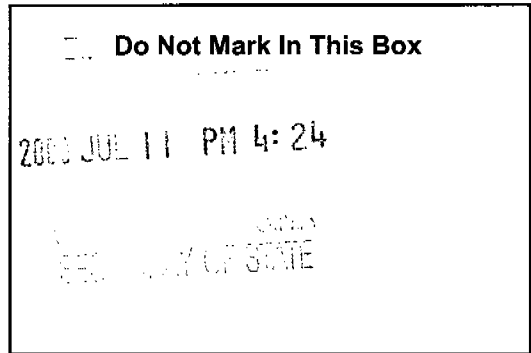


WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

BETTY IRELAND

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5



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

*Secondary School Activities Comm.*

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 \_\_\_\_\_

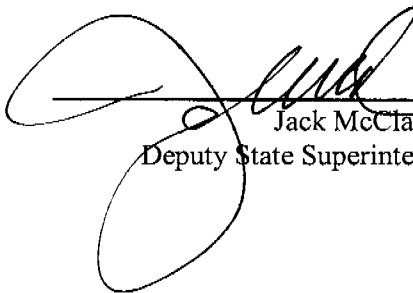
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 3

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Provisions Governing Contests

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 8, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack McClanahan  
Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

**Executive Summary**  
**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

**Number and Title: 127-3-7 Out of Season Coaching**

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall only be permitted with principal approval during ~~Weeks 50, 51 and 52 of the National Federation Standardized Calendar~~ from the day after the completion of the last state tournament of the school year until the first day of fall sport practice of the next school year. All schools will observe a one (1) week dead period during the week of the Fourth of July. During this period, there can be no coaching or any contact or observation by any coach, faculty or non-faculty, with any student-athletes. This dead period shall also apply to weight programs. Participation by students must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks does not meet Practice Rule 127-2-13.4.

**Rationale:**

This rule change will allow for more flexibility in scheduling during the summer. This change will also allow coaches of sports other than football and basketball to attend summer camps at colleges and universities. This will only add four (4) weeks to the summer schedule with the incorporation of the one (1) week dead period. The dead period and the spreading out of activities will allow families more freedom to plan vacations.

**Impact:**

The rule change would allow coaches to have contact with student athletes during the summer except for one week during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Response to Comments:**

A total of 38 comments were received. Of those, 19 comments were in support of the rule change and 17 against. There were 2 comments that would support the change if there were some restrictions included in the rule.

**Executive Summary**  
**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

**Number and Title: 127-3-7 Out of Season Coaching**

7.3. A coach or principal designee of each sport or activity may be present as an observer, lecture participant, staff member, or in any capacity at any summer camp during weeks 50, 51, and 52 of the National Federation Standardized Calendar from the day after the completion of the last state tournament of the school year until the first day of fall sport practice of the next school year except the one (1) week dead period mentioned in Rule 127-3-7.2.

**Rationale:**

This rule change will allow for more flexibility in scheduling during the summer. This change will also allow coaches of sports other than football and basketball to attend summer camps at colleges and universities. This will only add four (4) weeks to the summer schedule with the incorporation of the one (1) week dead period. The dead period and the spreading out of activities will allow families more freedom to plan vacations.

**Impact:** Same as in proposal 7.

**Response to Comments:**

A total of 16 comments were received. There were 11 comments in support of the rule change and 4 against. There was 1 comment that could support with some restrictions.

**Executive Summary**  
**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

**Number and Title: 127-3-10 Classifications**

10.1. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, Each member high school schools shall be classified as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A for football and boys/girls basketball only. All other sports will remain under the current classification. These classifications will be based on the enrollment figures in grades 9-10-11 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.

**Rationale:**

To decrease the disparity in size between the largest and smallest schools in each of the respective classes. The addition of a new classification would afford more schools a better opportunity to successfully compete on a more equal playing field in all classifications. With the current classifications, most of the smaller schools in each class would have less of a chance to participate or compete in post season play. The respective coaching committees will be responsible for organizing post season play-off and tournament formats.

**Impact:**

Rule change would expand current tournament format for football and basketball.

**Response to Comments:**

A total of 88 comments were received. Of the 88 comments received, 50 were in support of the rule change with 38 against. Some of the comments were in support with recommendations of how tournaments should be structured. If the restructuring reduced the number of teams that advanced in tournament play, then they would be opposed to the proposal. Also, multiple comments were submitted from individuals within the same school and/or community.

**Executive Summary**  
**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

**Number and Title: 127-3-23 Football**

~~23.2.1. The Board of Directors, upon written request, may grant permission for a football team to play its first game one day earlier if the playing field is used by more than one high school.~~

**Rationale:**

Rule change in 2007 allowed beginning on Monday of Week 8 for football high school contest.

**Impact:**

This proposal will not change how we currently allow teams to schedule.

**Response to Comments:**

A total of 4 comments were received with all comments being in support of the rule change.

**Executive Summary**  
**West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

**Number and Title: 127-3-31 Wrestling**

31.8.2. Junior high school teams may have 44 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

**Rationale:**

A number of years ago, high school weigh-ins increased from 16 weigh-ins to 18 weigh-ins. It was the intention to do the same for junior high and middle school weigh-ins, increasing them from 14 weigh-ins to 16 weigh-ins. However, no action was ever taken.

**Impact:**

Allows middle schools to schedule 16 matches.

**Response to Comments:**

No comments.

TITLE 127  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

2008 JUL 11 PM 4:24

SERIES 3  
PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS

WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**§127-3-1. General.**

- 1.1. Scope. - These rules govern the conduct of athletic contests.
- 1.2. Authority. - W. Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W. Va. Code §18-2-25.
- 1.3. Filing Date. - July 11, 2008.
- 1.4. Effective Date. - September 8, 2008.

**§127-3-2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal.**

2.1. The principal of each member school is recognized as the school representative and as such is accountable to the Commission for conduct of the athletic program of that school.

2.2. The principal and/or his designee shall notify his staff faculty (as defined in Rule 127-3-6) of the rules and regulations of this Commission. It shall be that individual's responsibility to notify those students participating in West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) activities. Failure of the principal in performing this responsibility will not prevent the Commission from enforcing said rules.

2.3. The principal shall have the authority to delegate responsibilities or duties; however, such delegation shall not relieve said principal of the responsibility of any infraction of the rules and regulations of this Commission by the members of his staff.

2.4. The principal has the authority to designate a member of the faculty who must supervise all interscholastic activities.

2.5. The principal is responsible for adequate team and crowd control measures at home contests in which the school participates, assuring that the school's participants and fans conduct themselves in a proper manner, and assuring that all fans and officials are provided adequate protection. In situations where contests are played on neutral sites, it will be the responsibility of both participating school principals.

2.6. The principal has the right to exclude a contestant who would not represent his school in an appropriate manner, a student who fails to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing, or a student who has been excluded for a serious illness or injury.

2.7. The principal will be responsible for signing all game contracts, seeking sanctioning of necessary events, and signing all certificates of eligibility prior to student participation.

2.8. The principal may designate the assistant principal or other faculty member to provide representation and/or to participate in all voting matters at a Board of Control meeting which is further explained in the Constitution.

2.9. The principal shall have such other powers as will encourage the growth, development and expansion of the athletic program for the welfare of the students, the school and the WVSSAC.

2.10. The principal, assistant principal, and athletic director of each member school shall be allowed admittance to any WVSSAC sanctioned event. Vocational principals and assistant principals shall also be allowed admittance. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and a photo identification.

2.11. The principal and assistant principal of each member school who upon retirement is a member in good standing with the WVSSAC shall receive a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and photo identification.

2.12 WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Cards shall be honored at all events involving WVSSAC member schools with the exception of state tournaments.

**§127-3-3. Physical Examination - Parental Permission.**

3.1. Note: The Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form allows for annual updates rather than a complete physical examination.

3.2. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice or participate in an interscholastic contest until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. This form must be signed by all parties: student, parent(s), physician. Consent and approval for sport(s) in which a student is requesting participation must be approved by both parent and physician.

3.3. A physical examination form must be completed no earlier than June 1 for an upcoming year.

**§127-3-4. All-Star Participation.**

4.1. A graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current school year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility, may play in one All-Star game upon conclusion of the season without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of that year.

**§127-3-5. Awards.**

5.1. Only a member school or a school sponsoring a sanctioned event may give the following awards to a student or team: medal, trophy, cup, certificate, ribbon, plaque, unattached letter, unattached chevron or any similar award.

5.2. A student may accept on an individual or team basis the above specified awards in the following situations:

5.2.1. from a member school for participation.

5.2.2. in a sanctioned event.

5.2.3. in a non-sanctioned event at any time in the following sports: cheerleading, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, or wrestling.

5.2.4. in a non-sanctioned event but not during the school sports-season for the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, lacrosse, softball or soccer.

5.3. A student may not receive the following awards from any source:

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5.3.1. Wearing apparel - sweaters, jackets, jerseys, shoes, etc.

5.3.2. Equipment - radio, televisions, etc.

5.3.3. Athletic goods - batons, tennis rackets, bats, golf bag, tennis or golf balls, etc.

5.3.4. Money - (Scholarships to institutions of higher learning are exempted.)

5.4. Purchase of an item as mentioned in subsection 5.3 above whereby any portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency or any other group or organization is prohibited.

5.5. Nothing in this Awards Rule shall be interpreted to affect the recognition of scholarship or scholastic achievements.

#### **§127-3-6. Coaches.**

6.1. A member of a school faculty, substitute teacher or student teacher, with or without West Virginia Department of Education Authorized Certification, within a public, private, or parochial school system shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. Also, an authorized certified individual may coach if he meets all of the requirements in subsection 6.5 of this rule.

6.2. A substitute teacher is defined as a person who has met the licensure requirements as specified by the West Virginia Board of Education and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education, private, or parochial school.

6.3. A college student fulfilling teacher training responsibilities as a student teacher may be assigned certain coaching responsibilities during that period of training. This assignment will be administratively consistent with said student teacher's role in the classroom and shall be approved by the county board of education or the governing board of a private or parochial school. Said student teacher will work directly under the supervision of the appointed coach or assistant coach.

6.4. An authorized certified coach must meet the following requirements:

6.4.1. The coach is employed under a contract with a county board of education which specifies a rate of pay equivalent to the rate for professional educators who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments and which provided for liability insurance associated with the activity.

6.4.2. The coach has successfully completed approved training: NFHS Sport Science, Sport First Aid, and WV Component (14 hours of instruction and test) and has received West Virginia Department of Education Authorization.

6.4.3. The authorized certified coach may be contracted to coach only if an employed certified professional educator within the county has not applied for and accepted the coaching position.

6.4.4. Coaching authorizations are for one year. They may be re-issued upon request if a certified professional educator within a county is not available.

6.5. The head coach shall be required to attend any sports rules clinic in the coaching assignment which is sponsored by this Commission. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rules clinic.

6.6. All coaches and athletic directors of member schools who upon retirement from a member school with at least 20 years of service either as a coach, athletic director or combination of coaching and athletic director shall receive a lifetime WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card and photo identification.

**§127-3-7. Out-of-Season Coaching.**

7.1. Philosophy - Students should have the opportunity to engage voluntarily in school athletic activities provided that the student is eligible, that such activities do not interfere with the students' educational development and the activities do not conflict with the principles of wholesome amateur athletics. The WVSSAC wishes to enhance that opportunity while at the same time discouraging the exploitation of students by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student. There has been growing evidence of commercialism and specialization of secondary school students. Experience has revealed that such occurrences tend to divide the allegiance of students, undermine respect for coaches and officials, and encourage the type of adulation which gives students an exaggerated sense of importance of their own athletic prowess. Rather, athletic participation should be used for the pleasure and satisfaction that is derived from athletic competition in a variety of experiences.

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall only be permitted with principal approval during Weeks 50, 51 and 52 of the National Federation Standardized Calendar. Participation by students must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks does not meet Practice Rule 127-2-13.4.

7.3. A coach or principal designee of each sport or activity may be present as an observer, lecture participant, staff member, or in any capacity at any summer camp during weeks 50, 51, and 52 of the National Federation Standardized Calendar.

7.4. A coach or surrogate shall not work with individuals in any form of drills or practice of the coaching assignment except during those dates specified as the season for that specific sport or as designated in subsections 7.2 and 7.3.

7.5. Coaches may participate in a formal development program of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) involving students of the same sport as their coaching assignments. The formal development program must be under the official guidance of the USOC through the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport. The NGB must assure in writing to the WVSSAC that coaches will receive formal orientation and that strict supervision and monitoring of coaches will ensure that no recruitment or inappropriate influence will be exerted on students.

7.6. Conditioning/Recreation Programs - Students throughout the school year who are not participating in a school's athletic program may voluntarily participate in an off season conditioning program. This program may also occur during the summer subject to county board of education or governing body approval and the following provisions:

7.6.1. Participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in the school providing the program.

7.6.2. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.6.3. Students will provide their own clothing (sweatsuit, shoes, etc.).

7.6.4. Activities will be limited to running, weight training, and stretching exercises. Agility drills that do not involve specific skills of a given sport are permitted.

7.6.5. Specific equipment pertaining to a given sport may not be used. This includes such items as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, wrestling mats, discus, etc.

7.6.6. In those cases where schools schedule all students into the last period of the school day, the guidelines in items (c), (d), and (e) shall apply unless the class is considered a part of the

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physical education program and credit is given. There shall be no teaching of sport specific skills in this case unless those same skills and course of study are taught in all physical education classes at this same time of the school year.

7.6.7. The county board of education may choose to compensate the supervisor or director.

7.7. Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise, or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the coaching assignment except as specified in Rules 127-3-7.2 and 127-3-7.3. The county board of education shall be authorized to approve a coach to organize and/or supervise a recreation program for students. However, this type assignment must be recreational in nature, include a variety of activities, and comprise no coaching or instruction of that same sport as the school coaching assignment. In addition to the above, gymnasiums or facilities opened for recreational activities must use the following guidelines:

7.7.1. The gymnasium or field is open to all students for participation.

7.7.2. A variety of activities is available to students and is not limited to one sport or activity on a given day.

7.7.3. Supervisor or director must be approved by the county board of education or governing body.

7.7.4. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and technique in any sport.

7.7.5. Comparable opportunities are provided both sexes.

7.7.6. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.8. The principal assumes the responsibility for making certain that there is adherence to these guidelines.

### **§127-3-8. Forfeit and Restitution.**

8.1. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to competing as an individual or a penalty has been imposed or action taken by the WVSSAC, said student's performance shall be stricken from the records and the points contributed to the team total deleted. The team standings will be adjusted accordingly and any awards involved shall be returned.

8.2. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to representing the school in team competition or a penalty has been imposed by the WVSSAC, the contest(s) shall be forfeited. The team standing in the final standing will be adjusted, and the team awards and the ineligible student's awards shall be returned.

8.3. If a team or student participating in an individual contest leaves the playing area in protest and fails to complete the contest, the contest is forfeited and the school principal or his designee and the violator may be required to appear before the Executive Director to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

8.4. If a coach is ejected from a contest and an assistant coach or assigned school representative is not available to continue as coach, the contest is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

8.5. If a student is ineligible according to WVSSAC rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such WVSSAC rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction and said order or injunction is subsequently vacated, stayed, reversed or

finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is/was not justified, any one of the following actions may be taken in the interest of fairness or restitution to the competing schools.

8.5.1. Require that individual or team and performance records achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.

8.5.2. Require that team or individual victories shall be forfeited to opponent(s).

8.5.3. Require that team or individual awards earned by such individual or team be returned to the Commission.

**§127-3-9. Game Officials.**

9.1. All officials used in interscholastic games and contests in West Virginia must be registered with the WVSSAC, except in case of emergency subsection 9.4 may be invoked. A game officials' registration plan shall be established by the Board of Directors.

9.2. Officials for interscholastic contests shall be mutually agreed upon by the competing schools at least two weeks before the scheduled date of contest. Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate at the contest unless the consent of all competing schools is given.

9.3. The host school initiates the selection of game officials. It is highly recommended that the host school contract officials for all interscholastic contests. Contractual agreements are between the school and the official.

9.4. The Executive Director shall be empowered to authorize the use of non registered officials for athletic contests where registered officials are not available and schools threaten the cancellation of said scheduled athletic contests.

9.5. All officials registered with the WVSSAC are subject to and required to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in these bylaws and the "West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Officials' Handbook", which is revised and published yearly. Also, the WVSSAC registered officials are provided the same opportunity for appeal of any decisions as set forth in these same bylaws.

9.6. The official shall:

9.6.1. Attend a state WVSSAC rules clinic in the sport for which the official is registered. Failure to comply will result in suspension for the current year.

