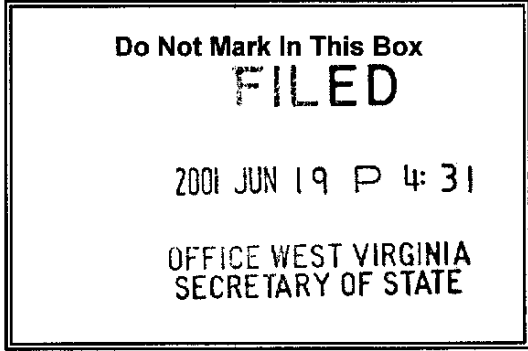


**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**JOE MANCHIN, III**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #5



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

AGENCY: WV Secondary School Activities Commission TITLE NUMBER: 127

CITE AUTHORITY: W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2, 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). WV Code 29-1-1-3(B)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES XX NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 5

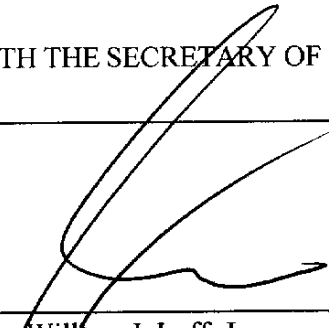
TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: WV Secondary School Activities Commission §127-5-1

Series 5: Band Activities

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 August 20, 2001

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Luff, Jr.  
Associate State Superintendent

TITLE 127  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

SERIES 5  
BAND ACTIVITIES

**§127-5-1 General.**

- 1.1 **Scope** - These rules and regulations govern band activities.
- 1.2 **Authority** - WV Code §18-2-5
- 1.3 **Filing Date** - June 19, 2001
- 1.4 **Effective Date** - August 20, 2001

**§127-5-2 Enrollment and Membership - Band.**

- 2.1 All members of a member school band must be enrolled in that school. **Rule 127-5-2.3 and 127-5-2.4** will be the only exception.
- 2.2 Majorettes, Flag Corps, Drill Teams, etc. are considered an integral part of the band and shall be adjudicated and governed accordingly. Any performance by a majorette, member of a flag corps or drill team, without the band, shall not be considered a band activity.
- 2.3 Instrumental music students in seventh and eighth grades of feeder elementary schools or any grade of a feeder junior high school who receive their instruction from the band director of the senior high band in which said students will eventually enroll and which feeder school does not have a band of its own shall be eligible to participate in the band directed by their instructor.
- 2.4 Ninth grade instrumental music students, in feeder school grades 7 through 9, are eligible to participate in the marching band program of the high school in which they will eventually enroll if the feeder school does not afford students the opportunity to participate in a marching band and they are otherwise eligible.
- 2.5 Participants in secondary school interscholastic band activities shall be eligible only for the number of years in which they are enrolled and attending a secondary school as an undergraduate.
- 2.6 In middle schools, students who are enrolled in grades five through eight will be eligible to participate in all band activities.

**§127-5-3 Scholarship - Band.**

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

- (a) Two of those four full credit subjects must be in English-Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics or Science, and may or may not be in the same area.
- (b) If a student has completed all state, county and school requirements, he may select four full credits from any area of the curriculum offered by the school.
- (c) If a student is taking a multiple period subject, such as vocational courses for a full morning or afternoon, it may be counted as more than one subject. The number of subjects counted will be equal to the units of full credits given; however, part (a) above must also be met.

**Note:** Full credit is defined as 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) (March 1982)."

- 3.2 Schools providing for planned programs of independent learning during the regular school term may not wish to require all students to attend classes for 4050 minutes during a semester. In such instances, full credit may be awarded for satisfactory performance provided that it meets standards established by the county and West Virginia Department of Education.
- 3.3 Full credit may be awarded for subjects in addition to those offered by the school as well as experimental programs developed by the school itself provided that it meets standards established by the county and West Virginia Department of Education. Such credit must be earned during the regular school term.
- 3.4 In order for a withdrawn student or expelled student to regain eligibility, he must complete one semester of school work.
- 3.5 Scholastic deficiencies cannot be made up after the last day of the semester, except in a case where a student whose final examinations and course credit is delayed due to illness which can be verified by a physician.
- 3.6 In all cases, the official school transcript will be used to determine a student's eligibility and will be regarded as final.
- 3.7 A student promoted to the seventh grade for the first time is considered to have satisfied scholastic requirements and is permitted to participate during the first semester of his initial enrollment in that grade, provided he is otherwise eligible.

**§127-5-4 Festivals - Band.**

- 4.1 The Board of Appeals shall divide the state into regions for the purpose of band festivals and shall have the authority to place bands in those regions. They shall also determine the time, place and management of these events.
- 4.2 All bands participating in those festivals shall be composed of students that meet the qualification standards set forth in these rules.
- 4.3 The Board of Appeals shall appoint coordinators for the festivals. One of their responsibilities will be to contract adjudicators for the festivals. The Commission office may be asked to assist, if necessary.

4.4 First year programs will not be required to participate in the regional festival.

**§127-5-5 Sanctioning - Band.**

- 5.1 On or before September 1 of each school year, the Board of Appeals shall submit to each member school of this Commission a list of approved school sponsored and non-school sponsored contests and activities in which bands of member schools may participate during the ensuing year.
- 5.2 Additions to this list may be made after September 1 of each school year provided that the request for approval is filed with the Commission office at least thirty (30) days prior to the activity.
- 5.3 In order to qualify for approved participation in activities outside the home county and counties contiguous to the home county (including out-of-state), bands of member schools must have participated within the guidelines of the WVSSAC Band Festival Plan in the most recently conducted regional band festival.
- 5.4 A school band shall not be absent from school more than five (5) days each year for the purpose of participating in band activities.
- 5.5 The regulations above apply only during the regular school term.

**§127-5-6 Awards - Band.**

- 6.1 Only a member school or a non-school organization sponsoring an activity approved by this Commission may give the following awards to a student or band: medal, trophy, cup, certificate, ribbon, plaque, unattached letter, unattached chevron or similar award.
- 6.2 A student may accept as an individual or member of a school band the above specified awards in the following situations:
- (a) from a member school for participation
  - (b) in a sanctioned event
  - (c) in a non-sanctioned event during the summer.
- 6.3 A student may not receive the following awards from any source:
- (a) Wearing apparel - sweaters, jackets, etc.
  - (b) Equipment - radio, television, etc.
  - (c) Music instruments, batons, etc.
  - (d) Money - (Scholarship to institutions of higher learning are exempted).
- 6.4 Bands of member schools may accept prizes and/or gratuities for participation in sanctioned events during the school term and in non-sanctioned events during the summer.
- 6.5 Purchase of an item mentioned in **Section 127-5-6.3 (a-d)** whereby a portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency, or any other group or organization is prohibited.
- 6.6 Nothing in this Awards Rule shall be interpreted to affect the recognition

of scholarship or scholastic achievement.

- 6.7 Any student who accepts an award in any band activity, other than those approved in these rules, shall be ineligible to participate in any band activity for 365 days.

**§127-5-7 Classification of Schools - Band.**

- 7.1 There shall be three classes of schools for bands: Class AAA, Class AA, Class A. The Board of Appeals is authorized to determine the size of enrollment in each class.
- 7.2 Classification shall be determined every two years in the even numbered year and, when established, shall remain in effect for two school years. Classification shall be based on the second month's enrollment of the previous odd numbered year.
- 7.3 Enrollment standard for schools will be the active enrollment of the total number of students in grades 10, 11 and 12.
- 7.4 Member junior high schools and middle schools will not be given a classification.

PUBLIC RESPONSE COMMENTS RECEIVED  
MAY 22, 2001

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities  
Commission

FILED

2001 JUN 19 P 4: 32

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Proposal #	INDIVIDUAL ADDRESS TELEPHONE	COMMENT
Proposal 1	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr. 201 N. Fourth Ave. Paden City, WV 26159 (304)337-2266</p> <p>Jim Hamric Parkersburg High School 2101 Dudley Avenue Parkersburg, WV 26101</p> <p>Dennis Bennett, Principal Richwood HS One Valley Avenue Richwood, WV 2626</p> <p>Carol Thom, Principal Stonewall Jackson 812 Park Avenue Charleston, WV 25302</p> <p>Wayne Ryan Summer Co. High School HC 74 Box 11A Hinton, WV 25951 (304) 466-6040</p> <p>Princeton Middle School 300 N. Johnson St. Princeton, WV 24740 (304) 425-7517</p> <p>John R. Haines Keyser High School One Tornado Way Keyser, WV 26726</p> <p>Jim Wyatt, Principal Tyler Consolidated High School 1993 Silver Knight Drive Sistersville, WV 26175 (304) 758-9000</p>	<p>There is no reason to expand the number of administrative districts. Current representation is more than adequate. There is a desire of by some school principals to gain political control of the WVSSAC Board of Appeal. Please don't let this happen.</p> <p>Favor - eliminate confusing differences - makes the state athletics more organized.</p> <p>This is not necessary . I have been at the Board of Appeals for 7 years. 10 is enough.</p> <p>With the success and efficiency of the RESA's, this proposal makes sense; it also contributes to consistency statewide.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>yes</p> <p>I agree with this proposal. It would allow for more representation from throughout the state.</p> <p>This is a complete waste of money. The board is now 10 members (95 of whom are elected as principals) who do not divide along lines of their tittle when voting.</p>

<p>Proposal 2</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>Jim Wyatt</p>	<p>In this proposal and proposal #3, I don't believe that 2 years is long enough for anybody to learn everything to be an effective member or officer in the WVSSAC Board of Appeals. <u>Either of these changes would be a very serious mistake.</u></p> <p>No. Two years is too short. It takes more than 2 years.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>yes</p> <p>In serving on this board, I just became an informed and competent member in two years. The current term of 5 years is more valuable.</p>
<p>Proposal 3</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>Jim Wyatt</p>	<p>In this proposal and proposal #3, I don't believe that 2 years is long enough for anybody to learn everything to be an effective member or officer in the WVSSAC Board of Appeals. <u>Either of these changes would be a very serious mistake.</u></p> <p>Appointed members are of no concern to us. This is the state B/E concern.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>We as principals can hardly dictate term limits to the state superintendent(etc.) For his/her representatives.</p>
<p>Proposal 4</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>Jim Hamric</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Carol Thom</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>Jim Wyatt</p>	<p>This is the sole responsibility of the Executive Secretary.</p> <p>Favor - Gives more authority to Executive secretary. Puts him a position similar to a principal over his assistant principals. The assistants should be answerable to the executive secretary who they see daily, not persons they see once a month.</p> <p>Yes - good idea</p> <p>All positions should have a consistent process for evaluation. This proposal addresses this issue.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>This is already done and does not require a constitutional change. The executive secretary has this authority and responsibility already.</p>

<p>Proposal 5</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Carol Thom</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>Jim Wyatt</p>	<p>The Board of Appeals is the governing body of the WVSSAC. It is not appropriate to directly involve the Board of Control in decision of this nature. This is a bad idea.</p> <p>No - B/A works with E/S on monthly basis</p> <p>Termination of the Executive Secretary is a major decision. It should be decided by the Board of Control, which would provide for a more fair evaluation.</p> <p>Strongly support</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>This is an attempt by the authors to diminish the authority of the board. Our government in the US is based as a republic and this organization will survive only as long as it is also.</p>
<p>Proposal 6</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Strongly support</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 7</p>	<p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 8</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>OK</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p>



<p>Proposal 11</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Carol Thom</p> <p>Allen Keenan Warm Springs Middle 100 Middle School Way Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (304) 258-1500</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Vocational schools serve the same students as regular school, therefore, their principals and assistant principals should have the same privilege of the C&amp;I cards.</p> <p>No high school student should have a professional tryout. We are here to place an emphasis on education not turn out pro players.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 12</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>John R. Haines</p> <p>Jim Wyatt</p>	<p>No - they do not put in the extra hours as a high school principal does - ball games, etc.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The vocational center is an extension of the local high school and should be given consideration.</p> <p>Whenever these folks volunteer to help run out athletics programs they will deserve this consideration.</p>

<p>Proposal 13</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>James Payne  Summer Co. High School  HC 74, Box 11-A  Hinton, WV</p> <p>Jim Hamric</p> <p>Sandra Wallace</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Marshall Burdette</p> <p>Wayne Sherrard  149 Concord Avenue  Berkeley Springs, WV 25411</p> <p>Berkeley Springs HS  836 Concord Ave.  Berkeley Springs, WV</p> <p>Mike Carey - WVU  Women's Basketball Office  P.O. 0877  Morgantown, WV 26507-0877</p> <p>Dale McCumbee  Berkeley Springs High School  1415 Fairfax St.  Berkeley Springs, WV 25441</p> <p>Allen Keenan</p> <p>Linda Sandusky  Philip Barbour High School  Rt. 4, Box 268A  Philippi, WV 26416  (304) 457-2658</p>	<p>Many high school and middle school principals are not under contract for entire summer. This would allow coached and students unsupervised on school property. This is a very bad idea that will create many problems if approved!</p> <p>Yes, We need these days to work with our players; if for no other reason than to lesson the impact AAU and summer league coaches have on our players. I can tell you AAU and summer league horror stories.</p> <p>Favor - Puts WV in line with other states. Our athletes deserve the opportunity to coaching throughout the summer by professionals, not volunteers.</p> <p>Please Support - This is really already happening all over state. The passing will just make it equal for the people following the rules already.</p> <p>No - kids need the summer off with family</p> <p>Please support. The rules as they are now are broken in particularly in basketball. If challenged in court, the rules as they are now would never stand up. Make legitimate what is already being done.</p> <p>I would like for you to consider voting in favor of proposals number 13. Proposal #13 allows any coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for ten (10) separate days from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Players may participate on a voluntary basis. I feel this will provide our athletes who are already participating in some type of summer program the opportunity to work with professional coaches.</p> <p>This is a great idea - our young people need quality coaches to instruct our children. Most regular off the street coaches are not knowledgeable and usually they do not work well with children in <u>all</u> aspects.</p> <p>I support this proposal because it would enable coaches to attend team camps with their players. Any additional coaching would only help the student athletes.</p> <p>I feel this will provide our athletes what are already participating in some type of summer program the opportunity to work with professional coaches.</p> <p>As a parent of a former student I feel this legitimize what has been going on for years around this state.</p> <p>If passed as stated, a coaching staff of 6 football coaches, for example, could involve their team members in coaching activities for the entire summer break!!! Many schools would take advantage of this.</p>
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<p>Proposal 13</p>	<p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Joe Scherpf 13 Orchard Drive Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (304) 258-3598</p> <p>Tom Wamsley Tygarts Valley High P.O. Box 68 Mill Creek, WV 26280 (304) 335-4824</p> <p>John A. George</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>Jean Bolyard Rt. 2, Box 409 Fairmont, WV 26554</p> <p>Kathy Hosaflook Cabell County</p>	<p>Strongly support - Needed especially in rural areas. Gives our athletes closer to the opportunities that other states provide their athletes.</p> <p>I certainly agree with this one. 10 days is little enough to ask.</p> <p>Good rule but poorly written. Allows each coach to have 10 days, should be 10 days per sports.</p> <p>I am opposed to this proposal for the following reasons: 1. A multi-sport athlete would have his/her summer vacation shortened. 2. Coaches would require attendance or it would be perceived that w/o one would not make the team. 3. Coaches would be expected to give up two weeks of summer without compensation. 4. Record keeping would be a problem. Many athletic directors are not contracted through the summer. The principal would be responsible for record keeping and supervision. 5. It would be very easy to "cheat". Unethical coaches would practice their sport all summer.</p> <p>This is a must to pass in order to regulate "who" coaches our players during the off season. We need to keep our coaches involved with their student athletes.</p> <p>I am requesting you reject such a proposal for the following reasons: Many students participate in more than one sport. This could consume up to forty days of "their time" during the summer and families need vacation time. We as parents and school administrators have an obligation to provide that opportunity for them. Many coaches already circumvent out of season restrictions under the guise of weight training, conditioning, an summer leagues. Although these are supposed to be voluntary activities, in most instances they are voluntary in name only and students athletes are, in truth, required to be present. Coaches certainly do not need another sanctioned activity to have athletes at their beck and call during the "off season".</p> <p>Vote No Some students participate in more than 1 sport. It is possible for a student to be practicing most of the summer. Let kids be kids in the summer. Family gatherings &amp; vacations would be interrupted.</p>
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Proposal 13

Jeff Heldman  
Vienna, WV

As a recreation/league director for these ages I feel that this summer program will most likely hurt or even eliminate the summer baseball programs around the state. Our programs start the first of May for Pony baseball and June for Colt baseball with both ending around the middle to third week of July. We now fight coaches demanding that kids play in summer basketball leagues, lift weights for football, attend various football and basketball camps around the country and actually are trying to get kids at 13/14 to make to decision on which sport they are going to play and concentrate only on that one. If this summer program is passed I feel that most summer baseball programs would be 1.) eliminated 2.) Level of competition would be reduced for those that are playing or wanting to play high school baseball. With all the camps that are offered now, weight lifting at local schools, summer leagues that are available and coaches demanding that kids participate this additional 10 days are not needed. I like to see our recreation teams and high school teams do well also but I feel that there is enough pressure put on children already, more is not needed and winning at all cost by some coaches is not in the best interest of students.

