSAC deems necessary, it is my hope that the language of these rules will be modified in such a way so as to comply with West Virginia Code §18-2-25 and to carry out the stated purpose of the transfer rule without subjecting nonpublic schools and students of those schools to different treatment than their public counterparts.

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Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Natalie J. Sal

cc: Robert P. Fitzsimmons, Esq.