9.6.2. Attend four (4) local officials Board meetings. Failure to comply will result in suspension for the current year.

9.6.3. Take Part I and Part II National Federation Rules Examinations in the sports where specified. Failure to comply will result in suspension for the current year.

9.6.4. Abstain from intoxicating beverages on the day of the contest the official is assigned to prior to, during, and after in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.5. Abstain from the use of smokeless or any other forms of tobacco in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.7. Abstain from the use of illegal drugs.

9.6.8. Be fair, impartial, unbiased, professional, and competent in officiating.

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9.6.9. Be in and maintain proper physical and mental condition as verified by the physical examination form submitted to the WVSSAC; dress and appearance must be appropriate.

9.6.10. Be at the site of the contest in adequate time to care for necessary pre contest duties or as specified in the National Federation Rules.

9.6.11. Maintain self-control under all conditions.

9.6.12. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.

9.6.13. Conduct the game so as to enlist the cooperation of students, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.

9.6.14. Comply with any WVSSAC rule, regulation, Constitution or directive, and particularly those regulations pertaining to filing Special Reports and Official Ratings of Schools.

9.6.15. Honor all existing officiating contracts with member schools unless a valid reason is presented and accepted by the involved school. Accepting a game involving a higher level of competition is not a valid reason.

9.6.16. Comply with local board rules as set forth in board constitution.

9.7. The Executive Director shall have the power to penalize for violations of these rules. Any official penalized under these rules shall have the right to appeal to the WVSSAC Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall inform fully a penalized official of his appeal rights.

#### **§127-3-10. Classification.**

10.1. Each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9-10-11 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.

10.2. Classification of member high schools shall be determined every four years on the even numbered years and will remain in effect for a four year period unless a 20% change in enrollment using West Virginia Department of Education enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. Change of classification due to 20% change in enrollment would not go into effect until the next school year.

10.3. A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in one class above its classification providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to April 1 of a new classification year. Approval of this option will be for a four year period and will be effective for all sports sponsored by the school.

10.4. The Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. Prior to any change of structure of any given sport, a survey of the membership must be conducted by WVSSAC.

10.5. If a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs the classification period, the new member school will be reclassified based on the enrollment of grades 9-10-11 in the consolidating schools.

#### **§127-3-11. Exchange of Eligibility Certificates.**

11.1. Eligibility certificates will be required at the beginning of the season of each sport approved by this Commission and prior to the first contest.

11.2. The principal will be responsible for the proper completion of the certificate and completion of said information as per WVSSAC policy.

11.3. The names of the students on all junior high and middle school teams and teams from the ninth grade of the four year high school and sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth of a six year high school shall be submitted on the master eligibility certificate prepared for use by the school.

11.4. Additions to the team shall be certified at once on an eligibility certificate to the WVSSAC.

11.5. Verification of student eligibility will be made by the principal. Birth certificates must be used to confirm a student's age. Questionable cases shall be approved by the Executive Director prior to participation.

11.6. If a change is made in the record of age, number of semesters of attendance or semester credits from that which has previously appeared on an eligibility certificate, it must be reported to the WVSSAC and approved prior to participation.

11.7. Failure to send the required eligibility information to the WVSSAC prior to the first contest shall render the offending school liable to a fine of \$25.00 payable to the WVSSAC.

**§127-3-12. Legal Opponents.**

12.1. Member schools of the WVSSAC shall not participate against any public, private or parochial secondary school whose status has not been recognized by that group's governing body.

12.2. Member schools of the WVSSAC shall not participate against those schools that have been placed under a specified sanction. This would include either member schools or out-of-state schools.

12.3. Member schools of the WVSSAC shall not participate in any interscholastic contest or practice against non-school teams or in any interscholastic contest or practice which involves alumni participants.

**§127-3-13. Contracts.**

13.1. It is recommended that contracts of games for all interscholastic contests be prepared in duplicate. Contract forms are furnished by the WVSSAC office. These should include specific dates, financial guarantee provisions, adequate forfeiture stipulations, and all other items listed on the contract.

13.2. In order for a contract to be binding, it must be signed by the principal or his designee from both schools.

13.3. Contracts may be canceled in the following situations:

13.3.1. If both principals or designee fail to sign the contract.

13.3.2. If one of the two schools is forced to suspend its school schedule.

13.3.3. If one school fails to return the signed contract to the other school within thirty (30) days.

13.3.4. If there is written mutual consent of the two parties of the contract.

13.3.5. If the Board of Directors annuls a contract when it deems such action necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in West Virginia or if provisions of the contract are contrary to the rules of the Commission.

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13.4. Athletic contracts made by the principal are considered binding on his successor.

13.5. An athletic contest will be considered forfeited during regular season as per contracted or tournament play as per scheduled if contest cancellation is caused by a strike by teachers, support personnel, or school patrons acting as a striking body. In cases where both participating schools are on strike, it shall be considered no contest. Games or contests canceled during regular season may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Directors.

### **§127-3-14. Sunday Contests.**

14.1. Member schools of the WVSSAC shall not engage in any contest, meet or tournament on Sunday. This rule shall also apply to Sunday practice. However, in case of emergency, State Championship finals may be played on Sunday after 1:00 p.m.

14.2. Sunday practice shall be defined as any team, group or individual meeting to view films, hold shooting practice, or any other activity associated with the activity of that season.

### **§127-3-15. Sports Rules - Game Protests.**

15.1. The current edition of official High School Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations will be the official rules used in contests, meets, and tournaments played by members of this Commission. The Board of Directors may modify such rules as also provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations. In this case, the rules of the Board of Directors as published in special bulletins or "The Interscholastic" shall apply.

15.2. In the absence of published National Federation rules, the Board of Directors may authorize competition under prevailing rules and regulations as modified for amateur competition.

15.3. The protest of a contest or ejection will not be allowed. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not authorized to order contests to be replayed or ejections to be reconsidered.

### **§127-3-16. Sanctioning and Travel.**

16.1. A member school shall not enter a contest/competition which requires sanctioning until it is approved.

16.2. All applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the WVSSAC 30 days prior to the event with the exception of international events.

16.3. Events requiring National Federation approval are:

16.3.1. Co-sponsorship Sanction Requirement: Any interstate event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, a shoe company), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, an approved school or a state association, shall require sanction of the NFHS office.

16.3.2. Non-bordering State Sanction Requirement: Each state association shall sanction through the NFHS office interstate competition by a member school involving either:

a. More than eight (8) schools, at least one (1) of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or

b. Five (5) or more states, at least one (1) of which does not border the host state.

16.3.3. International Event: Each member state association shall approve and receive NFHS approval for competition by a member school against a school from a foreign country, except for

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two (2) school and three (3) school competition with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles.

16.3.4. International Event: Games against Canadian or Mexican schools involving travel of greater than 600 miles, or an event involving more than three (3) schools, one or more of which are from Canada or Mexico, requires a request to the NFHS for international sanction and notice to and sanction by the appropriate National Governing Body.

16.4. Bordering state events requiring approval are:

16.4.1. Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate. (All schools from neighboring states.)

16.4.2. Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

16.5. Intrastate events requiring approval are:

16.5.1. An event with more than four schools participating or awards given.

16.5.2. Any event where awards are given.

16.6. The WVSSAC may assess a fine and/or other penalties against the participating school for violations of the sanction provisions.

16.7. A member school shall not enter an event that involves travel of more than 600 miles round trip unless it occurs on days when school is not in session. Sanctioning from the WVSSAC must be granted.

#### **§127-3-17. WVSSAC Tournaments.**

17.1. Participation in sectional, regional and state tournaments sponsored by this Commission and directed by the Board of Directors, shall be limited exclusively to members of this Commission.

17.2. The Board of Directors shall divide the state into sections and regions for the purpose of determining championships in the sports sponsored by this Commission. The Board of Directors shall have charge of directing and making necessary arrangements for tournaments, meets and contests leading to and including state championships. Member school principals will receive the proposed tournament alignment from the WVSSAC office and will be given the opportunity to comment on the alignment prior to the presentation to the Board of Directors. Principals will sign a form to verify receipt and return the form to the WVSSAC office within ten (10) days from the date of the bulletin.

17.3. The Board of Directors shall have general control over sectional tournaments. The detailed management of these sectional tournaments, however, shall be under the control of the schools assigned to each respective section.

17.4. All net earnings from tournaments conducted under the supervision of the Board of Directors shall be turned over to the Commission unless otherwise specified by the Board of Control. Sectional or regional assessments may be charged to cover the cost of a tournament trophy furnished by the WVSSAC.

17.5. The Board of Directors may approve participation by member junior high schools in county, league or conference tournament. Tournament play on the state level for member junior high schools shall be prohibited.

17.6. No state tournament shall be concluded until all games, matches, or events at the state tournament are completed.

**§127-3-18. Season Regulations.**

18.1. The National Federation standardized calendar shall be used to schedule all activities sponsored by this Commission. Each sport season shall have an established beginning and ending date for practice and interscholastic contests which will be based on a standardized calendar of numbered weeks so the length of each season will be consistent from year to year.

**§127-3-19. Baseball.**

19.1. Rules: Baseball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided herein.

19.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

19.3. Length of Season: The baseball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

19.4. Maximum Team Contests: A baseball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

19.5. Scrimmages: Two baseball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

19.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

19.7. Student Participation:

19.7.1. A student may not play or practice on a non-school baseball team while a member of his school team.

19.7.2. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

19.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

19.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with following adaptations:

19.9.1. Junior high teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

19.9.2. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

19.9.3. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

**§127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls).**

20.1. Rules: Basketball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

20.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice for girls will begin on Monday of Week 19 and Monday of Week 20 for boys. The first contest for girls may be played on Tuesday of Week 23 and Tuesday of Week 24 for boys.

20.3. Length of Season: The boys and girls basketball season will end for each team at tournament elimination.

20.4. Maximum Team Contests: A varsity or junior varsity basketball team will be permitted to play no more than 22 games in the regular season. Sectional, regional and state tournament contests are not included in the above number.

20.4.1. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one season is 110 exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests.

20.4.2. A student can play only 5 quarters in one day.

20.4.3. Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one quarter.

20.4.4. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

20.5. A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two scrimmage games. See Glossary.

20.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

20.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school team while a member of the school team.

20.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event outside the sport season.

20.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above rules will apply for Junior High Schools with the following adaptations:

20.9.1. Girls may begin practice on Monday of Week 18 and boys on Monday of Week 19. The first contest for girls may be played on Wednesday of week 21 and Wednesday of week 22 for boys.

20.9.2. The girls basketball season will end on Saturday of Week 33 and Saturday of Week 34 for boys.

20.9.3. Tournament play on the state level shall be prohibited.

20.9.4. Boys and girls basketball teams will be permitted to play no more than 20 games. Tournament exception does not apply.

20.9.5. All junior high students may play a maximum of 80 quarters for one season.

20.9.6. All junior high students may play a maximum of 4 quarters per day.

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20.9.7. Games involving only students below the 9th grade shall be played in 6-minute quarters. A member school sponsoring games involving teams which combine 9th grade students with students in the 8th and/or 7th grades may play those games in quarters of 8 minutes.

20.9.8. Junior highs are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.9. Scrimmages: Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage.- See Glossary.

20.9.10. A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for junior high schools.

### **§127-3-21. Cheerleading.**

21.1. Rules: Cheerleading rules established by the WVSSAC will be used as the official rules for all interscholastic competition and regular season contests.

21.2. Organized Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5.

21.3. Length of Season: The high school spirit and competitive season will begin Monday of Week 5. The competitive season will end for each team at their cheer tournament elimination. The high school spirit season will end on the last day of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament or Boys' State Basketball Tournament.

21.4. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

21.5. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule.

21.6. *Junior High Schools* - The above rules will apply for Junior High Schools with the following adaptations:

21.6.1. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6.

21.6.2. The junior high/middle school spirit and competitive cheer season will begin Monday of Week 6. The competitive season will end Saturday of Week 18. The junior high/middle school spirit season will end on the last day of the junior high/middle school girls' or boys' basketball season.

### **§127-3-22. Cross Country (Boys and Girls).**

22.1. Rules: Cross country rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

22.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday Week 5 and first meet may be held on Saturday of Week 7.

22.3. Length of Season: The cross country season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

22.4. Maximum Team Contests: A cross country team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of regional and state contests.

22.5. Scrimmages: Two cross country scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

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22.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

22.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule.

**§127-3-23. Football.**

23.1. Rules: Football rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

23.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played during Week 8.

23.2.1. The following table establishes for senior high school the first date pads with no live contact, first date to use pads with total contact, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest and date season must be completed.

<b>Year</b>	<b>First Date Organized Practice</b>	<b>First Date Pads No Live Contact</b>	<b>First Date Live Contact Allowed</b>	<b>Earliest Date For Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama</b>	<b>Date For First Contest</b>	<b>Date Season Must Be Completed</b>
2008	Aug. 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 16	Aug. 25	Nov. 8
2009	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 15	Aug. 24	Nov. 7
2010	Aug. 2	Aug. 6	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 23	Nov. 6
2011	Aug. 1	Aug. 5	Aug. 9	Aug. 13	Aug. 22	Nov. 5
2012	July 30	Aug 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug 20	Nov. 3

23.2.2. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

23.2.3. No in season football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction are given are permitted.

23.2.4. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. However, during the DATE OF PADS NO LIVE CONTACT, the use of sleds, shields and blocking dummies will be allowed. The purpose of this period is to permit gradual adaptation of the students to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.

23.3. Length of Season: The football season will end for each team at the end of the regular season or by play-off elimination.

23.4. Maximum Team Contests: A football team will be permitted to play no more than 10 games exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.1. The total number of quarters for a student in one season is 40 exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.2. A student may only play 4 quarters in one day.

23.4.3. Any student who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play, except those downs in which the football teams are in a free kick formation, or the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation, as defined in the National Federation Football Rule Book, the down will not count as a down.

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23.4.4. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

23.4.5. Interscholastic practice game or games in which teams representing a member school play against alumni or other people shall not be allowed.

23.5. A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. See Glossary for definitions of Grid-O-Rama and Scrimmage.

23.6. Special Regulations:

23.6.1. All rules and regulations of these Bylaws pertaining to football are also applicable to six-man and eight-man football.

23.6.2. Any member of a freshman team in a 4-year high school that plays in a junior varsity or varsity contest (scrimmage, grid-o-rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team.

23.6.3. A student may not play or practice on a non-school football team while a member of his school team.

23.7. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the school year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event during non-school months.

23.8. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class.

23.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above rules will apply for Junior High Schools with the following adaptations:

23.9.1. Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first game played during Week 9.

23.9.2. The following table establishes the first date for organized practice, the first date pads with no live contact, the first date for live contact, earliest date for a scrimmage, the date for first game and the date season must be completed.

<b>Year</b>	<b>First Date Organized Practice</b>	<b>Pads No Live Contact</b>	<b>Contact Allowed Full Equip.</b>	<b>Date For Scrimmage</b>	<b>Earliest For First Game</b>	<b>Date Season Must Be Completed</b>
2008	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 21	Aug. 25	Week 9	Nov. 1
2009	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 20	Aug. 24	Week 9	Oct. 31
2010	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 19	Aug. 23	Week 9	Oct. 30
2011	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 22	Week 9	Oct. 29
2012	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 16	Aug. 20	Week 9	Oct. 27

23.9.3. The football season will end on Saturday of Week 17.

23.9.4. Not more than eight (8) interscholastic football games shall be played, with the exception of league playoff games in which one (1) game may be added for playoffs. There shall be a nine (9) game limit even if league playoff games are used, and the extra game would be limited to only two (2) teams in the league having the playoff. Leagues choosing to have the extra playoff game may participate in a 2 quarter Grid-O-Rama in place of a scrimmage game. This must be decided prior to the start of the season.

23.9.5. The total number of quarters for a student in one season is 32, exclusive of the playoff game in Rule 127-3-23.4.

23.9.6. A junior high school football team is allowed one preseason scrimmage under the following conditions:

- a. Scrimmage will not be played under game conditions.
- b. Scrimmage must be played prior to first game of regular season.
- c. Admission may be charged.
- d. Registered officials may be used.

23.9.7. Junior High/Middle School football teams may be permitted to play overtime periods in regular season games. Where conferences or counties are holding season ending championships, a tie breaking procedure shall be established if at the end of two overtime periods the score remains tied. A maximum of 2 overtime periods will be permitted in accordance with the National Federation Football Rules 20 yard line overtime procedure.

23.9.8. Junior High game ball: The football used involving only students in the eighth grade and below shall be the youth football. Games involving students of a combination seventh, eighth, and ninth graders may use the youth football by mutual agreement. Modification of the rule is listed in Rule 1-3-1, National Federation Football Rule Book.