Unknown

Strictly against proposal the way it is written. Should be written that one coach can work with only a 10 day period. The way it is written a school could use up the whole period with a different coach each ten days in the window.

<p>Proposal 14</p>	<p>Warren L. Grace, Jr.</p> <p>Jim Hamric</p> <p>Sandra Wallace</p> <p>Richard Iaquina &amp; Staff of RCB Football</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Marshall Burdette</p> <p>Douglas Herrington</p> <p>Linda Sandusky</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>John George</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>John R. Haines</p> <p>Kathy Hosaflook</p>	<p>This proposal would eliminate some unfair competition in the AAA class. This is a good idea.</p> <p>Favor - consolidation in WV High Schools have created an unfair position for larger schools. With the Division 1 classification, we could schedule other larger schools without concern of making the play-offs. Lowers the discrepancy of numbers advantage.</p> <p>Please support. This will give the smaller AAA schools a more equalized chance at winning and give the bigger schools all a chance at making it to play offs.</p> <p>RCB is in favor of the 4 tournament structure in football only.</p> <p>No - not necessary - not enough school</p> <p>Please support. This would create a fairness based upon student enrollment not a fairness based upon a number of schools. The number of schools in a class should not matter, the number of students in a school within a class does matter as far as fairness and safety is concerned.</p> <p>Please support. There is too much difference between the low triple A and the high triple A, sometimes 2 ½ times the enrollment. For safety reasons alone a 4A should be created.</p> <p>This is ok as long as only part of the schools in each division will qualify for playoffs. If all schools in the top division qualify it won't matter who they play - they'll always be in.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>We feel the current structure is fair. We are opposed.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>I feel strongly about passing this proposal. Keyser has been at or near the bottom of AAA schools and we would rarely stand a chance against schools much larger. This is not the case in AA or A. There is much more equity in class AA and A. I would like to see the same in AAA.</p> <p>Vote No. Schools will be traveling <u>all over</u> the state - transportation cost will increase. Mostly instructional time will be lost because of the travel time or if a non-instructional day depending upon the team played, 6-8 hours of travel time.</p>

<p>Proposal 15</p>	<p>Jim Hamric Dennis Bennett Carol Thom  Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School Unknown</p>	<p>Favor - Avoid not being able to name a champion.  Yes  I do not think athletic should be played on Sunday, although, I do agree state tournaments should be concluded.  Support  Yes  Needs to be approved.</p>
<p>Proposal 16</p>	<p>Jim Hamric  Dennis Bennett Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School Unknown</p>	<p>Give the SSAC administration some flexibility at making decisions.  Yes  Support  Yes  Needs to be in the handbook</p>
<p>Proposal 17</p>	<p>Jim Hamric  Dennis Bennett Carol Thom  Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Attempt at making end of season equitable-with all sports.  Yes  Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament.  Support  Yes</p>

<p>Proposal 18</p>	<p>James Payne</p> <p>Jim Hamric</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Sherrard</p> <p>Berkeley Springs HS</p> <p>Mike Carey</p> <p>Dale McCumbee</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Joe Scherpf</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p> <p>John R. Haines</p> <p>Unknown</p>	<p>Yes, as the rule is now a team can only play 22 games if they play in an 8 team tourney. This discriminates against teams who are not invited to these top caliber tournaments.</p> <p>Favor - All schools could play the same number of games regardless of whether they choose to play in a tournament or not.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>I would like for you to consider voting in favor of proposal number 18. Permits high school basketball teams to play a maximum of 22 regular season games.</p> <p>This is a good idea - it clears up the administrative part of it for A.D.'s and coaches.</p> <p>I support this proposal. This would give coaches opportunities to schedule additional tournaments. This also would provide more opportunities for the student-athlete.</p> <p>Please consider this to allow teams play a total of 22 ball games (regular or tournament).</p> <p>Strongly support - is fair and equal.</p> <p>I agree with this proposal.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>I support this proposal, as it allows additional opportunities for tournaments.</p> <p>Very good proposal and will aid scheduling</p>
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<p>Proposal 19</p>	<p>Jim Hamric Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan John George Princeton Middle School John R. Haines Jim Wyatt Unknown</p>	<p>Favor - We need the flexibility. Yes This proposal facilitates scheduling. It is very difficult to schedule 10 games in 10 weeks. Strongly support - it was a nightmare scheduling 10 games in 10 weeks. We strongly support this: it is extremely difficult to schedule 10 games in 10 weeks. I hurts teams sharing a field with another school. 11 weeks gives us some flexibility to schedule. Football usually pays for our other sports. Vote yes - we need this flexibility in our schedules in order to get the play dates. We need the additional week to allow some flexibility in scheduling. This is especially helpful when you are scheduling out of state schools. This will greatly aide us in scheduling especially where we are playing bargaining state schools for part of our season. It won't work any other way. It has been proven in the past.</p>
<p>Proposal 20</p>	<p>Jim Hamric Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Favor - All sports should end the season as fair as possible. Yes Each sport season is long enough to be completed by state tournament. Support Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 21</p>	<p>Jim Hamric Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan</p>	<p>Favor - Allows for conference and county championships within the calender. Yes This proposal facilitates scheduling. It is very difficult to schedule 10 games in 10 weeks. Support</p>

<p>Proposal 22</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Yes Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament. Support Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 23</p>	<p>Dennis Bennett Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Yes Support Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 24</p>	<p>Jim Hamric  Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Favor - All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other sports seasons. Yes Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament. Support Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 25</p>	<p>Jim Hamric  Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Favor - All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other sports seasons. Yes Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament. Support Yes</p>
<p>Proposal 26</p>	<p>Jim Hamric  Dennis Bennett Carol Thom Wayne Ryan Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Favor - All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other sports seasons. Yes Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament. Support Yes</p>

Proposal 27	<p>Jim Hamric</p> <p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Carol Thom</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Favor - All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other sports seasons.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament. In addition, all these proposals provide for consistency.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p>
Proposal 28	<p>Dennis Bennett</p> <p>Wayne Ryan</p> <p>Princeton Middle School</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Yes</p>

**General Comments:**

Warren L. Grace, Jr.

The WVSSAC does an excellent job of organizing regulating interscholastic athletic competition in our state. Changes in rules and regulation should be carefully studied. Wholesale changes can create very serious problems for public and private education throughout the state of WV.

Dennis Bennett

Several of the proposals are motivated by groups who do not set them. Many are mad at someone in WVSSAC.

Carol Thom

I think the WVSSAC does a great job of administering interscholastic athletics. They try very hard too be fair and objective in most difficult and emotional circumstances.

Louis E. Thomas  
1106 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vienna, WV 26105

I am writing to you about the State Board of review of SSAC rule change proposal. More specifically, the rule proposal which would allow all ninth grade students to participate in all available high school sports.

Given the fact that we have not met, nor have we had any personal communication, I would like to give you a little background information regarding my interest in this rule proposal.

My family resides in Vienna, Wood County, West Virginia. This puts my three children in the Parkersburg High School district. I was raised and have lived my entire life in Wood County and understand very well that the Wood County school system is among the states' best. We are also equally proud of extra-curricular activities available to, and participated in, by our students.

Thus the problem, Wood County is one of the few counties in West Virginia still using the junior high system. Given this set-up, ninth grade students are not enrolled in the high school "building". Therefore they are only permitted to participate in select high school sports programs.

Numbers provided by the State Board of Education for the current school year show that approximately eighty five percent of ninth grade students in West Virginia are eligible to participate in any high school sport offered by their school. Conversely, the problem becomes only fifteen percent on the states ninth grade students are denied this opportunity. Wood County is actually split in this regard. As students from Williamstown High School and Parkersburg Catholic High School are given the opportunity and students from Parkersburg High School and Parkersburg South High School are denied this opportunity.

This has been a topic of conversation among many Wood County residents interested in the athletic opportunities and achievements of our students. It seems to put our students at a competitive disadvantage with the majority of West Virginia's students.

In December 2000, after much thought, much counsel, and most importantly much support from the staff of Parkersburg High School, I decided it was time to meet this issue "head on".

A temporary injunction was obtained in Wood County Circuit Court allowing my son, a ninth grade student at Jackson Junior High School, The opportunity to participate on the Parkersburg High School wrestling team. As a parent, my intention was twofold. One, to help my son to achieve as much as he could from this sport, and two, to give him an equal opportunity that the majority of students around the state have. I would have a very hard time putting into words what a positive experience this was for my son.

This precisely is the reason for my letter to you. In March, 2001, the SSAC at it's annual meeting adopted a rule proposal to put all West Virginia students on equal ground regarding the above mentioned issue. It is my understanding that all rule changes must be approved by the State Board of Education. I am hopeful that you and the entire Board will see fit to agree to rule, and give all West Virginia students' equal opportunities. I thank you greatly for your time and giving this matter your support.

Doug Butts  
297 Wilson St.  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

I am writing to tell you that I think putting the largest sixteen schools in a fourth Class is a good idea. I have been wondering for the last five years why this has not been suggested sooner. The consolidation of schools has caused a chain reaction, other smaller schools have to consolidate in order to compete in sports. Dupont and East Bank consolidated for that reason. I read a newspaper article in a charleston paper last week and it mentioned the possible merger of two schools in Putnam County. There wasn't any mention of educational value of the merger, there was mostly talk of how the school would be able to compete in athletics.

The state basketball, baseball, softball, football, and other state tournaments should be moved around the state to different places every three or four years so that panhandle teams don't have to travel six hours every year. Also, the money spent at hotels, gas stations, and restaurants would be spread over the whole state, not just Charleston and Wheeling.

Nancy R. Bise

I'm writing to you about one of the proposals coming up before the state Board of Education. The proposal I am referring to is the one to divide the class AAA football programs at schools into two divisions. I and a great number of people have the opinion hat this proposal is a good one. This proposal has been a long time overdue. I am very glad that questions about the issues of small AAA schools playing the mega AAA schools in the playoffs are being looked at. Some of our students love sports. They work very hard in their studies and at football practice. We as parents and adults tell these young people that their hard work will pay off. Then when their team gets to the playoffs, what happens, a AAA mega school give them a 69-0 trouncing. This kind of beating cause the team members looking at us in shock and bewilderment. All the teams hard work and sacrifice has been for what. Sure everyone tells them be proud you made it to the

playoffs. Though in the back of these young folks minds they look upon this experience as a failure. It is not they who have failed, but it is our failure for not keeping the playing field level. Our young people will face enough battles and hard time in their future lives. We need to build their spirit, not tear it down. So when the division proposal comes up, please think of the students at the lower side of the AAA Class. Even if the proposal is modified, change the scales of justice so they are once more even.

Mark Nardone  
Wheeling Park High  
P.O. Box 1976  
Wheeling, WV 26003

I am writing to discuss the proposal of the Super Sixteen bracket in AAA football. It is my understanding that the components of the proposal state that all 16 teams in the Division 1 brackets would make post season. My feelings are that this is the Only way this should be approved. Wheeling Park finished with a 9-1 record in 2001 and finished in the 5<sup>th</sup> spot for post season. Some teams that would have finished 7-3 would not have made it in the top 8 spots. I feel that this would lead to selective scheduling and downgrading in an attempt to finish in the top 8. However, if all 16 are included in post season, then we could all upgrade our schedules knowing that the battle would simply be for placement. Again, it is my feeling that the proposal, if approved, should be approved as is, with all 16 teams entering post-season play.

Will Schenerlein  
Parkersburg High School  
2101 Dudley Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
(304)420-9595

I am writing to comment on the proposal allowing freshman to participate in sports on the high school level. I feel that freshman across the state should be afforded the opportunity to participate at the high school level if they choose. As you know There are few schools that do not have freshman competing with the high school teams. This puts those schools at a disadvantage in many sports. In wrestling, freshman are very valuable to their program because they help fill the lower weight classes. It also gives those student athletes an advantage for future success because they have an extra year to compete at a higher level. I agree with this proposal so that all freshman in West Virginia are treated fairly.

Scott L. Stephens

I am writing to you to share with you my opinion about the rule change the secondary schools activities committees recently passed that is awaiting the approval of the State Board of Education affecting eligibility of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in Junior High Schools to compete with High School students. I am a parent of 3 girls in Wood County and have one daughter that would be affected by the decision. I am also the assistant girls basket ball coach at Parkersburg South High School. I am very much in support of this rule change and would like to share with you some of the reasons I feel this is a good change and is needed. Currently student athletes in the Ninth Grade may not compete in High School athletics in a sport if it is currently offered at the Junior High they are enrolled at. On the face of things this seems reasonable. However, over 85% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in state are not in Junior Highs but are already in High School and therefore have the opportunity to play against better competition. As the rule stands now this is not equitable. Some people have the feeling that this rule change will hurt 9<sup>th</sup> grade athletic programs in schools that have the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> system in place now. This simply is not correct. This rule change will affect very few student athletes. I have spoken to officials with the P.I.A.A. (Pennsylvania's S.S.A.C.) And they have had this rule in place for many years and it has not hindered Junior High sports at all. In fact the person I spoke with thought Junior High sports may have improved because they no longer had the exceptional athletes that are able to dominate a game because they had gone up to compete with the high school students. I believe we owe the gifted 9<sup>th</sup> grade athlete the same opportunity we afford to the gifted student. We have no problem advancing the gifted student, why then not the athlete: I know as a coach that an athlete is either progressing or declining in skills, it is not possible to stay at the same level. Allowing the exceptional 9<sup>th</sup> grader to play up insures the competition is there for the student to feel the need to improve.

Currently parents must make a choice if they feel their 9<sup>th</sup> grade child should compete in High School athletics. They can enroll in private school, transfer the student to a local high school that is -presently 9th-12th grade or take the S.S.A.C. to court for an injunction to allow their child to participate at the high school that the junior high feeds. This was done successfully in Parkersburg last year by the

parent of a PHS wrestler. While these are all options, they are not what is best or easiest for the student athlete.

I urge you to support this S.S.A.C. proposed rule change when it is presented to the state school board. The current rule is not fair and it is time for a change. As I told Mike Hayden, I would rather write a fair rule and administer it than have a judge decide on a case by case basis.

Thank you for listening to my position on this topic. I hope you will agree with my position.

Delores Farra

I recently read the proposed rule changes to consider a new football class. I think it sounds like a great idea. Its been overdue especially for schools with less enrollment. Being from Parkersburg, I attend a lot of games and often wonder why they can't play 9 games. Believe me its no fun to sit in rain, snow aor zero weather at a playoff game in Wheeling (no pun intended). I feel sorry for those playoff teams who have night games. That's why attendance is down plus weather conditions. Also some teams could use one less game as they have scheduling problems. Thanks for listening to my opinion. The Playoff games should return to Charleston or somewhere more centrally located for teams. There should be a rule to move it anyway say every 2 or 3 years to different areas.

Wayne Ryan

Problems with the wording of proposal 13 can be handled with proper WVSSAC interpretation. Its time to pass this. It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Board of Control has passed it, and neither time was it close.

Princeton Middle School

The approval of all the proposals will benefit high school, junior high and middle school athletes.

Earl Ray Tomblin

Several high school coaches in my district, and from around the state, have expressed strong support for the West Virginia Board of Education's approval of the new classification policy passed recently, by a 2-1 majority, by the Secondary Schools Activities Commission. They, as I, believe the new system will allow Triple-A schools with smaller student bodies to have greater opportunities for equal competition, especially while qualifying for state tournament action. I believe this will foster a higher degree of interest in high school athletics at the Triple-A level, both during the season as well as during tournaments and playoff games. Some of our larger consolidated high schools have a distinct and permanent advantage over schools with declini9ng student populations. The result is reduced attendance and interest in games during the regular season and competition during playoffs which lack diversity. Please relate to the members of the State Board of Education my strong support for passage of this new system as well as my thanks for their consideration of it. I believe it will improve high school athletics and extra-curricular activities, and in doing so, will enhance the opportunities for hundreds of young people to experience the thrill of competing for a championship.

Larry See  
Boys Head  
Basketball Coach  
Harrison County

I am writing to commend the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Board of Control for its action on the proposal to create four classifications for football for the 2001-2002 school year. The difference in size among class AAA schools have had a tough time overcoming. I think this is a sound proposal and it deserves the attention of the State Board of Education. However, to say that this competitive imbalance exists only in football is a preposterous notion. I don't know how, with a clear conscience, the board could consider a proposal that targets only one sport. All sports, whether boys' or girls', are dramatically affected by the huge differences in the sized of current class AAA schools. As a boys' basketball coach for the past eleven years at a class AAA school whose enrollment is in the bottom third of that classification, I have been to the state tournament and seen the top third dominate both the participation and the championships. The same is true in volleyball, girls' basketball, baseball, and nearly every other sport that the WVSSAC sponsors. It is unthinkable to me that any proposal to split class AAA into two divisions would not include every sport, rather than target one in particular. On behalf of all student-athletes who

participate in interscholastic sports on the class AAA levels, amend the proposal to include all sports, not just football. Every athlete in every sport deserves a fair competitive chance to vie for a state championship. You, as a board, have an opportunity to give those athletes that chance.

Bob Pruet  
Head Football Coach  
2001 Third Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25715  
(304) 6464

The principals meeting with the WVSSAC in Martinsburg voted to have two divisions in AAA class football. Division I includes 16 teams and Division II includes the other AAA schools (approximately 26 teams). The AAA range top to bottom is 1,000 students. The AA and A range from top to bottom is 300. With two divisions in AAA, the range would be approximately 300. Football is a sport of numbers; the more students you have to draw from the better the product. A school of 1,500 students will have the probability of producing bigger, faster, tougher players than a school of 700. The new arrangement in AAA will give the smaller AAA schools a better chance of getting in the playoffs, as well as having less chance for injury against the bigger teams. Marshall University's football program would like to endorse this change in classification.

Terry L. Crislip  
50 Southlake Drive  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

I understand that there are several issues that you will be addressing in regards to athletics in the state of West Virginia. The expansion to four classes because of football does not make any sense to me. Allowing coaches to work with their kids for 10 days during the summer will provide nothing but positive results for both the kids and the school teams...but the issue that I would like to address is the 9<sup>th</sup> grade eligibility rule. I was in shock when I saw that this rule change only passed by a few votes when the principals voted. I have always believed that not allowing certain 9<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in high school athletics because of the school district that they lived in was not only wrong but actually if challenged would be found that it is not constitutional. When the judge ruled in favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade wrestler from Parkersburg High School and the young man participated, not only in the entire season but competed very well in the State wrestling tournament, I assumed that this ruling set precedence and the unfair rule would be changed. The judges ruling had to be easy as most of the West Virginia schools (I understand over 80%) already allow 9<sup>th</sup> graders to participate. It is also rumored that there is a waiver in place that is allowing more Kanawha county schools to allow their freshmen to participate at a varsity level. With only a handful of schools remaining, why would anyone vote against allowing these kids the opportunity to compete for their respective high schools. It not only provides an even playing field for all high schools, it allows the student athlete the opportunity to compete at a higher level, thus improving their skills while being seen earlier by potential college coaches. I feel confident that this issue will be easily approved. I will always wonder why the vote by the principals was as close as it was. There are not any negatives to providing the option of moving 9 grader up to the varsity team, if the athlete has the skill to participate at that level. If it was wrong, would the majority of schools already be allowed to have their freshmen compete?

Roger Hodge  
AASU  
11935 Abercorn St.  
Savannah, Georgia 31419  
(912) 927-5336

I am writing to express my comments on items 13 and 18 of the proposals that are Being brought before the State Board by the Secondary School Activities Commission. My interest in these issues stems from West Virginia being one of my main recruiting grounds as a college basketball coach as well as the pride I have in being a native of the state. In my experience watching high school basketball nationwide. I have observed many different policies concerning supervision of players outside during the summer months. Some allow coaches great leeway and some very restrictive with the objective being to create a balance that will allow the athletes the opportunity to improve their skills to the highest possible level without overtaxing them to the point of disillusionment with a specific sport. Obviously, there is a delicate medium that needs to be achieved. It is my belief that allowing some summer activity not only will improve the level of play of the specific sport (which ultimately provides more scholarship opportunities for athletes within the

sate) but will also give they young people involved more exposure to college coaches. One of the best ways to recruit an athlete is to be able to meet them on your campus during summer camps. Allowing high school coaches to take their teams to these venues provides more players with the chance to show their talents and puts ;them on a level playing field with high school athletes from other states in competing for scholarships. The ultimate goal for the young people that you and I have charge over is to give them the greatest opportunity to succeed in whatever they choose to do. For many West Virginia high school athletes, Proposal 13 would have that effect. I also support Proposal 18 that would permit high school basketball teams to play 22 games. Personally, it would benefit me as well as other college coaches in providing more dates to see state players compete. Also, the extra games would produce some of the same results as referenced above such as improved skill-development and more exposure. I can also see an advantage from a monetary point of view. Schools can make more money form the extra home dates to use for other needs withing their systems. Although I am sure that financial factors are you main concern, it will be something positive that accompanies the implementation of this policy. But the fact that the measure passed the WVSSAC panel by a tally of 107-1 tells me that the high schools definitely want to make this change.

Wayne Ryan  
Summers Co. High School  
HC 74, Box 11A  
Hinton, WV 25951  
(304) 466-6040

I am writing this letter to ask for your support of proposals 13 and 18 of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities commission. Proposal 13 will allow professional coaches to instruct their student athletes for ten days from June 1 until July 31. This proposal would help to narrow the gap between the opportunities of West Virginia student athletes and those from other states. Currently, our student athletes must be coached during the summer by non-professional persons without sufficient training or knowledge. Our student athletes are being monitored by support personnel, instead of taught by professional personal. Other states around us allow school employed professional personnel to instruct their student athletes in the off-season. Over a secondary school career of six years, this disadvantage is magnified. Student athletes are losing opportunities to receive exposure to colleges by not being allowed to attend team camps with their coach. Teams are attending team camps, why not allow them to be instructed by a professional during this time. Proposal 13 will provide all student athletes with some accessibility to facilities and opportunities to improve their level of skill. Currently, student athletes from rural areas like Hinton are at a disadvantage.. We are not fortunate enough to have infrastructure that provides recreation opportunities such as a recreation center, Y.M.C.A., or local college gymnasium. A student athlete in Summers county has no recreation facility available to them unless a parent or volunteer is willing to open a local school gym. Why should a professional educator not be allowed to open an athletic facility so our young people, an a voluntary basis, have the same opportunities as other communities? Proposal 13 does not provide all student athletes with the same opportunities, but it does help those that do no currently have any recreation opportunities available to them. Also, the availability of educated and trained persons that have the time to work with our student athletes during the summers is limited in many small towns. As a coach that is willing to help my student athletes, I would appreciate being able to legally do so within the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Guidelines. Proposal 18 would serve to make all basketball teams in West Virginia eligible to play the number of games without needing to be involved in any type of regular season tournament. A school should not be punished if they are not invited to play in a tournament. Proposal 18 makes basketball scheduling both equal and fair.

Bobbi Mohrman  
WVU  
Intercollegiate Athletics  
P.O. Box 0877  
Morgantown, WV 26507

I am appalled at Rule Proposal 13 that allows any coaching staff member 10 additional days from June 1 - July 31 for individual or group instruction. Young people need the summer months as break from curricular and extra-curricular activities to spend time with family, friends and to vacation. Coaches already circumvent the regular season rules, plus athletes have extra time out of season to

participate in the conditioning and fitness programs set up by their coaches. As the new proposal 13 reads, the rule would allow each coach of the said sport to mandate student athletes to participate in their particular sport. Examples: 3 Coaches from basketball could mandate 30 days of summer practice! Six football coaches could mandate 60 days of practice before football season begins! Football practice could actually begin and be mandated to the athletes by the coaches beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and end with the State Football Playoffs in late November. I have coached on the high school level for many years, won three State Championships ;and coached four state runner-up teams and I am very aware of what coaches are asking young people to do. I am currently a retired educator after 34 years at the high school level and feel very strongly about Rule 13. I hope that the State Board of Education take a hard look at this picture and will consider the well being of our student/athletes across the state and vote against Rule 13 as it currently reads.

Roy M. McBurnery, II  
 204 Alexander Ave.  
 Elkins, WV 26241  
 (304) 636-8211

I would like to comment on the proposed class change in high school football. My Experience as a player and ex-assistant coach in Ohio, I truly believe that enrollment of boys beyond a certain level (400) makes no difference in a program. There is only a certain number of boys in every school whether it's a large 1400+ student enrollment or a medium-size 700+ student body school that desire to play football and be willing to commit themselves to the hard work of conditioning along with proper instruction for the contact sport of football. I remember while coaching in Cincinnati in the mid'80's schools like Cincinnati Woodward, West Hills, Taft, Withrow, Walnut Hills and in the Columbus Area - East HS and South or schools closer to West Virginia; Marietta, Ohio, Parkersburg (yes the BIG RED) Parkersburg South, Wheeling Park all of these had total enrollment over 1200+ and not one would win a state championship, in fact they were lucky to have more than 50 boys out for the football team. In fact, recent WV State Champions have come from smaller schools; Nitro, North Marion, Dupont, etc. I feel bringing football to all schools in West Virginia including private and church schools is the way to go. Create a 6-man or 8-man class for really small schools like most Western and New England states have. Schools like Harts, Harman, Union, Paw Paw, St. Joseph, etc., could compete with present small Class A schools like Hundred, Hannan in a class more their size. I played 6-man football in Eastern Ohio back in 1959-60 before 11-man replaced it and it was an exciting and wide-open game like today's Arena Football. Nothing brings communities together more than high school football. Those that participate learn team work and maturity which is important in today's world. Most schools that played 6-man football had total boy enrollment from 20-50 in the grades 9-12 and since most schools have baseball fields; they can easily be converted to football fields which in 6-man is smaller than regular 11-man fields. Also schools that have basketball have enough for 6-man football. A wide-open passing game has less physical demands which eliminate need for large benches and substitution. Cost! Assuming field is already available, portable bleachers or bring your own chairs after all, no crowds of 2000 would be expected at least at first. Scoreboard, stands, etc., will be provided by the communities who want to pride and commitment. As for uniforms and equipment; would it be to much to ask the WVSSA to help financially to introduce the program which will benefit the whole state? Some communities will gladly offer help to et it started. I offer my assistance to any endeavor to introduce 6-man football to the state. I have enclosed what I think would be the ideal classification of football using only the total boy enrollment.

Total boys enrollment in grades 9-11		
Class AAA	401+	
Class AA	201 - 400 (put Linsly here)	
Class A	76 - 200	
6-Man Class	Up to 75	* At this level any school can choose to participate in 6-man or Class A

Here's a look at potential 6-man schools:

Harman	Mercer Christian
Paw Paw	Notre Dame
Union	Bishop Donahue
Hundred	St. Joseph Central
Gauley Bridge	Parkersburg Catholic
Hannan	Madonna
Marsh Fork	Cross Lanes Christian
Harts	Teays Valley Christian
Paden City	Wood County Christian
Van	Beckley Christian
Pickens	Rainelle Christian
Mountain School	
WV School Deaf/Blind	

Horace Blankenship

I would like for you to consider voting in favor of proposals numbers thirteen (13) and eighteen (18). Proposal number 13 allows any coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for ten (10) separate days from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Players may participate on a voluntary basis. I feel this will provide our athletes who are already participating in some type of summer program the opportunity to work with professional coaches. Proposal number eighteen (18) permits high school basketball teams to play a maximum of 22 regular season games.

Bryan K. Smith  
East Fairmont HS  
Class of '81

I am originally from West Virginia and graduated from East Fairmont School in 1981. Since 1985 I have been in the Army and have got to see high school football in the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Missouri. In those states, they have at least 4 levels and in the case of Alabama, 6. The 16 teams currently being proposed for the AAA division I feel could compete with those in the upper classifications of these states.

I know I have probably not seen all that is going on with this proposal, but if I understand you are splitting AAA into 2 divisions and that the winner of each division plays for the AAA championship. Why not just make those 16 teams AAAA and let them compete for their own championship? With the way schools are consolidating these days, there will certainly be more teams to add to the AAAA level. Another thing to consider is maybe also allowing those teams that would be AAA division II that feel they can compete with the division I school, compete with them in the AAAA level.

Kevin Kinder

I want to take this opportunity to voice my support for the proposal to allow coaches to work with their teams for ten days over the summer, including five days at a "team" camp.

West Virginia is one of only two states in the nation, to my knowledge, that currently prohibits such activity. This puts West Virginia athletes at a competitive disadvantage with those from other states who are allowed to have summer contact with their coaches as a team.

Additionally, the positive effects to be gained from allowing the coaches and players to learn together at various team camps cannot be underestimated. As more teams and coaches throughout the state are allowed to participate in these camps as a group during the off-season, the knowledge base and skill level of all, players and coaches alike, cannot help but be enhanced.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. Feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Jim Fout

Ten day practice rule for summer time. I believe this is a excellent proposal for the following reasons:

- \* gives the high school coach the opportunity to work and develop fundamentals in a atmosphere with a lot less pressure than preseason tryouts
- \* gives the student the opportunity to perform without the pressure of trying to make the team
- \* gives us the opportunity to get our players out from the control of some to these AAU programs that are causing kids to be poorly coached and being put into situation where they are being heavily recruited by other high schools.
- \* after ten days of practice the kids are better prepared to play summer league or two go to camp or get on with their summer.
- \* give the football player an opportunity to get the fundamental work that he needs, but misses because of the football play-offs that go until the first weekend in December.

22 regular season games for basketball. this is a good proposal for the following reasons:

- \* gives everybody the chance to play the same number of games without playing in a eight team tournament at Christmas time.
- \* give you the opportunity to have tournaments anytime during the regular season and not have to do this at Christmas to get the extra game in
- \* makes it much easier for the SSAC to keep up with the ratings of officials.

Fourth class for football. Something needs to be done because it is not fair to have a school of 600 trying to compete against a school of 1200 or bigger for a Championship. Most people know and understand that football more than any other sport is a numbers game. I am for this proposals, also.

Gary Pikarsky

I have the privilege to call on all the high schools in West Virginia for the Neff Company. Over the past 20 years I have seen many changes and improvements that have benefitted the students of our schools. I would like to briefly comment on some of the proposals being considered by the state Board of Education.

The proposal of four divisions for high school football would benefit all the schools in the state. From a safety factor alone, the grouping of the 16 largest schools makes sense. Considering that the largest schools on the average have a larger pool of students to choose for their teams, most of these students have better facilities, tougher competition, and year in and out will have a greater number of "bigger, stronger" athletes than the smaller schools now currently competing with them. The current classification of AAA which includes school populations from 594-1600 just doesn't allow the smaller schools the weekly opportunity to be competitive.

The second proposal that students in all 9th grades be able to compete on the high school level, I believe is also well founded. It just evens the playing field for the entire state high schools to give all athletes the opportunity to compete at the 9-12 grade level. At this years state basketball tournament there were several freshman who competed and who were outstanding. I know of one case where a student transferred schools so they could compete on the Varsity level. This would perhaps keep many of these students in their respective school districts.

The third and final proposal of allowing students to attend a school run camp in the summer would help keep students in their respective programs, and also give the students the opportunity to perhaps try a new sport that they wouldn't otherwise for any number of reasons. This would give the school's coaches the opportunity to work with the beginner as well as the advanced student.

Thanks for allowing me to comment on the above proposals!

Karen Larry

In quickly reading through the SSAC work out for comment, I noted an outdated reference – p. 14 section 6.2 makes reference to Policy 2441.01 as the source of definition for credit. This isn't it anymore! The policy of reference is now 2510.

Adam S. Bane

I am writing you as an alumni from Clay Battelle High School which resides in Monongalia County along with MHS and UHS. I believe that it is totally unfair for MHS and UHS to get over a million dollars to spend on their field when the field at CBHS is much older and needs just as much work if not more than Pony Lewis Field. But as always we reside on the wrong end of the county to receive such financial support from our state and local educational systems. We have made several improvements to the field at Clay-Battelle that without the local quarterback club would have been unable to do. We also need new bleachers and better restroom and concessions areas but instead we have been told we get some of the old bleachers that aren't even good enough to be used anymore at Pony Lewis field. These needs are not the only ones for the field because there is also a concern with the actual playing field. I played at the varsity level at Clay Battelle for three years and because of a lack of a system to water the field with, the middle of the field is often bare ground by the middle parts of the football season.