23.9.9. Length of Quarters: The maximum length of quarters for ninth grade teams shall be 10 minutes. For teams composed of students below the ninth grade, the length of quarters shall be 8 minutes. For teams involving a combination seventh, eighth, and ninth graders shall be 10 minutes. If a team which includes ninth graders plays a team of only seventh and eighth graders the maximum length of quarter will be 8 minutes.

23.9.10. A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for junior high school.

**§127-3-24. Golf (Boys and Girls).**

24.1. Rules: Golf rules published by the United States Golf Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by WVSSAC modifications.

24.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on any day after the first day of the season.

24.3. Length of Season: The golf season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

24.4. Maximum Team Contests: A golf team will be permitted to play no more than 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournament contests. Each interscholastic contest counts as one, whether it is 9 or 18 holes, and regardless of number of opponents.

24.5. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

24.6. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule.

24.7. *Junior High Golf* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

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24.7.1. Junior high teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.

24.7.2. There shall be one season for golf in junior high school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 10 weeks.

#### **§127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls).**

25.1. Rules: Soccer rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

25.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on Friday of Week 7.

25.3. Length of Season: The soccer season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

25.4. Maximum Team Contests: A soccer team will be permitted to play no more than 20 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.1. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 50, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.2. A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day. Any part of a half counts as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half.

25.5. A high school soccer team is permitted to participate in a soccer-o-rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. See Glossary.

25.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

25.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school soccer team while a member of the school team.

25.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

25.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

25.9.1. Junior high teams may play 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

25.9.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Monday of Week 10.

25.9.3. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

25.9.4. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 28.

25.9.5. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

**§127-3-26. Softball.**

26.1. Rules: Softball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided herein.

26.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

26.3. Length of Season: The softball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

26.4. Maximum Team Contests: A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 exclusive of sectional, regional and state contests.

26.5. Scrimmages: Two softball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

26.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

26.7. Student Participation:

26.7.1. A student may not play or practice on a non-school softball team while a member of the school team.

26.7.2. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

26.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event outside the sport season.

26.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

26.9.1. Junior high teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

26.9.2. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.3. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

**§127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls).**

27.1. Rules: Swimming rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

27.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 17 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 19.

27.3. Length of Season: The swimming season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

27.4. Maximum Team Contests: A swimming team will be permitted 16 contests exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

27.5. Scrimmages: Two swimming scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

27.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

27.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule.

27.8. The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

27.8.1. Junior high teams will be permitted 14 meets.

27.8.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20.

27.8.3. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 31.

27.8.4. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

**§127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls).**

28.1. Rules: Tennis rules published by the United States Tennis Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

28.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

28.3. Length of Season: The tennis season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

28.4. Maximum Team Contests: A tennis team will be permitted 22 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

28.4.1. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two.

28.5. Scrimmages: Two tennis scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

28.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

28.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events or non sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rules.

28.8. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

28.8.1. Junior high teams may play 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

28.8.2. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

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28.8.3. There shall be one season for tennis in junior high school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

### **§127-3-29. Track and Field (Boys and Girls).**

29.1. Rules: Track and Field rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

29.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 37.

29.3. Length of Season: The track and field season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

29.4. Maximum Team Contests: A track and field team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

29.5. Participation Limitations: Maximum of 4 events per participant per meet.

29.6. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

29.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

29.8. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule.

29.9. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

29.9.1. Junior high teams will be permitted 14 meets and only 2 meets per week.

29.9.2. Junior high season will be completed by Thursday of Week 46.

29.9.3. Participation limitation: Junior high/middle school students, regardless of grade levels (6, 7, 8, or 9), may compete in a maximum of four events, of which only three may be running events including relays.

### **§127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls).**

30.1. Rules: Volleyball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

30.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 9.

30.3. Length of Season: The volleyball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

30.4. Maximum Team Contest: A volleyball team will be permitted no more than 22 playing dates exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

30.4.1. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one date. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two dates.

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30.5. In dual competition, a student may participate in a maximum of three (3) games against the same opponent if a match is 2 of 3 games and five (5) games if the varsity match is 3 of 5 games.

30.6. Scrimmages: Two volleyball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

30.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

30.8. A student may not play or practice on a non-school volleyball team while a member of the school team.

30.9. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

30.10. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

30.10.1. Junior high teams will be permitted 16 playing dates.

30.10.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 10.

30.10.3. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

30.10.4. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

### **§127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys).**

31.1. Rules: Wrestling rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

31.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 20 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.3. Length of Season: The wrestling season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

31.4. Maximum Team Contest: A wrestling team will be permitted to have 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournaments.

31.4.1. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two.

31.5. Scrimmages: Two wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. See Glossary.

31.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

31.7. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

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31.8. *Junior High Schools* - The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

31.8.1. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 19 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.8.2. Junior high school teams may have 44 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

31.8.3. Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.4. Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ALL-STAR GAME** - a contest where all contestants on each team are students selected from four or more school teams. No more than three students from any one school may participate on the same team.

**COACH** - county board/governing body contracted or approved facilitator of any secondary school athletic team.

**COMMISSION** - The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC).

**CONTEST or GAME** - one or more of the following conditions are present: previous agreement, advertisement, score and/or time kept, spectators present, regulation or modified rules used, coverage appearing in local media, sufficient number of students to form teams, admission charged, and/or contest officiated by registered officials.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** - nonacademic activities such as interscholastic athletics, student government, class officers, marching band that is not a part of the curricular band, and clubs which are not closely related to identifiable programs/areas of study.

**FACULTY MEMBER** - one who has a full-time teacher permit as defined by the West Virginia Department of Education. (Policy 5202)

**FEEDER SCHOOL** - the middle or junior high school designated by the county board of education/governing body as the school of attendance prior to entrance into the high school.

**FULL CREDIT COURSE** - one-half credit for a semester or 4050 minutes as taken from the West Virginia Department of Education, "Graduation Requirements for West Virginia Public Schools: Adolescent Education (Grades 9-12) (Policy 2510)".

**FULL TIME STUDENT** - a student doing passing work in the equivalent of at least 20 periods per week. (Traditional Schedule - four subjects will full credit toward graduation; Block Schedule - two subjects with full credit toward graduation).

**GRID-O-RAMA** - See Preview and Scrimmage definitions.

**MEMBER SCHOOL** - a school that is a member of the WVSSAC.

**PREVIEW** - must be 3 or more teams; teams are only allowed to play the equivalent of one contest; all conditions of a scrimmage.

**PRINCIPAL** - the individual charged with supervision, management, and control of a secondary school.

**SCRIMMAGE** - after 7 days of practice; prior to the first contest; without keeping score in a book or on a score board; not under game conditions (examples include basketball and soccer - quarters; 3 outs-baseball and softball); admission may be charged; free substitution; time-outs permitted; if officials are used, they must be West Virginia registered officials.

**SEMESTER** - a block of instructional time that is equivalent to at least one-half of the school year. (Policy 2510)

**SECONDARY SCHOOL** - a high school, junior high school or middle school as registered with the West Virginia Department of Education.

**STUDENT** - a male or female participant in interscholastic athletics or band activities.

**127CSR3**

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - a person who has met the licensure requirements as specified by the West Virginia Board of Education and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education, private, or parochial school.

**VARSITY** - primary representative team of a high school.

**FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES**

Rule Title: **W. Va. 127CSR1, 2 and 3, Rules of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission**

Type of Rule:     Legislative     Interpretive     Procedural

Agency:        West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Address:        2875 Staunton Turnpike  
                    Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

Phone Number: 304.485.5494

Email: [gary.ray@wvssac.org](mailto:gary.ray@wvssac.org)

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**Fiscal Note Summary**

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR1, 2 and 3, Rules of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.

**Fiscal Note Detail**

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>			
Effect of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use "-" )	Next Increase/Decrease (use "-" )	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
<b>1. Estimated Total Cost</b>	0	0	0
Personal Services	0	0	0
Current Expenses	0	0	0
Repairs & Alterations	0	0	0
Assets	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
<b>2. Estimated Total Revenues</b>	0	0	0

Rule Title: **West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 1, 2 and 3**

Rule Title: **West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 1, 2 and 3**

**3. Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect);**

Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR1, 2 and 3, Rules of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.

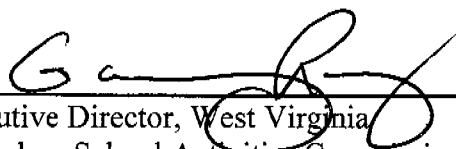
**MEMORANDUM**

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule **would not** have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues **not** captured elsewhere on this form.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR1, 2 and 3, Rules of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. The amendments proposed will keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs. Proposed changes include: addresses criteria for middle and high schools seeking membership; updates vacancy procedure; clarifies enrollment and team membership with current middle/high school configuration; clarifies enrollment and team membership with current middle/high school configuration; consistency among all sports for participation; clarification of the residence and transfer rule; allow more flexibility in scheduling during the summer; decrease the size between the largest and smallest schools in each of the classes; increase number of weigh-in for junior high as was done for high school.

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Date

  
Executive Director, West Virginia  
Secondary School Activities Commission

April 25, 2008

**WVSSAC BOC Proposed Rule Changes - Series 3  
Comment Log**

**May 6, 2008 - June 16, 2008**

Action Type  
 N No Response - = Negative  
 NA: Not Accepted + = Positive  
 A: Accepted o = Neutral

Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
		<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b>		
05/20	No Name	Like it but some will abuse it.	+	
05/20	Rodney Campbell Logan HS rodney76_98@yahoo.com 7402 Six Mile Road Danville, WV 25053	I think it is time for out of season coaching	+	This rule change will allow for more flexibility in scheduling during the summer. This change will also allow coaches of sports other than football and basketball to attend summer camps at colleges and universities. This will only add four (4) weeks to the summer schedule with the incorporation of the one (1) week dead period. The dead period and the spreading out of activities will allow families more freedom to plan vacations.
05/20	Kimberly Cook kccook@access.k12.wv.us PO Box 1000 Pineville, WV 24874	While I do feel that coaches should be able to work with their kids during the summer, I feel that it needs to be limited. Families should be able to do activities during the summer without having it be scheduled around sports. Children who play 3 sports will be pulled from sport to sport with absolutely no time between them and certain coaches will apply pressure to just play "their" sport. I do not feel that a high school child should have to choose between them if they do not want to. We would have certain coaches take this beyond the intent of this proposal. In this day and time, kids grow up too fast as it is without additional pressure to perform 12 months out of the year.	-	
05/20	Bernie Dolan Wheeling Park HS bdolan@access.k12.wv.us 1976 Park View road Wheeling, WV 26003	As I look from the student athlete's point of view. This has become year around sports. Part of the rationale was that the families would have more flexibility in planning vacation. The only week available is the week of the 4th of July. Our student athlete need time away from the demands of the sport and coach. Even the professional athletes get a couple of months off. I don't believe the coaches will use good judgement and regulate their summer activities. Most coaches will try to stay up with or out do each other, meaning this will take up the whole summer. Let the kids be kids. Put yourself in the student athlete's	-	