I just do not understand why CBHS tends to be left out whenever funds for improvement are handed out. We if anything are in need of the funds more because we lack the numbers of boosters that our Class AAA counterparts have. I just feel it is an unfair exchange that Pony Lewis get over a million dollars worth of renovations and the field at Clay-Battelle gets some old used bleachers. Thank you for your time and I would greatly appreciate if anything about this matter could be done. We really would like nothing else but to receive equal financial treatment along with the other educational institutions in our area.

Ron Richards

I want to go on record as being totally against this proposal. There is nothing to be gained by doing this. In my opinion, football is the ONLY high school sport in WV that does not need fixed.

The argument that the smaller schools cannot compete against the larger ones simply does not hold water. It was not that long ago that Brooke was THE program in WV. Year in and year out Capital is one of the most respected programs and just a couple years ago Nitro dominated everybody they played.

Parkersburg High is probably one of the most successful teams, not because of its size, but because of their commitment to the program.

IF this proposal would go into effect then what are you going to do with the playoff format? You cannot allow all 16 teams in the BIG SCHOOL division to go to the state playoffs every year. So you will have to change the BEST championship format in WV high school sports.

I say leave it alone. If you want to "fix" something then look at the sports that need fixed. I would LOVE to see the basketball format change to exactly mirror the current football system. That would be a step in the RIGHT direction.

Robert Watts

It cannot be compared to Baseball or Basketball, because they are able to play 3 or 4 nights a week so they can have sectionals and regionals, unlike football they play 1 time a week. If you try to include sectionals and regionals and states, then the season would go on for ever (too long). Also you want to have the best teams in the playoffs, unlike baseball and basketball where you might have the 2 or 3 best teams in the state in the same section or region and will never make the state playoffs, example girls basketball. So in conclusion my vote is to leave the system alone, it has worked for many years in bringing the best teams to the playoff.

Joe Burkhart

Today's Morgantown Dominion Post indicated that the 30-day comment period for the Secondary Schools Activities Commission (SSAC) proposals to the state Board of Education has begun. I would like to offer my comments. I'm sure much of the Board's discussion will focus on football, and the proposal for splitting AAA into two divisions. It is my opinion that football is the only sport in WV that is not broken, and should be left alone. The reason football is so successful is that the system only allows for the best teams to get to the Island. Basketball, on the other hand, is broken and should be fixed.

Year in and year out, many excellent boys and girls basketball teams, with 20+ wins, are left home from the state tournament because they play in a super-power region. Is it fair...no it's not. Losing is never easy, but losing to a team of equal power and talent softens the loss. But what are you supposed to tell those players that finished the regular season 20-3 when they see a team from a weaker region, a team that you and others have beat by 60+ points, a team with a losing record, advance to Charleston simply because they play in a weak region and beat a team that was 2-16. Do you tell them, sorry kids that's just the way it is in WV and all your hard work and effort to win those 20+ games are meaningless because the entire season is based on only one game. Historically, there has always been strong and

weak regions. The strong have always been strong and get stronger each year, and the weak have always been weak with little improvement. That's a fact. Do the best teams get to Charleston....no they don't.

I'm all for parity, and do want to see the best teams play for the state championship. But that's where the rub is, there is no parity in the sectional/regional format. If a lower seeded team beats a top seeded team in their sectional or regional or even the states, than more power to them. When you enter the sectionals you are 0-0, but you only play the teams in your sectional and regional. That's the problem. Its not weak teams playing strong teams and beating them, its weak teams in weak regions playing weak teams getting a ride to Charleston. For example in girls basketball, Region 4 Championship matched up a 2-16 team against a 8-15 team, and the winner goes to Charleston. Region 3 paired a 22-2 team against a 20-2 team, and that winner goes. Is this the same caliber of competition,,,no its not. Its about parity, which there is none in this current set-up. Now do you think if the Region 4 teams played a Region 3, that they would still be going to Charleston. And if they did play, and the region 4 team won....I'd be the first to congratulate them on their win and wish them the best in Charleston. There are the weak sections /regions that play for the same share of the prize as powerful sections / regions. Some say that any change in the current system would eliminate a Cinderella team. A Cinderella teams in WV is just a polite way of saying it's a team with a losing record, from weak region that has no business going to Charleston. The term Cinderella is most common associated with the NCAA tournament, the only difference is the NCAA Cinderella teams in the tournament don't have losing records. All a Cinderella team does in Charleston is become a warm-up game for a ranked team. Beating a team with a 2-16 record should not rewarded with a trip to Charleston.

Maybe it's a money thing, I don't know,,,but i doubt it. You know it seems odd to me that the attendance at the girls Morgantown vs. Fairmont Senior regional final was around 2000, and in the other two regular season games they played this year, it was standing room only too. I have been going to the girls state tournaments for the last 15 years and I can honestly say I have only seen crowds like that in Charleston maybe once or twice (boys tourney is different, its usually packed). Just think how many people, plus major college coaches and scouts, would attend the games to see the states best players. Schools like Morgantown, Fairmont, Capital, Hampshire, Parkersburg, Parkersburg South, Huntington, John Marshall, Wheeling Park, and so on... all suffer exposure by the major colleges because of the states poor selection process. Its so difficult to get major college coaches and scouts at games because they are in the middle of their seasons as well. But having the best at one place, at one time, could do so much for WV basketball. I for one, hope the schools and SSAC see the error in their ways, and make corrections soon. But I'm not to optimistic.

The entire sectional / regional format needs updated because of enrollment changes and consolidations of smaller schools. Most Region 6 and 7 schools are separated by only a few miles, yet they are two separate Regions. Region 1 has schools that are over 100 miles apart. Watching both girls and boys state championships, it was difficult to understand how those games were not sectional events. There is something wrong when kids must travel over 100 miles on a school night to play a team in their region. This is not a difficult fix, it just takes some time and effort on the SSAC which hasn't been evident.

One solution to provide parity to the sectional / regional format would be to divide the 16 sectional winners into 8 north and 8 south, then seed those teams #1-8 in each half. Then, 1 plays 8, 2 plays 7, and so on. Each half of the state gets 4 teams for equal representation, and Cinderella can still make it, by upsetting a higher seeded sectional winner. Then, in the state tournament, match the top seed from the north with the lowest seed from the south, the 2nd highest north with the

second lowest south, etc. and separate the brackets fairly.

Thank-you for allowing me to voice my concerns. It is my hope that the outcome of your meetings will be changes that allow for parity in basketball, and reward the kids for excellence and hard work.

Alan Tucker

I've read with great interest the debate on adding an additional class for football in West Virginia. I think arguments on both side are valid and I admit that my opinion is biased (what opinions aren't).

I went to Nicholas County High School. Historically, NCHS has been one of the smallest AAA schools in the state and even dropped to AA on one occasion. NCHS and schools similar in size have a decided disadvantage when the playoffs roll around because they just cannot compete with the large schools in metropolitan areas. Not only do these schools have a larger pool of talent to draw from but the areas they are in have highly developed leagues and programs for younger children before they even enter Junior High. It's impossible for rural areas to duplicate these programs. I could ramble on for hours but the bottom line is that NCHS will never beat Capital or Morgantown. The playing field must be levelled so that all schools that field decent football teams will be able to experience the thrill of tournament time. Everybody loves a cinderella but the current system precludes her existence. I'm not sure what's proposed is the most fair solution but the bottom line is that this is for the kids and the system must constantly bear scrutiny to ensure that the greatest number of West Virginia's children get a chance to participate. Damn the torpedoes.....full speed ahead.

Jim Poling

I believe the proposal to split the triple A schools up, is a great idea. Though, I think they should be split into a triple A and a quad A arrangement. With the bigger schools being in the quad A . I teach at Philip Barbour High School and I know we are the smallest Triple a school in the state, but we could never compete with the larger schools. I think its about time that something is done about this.

I also believe that all of the sports should be separated not just football.

I also wish that there was a way to let additional schools into the state basketball tournaments each year. There should be a some spaces left open for teams that come from particularly hard regions. Like the Tucker county and Frankfurt girls a few years ago and the Morgantown girls this year.

Uknown  
(SirHenrySteve)

Do not divide into two divisions ! If the smaller AAA school cannot field a competitive team. Then thats a problem that should be addressed by the school itself by a simple coaching change. The idea of a basketball style of playoff for football is absurd. I know that we would see too many 6-5 teams playing for state championship! Also padding of schedules by some teams would happen . There's a saying "IF ITS NOT BROKE DON'T FIX IT" the size of the school does not effect a teams desire to achieve the coach staff does however !

Ric Morrone

I wish to give a comment in favor of the SSAC proposal regarding the 10-day contact period in summer for coaches . I feel that this will enable WV students to receive appropriate guidance in their chosen sport . As

long as this contact is completely voluntary on behalf of the students , I feel it would be a big step forward for the students in WV that participate in their chosen sport.

John Kelley

I would like to voice my strong opposition to two proposals currently up for your consideration. I am the Head Football Coach at University High School, my name is John Kelley. First let me say- I agree that there is a large gap in triple A enrollment when compared to double A and single A. I am very much in favor of any proposal that would fairly address or help this situation, however dividing into two divisions for AAA play does not address this . Example number one- if we take the sixteen largest triple A teams the difference in enrollment between #1 Jefferson and Number 16 is about 680 students. However if we take the largest school in Division two AAA and the smallest school Nitro the difference is less than 280. Now I ask how does this address the current problem ? We make up a division with an enrollment difference of 280 students and still have one -Division 1 AAA with a difference of almost 700 which is still huge when compared to the top and bottom school differential in single A and double A. Secondly and more interesting is the differential between the number 4 team in division 1 and the number 13 (University) is almost 500 and the difference between number 4 and # 16 is almost 600. Basically what we have is an oddity or anomaly in that the top four schools in the proposal of division 1 AAA are huge schools (Jefferson, Parkersburg, Wheeling Park and Cabell Midland) that after them there appears to be a settling and closeness in enrollment between #5 and number 16. Thus the problem of enrollment differential is really only because of four schools. The second problem with the proposal is it has no outline or merit for playoffs- will division1 teams play only each other- they should because division 2 coaches are saying they can't compete because of the enrollment differential- So if they can't compete for play-off and championships then why should they or would they compete during the regular season. Do we give 15 points for defeating a division 1 AAA team and 12 for division 2 AAA ? Are we trying to create a super conference or elite conference ? The third problem is what happens to conference affiliation. For instance University High would not remain in the NCAC if this proposal passes and especially if we are to play division 1 teams only. Aren't we effectively destroying a lot of good wholesome relationships between conference schools with traditional rivalries ?

The people making this proposal often say that it will be good because it will provide opportunities for more kids to experience a chance in playoffs and to win championships. This again is flawed and selfish thinking.

We are always raising the bar in education and demanding excellence. Why do

we want to lower the bar in athletics and reward mediocrity ? I mean, come on- does a team that goes 0-10 or 2-8 deserve a chance- will those players gain anything by being humiliated in the first round of play-offs ? Will they even want to be there or give a fair and honest effort ? This idea will demean and cheapen the current playoff system that so many communities get excited about and get behind with exuberance and excitement. This idea was born of greed and jealousy of the basketball system where essentially all teams are given a chance during sectional and regional competition as are other sports. Proponents say it will allow them to go out of state and play money games against quality opponents without fear of losing and being knocked out of the playoffs. I ask is this good for our kids. Also proponents complain they can't find games- difficulty in scheduling is a reason to go with the proposal. I ask how does this solve that problem ? We all will have to travel more and distant teams will not bring large crowds for gate. My suggestion would instead be to enlarge the AA classification up to 800 or 850 and thus AA would by the very nature of West Virginia communities and geography be the largest classification. If this is the true nature of the current proposal the close the gap between the schools then this is the answer. I for one do not think that the proposal of two divisions is really a proposal to address the problem. I feel it is a proposal to address mediocrity. Finally on this issue- where is the research that says the larger enrollment schools have larger roster numbers ? Yes they have the opportunity for that- but I defy that it is occurring. The schools with coaches that work hard and sell their programs and have supportive communities and administrations are successful regardless of enrollment. I ask we please not pass this proposal until we see concrete outline of how the playoff system would work, how it would benefit kids and how it would economically impact the current system. On the proposal of the ten day summer rule- I again please ask your defeat of this idea. This is a nightmare to enforce and regulate. Abuses and irregularities would be an enforcement nightmare. Let's let kids enjoy the summer and community sponsored activities. This proposal is strictly a control type proposal from basketball coaches trying to control their team for their own personal gain. We would run into liability issues as to length, time and days of practice. In addition kids will be torn between sports and various team sport coaches demands and edicts. What about safety and insurance and physicals ?

Finally- I wish to thank you for reading this and again ask your consideration of my suggestion to defeat these proposals until more details and regulations can be specified. Thank you John W. Kelley University High School Football



✓ Peer review

Mr Ray

4/21/01

I'm writing to you about one of the proposals coming up before the state Board of Education.

The proposal I am referring to is the one to divide the class AAA football programs at schools into two divisions.

If an a great number of people have the opinion that this proposal is a good one. This proposal has been a long time over due. I am very glad that questions about the issues of small AAA schools playing the mega AAA schools in the playoffs are being looked at.

Some of our students love sports. They work very hard in their studies and at football practice.

We as parents and adults tell these young people that their hard work will pay off.

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Then when their team gets to the playoffs, what happens, a AAA mega school gives them a 69-0 trouncing.

This kind of beating cause the team members looking at us in shock and bewilderment. All the teams hard work and sacrifice has been for what.

Sure everyone tells them, be proud you made it to the playoffs. Though in the back of these young folks minds they look upon this experience as a failure.

It is not they who have failed, but it is our failure for not keeping the playing field level.

Our young people will face enough battles and hard times in their future lives. We need to build ~~their~~ their spirit, not tear it down.

So when the division proposal comes up, please think of the students at the lower side of the AAA class.

Even if the proposal is modified, change the scales of justice so they are once more even.

Sincerely  
Nancy E. Biss

## Beverly McCloud

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**From:** KimLanham@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 14, 2001 2:49 PM  
**To:** JBray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Opposition of Proposal

I would like to voice my strong opposition to two proposals currently up for your consideration. I am the Head Football Coach at University High School, my name is John Kelley. First let me say- I agree that there is a large gap in triple A enrollment when compared to double A and single A. I am very much in favor of any proposal that would fairly address or help this situation, however dividing into two divisions for AAA play does not address this. Example number one- if we take the sixteen largest triple A teams the difference in enrollment between #1 Jefferson and Number 16 is about 680 students. However if we take the largest school in Division two AAA and the smallest school Nitro the difference is less than 280. Now I ask how does this address the current problem? We make up a division with an enrollment difference of 280 students and still have one -Division 1 AAA with a difference of almost 700 which is still huge when compared to the top and bottom school differential in single A and double A. Secondly and more interesting is the differential between the number 4 team in division 1 and the number 13 (University) is almost 500 and the difference between number 4 and # 16 is almost 600. Basically what we have is an oddity or anomaly in that the top four schools in the proposal of division 1 AAA are huge schools

(Jefferson, Parkersburg, Wheeling Park and Cabell Midland) that after them there appears to be a settling and closeness in enrollment between #5 and number 16. Thus the problem of enrollment differential is really only because of four schools. The second problem with the proposal is it has no outline or merit for playoffs- will division 1 teams play only each other- they should because division 2 coaches are saying they can't compete because of the enrollment differential- So if they can't compete for play-off and championships then why should they or would they compete during the regular season. Do we give 15 points for defeating a division 1 AAA team and 12 for division 2 AAA? Are we trying to create a super conference or elite conference? The third problem is what happens to conference affiliation. For instance University High would not remain in the NCAC if this proposal passes and especially if we are to play division 1 teams only. Aren't we effectively destroying a lot of good wholesome relationships between conference schools with traditional rivalries?

The people making this proposal often say that it will be good because it will provide opportunities for more kids to experience a chance in playoffs and to win championships. This again is flawed and selfish thinking.

We are always raising the bar in education and demanding excellence. Why do we want to lower the bar in athletics and reward mediocrity? I mean, come on- does a team that goes 0-10 or 2-8 deserve a chance- will those players gain anything by being humiliated in the first round of play-offs? Will they even want to be there or give a fair and honest effort? This idea will demean and cheapen the current playoff system that so many communities get excited about and get behind with exuberance and excitement. This idea was born of greed and jealousy of the basketball system where essentially all teams are given a chance during sectional and regional competition as are other sports. Proponents say it will allow them to go out of state and play money games against quality opponents without fear of losing and being knocked out of the playoffs. I ask is this good for our kids. Also

proponents

complain they can't find games- difficulty in scheduling is a reason to go with the proposal. I ask how does this solve that problem ? We all will have to travel more and distant teams will not bring large crowds for gate.

My suggestion would instead be to enlarge the AA classification up to 800 or 850 and thus AA would by the very nature of West Virginia communities and geograpy be the largest classification. If this is the true nature of the

current proposal the close the gap between the schools then this is the answer. I for one do not think that the proposal of two divisions is really a

proposal to address the problem. I feel it is a proposal to address mediocrity. Finally on this issue- where is the research that says the larger

enrollment schools have larger roster numbers ? Yes they have the opportunity

for that- but I defy that it is occuring. The schools with coaches that work

hard and sell their programs and have supportive communities and administrations are successful regardless of enrollment. I ask we please not

pass this proposal until we see concrete outline of how the playoff system would work, how it would benefit kids and how it would economically impact the current system.

On the proposal of the ten day summer rule- I again please ask your defeat of this idea. This is a nightmare to enforce and regulate. Abuses and irregularities would be an enforcement nightmare. Let's let kids enjoy the summer and community sponsored activities. This proposal is strictly a control type proposal from basketball coaches trying to control their team for their own personal gain. We would run into liabilty issues as to length, time and days of practice. In addition kids will be torn between sports and various team sport coaches demands and edicts. What about safety and insurance and physicals ?

Finally- I wish to thank you for reading this and again ask your consideration of my suggestion to defeat these proposals until more details and regulations can be specified. Thank you John W. Kelley University High School Football

EEmail Address: JWKelley@access.k12.wv.us

## Beverly McCloud

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**From:** MRRICMO@cs.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 14, 2001 7:18 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Public Comment on SSAC Proposals

I wish to give a comment in favor of the SSAC proposal regarding the 10-day contact period in summer for coaches . I feel that this will enable WV students to receive appropriate guidance in their chosen sport . As long as this contact is completely voluntary on behalf of the students , I feel it would be a big step forward for the students in Wv that participate in their chosen sport.

Respectfully ,

Ric Morrone

## Beverly McCloud

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**From:** SirHenrySteve@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2001 3:57 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** comment concerning SSAC proposal to splitting class AAA football

Do not divide into two divisions ! If the smaller AAA school cannot field a competitive team. Then thats a problem that should be addressed by the school itself by a simple coaching change.  
The idea of a basketball style of playoff for football is absurd. I know that we would see too many 6-5 teams playing for state championship! Also padding of schedules by some teams would happen .  
Theres a saying "IF ITS NOT BROKE DON'T FIX IT" the size of the school does not effect a teams desire to acieve the coach staff does however !

**Beverly McCloud**

**From:** James Poling [jpoling@neumedia.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2001 6:29 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** New listing

Dear sir

I believe the proposal to split the triple A schools up, is a great idea. Though, I think they should be split into a triple A and a quad A arrangement. With the bigger schools being in the quad A. I teach at Philip Barbour High School and I know we are the smallest Triple a school in the state, but we could never compete with the larger schools. I think its about time that something is done about this.

I also believe that all of the sports should be separated not just football.

I also wish that there was a way to let additional schools into the state basketball tournaments each year. There should be a some spaces left open for teams that come from particularly hard regions. Like the Tucker county and Frankfurt girls a few years ago and the Morgantown girls this year.

Thanks

Jim Poling  
jmpoling@access.k12.wv.us

**Beverly McCloud**

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**From:** Alan Tucker [alantucker@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2001 7:12 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Football Classifications

John,

I've read with great interest the debate on adding an additional class for football in West Virginia. I think arguments on both side are valid and I admit that my opinion is biased (what opinions aren't).

I went to Nicholas County High School. Historically, NCHS has been one of the smallest AAA schools in the state and even dropped to AA on one occasion. NCHS and schools similar in size have a decided disadvantage when the playoffs roll around because they just cannot compete with the large schools in metropolitan areas. Not only do these schools have a larger pool of talent to draw from but the areas they are in have highly developed leagues and programs for younger children before they even enter Junior High. It's impossible for rural areas to duplicate these programs. I could ramble on for hours but the bottom line is that NCHS will never beat Capital or Morgantown. The playing field must be levelled so that all schools that field decent football teams will be able to experience the thrill of tournament time. Everybody loves a cinderalla but the current system precludes her existence. I'm not sure what's proposed is the most fair solution but the bottom line is that this is for the kids and the system must constantly bear scrutiny to ensure that the greatest number of West Virginia's children get a chance to participate. Damn the torpedos.....full speed ahead.

Sincerely,  
Alan Tucker  
Sharon, SC

**Beverly McCloud**

**From:** Joe Burkhart [jav389@adelphia.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2001 9:11 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comments to SSAC

Today's Morgantown Dominion Post indicated that the 30-day comment period for the Secondary Schools Activities Commission (SSAC) proposals to the state Board of Education has begun. I would like to offer my comments. I'm sure much of the Boards discussion will focus on football, and the proposal for splitting AAA into two divisions. It is my opinion that football is the only sport in WV that is not broken, and should be left alone. The reason football is so successful is that the system only allows for the best teams to get to the Island. Basketball, on the other hand, is broken and should be fixed.

Year in and year out, many excellent boys and girls basketball teams, with 20+ wins, are left home from the state tournament because they play in a super-power region. Is it fair...no its not. Losing is never easy, but losing to a team of equal power and talent softens the loss. But what are you suppose to tell those players that finished the regular season 20-3 when they see a team from a weaker region, a team that you and others have beat by 60+ points, a team with a losing record, advance to Charleston simply because they play in a weak region and beat a team that was 2-16. Do you tell them, sorry kids that's just the way it is in WV and all your hard work and effort to win those 20+ games are meaningless because the entire season is based on only one game. Historically, there has always been strong and weak regions. The strong have always been strong and get stronger each year, and the weak have always been weak with little improvement. That's a fact. Do the best teams get to Charleston....no they don't.

I'm all for parity, and do want to see the best teams play for the state championship. But that's where the rub is, there is no parity in the sectional/regional format. If a lower seeded team beats a top seeded team in their sectional or regional or even the states, than more power to them. When you enter the sectionals you are 0-0, but you only play the teams in your sectional and regional. That's the problem. Its not weak teams playing strong teams and beating them, its weak teams in weak regions playing weak teams getting a ride to Charleston. For example in girls basketball, Region 4 Championship matched up a 2-16 team against a 8-15 team, and the winner goes to Charleston. Region 3 paired a 22-2 team against a 20-2 team, and that winner goes. Is this the same caliber of competition,,,no its not. Its about parity, which there is none in this current set-up. Now do you think if the Region 4 teams played a Region 3, that they would still be going to Charleston. And if they did play, and the region 4 team won....I'd be the first to congratulate them on their win and wish them the best in Charleston. There are the weak sections /regions that play for the same share of the prize as powerful sections / regions. Some say that any change in the current system would eliminate a Cinderella team. A Cinderella teams in WV is just a polite way of saying its a team with a losing record, from weak region that has no business going to Charleston. The term Cinderella is most common associated with the NCAA tournament, the only difference is the NCAA Cinderella teams in the tournament don't have losing records. All a Cinderella team does in Charleston is become a warm-up game for a ranked team. Beating a team with a 2-16 record should not rewarded with a trip to Charleston.

Maybe its a money thing, I don't know,,,but i doubt it. You know it seems odd to me that the attendance at the girls Morgantown vs. Fairmont Senior regional final was around 2000, and in the other two regular season games they played this year, it was standing room only too. I have been going to the girls state tournaments for the last 15 years and I can honestly say I have only seen crowds like that in Charleston maybe once or twice (boys tourney is different, its usually packed). Just think how many people, plus major college coaches and scouts, would attend the games to see the states best players. Schools like Morgantown, Fairmont, Capital, Hampshire, Parkersburg, Parkersburg South, Huntington, John Marshall, Wheeling Park, and so on... all suffer exposure by the major colleges because of the states poor selection process. Its so difficult to get major college coaches and scouts at games because they are in the middle of their seasons as well. But having the best at one place, at one time, could do so much for WV basketball. I for one, hope the schools and SSAC see the error in their ways, and make corrections soon. But I'm not to optimistic.

The entire sectional / regional format needs updated because of enrollment changes and consolidations of smaller

schools. Most Region 6 and 7 schools are separated by only a few miles, yet they are two separate Regions. Region 1 has schools that are over 100 miles apart. Watching both girls and boys state championships, it was difficult to understand how those games were not sectional events. There is something wrong when kids must travel over 100 miles on a school night to play a team in their region. This is not a difficult fix, it just takes some time and effort on the SSAC which hasn't been evident.

One solution to provide parity to the sectional / regional format would be to divide the 16 sectional winners into 8 north and 8 south, then seed those teams #1-8 in each half. Then, 1 plays 8, 2 plays 7, and so on. Each half of the state gets 4 teams for equal representation, and Cinderella can still make it, by upsetting a higher seeded sectional winner. Then, in the state tournament, match the top seed from the north with the lowest seed from the south, the 2nd highest north with the second lowest south, etc. and separate the brackets fairly.

Thank-you for allowing me to voice my concerns. It is my hope that the outcome of your meetings will be changes that allow for parity in basketball, and reward the kids for excellence and hard work.

Joe Burkhart  
169 Estate Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
304-296-7363

**Beverly McCloud**

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**From:** R1C2W@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2001 11:45 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Football

I hope they don't change football in WV, the system that is being used is good for the sport. It cannot be compared to Baseball or Basketball, because they are able to play 3 or 4 nights a week so they can have sectionals and regionals, unlike football they play 1 time a week. If you try to include sectionals and regionals and states, then the season would go on for ever(too long). Also you want to have the best teams in the playoffs, unlike baseball and basketball where you might have the 2 or 3 best teams in the state in the same section or region and will never make the state playoffs, example girls basketball. So in conclusion my vote is to leave the system alone, it has worked for many years in bringing the best teams to the playoff. Signed, Robert Watts Thank you.

**Beverly McCloud**

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**From:** Richards, Ron (GEP) [Ron.Richards@gepex.ge.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2001 9:02 AM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** proposal to create 4th class in WV football

I want to go on record as being totally against this proposal. There is nothing to be gained by doing this. In my opinion, football is the ONLY high school sport in WV that does not need fixed.

The argument that the smaller schools cannot compete against the larger ones simply does not hold water. It was not that long ago that Brooke was THE program in WV. Year in and year out Capital is one of the most respected programs and just a couple years ago Nitro dominated everybody they played.

Parkersburg High is probably one of the most successful teams, not because of its size, but because of their commitment to the program.

IF this proposal would go into effect then what are you going to do with the playoff format? You cannot allow all 16 teams in the BIG SCHOOL division to go to the state playoffs every year. So you will have to change the BEST championship format in WV high school sports.

I say leave it alone. If you want to "fix" something then look at the sports that need fixed. I would LOVE to see the basketball format change to exactly mirror the current football system. That would be a step in the RIGHT direction.

A concerned fan,  
Ron Richards  
Parkersburg

**Beverly McCloud**

**From:** Adam Bane [adambane@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2001 10:23 AM

**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us

**Subject:** A Voice of Concern

Dir Sir,

I am writing you as an alumni from Clay Battelle High School which resides in Monongalia County along with MHS and UHS. I believe that it is totally unfair for MHS and UHS to get over a million dollars to spend on their field when the field at CBHS is much older and needs just as much work if not more than Pony Lewis Field. But as always we reside on the wrong end of the county to receive such financial support from our state and local educational systems. We have made several improvements to the field at Clay-Battelle that without the local quarterback club would have been unable to do. We also need new bleachers and better restroom and concessions areas but instead we have been told we get some of the old bleachers that aren't even good enough to be used anymore at Pony Lewis field. These needs are not the only ones for the field because there is also a concern with the actual playing field. I played at the varsity level at Clay Battelle for three years and because of a lack of a system to water the field with, the middle of the field is often bare ground by the middle parts of the football season.

I just do not understand why CBHS tends to be left out whenever funds for improvement are handed out. We if anything are in need of the funds more because we lack the numbers of boosters that our Class AAA counterparts have. I just feel it is an unfair exchange that Pony Lewis get over a million dollars worth of renovations and the field at Clay-Battelle gets some old used bleachers. Thank you for your time and I would greatly appreciate if anything about this matter could be done. We really would like nothing else but to receive equal financial treatment along with the other educational institutions in our area.

Adam S. Bane  
[adambane@hotmail.com](mailto:adambane@hotmail.com)

P.S. I can be reached through my e-mail and also can be contacted after 5 PM at 304-432-8220.

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com>

## Beverly McCloud

---

**From:** Karen Larry [klarry@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2001 2:43 PM  
**To:** John Ray  
**Subject:** SSAC policy

John,

In quickly reading through the SSAC work out for comment, I noted an outdated reference --

p. 14 section 6.2 makes reference to Policy 2441.01 as the source of definition for credit. This isn't it anymore! The policy of reference is now 2510.

Karen

**Beverly McCloud**

**From:** Tydal7wav@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2001 3:25 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** SSAC Proposals

Dear Mr. Bray:

I have the privilege to call on all the high schools in West Virginia for the Neff Company. Over the past 20 years I have seen many changes and improvements that have benefitted the students of our schools. I would like to briefly comment on some of the proposals being considered by the state Board of Education.

The proposal of four divisions for high school football would benefit all the schools in the state. From a safety factor alone, the grouping of the 16 largest schools makes sense. Considering that the largest schools on the average have a larger pool of students to choose for their teams, most of these students have better facilities, tougher competition, and year in and out will have a greater number of "bigger, stronger" athletes than the smaller schools now currently competing with them. The current classification of AAA which includes school populations from 594-1600 just doesn't allow the smaller schools the weekly opportunity to be competitive.

The second proposal that students in all 9th grades be able to compete on the high school level, I believe is also well founded. It just evens the playing field for the entire state high schools to give all athletes the opportunity to compete at the 9-12 grade level. At this years state basketball tournament there were several freshman who competed and who were outstanding. I know of one case where a student transferred schools so they could compete on the Varsity level. This would perhaps keep many of these students in their respective school districts.

The third and final proposal of allowing students to attend a school run camp in the summer would help keep students in their respective programs, and also give the students the opportunity to perhaps try a new sport that they wouldn't otherwise for any number of reasons. This would give the school's coaches the opportunity to work with the beginner as well as the advanced student.

Thanks for allowing me to comment on the above proposals!

Sincerely,  
Gary Pikarsky

## Beverly McCloud

---

**From:** Fout, Jim [jfout@rhs.kana.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2001 6:16 PM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Cc:** jfout@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** SSAC Proposals

Ten day practice rule for summer time. I believe this is a excellent proposal for the following reasons:

- \* gives the high school coach the opportunity to work and develop fundamentals in a atmosphere with a lot less pressure than preseason tryouts
- \* gives the student the opportunity to perform without the pressure of trying to make the team
- \* gives us the opportunity to get our players out from the control of some to these AAU programs that are causing kids to be poorly coached and being put into situation where they are being heavily recruited by other high schools.
- \* after ten days of practice the kids are better prepared to play summer league or two go to camp or get on with their summer.
- \* give the football player an opportunity to get the fundamental work that he needs, but misses because of the football play-offs that go until the first weekend in December.

22 regular season games for basketball. this is a good proposal for the following reasons:

- \* gives everybody the chance to play the same number of games without playing in a eight team tournament at Christmas time.
- \* give you the opportunity to have tournaments anytime during the regular season and not have to do this at Christmas to get the extra game in
- \* makes it much easier for the SSAC to keep up with the ratings of officials.

Fourth class for football. Something needs to be done because it is not fair to have a school of 600 trying to compete against a school of 1200 or bigger for a Championship. Most people know and understand that football more than any other sport is a numbers game. I am for this proposals, also.

## Beverly McCloud

---

**From:** BryanS1017@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2001 9:11 AM  
**To:** jbray@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** WV High School Football

Mr Ray,

I am originally from West Virginia and graduated from East Fairmont High School in 1981. Since 1985 I have been in the Army and have got to see high school football in the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Missouri. In those states, they have at least 4 levels and in the case of Alabama, 6. The 16 teams currently being proposed for the AAA division I I feel could compete with those in the upper classifications of these states.