**WVSSAC BOC Proposed Rule Changes - Series 3  
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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
		<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b>		
		position and see if this is in your best interest. Would you want to do this for the whole summer and then the season.		
05/21	Charles Elkins II Buffalo HS 3317 Buffalo Road Buffalo, WV 25033	In favor of the change because it will allow coaches more freedom in scheduling summer workouts. Will allow students to participate in more than one sport workouts in the summer.	+	
05/23	Dan Erenrich Morgantown HS derenric@access.k12.wv.us 109 Wilson Avenue Morgantown, WV 26501	Although there is some merit to opening the out of season coaching to all summer, we at Morgantown High School feels that it will put too much pressure on both the athletes and the coaches to keep up with the "Jones." Although one can say that each county can structure the summer weeks, there will be a lot of pressure to meet the "schedules" of other counties. I do not wish for my athletes to feel any more pressured than they currently do.	-	
05/20	Mark Hatcher Head Basketball Coach coachhatch@yahoo.com PO Box 485 Logan, WV 25601	I do think that a coach should be able to work with there players throughout the summer, I feel like (coaches) can work together, and not hurt the players... there are so many camps, but it really hard to get everything in, if a kid plays multiple sports in only a few weeks...if we had more time in july, I dont think we would abuse it, I think we would work together, and help these kids.	-	
05/20	Tyler Hodge hodge2306@hotmail.com Rt. 1 Box 80 Kermit, WV 25674	I want to thank the principal from Hedgesville High School on proping the rule about allowing coaches to coach all summer leaving a dead period during the weeks of July 4. This gives kids something to do during the summer. Students could be out doing other things that aren't good, but with this proposal, it give them more time together and they're not just laying around eating, or doing something that isn't healthy. The	+	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
		<p><b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b></p> <p>school systems now want kids to lose weight, this is one way to do so. This allows exercise all year long and let's them be around students and coaches that give them good advice.</p>		
05/20	<p>John Kelley                      University HS                      jwkelley@qcces.k12.wv.us                      991 Price St.                      Morgantown, WV 26505</p>	<p>I am adamantly opposed to any extension of out of season coaching beyond the current SSAC calendar weeks of 50-51-52. There are several reasons for this opposition: 1. Children need to have time away from coaches and structured practice and play. 2. Children to be allowed to spend time with family and friends and enjoy being a "kid". 3. Coaches regardless of intent and good intentions will use this time to choose teams, and imply that non attendance can and will result in decision during the season as to cuts and playing time. In other words this time will be misused and it is almost not enforceable as to quality and content. 4. The risk of injury certainly increases, especially injuries such as stress fractures and joint injuries due to stress. A prime example of this may be the recent stress fracture of Patrick Patterson at the University of Kentucky. Perhaps his playing year round and then going on to UK and playing a grueling schedule lead to this? I know this can't be proven but the risk among developing athletes is certainly increased. 5. Student athletes need time to rejuvenate away from coaches and have a mental break from school and competition- they need down time. 6. The mistaken belief that more is better is a flawed approach. More scholarships will NOT result from this increase in practice time. There is no statistical data that could ever prove this "myth". I urge the members of the Board to soundly reject this proposal as it is a danger to our student athletes. thank you ~jwkelley</p>	-	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
05/27	Kim McCord 36 Mulberry Lane Bridgeport, WV 26330	<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b> It is my opinion that limiting out of season coaching to only 1 dead week will cause more harm to family time. This would, in essence allow coaches to ask players to commit their entire summer to sports. I understand the intent is to free time, but I have a child in the system and know that pressure is put on these students, legal or not to participate in out of season practices, or not play during the season. My son has participated in soccer and is affiliated with other players who play multiple sports and is under dictator type coaches for football, and basketball. Limit the number of days or weeks each team can utilize. I quickly see this as another step to crush secondary sports, and push football and basketball further up on a pedestal while eliminating time for families, vacations, summer jobs, etc.	-	
05/22	Janet Morris jantastic1@yahoo.com HC 63 Box 710 Ramney WV 26757	I am against this policy for one main reason, Students will feel pressured to participate all summer in any program that the coaches may offer. They can say all that they want that it wont count against you when selection time roles around, but deep down the students know that it will. You are also putting coaches in a position that they have to coach and have training all summer for the students in order to keep up with other schools, this may also put a burden on school officials to open up the schools in the summer. Please take in all views before voting on this change. Parents need a break also.	-	
05/23	Ric Morrone Tolsia HS r.i.mo@hotmail.com #1 Rebel Drive Fort Gay, WV 25514	Great idea for more flexibility and thinking of families.	+	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
05/20	Joan Panger jpanger@suddenlink.net 146 Whispering Woods Road Charleston, WV 25304	<p><b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b></p> <p>I would like to voice my opposition to changing the policy governing out of season coaching. The current policy of allowing three weeks in June for out season work is in my opinion adequate. Increasing the allowable time is a further burden to families and undermines any attempt to have quality family time. I understand that the policy does not require student athletes to participate in these "optional" summer sessions, but in reality, students are held accountable for attending all scheduled practices. My family has found it difficult to schedule family events and vacations around the three weeks in June and the entire month of August. When working parents have limited vacation time and flexibility and students have summer jobs and non-sport activities in addition to sports, being able to find a time for a vacation can be a nightmare! Imagine trying to convince a reluctant teenager to engage in family activities if he/she believes that missing an "optional" summer workout may indeed have a negative impact when soccer season comes around. I can appreciate the difficulty for coaches who most work around athletes who participate in multiple sports, but I fail to see how giving them more time alleviates the conflict. In conclusion, while sports offers a valuable learning opportunity for student athletes, family time needs to be valued. There are endless opportunities for student athletes to continue to participate in voluntary sporting activities over the summer, but opportunities for unstructured and unscheduled family time is a premium. Thank you for your consideration.</p>		
05/19	Brad Simmons East Hardy HS jbsimmon@access.k12.wv.us Box 120 Baker, WV 26801	I support his policy and hope you adopt it.	+	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
05/26	Linda Stephens stephenshoops@casinternet.net 973 Windsor Dr. Mineral Wells, WV 26150	<p><b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b></p> <p>Athletics are an important part of the high school experience. Although my three daughters have now graduated and gone on to play college sports, their involvement with high school teams helped develop their character as well as provided us with many wonderful memories. You will soon be voting on whether to extend the three week summer practice period with coaches. I would encourage you to vote against that extension.</p> <p>For athletes who participate in several high school sports, the school year is extremely busy. School days consist of classes, after-school practice, then homework. Weekends consist of independent practice of the off-season sport (for example, pitching practice throughout the winter). I firmly believe that these dedicated children need some time to rest during the summer, giving their bodies a chance to heal physically from overuse and a time to re-energize. Year-round practice without a break can lead to injury and burnout, even for those who love the game.</p> <p>If summer practices are held, dedicated athletes will feel obligated to attend, leaving no time for family vacations, attending summer camps, visiting colleges, etc. Athletes who skip summer practices, albeit for good reasons, cannot expect to play when the season starts. We always emphasized to our daughters that being members of a team requires sacrifices and responsibility to your teammates.</p> <p>One might argue that the coaches should be reasonable in setting limits on practice times. However, if a student participates in multiple sports, even one day a week of practice can result in a three-day-a-week commitment, tying up the summer months. Furthermore, good coaches give their teams the</p>	-	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
		<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b> opportunity to be competitive. My husband coaches the AAA State Championship girls' basketball team at Parkersburg South High School. You can be assured that if the coaches at Morgantown and Huntington are practicing all summer, he will want to give his girls the same opportunity for success. Thank you for looking out for the best interests of the children in our state. Although my children will not be affected by your ruling, I believe that extending the three-week practice sessions for high school athletes would be detrimental. Thanks for giving them a break!		
05/20	James Toth Wahama HS jdtoth@charter.net 510 29th St Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550	More flexibility would help everyone involved.	+	
05/28	Jimmy Walls jdwalls@hotmail.com 511 Hillview Drive Hamlin, WV 25523	I think it needs to be regulated because the schools are not going to pay the coaches for working in the summer. It takes too much away from the studnets and being able to work a summer job also.	-	
05/20	C. Doug Ward Williamson HS 801 Alderson St. Williamson, WV 25661	Great proposal - very needed in WV	+	
05/20	Jason Ward Wirt County HS coachjasonward@gmail.com PO Box 822 Elizabeth, WV 26143	I do not feel all summer is necessary for athletes to have out of season practice during weeks 50-52. I think it would be nice to be able to incorporate film and classroom work during the July time period, with weight lifting and conditioning still be permissible. I would like to see a window for track be allowed sometime in January, where they have an opportunity to help the sport.	-	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
05/25	Chad Williams East Hardy HS cmwillia@access.k12.wv.us 115 Saville Street Wardensville, WV 26851	<p><b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b></p> <p>This proposal sounds great at first glance. As a coach I am of course looking for as much time with my athletes as I can get. However I could see this rule getting abused. As a coach at a small school, most of my athletes play 2-3 sports. This means that from the beginning of August through the end of school they have no time off. Summertime is their safe haven to do what they want to do. Allowing practice all summer would force those athletes to pick 1-2 sports and eliminate the multisport athlete. It also gives coaches too much freedom to hold their kids hostage all summer. Even colleges don't get this kind of freedom with their athletes. I would love to be able to practice my kids all summer, but even as a 24 year old head coach I can recognize how coaches would take advantage of this rule to effectively give their athletes no time off at all, especially those who play multiple sports.</p>	-	
05/29	Paul Clovis hpclovis@yahoo.com 360 School Street Romney, WV 26757	<p>I feel that summer break should be off limits to coaches outside of what is currently permitted. My reason is that the demands on the student/athletes by coaches is becoming excessive. It is my understanding that an athlete is pretty much unlimited in what they may do to improve themselves as long as the coaches are not involved. Coaches can say that these activities are voluntary, but they really are not. Why should a son/daughter feel like they can't afford to be away on a family vacation because missing these activities may cause the athlete to be demoted for not attending these activities. Lastly, is it not just a matter of time before coaches will expect extra compensation. It would be interesting to see the thoughts of the parents. Thank you.</p>	-	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
05/29	Doug Davis Mddw33@yahoo.com 96 Cook Dr. Charleston, WV 25314	<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b> Proposals 7 and 8 should be rejected. The rationale offered for the change is bogus. These proposals will eliminate summer vacation for students playing sports except for one week in July. Right now, they get about 5 weeks free from overzealous coaches. Although the rule states that participation is voluntary, everyone knows that in practice, it would be mandatory. The coaching that currently occurs during weeks 50-52 is voluntary, but every student who hopes to make the team, or increase his playing time will be there. Coaches that really want to attend seminars or other coaches' training find seminars in July, or work around their summer practices in June. If the training is important enough, and it only occurs during weeks 50-52, then, they need to decide if the training is worth their absence from the team practices that will inevitably go forward. Summers have traditionally been a time for families to reconnect, for students to get part-time jobs (maybe full-time) and for kids to have some fun. If the Board adopts the proposals, kids will be the big losers here. The Board ought to do what is in the best interests of kids, not what is in the perceived best interests of coaches who want to win at all costs. These proposals have been made before and were rejected. The Board should reject them this time as well.	-	
05/29	Scott Helmick helm654@hotmail.com 136 Fayette Street Buckhannon, WV 26201	I support these changes in an effort to ensure our children are getting the proper instruction they need over the summer.	+	
05/30	Joby Groom Mt. Hope HS jgroom@access.k12.wv.us	I like the idea of the three weeks with your team. I think it helps the coaches to evaluate their teams and to determine what they need to work on for next season. However, I wish coaches would abide by the	-	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
		<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b> rules. There are coaches who practice all year round and never get caught. Principal's and Athletic Directors are reluctant to stop this or to turn coaches in that do this because they only have one agenda... and that is to win at all cost!		
05/30	Catry Maloney Summersville MS	Out of season coaching is appropriate in length	-	
05/30	Thomas J Hurney hurndog@aol.com 1209 Dudley road Charleston, WV 25314	As I read this section, it allows coaches to schedule practice all summer with the exception of one week. I believe practice should continue to be limited. As long as all teams follow the same rules, there is no reason to expand practice time. Kids are too overscheduled as it is, and it is more important to give parents flexibility during the summer than it is for coaches. Family vacation is just as important as sports. Thank you for allowing me to comment.	-	
05/31	Shana O'Briant sobriant@fairmontstate.edu 637 Stratton St. Logan, WV 25601	I am completely for this proposal. It will do nothing but help the athletes/teams in the state compete with other out of state teams. It will also show the coaches who care about their players.	+	
06/01	Bill Brubaker olliedog56@hotmail.net 285 West Cardinal Avenue Wheeling, WV 26003	Why not. There are so many students engaged in "voluntary" practices over the summer anyway, you might as well legitimize the process. Also, the word voluntary is funny. Anyone connected with any of these programs know that it is known by the coaches who attends the "Voluntary" practices.	+	
06/02	Rick Wilton R.Wilton@retinawv.com 404 Nicole Marie Drive Scott Depot, WV 25560	It does allow for more flexible scheduling as long as the coaches are understanding and supportive.	+	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
06/03	Mark Nardone Wheeling Park HS mnardone@access.k12.wv.us 1976 Parkview Rd. Wheeling, WV 26003	<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b>  I feel it should be open in the summer but each sport competing should only get 3 weeks. Therefore we separate our sports into 3 week segments instead of trying to get everyone in during the weeks assigned.	+	
06/04	Shawn Persinger spersing@access.k12.wv.us Huntington HS One Highlander Way Huntington, WV 25701	As an assistant girls basketball coach, I love having the opportunity to work with my kids in June. However, I believe that is long enough. Extending the time frame will not give more flexibility in scheduling, it will only mean more time away from ones family. A lot of coaches will use the entire time and although they are not supposed to will hold it against the kids who miss these weeks.	-	
06/04	Jon Baker jonbmsinc@verizon.net 401 s 3rd Ave. Paden City, WV 26159	I believe it is time to lighten the restrictions on out of season coaching. For years now a lot of other states have open seasons, spring games(like Football). Also, if the State Board thinks that no schools currently violate the policies in place they are holding their hands over their eyes. It does happen all around.	+	
06/04	Matthew Petry beastofftheeast723@hotmail.com 2355 Lower White Oak Road Ashford, WV 25009	The State of West Virginia has needed a more extended off season schedule for some time now. The current three weeks in the summer is a very short amount of time for the coaches to practice with their teams and it unfairly makes student athletes choose between which team they want to practice with. This new policy appears to allow for more flexibility in this regard. This would also ensure that the players are with trained staff in the off season as opposed to the possibly untrained volunteers that many of the summer leagues have as coaches. The degree of safety would be improved as well as the quality of the instruction.	+	

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Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
06/05	James Payne Summers County HS jimpayne@access.k12.wv.us HC74 Box 11A Hinton WV 25951	<b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b>  Much needed rule change. Out of season coaching is too restricted, the three week summer season forces kids to pick and choose what activity they can participate in. What do they do? Summer league basketball two days and football three days? Can lead to hard feelings among coaches.	+	
06/06	R. J. Palmer Paw Paw Schools rjpalmer@access.k12.wv.us 60 Pirate Circle Paw Paw, WV 25434	I agree with the proposal to allow out-of-season coaching during the month of July	+	
06/15	Larry Shaw Oak Glen HS lshaw@access.k12.wv.us PO Box 196 New Manchester, WV 26056	I think that this proposal has a lot of merit. If and only if a coaches contact with their athletes is restricted. Some coaches will attempt to dominate their athletes entire summer. I would like to see the following included in this proposal: A coach may not have sport specific contact with their athletes for more than ten separate days during this period, not to exceed 3 hours during any given day which would include any conditioning activities. General fitness activities such as strength training would not be included as part of the ten days of sport specific activity. Any camp conducted by a college with the coach(s) present would count as part of the ten day period, but the 3 hour rule would be waived.	+	
06/16	Wayne Ryan Summers Co. HS coachwr43@hotmail.com One Bobcat Drive Hinton, WV 25951	This proposal would be very beneficial to the student athlete. 1. It provides adequate time and more flexibility for athletes in various sports to have an opportunity to spend some time on more than the dominate sport in their school if they so choose.	+	

# WVSSAC BOC Proposed Rule Changes - Series 3

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		<p><b>127-3-7.2 Out of Season Coaching</b></p> <p>2. It allows flexibility in scheduling so athletes can still participate in other community activities (4-H, Church camps) etc. and not be dominated by athletic involvement for three consecutive weeks. 3. It allows the professional coach if they so choose to coach in summer leagues etc. eliminating the person off the street from coaching the team during the summer. Teams and athletes are already participating in these summer leagues. It will be much better if the professional coach could be involved. That's why the state board has made such an emphasis on certified coaching is it not? To monitor and control who works with our student athletes.</p> <p>4. It will create a less competitive environment between programs within a school. Currently all programs want the same student athletes involved in the three week limited period because that is all the time allowed. 5. If the coach or programs seeks too much control of the athletes schedule they will lose their key role players. Opening the additional four weeks provides a more balanced and flexible opportunity for all athletes and athletic programs. 6. The dead period and the spreading of activities is family friendly.</p>		
06/16	<p>Robin Ryan            rhannahryan@hotmail.com            200 Greenbrier Ave            Hinton, WV 25951</p>		+	

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05/20	No Name	<b>127-3-7.3 Out of Season Coaching</b> I like being able to teach outside of the season, but again, some will abuse it.	+	This rule change will allow for more flexibility in scheduling during the summer. This change will also allow coaches of sports other than football and basketball to attend summer camps at colleges and universities. This will only add four (4) weeks to the summer schedule with the incorporation of the one (1) week dead period. The dead period and the spreading out of activities will allow families more freedom to plan vacations.
05/20	Bernie Dolan Wheeling Park HS bdolan@access.k12.wv.us 1976 Park View road Wheeling, WV 26003	Same as 127-3-7.2 (As I look from the student athlete's point of view. This has become year around sports. Part of the rationale was that the families would have more flexibility in planning vacation. The only week available is the week of the 4th of July. Our student athlete need time away from the demands of the sport and coach. Even the professional athletes get a couple of months off. I don't believe the coaches will use good judgement and regulate their summer activities. Most coaches will try to stay up with or out do each other, meaning this will take up the whole summer. Let the kids be kids. Put yourself in the student athlete's position and see if this is in your best interest. Would you want to do this for the whole summer and then the season.)	-	
05/21	Charles Elkins II Buffalo HS 3317 Buffalo Road Buffalo, WV 25033	In favor of the change because it will allow coaches to work camp and give us opportunity to work in the summer with our players and receive some pay.	+	
05/22	Warren Lee Grace, Jr. Paden City HS wgrace@access.k12.wv.us 201 North Fourth Avenue Paden City, WV 26159	School administrators and coaches have seen a dramatic increase in AAU programs that actively recruit our student/athletes during the summer months (and beyond) in many different sports. This is especially true in West Virginia cities - Charleston, Beckley, Morgantown, Wheeling and others. I recommend this measure to address the increasing influence that AAU programs have over our athletics statewide. These programs are growing at an unprecedented rate and must now be addressed statewide. I fully recognize that other issues will be	+	

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		<b>127-3-7.3 Out of Season Coaching</b>		
		created by approving this policy, but I believe school administrators and coaches will do a better job of monitoring and instructing our student/athletes than individuals not properly trained or with questionable motives.		
05/20	Mark Hatcher Head Basketball Coach coachhatch@yahoo.com PO Box 485 Logan, WV 25601	i think coaches will work together, and not punish or pressure kids to showup all summer long... i think that we should get a chance to work with them all summer if thats what we and the player want to do...i would still give my players time off, and i need some time away.	+	
05/20	Jeff Hoffman Morgantown H Boys Basketball jlhoffma@access.k12.wv.us 109 Apolla Dr. Morgantown, WV 26501	I wanted to send you a note asking you to consider allowing coaches the ability to work at Camps on University campuses during weeks other than the three week instructional period. I have not been at an individual camp for years because of the interpretation of you office. (saying that if any potetial Morgantown High player is present, then I can't work the camp) I feel I am not only missing out on opportunities to make money but professional development. I was told to do camps during the three weeks, but with the responsibility to my teams, I don't have time to go to any other camps during this time period. I would like to work camps in the month of June and August, but have turned down the oportunities because Morgantown High kids go to camps all over the East Coast. I would appreciate a different interpretation by your office if the new proposal for summer workouts, fails. Thanks Coach Hoffman.... Morgantown High	+	
05/19	Brad Simmons East Hardy HS jbsimmon@access.k12.wv.us Box 120 Baker, WV 26801	I support this policy and its adoption.	+	

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		<b>127-3-7.3 Out of Season Coaching</b>		
05/20	C. Dove Ward Williamson 801 Alderson St. Williamson, WV 25661	Great proposal	+	
05/31	Shana O'Briant sobriant@fairmontstate.edu 637 Stratton St. Logan, WV 25601	I know it is hard sometimes for schools to go to team camps because of the lack of supervisors and volunteers, so this would help when going to camps because the coaches would be able to go with their team.	+	
06/04	Stephenee Gandee basketbaton@aol.com 532 Gaston Manor Road Jane Lew, WV 26378	I am writing in reference to two of your new proposals. The first being the formation of a class 4A classification and the other being a nine-week period during the summer for athletes to work with their coaches. I strongly disagree with both of these matters. I now think that our current three-week period during the summer is a great idea, it gives coaches extra time to work with their athletes and go to camps. But, three-weeks are enough. Extending this period to nine-weeks would cause problems. Although a school could say that all practices would not be mandatory, we all know that there are those coaches out there who do not care about their athletes time with their family and will pressure them to come every day. Some kids even play more than one sport and would be exhausted from two different practices each day. In the long run, kids would eventually quit because they are pressured into going to practices every day. Eventually, schools would have an even greater problem fielding teams than they now do. I thank you for your time in reading my comments and hope you will take them into consideration when making your decision.	-	

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06/04	Matthew Pettry beastoftheeast723@hotmail.com 2355 Lower White oak Road Ashford, WV 25009	<b>127-3-7.3 Out of Season Coaching</b> Coaches and other athletic staff should be able to attend sports camps with their student athletes. This allows for a bigger degree of safety and allows the coaches to provide proper instruction to their student athletes.	+	
06/05	James Payne Summers County HS jimpayne@access.k12.wv.us HC74 Box 11A Hinton WV 25951	Logical and, again, much needed	+	
06/12	Jerry Ferrell 3511 Hatfield Dr. Charleston, WV 25306	Opoosed to the out to season coathing proposal	-	
06/16	Wayne Ryan Summers Co. HS coachwr43@hotmail.com One Bobcat Drive Hinton, WV 25951	This proposal would be very beneficial to the student athlete. 1. It provides adequate time and more flexibility for athletes in various sports to have an opporntnity to spend some time on more than the dominate sport in their school if they so choose. 2. It allows flexibility in scheduling so athletes can still participate in other community activities (4-H, Church camps) etc. and not be dominated by athletic involvement for three consecutive weeks. 3. It allows the professional coach if they so choose to coach in summer leagues etc. elimating the person off the street from coaching the team during the summer. Teams and athletes are already prticipating in these summer leagues. It will be much better if the professional coach could be involved. That's why the state board has made such an emphasis on certified coaching is it not? To monitor and control who works with our student athletes.	+	

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		<b>127-3-7.3 Out of Season Coaching</b>		
		<p>4. It will create a less competitive environment between programs within a school. Currently all programs want the same student athletes involved in the three week limited period because that is all the time allowed. 5. If the coach or programs seeks too much control of the athletes schedule they will lose their key role players. Opening the additional four weeks provides a more balanced and flexible opportunity for all athletes and athletic programs. 6. The dead period and the spreading of activities is family friendly.</p>		
06/16	Robin Ryan rhannahryan@hotmail.com 200 Greenbrier Ave Hinton, WV 25951	Any summer camp should not be off limits to coaches working with their players. Please adopt this policy.	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
05/20	No Name	I like the four classes	+	To decrease the disparity in size between the largest and smallest schools in each of the respective classes. The addition of a new classification would afford more schools a better opportunity to successfully compete on a more equal playing field in all classifications. With the current classifications, most of the smaller schools in each class would have less of a chance to participate or compete in post season play. The respective coaching committees will be responsible for organizing post season play-off and tournament formats.
05/24	Joseph Anderson hosef69@yahoo.com 101 Maurice St. paden City, WV 26159	I see four classes as having potential if done fairly. I have looked at the schools per class now and have figured if you keep AAAA to the biggest 30 and A the smallest 30(football only schools could just add the others where the fall enrollment wise)then the competition level should be fairly equal when it comes to school size. I am not sure of the proposal as it is now but this is something that could and should be done.	+	
05/20	Steve Barnhart St. marys, WV 26170	The problem with the current system is clearly with the private schools. They clearly have a competitive advantage for a number of reasons that you have heard many times before(recruiting, larger area to draw from, no "special needs" children that cannot compete counting on their numbers). I believe the 4 class system would be a mistake. Yes, for the most part, it would keep the private schools out of competition with the very small (Paden City, etc) but it would also punish others by forcing them to be playing schools with much large enrollments. It is time that the State B.O.E. and the WVSSAC take the stand that is needed either figure out a way to eliminate the competitive advantage from the private schools or to simply move them up in class. I strongly disagree with the 4 class system.	-	
05/20	Dave Barr Wahama HS dhbarr@access.k12.wv.us One Falcon Drive Mason, WV 25260	I feel this change is necessary. Many schools at the bottom of our current classifications don't have a legitimate chance to compete on a state level simply due to small enrollments. If you look on a year to year basis, the same schools make the playoffs. Going to four classifications give kids in smaller communities a chance. Some will say this "waters down" the	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>competition. Recently, I read an article in one of the Wheeling papers about other states our size and how they are handling postseason play. I think it gives an excellent argument for why we should be looking at approving this rule. I am including the text in the event our board members haven't seen the article:</p> <p>"On April 8, the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission's Board of Control ignited a heated debate across the Mountain State that continues today.</p> <p>Consisting of high and middle-school principals from across the state, the Board voted to pass a motion that increases the number of school classifications competing in football and basketball from three to four.</p> <p>The motion passed, 78-37, but the measure must still be approved by the W.Va. State Board of Education before it can be put into practice. That vote will follow a 60-day period of public discussion that will give the BOE a better understanding of the general consensus of the plan.</p> <p>And pretty much everyone has an opinion on the matter, ranging from optimism and agreement to condemnation.</p> <p>Those opposing the potential shift seem to be in agreement that an additional class will water down the competition level and demean the value of the state championships being contested.</p> <p>They point to surrounding states like Ohio and Pennsylvania's enrollment figures and classifications for examples.</p> <p>Ohio has 715 schools playing football in six classifications, while Pennsylvania's 597 teams compete in four.</p> <p>In basketball, Ohio has 803 and 800 teams in boys'</p>		

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>                      and girls' hoops, respectively, with four champions being crowned. The same goes for Pa., which has 719 girls' teams and 725 boys.                      West Virginia, on the other hand, has only 120 football schools? counting the split of Jefferson High into Washington High School and Jefferson High School for next season? playing in three classifications.                      Basketball adds only nine additional schools in Class A from the ones not fielding football teams.                      But what about states with similar amounts in either schools or residents?                      Based on population figures from the United States Census Bureau's 2007 estimate, West Virginia has a population of 1,812,035.                      The next closest is Nebraska with 1,774,571.                      Nebraska has 166 schools for football playing in five classifications.                      When looking at number of schools, Utah currently has 128 schools competing in football, eight more than West Virginia, and it also utilizes a five-class system.                      In a sampling of the seven states directly above and below West Virginia in terms of population, this is the only state that has, at minimum, 88 schools for football that doesn't utilize four or more classifications.                      Evan Excell has been the Executive Director for the Utah High School Activities Commission for 14 years and his state had already moved to five classifications by the time he took the job.                      He admitted he had some reservations initially about the "watered-down effect," but those were quickly put at ease.                      "Honestly, before I got the job, I thought it would be watered down, but as you watch and participate, you start to see how much the state title means to them and I don't think we could ever go back," Excell said.                      "There are certainly some benefits to having a more</p>		

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>                      competitive balance.                      That's the same line of thinking Paden City Athletics Director and boys' basketball coach Fred King has. King, along with Paden City principal Warren Grace, are the architects of the plan to make the shift.                      "It's not a perfect solution, but it's an alternative to removing the private schools from the public class," King said. "What really turned it was some of the smaller AA schools."                      The original thinking was to split Class A in half, which was widely regarded as a move directly targeting Wheeling Central. Considering the Maroon Knights' dominance of Class A sports the last decade, it's easy to see how people drew that conclusion. That idea, along with one to remove private schools completely from WVSSAC competition was also turned down. But when the thinking shifted to a more general realignment that affected all teams, the idea began to pick up steam.                      While there is a sizable disparity in Class A ? Richwood, the largest school with 337 students in grades 9-12, compared to Clarksburg Notre Dame, the smallest fielding football at 74 ? the difference in top to bottom in Class AAA is much greater. Parkersburg is the state's largest school with 1,446 students compared to Bridgeport at 627.                      "When you get the numbers closer together, disparity decreases, as does margin of victory and the domination is no longer there," King said. "Right now, it's gotten to the point where you can pick out who's going to the state tournament every year before the season starts."                      A potential problem for this plan comes when talking about the state basketball tournament in Charleston. The tournament, which plays host to the top eight teams in each class, already runs from Wednesday</p>		

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>            through Saturday in successive weeks for boys and girls.</p>		
		<p>To add another classification without tweaking the playoff process would amount to a lengthier tournament and more school time missed, not only for players, but also fans. While the students themselves likely wouldn't mind an extra day off, the Board of Education probably will.</p> <p>A likely solution could involve adjusting the regional tournament to super regionals, where only four teams make it to Charleston and not eight. It's also been speculated that football could move to the top 12 teams making the playoffs, with the top four teams receiving a bye. That moved would mirror the playoff systems from other states with similar team and classification numbers.</p> <p>There will be vocal proponents and detractors on either side of the argument no matter the outcome of the Board of Education's vote. But if West Virginia eventually does decide to go to a four-class system, it won't be the first state of its size to do so."</p> <p>Please consider approving this rule. The competition is really for the kids and I see nothing but benefits for them&gt;</p>		
05/22	Melvin Brooks Gilbert HS msbrooksj1@yahoo.com	<p>I am in full support of the 4 class system, this is a proven system in states smaller than ours. We need parity in our system and this is the positive option we have been searching for. Please keep in mind that something has to be done and this is the proven method.</p>	+	
05/25	Donald Brown Ravenswood HS donaldjbrown@netscape.net Plaza Drive Ravenswood, WV 26164	<p>I feel WV has too few schools to divide into 4 classes. This would "water down" the state tournaments and "cheapen" a state championship. The past 3 AA basketball champions have been "small" AA's. We, in Ravenswood, took great satisfaction in knocking out</p>	-	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		<p>"large" AA's in achieving a state championship in basketball. Adding a 4th class would forever cause future championships to be "tainted" for lack of a better term or "marked" with an asterick by many fans. Lastly, many of the small AAA's had no complaints when they had superior numbers as "large" AA's and there have been "small" AAAs claim titles in Football and Basketball. As for some of the A's with miniscule enrollment competing for a title in Football and Basketball, that may indeed be few and far between but dividing into 4 classes is not the answer....if a "Hoosiers" scenario would happen please don't "diminish" such an accomplishment by "watering down" the competition into 4 classes.</p>		
5/20	<p>Gregory Carter            gcarter@wvradio.com            947 College Avenue, Apt. 2            Summersville, WV 26651</p>	<p>Asking that the BOE not support the organization of four classifications in high school athletics. West Virginia is a small state and watering the classifications down for the entire state just so certain schools can be more competitive against private schools is not justified. It's amazing the WVSSAC even considered this and more shocking that the BOE is having to deal with this issue. Both organizations have more important work to do than "watering down" the athletics in this state. Keep the current system of classifications and let's "play ball." Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Greg Carter</p>	-	
05/21	<p>Kelly Cline            Gilbert HS            kelly25608@hotmail.com            Box 114            Baisden, WV 25608</p>	<p>I fully support the 4 class system for sports in the state of WV. I think our student athletes deserve this it will benefit our state athletic programs.</p>	+	

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05/20	Matthew Comer mcomer332@ignatius.wju.edu PO Box 2021 Wheeling, WV 26003	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> I feel as if re-classification would better strengthen the WVSSAC. Making the private schools their own class would open the opportunity for other smaller HS and their students to experience something that they would never otherwise get to experience.	+	
05/20	Ed Cromley Wahama HS ecromley@access.k12.wv.us #1 White Falcon Drive Mason, WV 25260	The spread in sizes of schools in each of the three present classifications is to broad. The addition of a fourth class will narrow the gap between the top and bottom schools in each class. This will create a fairer situation for all schools in competition for state titles. I would like to see this policy accepted by the State BOE.	+	
05/22	Tim Cunningham Logan HS tcunning@access.k12.wv.us One Wildcat Way Logan, WV 25601	I agree that their should be a four class team within the all the larger schools in WV!	+	
05/20	Bill Dalrymple william.dalrymple@alpharma.com 870 Ridgeview Drive St. Marys, WV 26170	I feel that the four class system would be the wrong move for athletics. The entire issue in reality is revolving around one school in particular, "Wheeling Central". In my honest opinion, the only way to evaluate fairly, is to use the multiplier rule just like Kentucky does with parochial schools. This would even the playing fields with the larger enrollment parochial schools and would have no adverse effects on the smaller ones such as Parkersburg Catholic. This way, no changes would have to be made to the State Play-off system and parochial schools could not manipulate enrollment numbers. <u>Thank you for your time.</u>	-	
05/21	Daniel Daniel Gilbert HS dndean@access.k12.wv.us	There should be 4 classes in WV for sports. It would be very beneficial to student athletes in our schools. There would be more parity in the system and the games being played would be more competitive. The	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
	Box 144 Verner, WV 25650	number of students in each class would equal out, giving schools that normally do not have a chance to make the playoffs and opportunity to do so.		
05/27	Chad Davidson CCBDavidson@aol.com 554 Pike Street Monongah, WV 26554	There are other states with similar populations and number of schools that have a 4 and even 5 classification system. I feel that 4 would be the best solution for many of the issues that have been raised lately. The gap between the top 5-10 AAA schools is growing wider and wider from those at the bottom. AA is the most competitive class because of the closeness in numbers. A 4 class system would be the way to go.	+	
05/21	Ben Disibbio PikeView HS bdisibbi@access.k12.wv.us 3566 Eads Mill Road Princeton, WV 24740	I am in favor of reclassification of the current system to four classes. It would give the smaller schools in each category a chance to make it to the state playoffs. The problem will still exist with schools (Private) would still find a way to still make it. We all know that they only allow athletes to enroll and be accepted at their school, not allowing normal students to enroll(non-athletes). Their will always be a big problem-we have sent in proposals that would rectify this, only to have them turned down by the WVDE. Thank you	+	
05/22	Bill Dobbins Nicholas Co. HS wddobbins@access.k12.av.us 4259 Irish Hgts. Drive Summersville, WV 26651	We support Proposal 15, Amend 127-3-10. One has only to do the math in the current three divisions to determine that there is a huge difference in numbers between the AAA, AA, and A. We are also in agreement that the change in classification affect only football and boys/girls basketball. The difference in AAA enrollment, a minimum of 819 from the largest AAA school to the smallest, is enough to warrant the change.	+	

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05/20	Bernie Dolan Wheeling Park HS bdolan@access.k12.wv.us 1976 Park View Road Wheeling, WV 26003	<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>I believe this rule change has a lot of merit. There are 2 groups of people who would benefit from this restructuring. The small "AAA" schools as well as the small "A". The disparity in the enrollment from top to bottom in both of these classes makes an unfair situation for these schools to compete for a state title. Below is a link to a newspaper article, where the Executive Director of Utah Athletic Association discusses his thoughts about the number of classes in a similar size state. <a href="http://news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/509446.html">http://news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/509446.html</a>                      Below is a list of states with similar enrollments to West Virginia with the number of schools and classes.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>pop</td> <td>schools</td> <td>classes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iowa</td> <td>2,988,046</td> <td>300/392 5/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mississippi</td> <td>2,918,785</td> <td>201/260 5/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arkansas</td> <td>2,834,797</td> <td>189/307 6/7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kansas</td> <td>2,775,997</td> <td>244/359 5/6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Utah</td> <td>2,645,330</td> <td>128/128 5/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nevada</td> <td>2,565,382</td> <td>92/105 4/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Mexico</td> <td>1,969,915</td> <td>88/146 5/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Virginia</td> <td>1,812,035</td> <td>120/129 3/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nebraska</td> <td>1,774,571</td> <td>166/308 5/6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Idaho</td> <td>1,499,402</td> <td>89/146 4/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maine</td> <td>1,317,207</td> <td>70/148 3/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Hampshire</td> <td>1,315,828</td> <td>50/96 5/4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hawaii</td> <td>1,283,388</td> <td>48/71 2/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhode Island</td> <td>1,057,832</td> <td>43/48 4/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montana</td> <td>957,861</td> <td>80/172 3/4</td> </tr> </table> <p>4 classes in football would also allow all schools to make the playoffs, just like all other sports. We could eliminate the bye week and make week 11 the first round of the playoffs. This money could be split between the two schools, providing the schools with</p>	pop	schools	classes	Iowa	2,988,046	300/392 5/4	Mississippi	2,918,785	201/260 5/5	Arkansas	2,834,797	189/307 6/7	Kansas	2,775,997	244/359 5/6	Utah	2,645,330	128/128 5/5	Nevada	2,565,382	92/105 4/4	New Mexico	1,969,915	88/146 5/5	West Virginia	1,812,035	120/129 3/3	Nebraska	1,774,571	166/308 5/6	Idaho	1,499,402	89/146 4/5	Maine	1,317,207	70/148 3/4	New Hampshire	1,315,828	50/96 5/4	Hawaii	1,283,388	48/71 2/2	Rhode Island	1,057,832	43/48 4/3	Montana	957,861	80/172 3/4	+	
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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		<p>some needed revenue. By involving all schools in the playoffs, teams could schedule games that are much closer to home regardless of class. This would cut down on time out of school as well as the cost of transportation. Wheeling Park must travel over 1 1/2 hours to play a "AAA" opponent after John Marshall and Brooke. All opponents after that are much farther away.</p> <p>The average size of class is 40. (120/3) If we go to 4 classes it will drop only to 30. (120/4)</p> <p>I believe the biggest obstacle is the makeup of the tournament. Football could have an afternoon game and evening game on both Friday and Saturday.</p> <p>In basketball we could start the games at 9:00am instead of 9:30am, we would allow 1:30 for each game. There would be sufficient time for cleanup after the 1st session, around 3:30 prior to the next round of games. The last game could start at 9:30, just as we had in years past.</p> <p>The amount of time out will not be increased with either of these proposals.</p>		
05/21	Charles E. Elkins, II Buffalo HS 3317 Buffalo Road Buffalo, WV 25033	In favor of the change because it will cut down the differences in size in each class. It will give more students the chance to experience state wide competition. Other states have proven that more classes will work. It will give students more opportunity.	+	