I know I have probably not seen all that is going on with this proposal, but if I understand you are splitting AAA into 2 divisions and that the winner of each division plays for the AAA championship. Why not just make those 16 teams AAAA and let them compete for their own championship? With the way schools are consolodating these days, there will certainly be more teams to add to the AAAA level. Another thing to consider is maybe also allowing those teams that would be AAA division II that feel they can compete with the division I school, compete with them in the AAAA level.

Just some thoughts.

Thanks

Bryan K Smith  
East Fairmont High School Class of 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Linda Sandusky, AD  
Philip Barlow High School  
Address: Rt. 4 Box 268-A  
Phillippi, WV 26416  
Telephone: 304-457-2658

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: *If passed as stated, a coaching staff of 6 football coaches, for example, could involve their team members in coaching activities for the entire summer break!! Many schools would take advantage of this.*

Proposal 14: *This is ok as long as only part of the schools in each division will qualify for playoffs. If all schools in the top division qualify, it won't matter who they play - they'll always be in.*

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

General Comments: *I think the WSSAC does a great job of administering interscholastic athletics. They try very hard to be fair & objective in most difficult, emotional circumstances.*

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**  
**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**  
**Buld. 6 - Room 309**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or  
E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

Proposal 18:

Proposal 19: This proposal facilitates scheduling. It is very difficult to schedule 10 games in 10 weeks.

Proposal 20: Same as # 17

Proposal 21: same principal as # 19

Proposal 22: Same as # 17

Proposal 23:

Proposal : 24 Same as # 17

Proposal 25: Same as # 17

Proposal 26: Same as # 17

Proposal 27: Same as # 17 - in addition, all these proposals provide for consistency.

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: Vocational schools serve the same students as regular schools, therefore, their principals and assistant principals should have the same privilege of the I C S T cards.

Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: I do not think athletics should be played on Sunday, although I do agree state tournaments should be concluded.

Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: Each sport season is long enough to be completed by the state tournament.

to incorporate in accordance with the pertinent laws of West Virginia and in such manner as will fully protect and exempt from any and all legal liability the individual officers and members, jointly and severally, of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission for an account of the debts and other obligations of every kind and description of said Commission.

- 15.6 Should a trustee withdraw from membership of the Commission or be excluded therefrom, his trusteeship therein shall automatically cease from the date of such withdrawal or exclusion.
- 15.7 Should a trustee refuse, within five (5) days from the receipt thereof, to execute a legal instrument relating to any property of the Commission, when directed to do so by the Board of Control or the Board of Appeals, and when all legal requirements have been satisfied with reference to execution, the Board of Appeals may declare his/her membership on the Board of Trustees vacated.
- 15.8 The Board of Control and/or the Board of Appeals may direct the trustees with respect to the purchase, sale, mortgage, encumbrance, construction, repairing, remodeling and maintenance of any and all property, real and personal, as may be committed to said trustees by said Board of Control or Board of Appeals.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

R  
5/14/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Carol Thom, Principal, Stonewall Jackson Middle School  
Address: 812 Park Ave.  
Charleston, WV 25302  
Telephone: 3486123

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: With the success & efficiency of the Resas, this proposal makes sense. It also contributes to consistency statewide.

Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 4: All positions should have a consistent process for evaluation. This proposal addresses this issue.

Proposal 5: Termination of the Executive Secretary is a major decision. It should be decided by the Board of Control, which would provide for a more fair evaluation.

Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Tyler Consolidated High School  
Address: J. Wyatt Poin. 1993 Silver Knight Dr.  
SISTERVILLE, W.V. 261075  
Telephone: 304-758-9000

COMMENTS

Proposal 1:

This is a complete waste of money. The board is now 10 members (5 of whom are elected as principals) who do not divide along lines of their title when voting.

Proposal 2:

In serving on this board I just became an informed and competent member in two years. The current term of 5 years is more valuable.

Proposal 3:

See 2 - plus we as principals can hardly dictate term limits to the State Superintendent (etc) for his/her representatives.

Proposal 4:

This is already done and does not require a constitutional change. The Executive Sessions has this authority and responsibility already.

Proposal 5:

This is an attempt by the authors to diminish the authority of the board. All government in the US is based as a republic and this organization will survive only as long as it is also.

Proposal 6:

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Proposal 7:

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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: *This will kill many of our remaining Junior High School programs.*

Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: *Whenever these folks volunteer to help run our athletic programs, they will deserve this consideration.*

Proposal 13: *This provides for conflict between coaches if a student athlete participated in several sports at once.*

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 19: *This will greatly aid us in scheduling especially where we are playing basketball state schools for part of this season.*

Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 22: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 23: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 26: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

# The National Collegiate Athletic Association

DeLafayette D. Moore  
Finance & Information Services

5/21/01

John,

I am president of  
the Board this year  
but am submitting this  
as the Principal of  
a member school.  
I feel very strongly on these  
proposals that I have  
comments.

ATTN: JOHN RAY Bldg 6 Room 309

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Sandra Wallace

Address: 14 Randolph Dr  
Parisburg WV 26104

Telephone: 304-6485-8689

COMMENTS

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 8:

Proposal 9: Please Support. This will make all students have the same opportunities as other 4 year high schools.

Proposal 10:

Proposal 11:

Proposal 12:

Proposal 13: Please Support. This is really already happening all over state. The proposal will just make it equal for the people following the rules already.

Proposal 14: Please Support. This will give the smaller AAA schools a more equitable chance at winning & give the bigger schools a chance at making it to playoffs.

Proposal 15:

Proposal 16:

Proposal 17:

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Rec.  
5/10/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Jim Hamric, Parkersburg High School

Address: 2101 Dudley Ave  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Telephone: 304-0485-8010

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: <sup>Favor</sup> eliminate confusing differences - Makes the State Athletics more organized.

Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>Favor</sup> Proposal 4: Gives more authority to Ex. Sec.. Puts him a position similar to a Principal over his Assistant Principals. The Assistants should be answerable to the Ex Sec who they see daily, not persons they see once a month.

Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_

Favor Proposal 9: "Level the playing field" for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders. They should be allowed to try-out for the high school team; however, if they fail to make the team, those 9<sup>th</sup> graders could return to their respective school's team, before the high school's competition starts, as they do in 9-12 schools.

Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_

Favor Proposal 13: Puts W.V. in line with other states. Our athletes deserve the opportunity to coaching throughout the summer by professionals, not volunteers.

Favor Proposal 14: Consolidation in WV High Schools have created an unfair position for larger schools. With the Division I classification, we could schedule other larger schools without concern of making the play-offs. Lowers the discrepancy of numbers advantage.

Favor Proposal 15: Avoid not being able to name a champion.

Favor Proposal 16: Give the SSAC administration some flexibility at making decisions.

FAVOR Proposal 17: Attempt at making end of season equitable - with all sports

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 18: All schools could play the same number of games regardless of whether they choose to play in a tournament or not

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 19: We need the flexibility

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 20: All sports should end the season as fair as possible.

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 21: Allows for conference and county championships within the calendar.

Proposal 22:

Proposal 23:

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 24: All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other sports seasons.

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 25: All sports should end the season as equal as possible - comparable to other seasons.

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 26: see above

<sup>Favor</sup>  
Proposal 27: see above

Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Rec.  
5/11/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: JAMES PAYNE / BOY'S B-BALL  
SUMMER CO. HIGH SCHOOL  
Address: HC 74, Box 11-A  
HINTON, WV  
Telephone: 304-466-6040

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: YES WE NEED THESE DAYS TO WORK  
WITH OUR PLAYERS; IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THEN  
TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF AAU AND SUMMER LEAGUE  
COACHES HAVE ON OUR PLAYERS, I CAN TELL YOU  
AAU AND SUMMER LEAGUE HORROR STORIES.

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: ~~NO~~ YES, AS THE RULE IS NOW A TEAM CAN ONLY PLAY 22 GAMES IF THEY PLAY IN AN 8 TEAM TOURNEY. THIS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST TEAMS WHO ARE NOT INVITED THESE TOP CALIBER TOURNAMENTS

Proposal 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 22: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.

or

Fax - 304-558-3787

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Dec. 5-2-01  
JK

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: WARREN LEE GRACE, Jr.  
(AS PRINCIPAL OF PADEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL)

Address: 201 NORTH FOURTH AVENUE  
PADEN CITY, W.V. 26159

Telephone: SCHOOL (304) 337-2266 HOME (304) 455-5062

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: There is no reason to expand the number of administrative districts. Current representation is more than adequate.  
There is a desire by some school principals to gain political control of the WVSSAC Board of Appeals.  
Please don't let this happen!!

Proposal 2: In this proposal and proposal #3, I don't believe that 2 years is long enough for any body to learn everything to be an effective member or officer in the WVSSAC Board of Appeals. Either of these changes

Proposal 3: would be a very serious mistake.

Proposal 4: This is the sole responsibility of the Ex Secretary.

Proposal 5: The Board of Appeals is the governing body of the WVSSAC.  
It is not appropriate to directly involve the Bd. of Control in decisions of this nature. This is a bad idea.

Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 13: *May H.S. and M.S. principals are not under contract for entire summer. This would allow coaches + students unsupervised on school property. This is a very bad idea that will create many problems if approved.*

Proposal 14: *This proposal would eliminate some unfair competition in the AAA class. This is a good idea.*

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_  
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General Comments: *The WVSSAC has an excellent job of organizing & regulating interscholastic athletics competition in our state. Changes in rules & regulation should be carefully studied. Wholesale changes can create very serious problems for public & private education throughout the state of West Virginia.*

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**  
**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**  
**Buld. 6 - Room 309**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or  
E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.  
or

Fax - 304-558-3787

Proposal 18: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
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R 5/17/01

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: MIKE CAREY - WVU.

Address: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OFFICE  
P.O. 0877 - MORGANTOWN WV 26507-0877

Telephone: 304-293-3508

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: I support this proposal because it would  
enable coaches to attend team camps with their  
players. Any additional coaching would only  
help the student athletes

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: I support this Proposal. This would give  
Coaches opportunities to schedule additional  
tournaments. This also would provide more  
opportunities for the student-athletes

Proposal 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

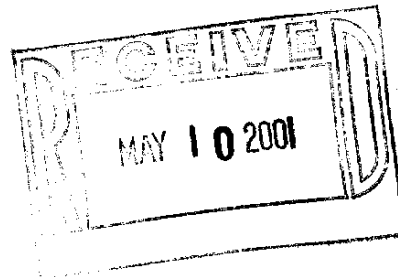
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.

or

Fax - 304-558-3787



R  
5/17/01

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**POLICY NUMBER AND TITLE:** Policy \_\_\_\_\_  
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission  
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS:** May 22, 2001 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND**

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

**PURPOSE**

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

These proposals were distributed for public comment in April and May. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission will present to the Board the comments received for its review at the June meeting.

The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission staff, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Board of Control respectfully request that the proposed rule changes to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Rules and Regulations Handbook be approved.

**CONTENT**

Twenty-eight proposals are being submitted to the State Board by the Secondary School Activities Commission. Each rule change is presented with the whole rule being included. This will help the State Board members understand the significance of the rule change.

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

1. Changes the number of administrative districts from five to eight. (Vote: Yes-90 No-8)
2. Limits the term of an elected Board of Appeals member to two years and limits number of successive terms to two years. (Vote: Yes-60 No-42)
3. Limits the term of appointed Board of Appeals members to two regular two year terms and allows appointed member to serve as an officer. (Vote: Yes-51 No-45)
4. Stipulates an evaluation process for assistant executive secretaries. (Vote: Yes-93 No-8)
5. Changes termination of Executive Secretary contract from a Board of Appeals decision to a Board of Control decision. (Vote: Yes-76 No-25)
6. Clarifies terminology used in WVSSAC Rules and Regulations Handbook. (Vote: Yes-103 No-0)
7. Establishes determination of feeder school attendance zones for member schools and for member private junior high middle schools not having a high school in their system. (Vote: Yes-77 No-22)

8. Allows an unlimited number of students in WV School for the Deaf and WV School for the Blind to participate in sports at either Hampshire High School or Romney Middle School. (Vote: Yes-104 No-2)
9. Allows ninth grade students of a feeder school to participate on the high school team regardless if the feeder school sponsors or does not sponsor that sport. (Vote: Yes-53 No 51)
10. Allows three seasons of interscholastic activity participation for students in grades 6-7-8 of a middle school. (Vote: Yes-107 No-0)
11. Stipulates principal approval for participation in a professional tryout. (Vote: Yes-100 No-5)
12. Allows the WVSSAC to issue Complimentary Courtesy and Identification Cards to the principal and vice-principal of vocational schools at which member school students receive instruction. (Vote: Yes-75 No-31)
13. Allows any coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for ten (10) separate days from June 1st to July 31st. (Vote: Yes-75 No-33)
14. Allows for a four (4) division tournament structure in football only - 2 divisions in class AAA, 1 division in Class AA and 1 division in Class A. (Vote: Yes-68 No-38)
15. Allows State Championship finals to be played on Sunday after 1:00 p.m. in cases of emergency. (Vote: Yes-107 No-2)
16. Specifies completion of state tournaments. (Vote: Yes-102 No-0)
17. Specifies that the baseball season for each team will end upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-57 No-36)
18. Permits high school basketball teams to play a maximum of 22 regular season games. (Vote: Yes-107 No-1)
19. Permits high school football teams to schedule ten (10) games in eleven (11) weeks. (Vote: Yes-107 No-1)
20. Specifies that the football season will end for each team at the end of regular season or by play-off elimination. (Vote: Yes-108 No-0)
21. Changes the first game date for middle school/junior high football teams from Week 10 to Week 9. (Vote: Yes-74 No-19)
22. Specifies that the soccer season will end for each team upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-100 No-3)
23. Allows a high school soccer team to participate in a soccer-o-rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. (Vote: Yes-85 No-11)
24. Specifies that the softball season will end for each team upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-79 No-24)
25. Specifies that the swimming season will end for each team or individual upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-93 No-0)
26. Specifies that the track and field season will end for each team or individual upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-103 No-1)
27. Specifies that the volleyball season will end for each team upon WVSSAC tournament elimination. (Vote: Yes-104 No-0)
28. Stipulates a procedure for establishing feeder schools and attendance zones and high school student participation for instrumental music (band) programs. (Vote: Yes-83 No-16)

**PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission**

**Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.**

Individual/Organization: Berkeley Springs High School

Address: 836 Concord Ave  
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: *This is a great idea - Our young people need quality coaches to instruct their children. Most regular "off the street" coaches are not knowledgeable and usually they do not work well with children in all aspects.*

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18:

*This is a good idea - it clears up the administrative part of it for A.D.'s + coaches.*

Proposal 19:

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Proposal 20:

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Proposal 21:

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Proposal 22:

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Proposal 27:

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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**  
**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**  
**Buld. 6 - Room 309**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.

or

Fax - 304-558-3787

✓

Rec'd  
5-18-22  
SPZ

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Proector Middle School

Address: 300 N Johnson St  
Proector WV 24780

Telephone: 304-425-7517

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: yes

Proposal 2: yes

Proposal 3: yes

Proposal 4: yes

Proposal 5: yes

Proposal 6: yes

Proposal 7: yes

Proposal 8: YES

Proposal 9: YES

Proposal 10: YES

Proposal 11: YES

Proposal 12: YES

Proposal 13: This is a must to pass in order to regulate "who" coaches our players during the off season. We need to keep our coaches involved w/ their school athletes.

Proposal 14: YES

Proposal 15: YES

Proposal 16: YES

Proposal 17: YES

Proposal 28: yes

General Comments: The approval of all  
the proposals will benefit high school, J H  
and middle school athletics

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

Proposal 18: yes

Proposal 19: Note yes - we need this flexibility in our schedules in order to get the play done.