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05/19	Eric Ellis eek23@hotmail.com Chapmanville HS 200 Vance St. Chapmanville, WV 25508	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> The proposal for AAAA classification is a BAD idea. We do not have enough schools in WV to support this. The football and basketball tournaments would really be watered down. Most other coaches and people I talk to feel this way. It will also keep kids out of the classroom a few extra days as well. A few schools who got bumped up are the ones who are complaining.	-	
05/21	Eric Ellis eek23@hotmail.com Chapmanville HS 200 Vance St. Chapmanville, WV 25508	The AAAA classification system is ridiculous. It will water down the playoffs and create opportunities for worse teams to make it. We do not have enough schools in this state for four classes. The problems we need to correct are updating our tournament formats and eliminating private schools from public school tournaments.	-	
05/23	Dan Erenrich Morgantown HS derenic@access.k12.wv.us 109 Wilson Avenue Morgantown, WV 26501	Although there is some merit to opening the out of season coaching to all summer, we at Morgantown High School feels that it will put too much pressure on both the athletes and the coaches to keep up with the "Jones." Although one can say that each county can structure the summer weeks, there will be a lot of pressure to meet the "schedules" of other counties. I do not wish for my athletes to feel any more pressured than they currently do.	-	
05/19	Ed Forshey edforshey@yahoo.com 609 Eastlawn Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101	I believe the proposal to have 4 classes for Football, Boys and Girls Basketball is a great idea. I currently run the Football Clock at Parkersburg High School Stadium Field. I have had in the past 5 years athletes graduate from a very big school, Parkersburg, and a very small school, Parkersburg Catholic, so i can see where both the small AAA and the small A schools are always complaining about the student number advantage the big schools in	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>each class has over its smaller class members. I believe the 4 classes should be broken down as such:                      AAAA top 33 Parkersburg at 1446 students to Nitro at 667 students                      AAA next 33 Winfield at 660 students to Westside at 449 students                      AA next 32 Tolsia at 427 students to Pendleton County at 244 students                      A bottom 33 Gilmer County at 221 students to WV School of the Blind at 24 students                      I don't believe a Super AAAA class of 16 schools is a good idea. It would only make the regular season in Football useless if every team in AAAA made the playoffs. Who really wants to see a 10-0 school beat up on a 0-10 school in the 1st round of the Football Playoffs.                      I hope 4 classes passes, but only if each class has at least 30 schools in each.</p>		
05/21	Roger Gertz Logan HS rogergertz@hotmail.com One Wildcat Way Logan, WV 25601	<p>As the Athletic Director at Logan High School, I feel the passing of the four class system will make a level playing field for all schools. I understand that West Virginia is a small state, however, there are approximately twenty-seven schools that are now in AAA that have a huge difference in enrollment over the next thirty schools below them. To those schools this does not seem important. However, we have been in the upper tier of schools in the past. True, we did not think of the difference at that time. But because of a drop in enrollment at Logan High School, we have moved from AAA to AA and now back to AAA. As the Athletic Director I can tell you that the schools in the bottom of the AAA class puts their athletes in an unfair situation.</p>	+	

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		<p align="center"><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p>		
		<p>A four class system would make the competition more even.            It would also be safer for the athletes. When a small AAA school plays against a large AAA school, the smaller school does not have the number of athletes compared to the number of athletes that the larger schools have. Particularly in football, the larger schools have a larger number of players to choose and can play with an offensive team and a defensive team. In many instances the smaller schools have to play with the same players on both offense and defense.</p>		
05/19	Warren Lee Grace Jr Paden City HS 201 North Fourth Ave. Paden City, WV 26159	<p>As Principal of Paden City High School,(a very small 7-12 high school in Wetzel County), I would first like to say that this proposal would only slightly benefit our athletic program. The main reason I have made this proposal is the extremely large difference in the enrollment numbers in the AAA and AA schools. Parkesburg HS at 1446 (grades 9,10 and 11) competing in the same classification as Bridgeport HS at 627 makes very little sense to me. Please give serious consideration to this proposal as EVERY SCHOOL deserves a reasonable chance to play in our state tournaments. Very few schools with lower enrollment numbers will EVER get to our state tournament in Football and Boys/Girls Basketball. Please also keep in mind that 77 of my fellow principals believe that this is a move that we need to make. As an educational leader, I do think that while this appears only to involve interscholastic athletics, much more is at stake with this decision. If you have any questions regardin! g this measure, please contact me at home 1-304-455-5062 or at school 1-304-337-2266. My cell number is 1-304-266-8087. Thank you very much for your time and consideration is this very important matter.</p>	+	

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05/20	Warren lee Grace Jr Paden City HS 201 North Fourth Ave. Paden City, WV 26159	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> I sincerely believe that the wide enrollment discrepancy within each classification inhibits equitable and fair athletic competition, and discourages many students from participating in interscholastic athletics at the school level. A review of other states of similar population reveals that most are four classifications or more. 78 SSAC member principals have voted to support this measure. I respectfully ask the WV Board of Education to give this measure serious consideration. Thank you.	+	
05/25	Becky Hall bhall@access.k12.wv.us French Creek, WV 26218	I do not think that 4 classifications are necessary. I agree that in AAA the number of students from top to bottom is to large. AAA should range from 800 and above students, AA should be 400 to 799, and A should be 399 and down. This will of course not have equal number of schools in each classification but will even the level of competition based on student enrollment. I do fill that changes must be made but strongly disagree going to 4 classifications.	-	
05/20	Mark Hatcher coachhatch@yahoo.com PO Box 485 Logan, WV 25601	strong supporter of the 4 classes, if you look at states close in size to us, that have been discrepancies in enrollment numbers as we do, then it evens the playing field. i think we can still send the same amount of teams to the state tournaments, and we can find ways to make this work... lots of states, nebraska, new mexico, idaho, etc... have done it and it works, our kids get so much exposure at the state tournaments, that we need to do what ever we can to get the players there... the questions about watered down state championships, are from people that have never won one... as for football this would allow all the teams to be in the playoffs, just like every other sport in wv... now they could play who they wanted to,	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		and not rely on a very confusing and imperfect rating system that can be manipulated by clever scheduling....please look at states that have the same enrollment figures as wv, ohio, kentucky, penn. are not good ones to look at because the numbers dont really go together... please take a very close look at this...		
05/27	Chalres Higginbotham chigginb@access.k12.wv.us HC 76 Box 1 Helvetia, WV 26224	I believe the increase to 4 classifications in football and basketball would benefit two groups of schools. The bottom 50% of the current Class AAA would now be in a classification where they would only be competing against schools of similar size. Schools like Elkins, Lewis County and Nicholas County never have a legitimate chance of reaching the ultimate goal of a state championship. The smallest schools in the state are in the same situation. Other states of similar size have 4 or even 5 classifications.	+	
05/22	Jessica Houck gilbert HS jhouck63@hotmail.com PO Box 1025 Gilbert WV 25621	I give my full support to the proposed change in member school classification! It seems to me that it is a fair and long needed change - one that will benefit the students of West Virginia's secondary schools. Hopefully, this will help even the "playing field"!	+	
05/20	Joseph Johnson jjsjl@suddenlink.net Box 278, 305 Third St. New Haven, WV 25265	i totally support the idea of four classes. it would be much fairer to single a and tripple a classes. the four class system would be of great benifit to high school athletics in our state.	+	
05/19	David Jones East Hardy HS dvjones@access.k12.wv.us 259 Cougar Drive Baker, WV 26801	As Principal of a small rural high school(grades 9-12, I feel that these rule changes concerning creating 4 classifications for both football and basketball would help to create a more level playing field for small schools such as ours. This would give small schools like East Hardy High School and our students a better opportunity to be competitive by participating with	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p>		
05/20	<p>John Kelley                      University HS                      jwkelley@access.k12.wv.us                      991 Price St.                      Morgantown, WV 26505</p>	<p>schools of comparative size, etc. This move to 4 classifications would create more equity and less discrimination among smaller schools.</p> <p>I strongly urge the members to soundly reject this proposal. This is perhaps the most flawed of all proposals submitted. First off the state of West Virginia by its very geographical outlay cannot support four classifications for any sport. The argument that the disparity in enrollment is too great and unfair will not be solved or addressed by this proposal. Here are numerical examples: Currently at the AAA level- Parkersburg has 1446 as the largest Bridgeport has the smallest at 627. This is an enrollment disparity of 819. In Class AA Keyser is the largest at 618 and Greenbrier West the smallest at 340. This is a disparity of 278. In class A Richwood has the largest at 337 and among football playing schools Notre Dame the smallest at 74 for a disparity of 263. My point is that regardless of how you divide into four classes there will still be a HUGE disparity at a new AAAA level that is larger than any current disparity of enrollment among the class A and AA schools. If we use the top sixteen- University would be #16 with a disparity of 505 and if we use the current top 25 AAA then Princeton would have a disparity of 619. The creator of this proposal Mr. Warren Grace, Principal at Paden City did not submit any plans of how this would be done as to the divisions. In this era of 21st Century learning where we are raising the bar and challenging students, why would we want to lower these standards by watering down the current system and making it easier to obtain success. What statistical data did Mr Grace submit that would indicate that this would be a "better" system. The state of West Virginia and the SSAC currently have the best system of football</p>		

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>                      playoffs and regional selection in basketball that is envied throughout the country. Another area of concern in this ever inflating cost of transportation would be the unbelievable cost of travel for AAAA schools to play each other, or for any school to travel to stay in class. (this is necessary! to obtain the points in current playoff system of WVSSAC). Finally I submit to you what I think is the real reasons for this proposal and the support given by some Principals: 1. The Wheeling Central issue- which is the root of all complaining- their tremendous success has caused jealousy and an attempt to get them out and 2. Success is the result of excellent athletes, excellent coaches and community support. If you examine the successful programs in West Virginia you will see that these programs have worked very hard at these areas. Watering down the system to four classes will not cure this flaw by those who do not subscribe to this fact. Again I strongly urge you to reject this flawed and misguided proposal. One more statistical fact- there is no data that supports the largest schools have the most success in football and basketball. thank you ~jwkelley</p>		
05/22	Janet Morris jantastic1@yahoo.com HC 63 Box 710 Romney, WV 26757	This classification will help the smaller AAA schools. Being from Hampshire County this will help us a great deal, as long as we stay AAA. It is difficult to compete with schools that have twice as many students but are in the same classification. We are already limited to amount of participating athletes due to rising fuel costs and the elimination of our activity bus.	+	
05/19	Sam Montgomery pokie.one@verizon.net 1024 First Avenue West Logan, WV 25601	Football and Basketball should definitely be divided into four classifications. It is totally unfair in the Triple A ranks. No school with an enrollment in the 600s should be forced to play schools more than double their size. You do not have that discrepancy in Double and Single A, so it should not be that much in Triple A. <del>If you wanted only 3 classifications you</del>	+	

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		<p>should have raised the cutoff point. Since the largest enrollment is 1446, you should have divided that in half and had the cutoff at 723. From 722 down to 361 should have been Double A, and 360 down to 1 should have been Single A. This would have had 46 schools in Double A, 29 schools in Triple A, and 56 schools in Single A (taking away the Schools for the Deaf and Blind brings that number down to 54.. I see no reason for having equal amounts of schools in each class. The reason more should be in Single A is most only compete in 1 or 2 sports at best. As for only having 29 schools in Triple A football could still have 16 playoff teams, but the stickler would come with basketball. I also have a solution for that. You could go to 6 regionals only having 6 Triple A teams at the state tournament and do away with the morning games for Triple A on Wednesday and Thursday with the top two seeds getting a first round BYE into Friday semis, or you could have your 6 regional winners and two wildcard teams and keep the tournament the way it is. I think this is a lot more equitable than how you classified teams for next year. It does not have a school with an enrollment of 627 having to compete with teams having 1446 students, which is a difference of 819 students. Differences in Double A are from 618 to 340 which is a difference of ONLY 278, and Single A is 337 to 24 a difference of 313. There is definitely a MAJOR problem with the Triple A numbers. Thank you for reading.</p>		
05/23	<p>Ric Morrone                      Tolsia HS                      r.ic.mo@hotmail.com                      #1 Rebel Drive                      Fort Gay, WV 25514</p>	<p>Why water down a broken system with more winners. The current system is adequate with changes in the tournament format.</p>		

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05/21	Terry Murphy t.murphy@access.k12.wv.us 19 Junior Avenue Wheeling, WV 26003	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> I don't believe that this State is big enough to change the classification to four classes. I think it will take the sports down, the only reason that they want to change it is because Wheeling Central is doing so well in class A. They didn't complain when a public school keeps winning, they didn't want to change it when Norfork won 8 straight championships, Morgantown or Moorefield winning so much. This State is so small to accommodate the four class system. It will take more time from the class room, when it comes to basketball tourney, what are we here for.	-	
05/23	Brian Phipps Nicholas County HS bhipps@access.k12.wv.us 30 Grizzly Road Summersville, WV 26651	The four class system, if adopted, will be a wonderful change to high school athletics in West Virginia. This change will bring about a more even playing field in football and basketball for those schools in the lower end of each classification, especially for those in AAA. The biggest discrepancy in enrollment numbers for classification is in AAA. Adding a fourth classification will make each class more competitive. I have looked at the numbers and came up with an equal amount of schools in each class. I have divided each class into eight regions for playoff or tournament play. This system resembles the district play in Virginia. If interested in this information, please feel free to contact me. Thanks for your time. Brian Phipps	+	
05/19	Paula Potter Riverside HS ppotter@kcs.kana.k12.wv.us One Warrior Way Belle, WV 25015	I believe a four class system is NOT needed in our state. First, our population does not compare to those states that have such a configuration. Second, the travel time to meet a quad A schedule would prove detrimental to our student athletes. Third, travel expenses would increase tremendously for our athletic program. We would have to travel far distances to play quad A schools when in fact 8 other high schools are in our area. Fourth, I believe this policy is in an attempt to address the frustration some smaller public schools have with private schools.	-	

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05/27	Shawn Ratliff createine101@hotmail.com 957 Independence Hill Morgantown, WV 26505	<p align="center"><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>I am a member of the community and I am opposed to section 127-3-10.1. New Classification. I feel like we are trying to get kids to succeed at any cost. That's not my real problem with the classifications. I live in Morgantown and we have 2 schools that I would expect to move to the AAAA level. I am going to use University High football program in my scenario. They currently play 4 teams in the top 16 in enrollment and one is Hedgesville which is a lengthy trip from Morgantown. So, now University is going to have to pick up 6 games in the AAAA level. Wheeling Park would not be bad but it is defiantly farther then any of the schools in Fairmont. Jefferson and Parkersburg would be the next 2 closest, both over 2 hours away. Then I guess they could go to Martinsburg or else a trip the Charleston area. Basically what I am getting at is why are we going to take kids out of school early several days a year to accommodate a problem in the single A level? In AAA last year the smallest school played in the football playoffs and beat the 3rd biggest school in the state. You can also make the argument that there were several schools that have high enrollments that didn't do anything but lose. I honestly feel an adjustment would be a better fit then adding another class. As a member of the community I don't want to spend 2 hours every other week driving to football games, nor do I want to pay the \$4 for gas to make these lengthy trips. Don't take our kids out of school early to level the playing field.</p>		
05/25	Jeff Schultz Putnam County Schools jwschultz@access.k12.wv.us 4 Morgan Court Hurricane, WV 25526	<p>I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL AND SAY THAT I'M ALL FOR IT IF YOU INCLUDED ALL SPORTS NOT JUST FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL. WHAT MAKES FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL SO IMPORTANT! AS A TEACHER,</p>	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>COACH, AND PARENT OF A STUDENT ATHLETE THAT RUNS TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY THIS MAKES HIM FEEL LIKE HIS SPORTS ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT TO THE WVSSAC. ALL I EVER HEAR THE WVSSAC SAY IS THAT THEY ARE IN IT FOR THE KIDS. THIS PROPOSAL SOUNDS LIKE THEY ARE IN IT FOR BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL ONLY. THERE ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS ALSO. MY SON AND HIS TEAMMATES TRAIN YEAR-ROUND FOR THEIR SPORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE RUNS 50-70 MILES A WEEK WITH RUNS UP TO TEN MILES A DAY. TELL HIM THIS IS NOT AN IMPORTANT SPORT AND HE DOESN'T DESERVE A CHANCE TO MAKE IT TO POST SEASON PLAY. (ONE GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS WOULD BE, HIS TIME IN ONE OF THE REGIONALS IN TRACK BEAT 3 OTHER RUNNERS FROM ANOTHER REGION BUT BECAUSE HE FINISHED 4TH HE DID NOT QUALIFY). THIS MAY SOUND LIKE SUI R GRAPES BUT THERE ARE MANY SPORTS THAT DESERVE TO PLAY IN THE FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS JUST LIKE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL WOULD. LIKE I SAY, VOTE FOR ALL SPORTS AND I'M ALL FOR THIS PROPSAL. VOTE FOR JUST FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL, I'M AGAINST IT! THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, JEFF SCHULTZ</p> <p>P.S. THERE ARE ALREADY MORE FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL TEAMS THAT MAKE IT TO POST SEASON PLAY THAN ANY OTHER SPORTS. DONT TELL ME MINOR SPORTS DONT MAKE MONEY, I JUST PAID \$46.00 FOR THREE PEOPLE TO WATCH THE STATE TRACK MEET AT LAIDLAY FIELD FOR TWO DAYS.</p>		