Proposal 20: yes

Proposal 21: yes

Proposal 22: yes

Proposal 23: yes

Proposal : 24 yes

Proposal 25: yes

Proposal 26: yes

Proposal 27: yes

PUBLIC RESPONSE

R 5/14/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Donnis Bennett Principal Richwood HS  
Address: One Valley Avenue Richwood W 2626  
Telephone: 846-2591-2592

COMMENTS

Proposal 1: This is not necessary. I have been on the B/A Appeal for 7 years. 10 is enough

Proposal 2: No Two years is too short. It takes more than 2 years

Proposal 3: Appointed members are of no concern to us. It is the state B/A & CRA

Proposal 4: yes - good idea

Proposal 5: no - B/A work with E/S on monthly basis

Proposal 6: yes

Proposal 7: —

Proposal 8: OK

Proposal 9: No - Will bill the sports programs in the junior high

Proposal 10: yes

Proposal 11: yes

Proposal 12: No - they do not put in the extra hours as a HS principal does - ball games, etc

Proposal 13: No - kids need the summer off / with family

Proposal 14: No - not necessary - not enough schools

Proposal 15: yes

Proposal 16: yes

Proposal 17: yes

Proposal 18: yes

Proposal 19: yes

Proposal 20: yes

Proposal 21: yes

Proposal 22: yes

Proposal 23: yes

Proposal : 24 yes

Proposal 25: yes

Proposal 26: yes

Proposal 27: yes

Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

*Yr*

General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*Several of the proposals are submitted  
by groups who do not get their pay a day  
mad at someone in MISSA-CY*

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

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E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Summers Co. High School Athletic Dept. / Wayne Ryan, AP

Address: HC 74 Box 11A

Hinton, WV 25951

Telephone: 304 466 6040

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: Support

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Proposal 2: Support

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Proposal 3: Support

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Proposal 4: Support

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Proposal 5: Strongly Support

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Proposal 6: Strongly Support

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Proposal 7: Support

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Proposal 8: Support

Proposal 9: Disagree - We feel 9th graders in a Jr. High School should play for that Jr. High Program unless the sport is not offered.

Proposal 10: Support

Proposal 11: Support

Proposal 12: Support

Proposal 13: Strongly Support - Needed especially in rural areas. Gives our athletes closer to the opportunities that other states provide their athletes.

Proposal 14: Support

Proposal 15: Support

Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 17: Support

Proposal 18: Strongly Support - It's fair + equal.

Proposal 19: Strongly Support - It was a nightmare scheduling 10 games in 10 weeks.

Proposal 20: Support

Proposal 21: Support

Proposal 22: Support

Proposal 23: Support

Proposal : 24 Support

Proposal 25: Support

Proposal 26: Support

Proposal 27: Support

Proposal 28: Support.

General Comments: Problems with the wording of proposal 13 can be handled with proper WSSAC interpretation. It's time to pass this. It's the 2nd time the Board of Control has passed it, and neither time was it close.

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**  
**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**  
**Buld. 6 - Room 309**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**  
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or  
E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.  
or

Fax - 304-558-3787

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: JOE Scherpf

Address: 13 ORCHARD DRIVE

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV. 25411

Telephone: 304-258-3548

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: I certainly agree with this one. 10 days is  
little enough to ask.  
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Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: I agree with this proposal.

Proposal 19: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 22: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 23: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

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**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

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or

attachment.

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PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Tom Wamsley, Athletic Director, Tygart's Valley High

Address: P.O. Box 68  
Mill Creek, WV 26280

Telephone: 335-4824 335-4575

COMMENTS

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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to incorporate in accordance with the pertinent laws of West Virginia and in such manner as will fully protect and exempt from any and all legal liability the individual officers and members, jointly and severally, of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission for an account of the debts and other obligations of every kind and description of said Commission.

- 15.6 Should a trustee withdraw from membership of the Commission or be excluded therefrom, his trusteeship therein shall automatically cease from the date of such withdrawal or exclusion.
- 15.7 Should a trustee refuse, within five (5) days from the receipt thereof, to execute a legal instrument relating to any property of the Commission, when directed to do so by the Board of Control or the Board of Appeals, and when all legal requirements have been satisfied with reference to execution, the Board of Appeals may declare his/her membership on the Board of Trustees vacated.
- 15.8 The Board of Control and/or the Board of Appeals may direct the trustees with respect to the purchase, sale, mortgage, encumbrance, construction, repairing, remodeling and maintenance of any and all property, real and personal, as may be committed to said trustees by said Board of Control or Board of Appeals.

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: *Good Rule but poorly written. Allows  
each coach to have 10 days, should be 10 days  
per sport.*

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

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or

Fax - 304-558-3787



PUBLIC RESPONSE

R  
5/16/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: John A. George, Principal

Address: MORGANTOWN High School, 109 Wilson AVE,

MORGANTOWN WV 26501

Telephone: 304-291-9266

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4 (a) Individual players of a team must have practiced on 7 SEPARATE days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage.
- (b) Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf.
- 13.5 A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. Rule 127-3-3 further explains this required form.
- 13.6 An ineligible student may practice 15 days prior to his date of becoming eligible provided that he is otherwise eligible. This rule applies only to an academically ineligible student or a student who falls under Transfer Rules 127-2-7.15, 127-2-7.16, 127-2-7.20 and Adoption Guardianship Rule 127-2-8.4.
- 13.7 If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 14 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, he/she may participate in another sport of the season after completing seven separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.
- 13.8 Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete seven separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

Proposal 9: This does not affect us as a 9-12 High School. It would hurt the Junior Highs since the better athletes would play up.

Proposal 10:

Proposal 11:

Proposal 12:

Proposal 13: I am opposed to this proposal for the following reasons: ① a multi-sport athlete would have his/her summer vacation shortened. ② Coaches would require attendance or it would be perceived that w/o one would not make the team. ③ Coaches would be expected to give up two weeks of summer w. out compensation. ④ Record keeping would be a problem. Many athletic directors are not contracted through the summer. The principal would be responsible for record keeping and supervision. ⑤ It would be very easy to "cheat." Unethical coaches would practice their sport all summer.

Proposal 14: we feel the current structure is fair. we are opposed.

Proposal 17:

Proposal 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 19: We strongly support this. It is extremely difficult to schedule 10 games in 10 weeks. It hurts teams sharing a field with another school. 11 weeks gives us some flexibility to schedule. Football usually pays for our other sports.

Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 22: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 23: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 26: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission**

**Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.**

Individual/Organization: John R. Haines/Keyser High School

Address: One Tornado Way  
Keyser, WV 26726

Telephone: 788-4230

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: I agree with this proposal. It would allow for more  
representation from throughout the state.

Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: The vocational center is an extension of the local high school and should be given consideration.  
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Proposal 13: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 14: I feel strongly about passing this proposal. Keyser has been at or near the bottom of AAA schools. There is a huge gap between the smallest and largest AAA schools and we would rarely stand a chance against schools much larger. This is not the case in AA or A. There is much more equity in class AA and A. I would like to see the same in AAA.

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: I support this proposal, as it allows additional opportunities for tournaments.

Proposal 19: We need the additional week to allow some flexibility in scheduling. This is especially helpful when you are scheduling out of state schools.

Proposal 20:

Proposal 21:

Proposal 22:

Proposal 23:

Proposal : 24

Proposal 25:

Proposal 26:

Proposal 27:

Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

Date: May 17, 2001  
To: West Virginia State Board of Education  
From: Bobbi Mohrman  
Re: Rule Proposal 13

I am appalled at Rule Proposal 13 that allows any coaching staff member 10 additional days from June 1 - July 31 for individual or group instruction.

Young people need the summer months as a break from curricular and extra-curricular activities to spend time with family, friends and to vacation. Coaches already circumvent the regular season rules, plus athletes have extra time out of season to participate in the conditioning and fitness programs set up by their coaches.

As the new proposal 13 reads, the rule would allow each coach of the said sport to mandate student athletes to participate in their particular sport.

Examples: 3 coaches from basketball could mandate 30 days of summer practice!

Six football coaches could mandate 60 days of practice before football season begins! Football practice could actually begin and be mandated to the athletes by the coaches beginning June 1st and end with the State Football Playoffs in late November.

I have coached on the high school level for many years, won three State Championships and coached four state runner-up teams and I am very aware of what coaches are asking young people to do. I am currently a retired educator after 34 years at the high school level and feel very strongly about Rule 13. I hope that the State Board of Education takes a hard look at this picture and will consider the well being of our student / athletes across the state and vote against Rule 13 as it currently reads.

Sincerely,



Bobbi Mohrman

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: *see attached letter.*  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Portie Johnson  
Box 502  
Barrackville, W.V. 26559*

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 23: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 26: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rec  
4-25-01

Johh Ray  
West Virginia Dept of Ed.  
Building 6, Room 309 1900 Kanawha Blvd.East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Mr. Ray:

I would like to comment on the proposed class change in high school football. My experience as a player and ex-assistant coach in Ohio, I truly believe that enrollment of boys beyond a certain level (400) makes no difference in a program.

There is only a certain number of boys in every school whether it's a large 1400+ student enrollment or a medium-size 700+ student body school that desire to play football and be willing to commit themselves to the hard work of conditioning along with proper instruction for the contact sport of football.

I remember while coaching in Cincinnati in the mid'80's schools like Cincinnati Woodward, West Hills, Taft, Withrow, Walnut Hills and in the Columbus Area- East HS and South or schools closer to West Virginia; Marietta, Ohio, Parkersburg (yes the BIG RED) Parkersburg South, Wheeling Park all of these had total enrollment over 1200+ and not one would win a state championship, in fact they were lucky to have more than 50 boys out for the football team.

In fact, recent WV State Champions have come from smaller schools; Nitro, North Marion, Dupont, etc.

I feel bringing football to all schools in West Virginia including private and church schools is the way to go. Create a 6-man or 8-man class for really small schools like most Western and New England States have. Schools like HARTS, HARMAN, UNION, PAW PAW, ST. JOSEPH etc. could compete with present small Class A schools like Hundred, Hannan in a class more their size.

I played 6-man football in Eastern Ohio back in 1959-60 before 11-man replaced it and it was an exciting and wide-open game like today's Arena Football. Nothing brings communities together more than high school football.

Those that participate learn team work and maturity which is important in today's world.

Most schools that played 6-man football had total boy enrollment from 20-50 in the grades 9-12 and since most schools have baseball fields; they can easily be converted to football fields which in 6-man is smaller than regular 11-man fields.

Also schools that have basketball have enough for 6-man football. A wide-open passing game has less physical demands which eliminate need for large benches and substitution.

Cost! Assuming field is already available, portable bleachers or bring your own chairs after all, no crowds of 2000 would be expected at least at first. Scoreboard, stands, etc. will be provided by the communities who want to pride and committment.

As for uniforms and equipment; would it be to much to ask the WVSSA to help financially to introduce the program which will benefit the whole state? Some communities will gladly offer help to get it started.

I offer my assistance to any endeavour to introduce 6-man football to the state. I have enclosed what I think would be the ideal classification of football using only the total boy enrollment.

TOTAL BOYS ENROLLMENT IN GRADES 9-11

CLASS AAA	401 +	
CLASS AA	201 - 400	(put Linsly here)
CLASS A	76 - 200	
6-MAN CLASS	UP TO 75	* At this level any school can choose to participate in 6-man or CLASS A.

HERE'S A LOOK AT POTENTIAL 6-MAN SCHOOLS:

HARMAN	MERCER CHRISTIAN
PAW PAW	NOTRE DAME
UNION	BISHOP DONAHUE
HUNDRED	ST JOSEPH CENTRAL
GAULEY BRIDGE	PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC
HANNAN	MADONNA
MARSH FORK	CROSS LANES CHRISTIAN
HARTS	TEAYS VALLEY CHRISTIAN
PADEN CITY	WOOD COUNTY CHRISTIAN
VAN	BECKLEY CHRISTIAN
PICKENS	RAINELLE CHRISTIAN
MOUNTAIN SCHOOL	
WV SCHOOL DEAF/BLIND	

Sincerely

Roy M McBurney II  
(304) 636-8211  
204 Alexander Ave.  
Elkins, WV 26241

To: John Ray - W.V. Depart. of Ed.

West Virginia Board of Education Member

From: Harace Blankenship

Athletic Director, Warm Springs Middle School

Date: 5/11/01

Re: Consideration of West Virginia Code Title 127,  
18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission  
Proposals

I would like for you to consider voting in favor of proposals numbers thirteen (13) and eighteen (18).

Proposal number 13 allows any coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for ten (10) separate days from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Players may participate on a voluntary basis. I feel this will provide our athletes who are already participating in some type of summer program the opportunity to work with professional coaches.

Proposal number eighteen (18) permits high school basketball teams to play a maximum of 22 regular season games.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

Yours in the interest of students and athletes,

*Harace Blankenship*

**WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
100 MIDDLE SCHOOL LANE  
BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV 25411**

David Banks, Principal  
Gene Brock, Assistant Principal

Phone (304)258-1500  
Fax (304)258-4600

**FAX COVER SHEET**

TO: John Ray

FROM: Harace Blankenship

FAX: 304-558-3787

DATE: 5/21/01

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGES: 2

RE: Public Response to WV Code  
Title 127 18-2-25

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Please Recycle

Other

Comments:

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR PLEASE CONTACT US AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!**



Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an

or

attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

Proposal 18: Very good proposal and will  
aid scheduling.

Proposal 19: It won't work any other way,  
It has been proven in the past,

Proposal 20: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 21: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 22: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 23: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal : 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 25: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 26: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 27: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 9: It is my feeling that athletes should compete on the same level if their school sponsors that sport. There really is no line of who could and who couldn't compete on the next level.

Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 13: Strictly against proposal the way it is written. Should be written that each coach can work with only a 10 day period. The way it is written a school could use up the whole period with a different coach each ten days in the window.

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 15: Needs to be approved

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 16: Needs to be in the handbook

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission**

**Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.**

Individual/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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- (b) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.
- (c) Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: ALLAN E. KEENAN / TEACHER WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE

Address: 100 MIDDLE SCHOOL WAY  
BERKELEY SPRINGS WV 25411

Telephone: 304 - 258-1500

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: *No high school student should have a professional  
tryout. We <sup>are</sup> here to place an emphasis on education  
not turning out pro players.*

Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 13: *As a parent of a former student I feel this  
legitimizes what has been going on for years around  
this state.*

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
100 MIDDLE SCHOOL LANE  
BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV 25411**

David Banks, Principal  
Gene Brock, Assistant Principal

Phone (304)258-1500  
Fax (304)258-4600

**FAX COVER SHEET**

TO: John Ray

FROM: Allen E. Keenan

FAX: 304-558-3787

DATE: 5/21/01

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGES: 3

RE: Public Response to WV Code  
Title 127 18-2-25

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Please Recycle

Other

Comments:

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR PLEASE CONTACT  
US AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!**

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: Coach Dale M. Cumbee, Berkeley Springs High School

Address: 1415 FAIRBANK ST.  
LADY INDIAN BASKETBALL TEAM.

Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Telephone: (304) 258-1500 WORK

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 6: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 9: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: I feel this will provide our athletes who are  
already participating in some type of summer program  
the opportunity to work with professional coaches.

Proposal 14: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 17: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 18: Please consider this to allow teams  
play a total of (22) ball games (regular or tournament)

Proposal 19:

Proposal 20:

Proposal 21:

Proposal 22:

Proposal 23:

Proposal : 24

Proposal 25:

Proposal 26:

Proposal 27:

**WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
100 MIDDLE SCHOOL LANE  
BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV 25411**

David Banks, Principal  
Gene Brock, Assistant Principal

Phone (304)258-1500  
Fax (304)258-4600

**FAX COVER SHEET**

TO: John Ray  
FAX: 304-558-3787  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
RE: Public Response

FROM: Coach Dale McComb  
DATE: 5/21/01  
PAGES: 4  
CC: \_\_\_\_\_

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply
- Please Recycle
- Other

Comments:

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR PLEASE CONTACT US AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!**

Rec  
5-17-01  
JR

April 27, 2001

Mr. John Ray  
West Virginia Board of Education  
Department of Education  
Building 6, State Capitol  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Mr. Ray,

I am writing to you to share with you my opinion about the rule change the secondary schools activities committees recently passed that is awaiting the approval of the State Board of Education affecting the eligibility of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in Junior High Schools to compete with High School students. I am a parent of 3 girls in Wood County and have one daughter that would be affected by the decision. I am also the Assistant Girls Basketball coach at Parkersburg South High School. I am very much in support of this rule change and would like to share with you some of the reasons I feel this is a good change and is needed.

Currently student athletes in the Ninth Grade may not compete in High School athletics in a sport if it is currently offered at the Junior High they are enrolled at. On the face of things this seems reasonable. However, over 85% of 9<sup>th</sup> Graders in our state are not in Junior Highs but are already in High School and therefore have the opportunity to play against better competition. As the rule stands now this is not equitable. Some people have the feeling that this rule change will hurt 9<sup>th</sup> Grade athletic programs in schools that have the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> system in place now. This simply is not correct. This rule change will affect very few student athletes. I have spoken to officials with the P.I.A.A. (Pennsylvania's S.S.A.C.) and they have had this rule in place for many years and it has not hindered Junior High sports at all. In fact the person I spoke with thought Junior High sports may have improved because they no

longer had the exceptional athletes that are able to dominate a game because they had gone up to compete with the High School students.