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05/19	Brad Simmons East Hardy HS jbsimmon@access.k12.wv.us Box 120 Baker, WV 26801	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>  This policy needs to be adopted.	+	
05/20	Troy Stewart Wahama Jr/Sr HS wahamapro@yahoo.com #1 White Falcon Dr. Mason, WV 25260	I AM IN FAVOR OF HAVING 4 CLASSES	+	
05/20	Dean Stickle dstickle@sj30jet.com 19 Scrabble Road Martinsburg, WV 25404	We do not need an additional classification. WV is barely large enough to have 3 classifications. If we want more teams/athletes to win awards, we do not need to increase the costs associated with creating a new class, just create more recognition. If we go to a 4th class, how long will it be until someone will feel their child didnt get an award, and start a movement to go to 5 classes. How many classifications do we have for Band ? How many for academic achievement? Are we in the Education business or awards business? This is a bad idea.	-	
05/20	James Toth Wahama HS jthoth@charter.net 510 29th St. Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550	This would help all schools in both a, and aaa. The only fair class right now in WV is aa. I urge you to consider the benefits of 4 classes.	+	
05/20	Mike Tothe mtothe@archcoal.com PO Box 548 Holden, WV 25625	Please allow the 4 class system. Several other states are doing this and seeing more kids on an even playing field would be ideal. Seeing more schools evened out with enrollment numbers would be the right thing to do. How do you suppose the smallest AAA school now with around 618 kids competes with a larger AAA school with over 1400 kids. That is 800+ more students or a whole other AAA school more than what the smallest AAA school would have. Not very fair.	+	

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05/28	Jimmy Walls LCHS girls track jdwalls@hotmail.com 511 Hillview Drive Hamlin, WV 25523	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>  We do not need another classification unless it affects all sports. You are really going backwards with this. Cut "A" in half and divide the rest of the current schools which should leave about the 16 biggest schools for AAAA This would make the competition closer especially if you included all sports. Thanks	-	
05/20	C. Doug Ward Williamson HS 801 Alderson St. Williamson, WV 25661	Good proposal - would be beneficial.	+	
05/20	Jason Ward Wirt County HS coachjasonward@gmail.com PO Box 822 Elizabeth, WV 26143	I think this proposal should clearly pass. It was approved by a large majority of principals earlier in the spring. States similar in size have more classes than WV. Examples: New Mexico 1,969,915 88/146 5/5 (population, schools and classes) West Virginia 1,812,035 120/129 3/3 Nebraska 1,774,571 166/308 5/6 Idaho 1,499,402 89/146 4/5 *As reported by the Wheeling News Register* A common example people use against the class system is Ohio. They have 6 classes for 715 schools. What they fail to understand is the breakdown of the divisions. The divisions are grouped together by the number of kids in the school. Here is the breakdown according to the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Division I 524 or more — 115 Division II 365 to 523 — 120 Division III 257 to 364 — 119 Division IV 187 to 256 — 119 Division V 131 to 186 — 121 Division VI 130 or less — 121 (1st numbers are students, second number is how many schools are in each class	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		Now look at the gap in the number students attending in WV. Single A 0 -337 Double A 340-618 Triple A 619 or more The disparity gaps are much wider in WV. The numbers speak for themselves. People can argue about watering down all they want, but over half of the college football teams in D-1 went to a bowl game last year, so why not give more kids a reasonable chance of competing?		
05/21	Josh Weekley jweekley44@hotmail.com HC 69 Box 4 West Union, WV 26456	Please do not pass this. West Virginia does not have a sufficient number of schools to warrant four classifications. You will end up with a dramatically watered down playoffs in which mediocrity is rewarded with a playoff berth.	-	
05/25	Chad Williams East Hardy HS cmwillia@access.k12.wv.us 115 Saville St Wardensville, WV 26851	Everyone here at East Hardy High School is excited about the new classification proposal. We are one of the smallest football playing schools in WV. Our cross county rival Moorefield is almost twice as large as us. The advantages they have are very hard for us to overcome. Last year as a baseball coach at Elkins I watched my players have their hearts broken as we lost to Jefferson, a school whose enrollment was almost three times as much as our own. As an assistant football coach at Fairmont Senior I saw the same thing as 2 years in a row in the playoffs we lost to schools more than double our size. The size disparity in the current classifications has become too large, and the larger areas of the state continue to grow while others remain stagnant or shrink, yet we are still expected to remain competitive with the growing areas. While every school I have been at can hold our own, it is almost impossible to win a state title at one of the smaller schools. In A and A! AA football during the past 10 years there has not been a state title winner come from outside of the 10 largest	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> schools in their classification. This is due to that large despairity. In basketball all schools already make the playoffs, and the football playoffs could easily be cut back down to 8 teams if you are worried about competition in the playoffs. This rule just flat out makes sense though. I know it has been proposed in various forms in the past, but it is time that it is passed. It is long overdue, and the despairity in enrollment in WV high schools will only continue to increase until a change like this is forced to be made.		
5/29	Paul Clovis hpclovis@yahoo.com 360 School Street Romney WV 26757	As a former athletic administrator, I no longer feel that a four classification system is in the best interest of WV high school athletics. As a matter of fact, I have gone full circle and now feel that two classes are probably the answer. I would doubt that the private schools (which are seen as having an advantage in Class A) will find plenty of competition in a two class system.	-	
05/30	Cathy Maloney Summersville MS	AAA is needed for schools our size, while allowing us to play games closer to the house conserving fuel	+	
05/30	Rocky Roberts Summersville MS brightfutures@citynet.net 737 Silo Rd Summersville, WV 26651	A AAA class is needed for the schools that lie between the big schools and the middle schools. It would allow many schools to revive old rivalaries	+	
05/30	James Hundley jhundley@access.k12.wv.us 66 Hidden Valley Chapmanville, WV 25508	I believe a reclassification should be universal and not apply to just a handful of sports. If you were to reclassify a school AAA for the major sports then the facility would be recognized in the media and news as AAA. This would lead to confusion and possibly result in scheduling problems when they have other sports classified as AAA. I feel that if a school meets the criteria for AAA then every sport should be rated in that classification as it also promotes a discriminatory slant to say some sports are not	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		<p>"worthy" of gaining a higher classification and may also promote the possibility of a student athlete being passed over for a deserving scholarship as the "scouts" may not bother to look at all AAA schools and focus only on those gaining the most media attention. This would benefit both classifications it is my belief on costs and maintaining student athletic eligibility status.</p> <p>Also if you create this class then the numbers for AAA should be adjusted to allow this bracket to exist in harmony and not be torn apart by schools just entering this classification with a marginal number of students in the student body.</p> <p>The promotion of the new bracket should not shadow any of the other brackets to reflect these student athletes as the "elite" classification as has been the case for AAA. In reference to student athletes, the WVSSAC should take the opportunity to create a common promotion of all brackets to give student athletes in every classification a more fair representation to the colleges, media, and tournament play.</p>		
05/30	Joby Groom Mt. Hope HS jgroom@access.k12.wv.us 110 High School Drive Mt. Hope WV 25880	I think that there has to be a better way to check and make sure these schools are turning in the correct numbers for their schools. There are schools in double A that should be participating in triple A and there are some single A that should be in double A. I think, if the WVSSAC would have all school submit a copy of their Lunch reports then you could see that some schools are lying about their numbers.	-	
05/31	Shana O'Briant sobriant@fairmontstate.edu 637 Stratton St. Logan, WV 25601	It is really hard for the smaller schools in a class to compete with the larger schools in a class whether it's in A, AA, or AAA now. This proposal would even the playing field on many levels. It would also give the	+	

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06/01	Bill Brubaker olliedog56@hotmail.net 285 West Cardinal Avenue Wheeling, WV 26003	<p>smaller schools a greater chance to further their post season play which could give athletes more exposure that they might not have had during the season.</p> <p>The idea of classifying two sports differently is out of line. This is an accomodation to the small single "A" schools who have to compete against the parochial schools. Note girls basketball - 6 of 8 girls Single A tournament teams were religious parochial schools. Just make the non-public schools multiply their enrollment by 1.5 like Tennessee does and you will solve your problem. Pennsylvania is discussing this as the point being made to the WPIAL and PIAA is that non-public schools can control their enrollment and thus their class assignments. The multiplier would make this more fair, rather than add another class to some sports. Enforce the residency requirements for the non-public schools. Make them prove the residency of their students. IE there is a non-public school that has students from one Ohio county, two WV counties and western PA. Is that fair to the students of WV students who live in small rural counties?</p>	-	
06/02	Rick Wilton R.Wilton@retinawv.com 404 Nicole Marie Drive Scott Depot, WV 25560	<p>All other states our size have a system that promotes parity and equal opportunity. It should be divided into 4 classes immediately.</p>	+	
06/02	Jamie Tallman Union HS jtallman@access.k12.wv.us HC76 Box 750 Mount, WV 26739	<p>Please support this proposal as did the majority of schools at the WVSSAC meeting! Many states bigger and smaller than ours already have a 4-5 classification in place and this will help better serve our student-athletes and begin to address the concern of leveling the playing field!! In our state the current schools in the 2AA classification have better competition due to</p>	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		less disparity in their schools enrollments! This will certainly positively impact our school and help give it and others our size a better opportunity to be successful!		
06-02	Lewis Marrs lmarrs@yahoo.com 107 Cottage Ave. West Union, WV 26456	I have read the proposal that was submitted from the member from Paden City HS. By the classification numbers that Paden City has is 87, the solution I think should be looked at that would see coming in the near future, is the consolidation of Paden City & Magnolia High Schools. They are only 4 miles apart and that is Paden City kids went to Magnolia that would make that school in the middle of AA area. The problem is the Private Schools and You and I know it is Wheeling Central that has cause all of this problem. But I have come to believe that they have alot of POWER and influence in the WVSSAC. Listen to the people and you will hear the same. Thank You	-	
06/03	Mark Nardone Wheeling Park HS mnardone@access.k12.wv.us 1976 Parkview Rd. Wheeling, WV 26003	I feel that if this measure passes it would help with the large difference in numbers in the AAA classification and the A classification. Being a program in the Northern Panhandle our schedule consists of some quality teams from the state of Ohio. Playing these teams may have hurt us in the AAA standings. I do not believe that we would be watering down our system in place by eliminating 10 programs in AAAA to AAA but it would really help with scheduling. For us after Brooke High and John Marshall we would have to travel to Morgantown, Fairmont which we do now and Parkersburg or Charleston. Also I think that money could be generated for the state with the extra play offs and Championship Game. Win- win situation for kids.	+	

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06/03	Alex Stapleton Union Educational Complex astapleton@access.k12.wv.us HC 76 Box 750 Mt. Storm, WV 26739	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b> I believe that if high schools are to be classified into four classes that it should pertain to all sports not just a few. The object of this reclassification is to make it fair for everyone to compete on an equal basis, restricting this to just a few sports would not be fair.	+	
06/04	Stephenee Gandee basketbaton@aol.com 532 Gaston Manor Road Jane Lew, WV 26378	I am writing in reference to two of your new proposals. The first being the formation of a class 4A classification and the other being a nine-week period during the summer for athletes to work with their coaches. I strongly disagree with both of these matters. I believe that creating a class AAAA would create a lot of problems and hurt the state of West Virginia's sports in the long run. As you know we only have 129 high schools in this state. That is not nearly enough to make four different classes. By creating this new classification, you would be taking away all competitiveness that our playoffs have. Making it to the state tournament in any sport would be like just another game because there would be no problems in getting there. For example, I am now 16 years old and I have been to the State Boys Basketball Tournament every year of my life. This is something I look forward to every year because I get to go watch the best basketball teams in the state. However, this tournament would be quite boring because teams with absolutely no talent could make it there. I go to one of the smallest AAA schools in the state and all of our athletic teams are, well, horrible. I play both volleyball and basketball, and as much as I would love to play in a state tournament, I seriously doubt that will ever happen. If a 4A division was established, yes, our road to states would be a tremendous amount easier, and I would most likely eventually have the opportunity to play there. However, it wouldn't be as exhilarating and exciting as making it as our current playoff system now has. Please,	-	

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		for the sake of great sports fans who like to see exciting games and our states sports do not create a class AAAA. I thank you for your time in reading my comments and hope you will take them into consideration when making your decision.		
06/04	Shawn Persinger spersing@access.k12.wv.us Huntington HS One Highlander Way Huntington, WV 25701	We have already watered down the system enough. A state championship means something right now. Adding another class will only cheapen that feat. Besides that, having to add another day to the basketball tournament would make it too long. With the number of schools in WV, we really only need 2 classes.	-	
06/04	Jon Baker jonbmsinc@verizon.net 401 S 3rd Ave. paden City, WV 26159	I feel there should be four classes for at least Football and Basketball. This would provide more opportunity for kids today to get a taste of being in the Playoff system and provide a greater chance for more monies to be raised by schools and for the WVSSAC. I really do not see a downside to this proposal. It would be a win-win situation. DO IT!	+	
06/04	Dan Boone dboone57@suddenlink.net Rt 2 Box 529B Pecks Mill, WV 25547	I hope the Board can be objective with this proposal and give consideration to the overwhelming vote of the principals. There exists too much disparity now in the current classification system from top to bottom in each classification. The new classification proposal will give more teams the opportunity to advance in the respective tournaments and afford more students the chance to experience participation in tournaments. A school with 650 students will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to successfully compete with a school of 1400 students. The SSAC could reconfigure the tournament alignments so as to only spend a minimum of extra time for the state tournaments. I feel the Board should approve this new alignment on a trial basis for a minimum of 2 years, with the option to	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>                      review the results and make a decision at that time as to whether or not the system is working. They could also begin implementing the new classifications during the 2008-2009 season and if that is not possible, then implement it effective with the 2008-2009 basketball season. Please consider this proposal with an open mind as the future of small school student athletes is in the balance, and the AAA proposal is the fairest way to proceed. This proposal will afford them the best opportunity to compete on a more level playing field against teams more their own size. I thank you for the opportunity to respond to this issue.</p>		
06/04	John Russell wbhpa@wvdsi.net 1735 Wiltshire Blvd Huntington, WV 25701	<p>I am opposed to creating a fourth classification. With consolidations continuing year after year West Virginia does not have the necessary number of schools to justify adding an additional class. As it is, some sectionals now are composed of only two schools. In Single A, Region 4 alone, six more schools are slated to close (consolidate). West Virginia does not 'look like' Ohio or Pa which can justify more classes. In addition, Kentucky has quite a number more schools than this state yet there all schools compete in the same basketball tournament.</p>	-	
06/04	Matthew Petry beastofftheast723@hotmail.com 2355 Lower White Oak Road Ashford, WV 25009	<p>The State of West Virginia has needed a fourth classification in school sports for quite some time. The recent consolidation of many state high schools has created a class of high schools at the top of the current AAA classification that have a great numerical advantage over the schools towards the bottom of the AAA classification. There is a whopping 819 enrollment difference between the largest AAA school (Parkersburg) and the smallest AAA school (Bridgeport) yet these two schools have to compete against one another for both football and basketball</p>	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>state titles, two sports in which the numbers make a big difference. These massive high schools at the top of AAA make it nearly impossible for the schools at the bottom of AAA to compete with them in any way at all. A new AAAA classification would solve this disparity between enrollment and allow for a more even playing field between the schools. Too much has been made about "watering down the State Tournament". High school sports should not be organized for the entertainment of sports writers and others. High school sports are there for the student athletes. This proposal would allow more teams into the state tournaments and allow more student athletes to have this experience which would be with them for the rest of their lives. The children of these schools shouldn't have to go without just because someone wouldn't be as entertained. This is all just scare tactics employed by the sports writers and others who are against this plan anyway. Who's to say that the state tournaments would be "watered down?" Who's to say with more teams that the competition level wouldn't increase? As far as academics is concerned, this can be regulated in such a way that it doesn't take up any more school time than the current system. With more teams making it in anyway, perhaps the football playoffs could be cut down to 12 participants instead of 16 as has been proposed to solve the criticism of the student athletes being out of class more often. There are other ways that this can be regulated to assure this doesn't happen. This change would also be very good for the communities of the teams that these schools represent especially ones whom have lost schools to the recent series of consolidations. These communities would come together</p>		

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>to support their teams in the state tournaments. To me this would also improve the morale of the student athletes at some of the small schools. Often these schools are beat before they even get there as they have already taken it as a given that they are going to get beat in the State Tournament by a much larger school with more student athletes to choose from. With a more even classification system, this would no longer be the case. The smaller schools would be amongst schools closer to them in size with roughly the same number of students to select to be on their teams. This new classification system could also open the door for more exposure of student athletes to college coaches who often come and watch the state finals!</p>		
06/05	<p>James Payne                      Summers County HS                      jimpayne@access.k12.wv.us                      HC74 Box 11A                      Hinton WV 25951</p>	<p>of these sports. With more teams involved, more student athletes would get the chance to be seen by these coaches, something that could effect a student athlete for the rest of their lives. A multiple classification system has worked well for some other states that have as many schools (or as less) as ours, so I'm not sure why that it wouldn't work here. Change has been needed for a very long time in this department and this change will allow for more opportunity for all student athletes. Student athletes should be what sports are about, not about what entertains someone. With more teams and students involved, it seems that everyone wins to me.</p> <p>If we keep the state tournament format so 8 teams advance I am all for 4 classes. If only 4 teams can advance it would put schools like Summer County having to beat Bluefield and Wyoming East or some other power to get to the state tournament. The problem for AA is not size of schools, the problems for us is rural</p>	+	

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		vs. suburban/ urban. Extremely difficult for us to compete with city schools like Bluefield and Oak Hill who have the infrastructure we don't and likely will never have.		
06/06	R. J. Palmer Paw Paw Schools rjpalmer@access.k12.wv.us 60 Pirate Circle Paw Paw, WV 25434	I agree with the four classification proposal.	+	
06/07	Sonja Money moneysjf@yahoo.com PO Box 799 Ceredo, WV 25507	Excellent idea! Send all 16 AAAA schools into the post season using end of season rankings for pairings. Divide the remaining schools by adding large AA schools to the bottom of the current AAA group. Enrollment figures reflect a huge disparity between the large AAA and the small AAA at the present time. It is difficult for an average high school team to compete with what would be classified as a small WV college pool of athletes available in some large AAA schools today. Take this opportunity to award another group of hard-working, loyal WV high school players and fans with a school championship. With so few things to cheer about these days, this action would surely have positive community results.	+	
06/07	Matthew Gillespie B-UHS mpgillespie1@msn.com HC 36 Box 14 Buckhannon, WV 26201	Class AAAA has been needed in football for some time. The most populated, or top 16 schools have dominated the play-offs and championships in AAA for several years. Champions from AA and A are more equally spread throughout the range of schools. By taking the largest 16 schools and placing them in AAAA, will give the smaller AAA schools more opportunity to achieve what has been unreachable for them for years. Also, more championship games will	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>raise more funds for the WVSSAC. To avoid problems with scheduling: give AAA teams extra points for a AAAA win but do not give less points to AAAA that play down. Example: AAA beats AAAA the AAA will receive 15 points. But the AAAA receives 12 points beating a AAA or a AAAA. Teams should receive the bonus points win or lose. If a team loses to a 10-0 team they still receive 10 points toward the play-offs. This will encourage teams to "play up" as well. This takes in to consideration, strength of schedule. If the top 16 are placed into AAAA, let them have an 8 team play-off with a week #1 bye. The same can be done with AAA, since only about 19 teams will remain. You'd still be taking about the same percentage into the play-offs as with the previous classifications. AA and A can continue taking the top 16 into the play-offs.</p>		
6/06	<p>Michael Johnston                      UHS                      mjohnston7@juno.com                      110 Bluegrass Village                      Morgantown, WV 26501</p>	<p>I am in favor of the new classification system. The new system should allow more schools a chance to compete for a state title. The triple A classification has a large population difference that is unfair to smaller triple A schools. Also, the small single A schools are being over powered by double AA/single A schools that bounce back and forth. Thank you, Michael Johnston</p>	+	
06/09	<p>Roger Akers                      raker@access.k12.wv.us                      NCHS                      635 Deer Creek Drive                      Canvas, WV 26662</p>	<p>In regards to the quad a deviation on the schools in relation to the thriple A deviations. Going to a quad a system would help smaller rural schools in regard to travel expenses in that we could match up with schools located in a closer geographical area. This would benefit both the school and the communities that they are in. Allowing for a lager fan base to come in and allowing more participation. As a band director this would allow my studentns to attend more events at less of a cost to them.</p>	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
06/09	Steve Dopson sdop@comcast.net	I think it is ridiculous for a state this size to have 4 classifications in any sport. It will only serve to water down the title that each team wins. The problem is the private school dominance of the A division. Put the private schools in their own division. They can play public school teams during the year to gain competition but it is unfair to allow them to continue to compete with schools who do not have the same opportunities to attract students as the private schools do.	-	
06/10	Nancy Rice Monongalia County Schools nrvice@comcast.net 2008 Pierpont South Est. Morgantown, WV 26508	Although I am an avid fan of high school athletics, I feel that academic considerations must always come first. The amount of travel time that would be required as a result of this proposal would not only put a financial burden on athletic programs, but it would also greatly increase the amount of in-class time that students athletes would miss, especially during basketball season. As a former classroom teacher and high school curriculum coordinator, I have seen first hand how important that class time is for students. Please let academics be the guiding consideration here.	-	
06/10	Jim Kauffelt jkauffelt@citynet.net Charleston, WV	The proposal to add another class for football is insane. We should have two classes, not three or four. This is a product of the politically correct self-esteem propaganda that has been pushed by educators for years: everyone should be rewarded, regardless of merit. It diminishes real achievement and the value of earned honors. There is also no evidence of any positive effect, just the opposite, in fact.  Alternatively, take the total number of football-playing schools, divide by two, and have that many classes. That way, every player will play in a	-	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		Championship Game every year, and half will be State Champions! Just think how good they'll all feel about themselves then.		
06/11	Gregory Moore South Harrison HS grhmoore@access.k12.wv.us RR Box 58 Lost Creek, WV 26385	<p>Just 2 quick points:</p> <p>1. The 2008-2009 school year may be too quick to mandate this classification change in football — most schools have multi-year contracts with other schools that may need changed if schools are to continue to obtain points based on the classification of other schools on their schedule.</p> <p>2. Why is this change only mandated for football and basketball? Should the WVSSAC set certain numbers or percentages for sports to be divided into classes similar to the current format where there has to be a critical mass of schools to justify more classifications in a sport?</p>	-	
06/16	Richrd Newsome flyrock@citynet.net HC85 Box 37A JumpingBranch, WV 25969	The WVSSAC has passed the proposal to change the classification system but hasn't detailed what the changes would be. Until those details are made public I wouldn't be in favor of changing the system. The three classes currently are fairly equal in size. (AAA-40, AA-40, A-51) In reading their reasons for changing the system, reducing the disparity in the size of schools competing against each other, it looks to me that we'll end up with a small AAA and AA allowing a larger percentage of those schools to participate in the state tournament. Until all the guidelines are set, how can anyone make an informed decision.	-	
06/13	Christopher Hahn East Hardy HS chris@hahnmedical.com PO Box 1737 Romney, WV 26757	Dear BOE, I believe moving to 4 classes in football and basketball is a great move for the students of West Virginia. Some opponents of the 4 classes are worried about	+	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>having a watered down field of opponents at the playoff level. I feel the benefits far out weigh the negatives. Changing the layout to 4 classes will not only shift the schools that are perinial powers but will also give schools that are closer in numbers to the bottom of their classes have a more level playing field. The power schools will tell you it's not good for West Virginia sports to have another class but they are not speaking for the majority of schools that are usually left out of the playoff picture. Talk to anyone that has ever played in a football playoff game or basketball state tournament game and they will tell you that they vividly remember their experience and share it fondly and frequently. Moving to 4 classes will enable many more kids the opportunity to experience postseason play. The hey saye! rs are worried about the quality of play, but if there are more teams in the playoffs in football the lesser teams will not advance past the first round and what will be the problem if a few more teams have a playoff game. If there are unqualified teams in the basketball state tournament they too will be outed in the first round the semi finals and finals will be the best of the best just like every other year. I'm sure you've looked at what schools have won state championships in the past several years and have found that the schools with the most enrollment in each class have a distinct advantage over schools with fewer students changing to 4 classes will level the playing field for the rest of the schools in the state. If quality play is what determines how many state championship games we have then why have multiple classes at all why do we have 3 classes now just have a regular season and then the media can determine what the best team is based</p>		

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
		on who they feel was the most desirable team to watch. Please vote to go to 4 classes and 1 level the playing field for the rest of the state.		
06/13	Erino Leone Hampshire HS eleone@access.k12.wv.us Romney, WV 26757	My last e-mail on classification dealt with Hampshire being lowered to AA status only IF the 4 classification does not pass. Of course, we would be extremely joyous if Hampshire would be considered for AAA status. It would open up the top 20 4A teams, 40 AAA teams, 40 2A teams and 20 1A schools. The 4A and 1A would have the top 8 schools in the playoffs with a bye the first week. 3A and 2A would have 16 schools each and would play all four rounds. This would make money, provided more equitable competition and save on travel in the long run. Erino Leone		
06/13	Erino Leone Hampshire HS eleone@access.k12.wv.us Romney, WV 26757	My first e-mail was sent back. My apologies. My first thought was, if the classification does not pass, we would like for the WVSSAC and the State Board of Education to consider DISTANCE that students live from the high school to set the classification of a school. The state of Virginia has done it and it has worked to everyone's satisfaction. With Hampshire, we are 1 of 2 AAA schools in the 8 county Potomac Highland region. We have to play Maryland and WV 2A schools to save money and get our students home at a decent hour. With the dynamics of the economy changing while we speak, we feel that Hampshire would be able to save money, have the students home early, be able to save sports (instead of cutting to save money). The Eastern Panhandle is growing and they are fast becoming their own region. There are more 2A schools here for us to play. I feel the numbering system is a detriment to rural counties with one high school and great distances. I hope you will consider the student-athlete in these areas. Erino		

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06/15	Larry Shaw Oak Glen HS lshaw@access.k12.wv.us PO Box 196 New Manchester, WV 26056	<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>If the 4 class system is adopted for football and basketball I believe that the following should be implemented:            Football playoffs - 8 teams from each division make the playoffs. 1st round games at the higher ranked school and the semi finals on a neutral field.            If the current playoff format is retained the state playoffs in WV will be a joke. Even taking 12 teams is hard to justify. Our current 16 team system creates too many 1st round mismatches. Plus it is costing some schools a fortune in travel and related expenses.            Basketball state tournament - 4 teams from each division make it to Charleston. The new regional playoff formula can be used to ensure that the 4 best teams have an opportunity to make it to the state tournament. If the current 8 team format is retained the state tournament will last a week. The same problems will exist as in football plus the kids will miss too much school.</p>	+	
06/16	Steve Ferguson Ferguson Management Co. 800 North Side Dr. Ste. 27 Summersville, WV 26651	I am in support of the proposal to amend 127-3-10 classification to go to a four class system for football and boys/girls basketball.	+	
06/16	Wayne Ryan Summers Co. HS coachwr43@hotmail.com One Bobcat Drive Hinton, WV 25951	This is a good proposal - ONLY IF THE THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS WILLING TO LET THE STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BE EXTENDED ONE DAY. School absence time over the past several years has become very limited for athletics. If the state board is going to direct the WV SAC to limit the number of teams in each classification to four and not let more students and schools participate in this experience than leave the current three class system.	+	

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06/16	Kenneth Lehman klehman55@frontiernet.net PO Box 274 Durbin, WV 26264	<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>  I believe the disparity is not in the current classification. It is in the fact that the private schools have such an advantage in class A. This is where the major problem is. In girls basketball there have only been 8 public schools that have won the class A state championship since the inception of girls basketball in West Virginia. Just look at our neighboring states. Private schools participate in their own tournament. I do not want to see WV to go to a class AAAA system. It will not solve the problem just complicate it more. Everyone talks about parity and fairness. Their is nothing fair about private schools in the class A bracket.	-	
06/16	J Bruce McKean Pocahontas Co. bmckean@nrao.edu Former BOE Member RR 1 Box 28A1 Green Bank, WV 24944	This change does not address the major problem with the current classifications, which is allowing the private schools to compete in Class A and totally dominate the Class A division. Private Schools have an unfair advantage of being able to draw students from large metropolitan attendance areas that include out-of-state students. There should be a multiplier applied to private schools enrollment to compensate for the unfair advantages that private schools operate under. All the private schools are located in more populated areas of WV and can draw from the same pool of potential students that Class AAA and AA schools currently draw from. Many private schools advertise about their excellent athletic programs and with the consolidation into large schools in their metropolitan areas, they have attracted and/or benefited from the athletes who cannot or will not compete in these large, consolidated Class AAA schools. Almost all Class A schools, with the exception of Williamstown and maybe Buffalo, are located in	-	

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		<p><b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b></p> <p>more rural areas and cannot equal the attendance area of the private schools. The rural consolidated schools also have transportation issues that result in fewer rural students playing sports, competing in AAU play and getting access to camps, gyms and facilities. The large, private schools, like Wheeling Central, should be bumped to Class AAA, and the smaller private schools should be bumped to Class AA using a weighting applied to all. The smaller Class AA schools would then bump down to Class A, with all three classes being equal in number again. Consolidation has benefited Class AAA schools and private schools, and hurt Class A schools for the reasons mentioned above. I was reared in the Wheeling area and my children have all been reared in Pocahontas co., so I am well aware of the different advantages and disadvantages of rural and urban areas and the issues of consolidation after serving 11 years on the Pocahontas Co. BOE. My wife taught in both Ohio and Pocahontas Counties, so that helps helped me also realize the differences. My father played football at Wheeling Central, and he lived in Ohio, and he would be 96 if still living. Of course, Wheeling had at least 8 high schools in those days.</p>		
06/16	<p>Robin Ryan            rhannahryan@hotmail.com            200 Greenbrier Ave            Hinton, WV 25951</p>	<p>Four classes in the state of West Virginia is a unique opportunity for more teams, schools and athletes to set high goals. I am in favor of this policy as long as you are willing to extend the state basketball tournament by one day. I hope you will consider this. Athletics and school spirit are important to the education process.</p>	+	

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		<b>127-3-10.1 Classifications</b>		
06/16	Shawn Nottingham PO Box 226 Green Bank, WV 24944	I think the classification of AAA should remain. It will not help with the disparity in class A. Something needs to be done with the private schools.	-	
06/16	Beverly Kingery Nicholas County Schools bkingery@access.k12.wv.us 400 Old Main Drive Summersville, WV 26651	I am in support of a four class system for high school athletics in West Virginia. In reviewing the current three class structure, one finds an enrollment difference of 300 students in Class A and Class AA; however, an enrollment difference of 800 exists in Class AAA. It is impossible for those schools with enrollments of 627-903 to compete year in and year out fairly with schools in the same class with enrollments exceeding 1,000. The pool of students for participation in a school enrollment of 638 is simply not competitive with a school enrollment of 1,446. I respectfully submit that consideration be given to a classification system that would more equitably define WVSSAC classes based on enrollment and thus offer students a fairer competitive playing field.	+	

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		<b>127-3-23.2.1 Football</b>		
05/19	Brad Simmons East hardy HS jbsimmon@access.k12.wv.us Box 120 Baker, WV 26801	I am in support of this.	+	Rule change in 2007 allowed beginning on Monday of Week 8 for football high school contest.
05/20	Doug Ward Williamson HS 801 Alderson St. Williamson, WV 25661	Acceptable	+	
05/20	Jason Ward Wirt County HS coachjasonward@gmail.com PO Box 822 Elizabeth, WV 26143	I like how the schedule for football is set up. I think this needs to remain the same.	-	
05/30	Rocky Roberts Summersville MS brightfutures@citynet.net 737 Silo Rd. Summersville, WV 26651	Allowing sixth graders to play is a toss up and I can see both sides.	0	
05/30	Joby Groom Mt. Hope HS jgroom@access.k12.wv.us 110 High School Drive Mt. Hope, WV 25880	The 4 divisions would be great in both Football and Basketball. It would generate more revenue and allow more schools to have a chance at success. I don't think it would hurt competition at bit. In fact, it would boost competition because now schools would know they would have a better chance of winning or enjoying that success.	+	
06/16	Wayne Ryan Summers Co. HS coachwr43@hotmail.com One Bobcat Drive Hinton, WV 25951	Good change.	+	