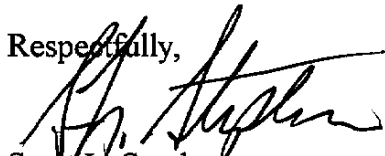
I believe we owe the gifted 9<sup>th</sup> grade athlete the same opportunity we afford to the gifted student. We have no problem advancing the gifted student, why then not the athlete? I know as a Coach that an athlete is either progressing or declining in skills, it is not possible to stay at the same level. Allowing the exceptional 9<sup>th</sup> grader to play up insures the competition is there for the student to feel the need to improve.

Currently parents must make a choice if they feel their 9<sup>th</sup> grade child should compete in High School athletics. They can enroll in private school, transfer the student to a local High School that is presently 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade or take the S.S.A.C. to court for an injunction to allow their child to participate at the High School that the Junior High feeds. This was done successfully in Parkersburg last year by the parent of a PHS wrestler. While these are all options, they are not what is best or easiest for the student athlete.

I urge you to support this S.S.A.C. proposed rule change when it is presented to the State School Board. The current rule is not fair and it is time for a change. As I told Mike Hayden, I would rather write a fair rule and administer it than have a judge decide on a case by case basis.

Thank you for listening to my position on this topic. I hope you will agree with my position.

Respectfully,



Scott L. Stephens

PUBLIC RESPONSE

R  
5/16/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: G. DOUGLAS HERRINGTON

Address: 1018 36th ST  
PARKERSBURG WV 26104

Telephone: 304-422-7123

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 8: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Support.  
Proposal 9: ALL 9th GRADES should be given the same  
opportunities REGARDLESS OF whether their school system  
has chosen to NOT adopt the Middle school concept.  
Also if one sport allows this then all sports should do the  
same.

Proposal 10: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal 13: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Support  
Proposal 14: There is too much difference between the Leg  
Table A and the high Table A, sometimes 2 1/2 times the  
enrollment. For safety reasons alone a 4A should be  
created.

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 28: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**  
**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**  
**Buld. 6 - Room 309**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or  
E-mail - [jbray@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbray@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an  
or attachment.

Fax - 304-558-3787

✓  
April 25, 2001

Louis E. Thomas  
1106 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vienna, WV 26105

Rec  
5-1-01  
JR

To Whom It May Concern: Mr. John Ray,

I am writing to you about the State Board of Education's upcoming review of the S.S.A.C. rule change proposal. More specifically, the rule proposal which would allow all ninth grade students to participate in all available high school sports.

Given the fact that we have not met, nor have we had any personal communication, I would like to give you a little background information regarding my interest in this rule proposal.

My family resides in Vienna, Wood County, West Virginia . This puts my three children in the Parkersburg High School district. I was raised and have lived my entire life in Wood County and understand very well that the Wood County school system is among the states' best. We are also equally proud of the extra-curricular activities available to, and participated in, by our students.

Thus the problem, Wood County is one of the few counties in West Virginia still using the junior high system. Given this set-up, ninth grade students are not enrolled in the high school "building". Therefore they are only permitted to participate in select high school sports programs.

Numbers provided by the State Board of Education for the current school year show that approximately eighty five percent of ninth grade students in West Virginia are eligible to participate in any high school sport offered by their school. Conversely, the problem becomes only fifteen percent of the states ninth grade students are denied this opportunity. Wood County is actually split in this regard. As students from Williamstown High School and Parkersburg Catholic High School are given the opportunity and students from Parkersburg High School and Parkersburg South High School are denied this opportunity.

This has been a topic of conversation among many Wood County residents interested in the athletic opportunities and achievements of our students. It seems to put our students at a competitive disadvantage with the majority of West Virginia's students.

In December 2000, after much thought, much counsel, and most importantly much support from the staff of Parkersburg High School, I decided it was time to meet this issue "head on".

A temporary injunction was obtained in Wood County Circuit Court allowing my son, a ninth grade student at Jackson Junior High School, the opportunity to participate on the Parkersburg High School wrestling team. As a parent, my intention was twofold. One, to help my son to achieve as much as he could from this sport, and two, to give him an

equal opportunity that the majority of students around the state have. I would have a very hard time putting into words what a positive experience this was for my son.

This precisely is the reason for my letter to you. In March, 2001, the S.S.A.C. at its' annual meeting adopted a rule proposal to put all West Virginia students on equal ground regarding the above mentioned issue. It is my understanding that all rule changes must be approved by the State Board of Education. I am hopeful that you and the entire Board will see fit to agree to this rule, and give all West Virginia students' equal opportunities. I thank you greatly for your time and giving this matter your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis E. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Louis E. Thomas

PUBLIC RESPONSE

R  
5/14/01

Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission

Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.

Individual/Organization: MARSHALL BURDETTE

Address: 4613 6th AVE

VIENNA, WV 26105

Telephone: 304-295-6227

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal 9: PLEASE SUPPORT. GIVE ALL 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES.

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Proposal 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: PLEASE SUPPORT. THE RULES AS THEY ARE NOW ARE BROKEN IN PARTICULARLY IN BASKETBALL. IF CHALLENGED IN COURT, THE RULES AS THEY ARE NOW WOULD NEVER STAND UP. MAKE LEGITIMATE WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE.

Proposal 14: PLEASE SUPPORT. THIS WOULD CREATE A FAIRNESS BASED UPON STUDENT ENROLLMENT NOT A FAIRNESS BASED UPON A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS. THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN A CLASS SHOULD NOT MATTER, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN A SCHOOL WITHIN A CLASS DOES MATTER, AS FAR AS FAIRNESS AND SAFETY IS CONCERNED.

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY: May 22, 2001**

**TO: John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education**

**Buld. 6 - Room 309**

**1900 Kanawha Blvd. , East**

**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

or

E-mail - [jbrav@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jbrav@access.k12.wv.us) - If responding via e-mail please send comments as an attachment.

or

Fax - 304-558-3787

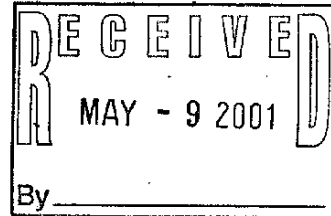


# Robert C. Byrd High School

One Eagle Way  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Telephone: 304.623.2453

Facsimile: 304.624.3211



Facsimile Transmission

Date: 5-9-01

To: JOHN RAY - WV Dept of Ed.

Fax Number: 304-558-3787

From: RICHARD LAQUINA & STAFF OF RCB FOOTBALL

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 2

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**PUBLIC RESPONSE**

**Policy West Virginia Code Title 127, § 18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School  
Activities Commission**

**Directions: Please use this form to comment on the proposed changes in the policy.**

Individual/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

Proposal 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 13: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 14: RCB IS IN FAVOR OF THE 4 TOURNAMENT  
STRUCTURE IN FOOTBALL ONLY.

Proposal 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Proposal 16: \_\_\_\_\_  
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To John Ray

Proposal 8:

Proposal 9:

Proposal 10:

Proposal 11:

Proposal 12:

<sup>note No</sup> Proposal 13: Some students participate in more than 1 sport. It is possible for a student to be practicing most of the summer. Let kids be kids in the summer. Family gatherings + vacations would be interrupted.

<sup>note No</sup> Proposal 14: Schools will be traveling all over the state - Transportation cost will increase.

\* Mostly instructional time will be lost because of the travel time or if on non-instructional days depending upon the team played - 6-8 hours of travel time

Proposal 15:

Kathy Hosaflook  
Cabell County

Proposal 16:

Proposal 17:



# Summers County High School

HC 74, Box 11A

Bobcat Drive

Hinton, West Virginia 25951-9103

(304) 466-6040 • Fax (304) 466-6044

Harry Keaton,  
*Principal*  
Garnette L. Crowder,  
*Assistant Principal*  
Robin McNeer,  
*Counselor*  
Terri Kirkham,  
*Counselor*  
Tom Fitzsimmons,  
*Counselor*

May 15, 2001

Mr. John Ray  
West Virginia Department of Education  
Building 6, Room 309  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

*Per 5-16-a*  
*JR*

Dear Mr. Ray:

I am writing this letter to ask for your support of proposals 13 and 18 of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission. Proposal 13 will allow professional coaches to instruct their student athletes for ten days from June 1 until July 31. This proposal would help to narrow the gap between the opportunities of West Virginia student athletes and those from other states. Currently, our student athletes must be coached during the summer by non-professional persons without sufficient training or knowledge. Our student athletes are being monitored by support personnel, instead of taught by professional personal. Other states around us allow school employed professional personnel to instruct their student athletes in the off-season. Over a secondary school career of six years, this disadvantage is magnified. Student athletes are losing opportunities to receive exposure to colleges by not being allowed to attend team camps with their coach. Teams are attending team camps, why not allow them to be instructed by a professional during this time.

Proposal 13 will provide all student athletes with some accessibility to facilities and opportunities to improve their level of skill. Currently, student athletes from rural areas like Hinton are at a disadvantage. We are not fortunate enough to have infrastructure that provides recreation opportunities such as a recreation center, Y.M.C. A., or local college gymnasium. A student athlete in Summers County has no recreation facility available to them unless a parent or volunteer is willing to open a local school gym. Why should a professional educator not be allowed to open an athletic facility so our young people, on a voluntary basis, have the same opportunities as other communities? Proposal 13 does not provide all student athletes with the same opportunities, but it does help those that do not currently have any recreation opportunities available to them. Also, the availability of educated and trained persons that have the time to work with our student athletes during the summers is limited in many small towns. As a coach that is willing to help my student athletes, I would appreciate being able to legally do so within the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Guidelines.

Proposal 18 would serve to make all basketball teams in West Virginia eligible to play the same number of games without needing to be involved in any type of regular season tournament. A school should not be punished if they are not invited to play in a tournament. Proposal 18 makes basketball scheduling both equal and fair.

Your support of proposals 13 and 18 is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions. or if I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 466-0043.

Sincerely,

*Wayne Ryan*

Wayne Ryan

Athletic Director

Head Girls' Basketball Coach

Discrimination prohibited

As required by Federal laws and regulations, the Summers County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disability, age, and national origin in employment and in the administration of any of its education programs and activities. Inquiries may be directed to Vicki Hinerman, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, Summers County Board of Education, 116 Main Street, Hinton, WV 25951, phone 466-6005; to the State Elimination of Sex Discrimination Project Coordinator, phone (304) 558-7864; or to the U.S. Department of Education's Director of the Office for Civil Rights, (215) 596-6795.

Accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1931



**Intercollegiate Athletics**  
 Armstrong Atlantic State University  
 11935 Abercorn Street  
 Savannah, Georgia 31419-1997  
 912.927.5336 • Fax: 912.921.5571  
 e-mail: [athletic@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:athletic@mail.armstrong.edu)

May 14, 2001

Mr. John Ray, West Virginia Department of Education  
 Building 6, Room 309  
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
 Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Mr. Ray:

I am writing to express my comments on items 13 and 18 of the proposals that are being brought before the State Board by the Secondary School Activities Commission. My interest in these issues stems from West Virginia being one of my main recruiting grounds as a college basketball coach as well as the pride I have in being a native of the state.

In my experience watching high school basketball nationwide, I have observed many different policies concerning supervision of players outside during the summer months. Some allow coaches great leeway and some are very restrictive with the objective being to create a balance that will allow the athletes the opportunity to improve their skills to the highest possible level without overtaxing them to the point of disillusionment with a specific sport. Obviously, there is a delicate medium that needs to be achieved. It is my belief that allowing some summer activity not only will improve the level of play of the specific sport (which ultimately provides more scholarship opportunities for athletes within the state) but will also give the young people involved more exposure to college coaches. One of the best ways to recruit an athlete is to be able to meet them on your campus during summer camps. Allowing high school coaches to take their teams to these venues provides more players with the chance to show their talents and puts them on a level playing field with high school athletes from other states in competing for scholarships. The ultimate goal for the young people that you and I have charge over is to give them the greatest opportunity to succeed in whatever they choose to do. For many West Virginia high school athletes, Proposal 13 would have that effect.

I also support Proposal 18 that would permit high school basketball teams to play 22 games. Personally, it would benefit me as well as other college coaches in providing more dates to see state players compete. Also, the extra games would produce some of the same results as referenced above such as improved skill-development and more exposure. I can also see an advantage from a monetary point of view. Schools can make more money from the extra home dates to use for other needs within their systems. Although I am sure that financial factors are your main concern, it will be something positive that accompanies the implementation of this policy. But the fact that the measure passed the WVSSAC panel by a tally of 107-1 tells me that the high schools definitely want to make this change.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments. If there are questions or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roger Hodge  
 Head Women's Basketball Coach

Rec'd  
5-4-01  
JR

Mr. John Ray  
WV Board of Education  
Charleston, W. Va. 25305

Mr. Ray,

I understand that there are several issues that you will be addressing in regards to athletics in the state of West Virginia. The expansion to four classes because of football does not make any sense to me. Allowing coaches to work with their kids for 10 days during the summer will provide nothing but positive results for both the kids and the school teams ...but the issue that I would like to address is the 9<sup>th</sup> grade eligibility rule. I was in shock when I saw that this rule change only passed by a few votes when the principals voted.

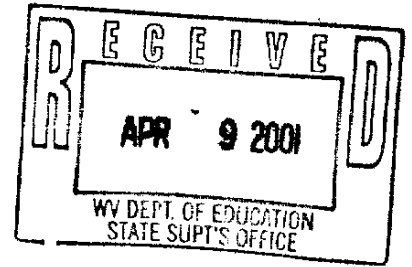
I have always believed that not allowing certain 9<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in high school athletics because of the school district that they lived in was not only wrong but actually if challenged would be found that it is not constitutional. When the judge ruled in favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade wrestler from Parkersburg High School and the young man participated, not only in the entire season but competed very well in the State wrestling tournament, I assumed that this ruling set precedence and the unfair rule would be changed. The judges ruling had to be easy as most of the West Virginia schools ( I understand over 80%) already allow 9<sup>th</sup> graders to participate. It is also rumored that there is a waiver in place that is allowing more Kanawha county schools to allow their freshmen to participate at a varsity level. With only a handful of schools remaining, why would anyone vote against allowing these kids the opportunity to compete for their respective high schools.

It not only provides an even playing field for all high schools, it allows the student athlete the opportunity to compete at a higher level, thus improving their skills while being seen earlier by potential college coaches. I feel confident that this issue will be easily approved . I will always wonder why the vote by the principals was as close as it was. There are not any negatives to providing the option of moving a 9<sup>th</sup> grader up to the varsity team, if the athlete has the skill to participate at that level. If it was wrong, would the majority of the schools already be allowed to have their freshmen compete?

Thanks for your consideration.



Terry L. Crislip



# MARSHALL UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

April 5, 2001

David Stewart  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Building 6  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

*Rec. 4-12-01*

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The principals meeting with the WVSSAC in Martinsburg voted to have two divisions in AAA class football. Division I includes 16 teams and Division II includes the other AAA schools (approximately 26 teams). The AAA range from top to bottom is 1,000 students. The AA and A range from top to bottom is 300. With two divisions in AAA, the range would be approximately 300.

Football is a sport of numbers; the more students you have to draw from the better the product. A school of 1,500 students will have the probability of producing bigger, faster, tougher players than a school of 700. The new arrangement in AAA will give the smaller AAA schools a better chance of getting in the playoffs, as well as having less chance for injury against the bigger teams.

Marshall University's football program would like to endorse this change in classification.

Sincerely,

Bob Pruett  
Head Football Coach

✓  
P. O. Box 590  
Romney, WV 26757  
April 4, 2001

Rec. 4-12-01

Mr. James MacCallum  
West Virginia Board of Education  
330 State Street  
P. O. Box 38  
Madison, WV 25130

Dear Mr. MacCallum:

I am writing to commend the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Board of Control for its action on the proposal to create four classifications for football for the 2001-2002 school year. The difference in size among class AAA schools has long created a competitive imbalance that the smaller class AAA schools have had a tough time overcoming. I think this is a sound proposal and it deserves the attention of the State Board of Education.

However, to say that this competitive imbalance exists only in football is a preposterous notion. I don't know how, with a clear conscience, the board could consider a proposal that targets only one sport. All sports, whether boys' or girls', are dramatically affected by the huge differences in the sizes of current class AAA schools. As a boys' basketball coach for the past eleven years at a class AAA school whose enrollment is in the bottom third of that classification, I have been to the state tournament and seen the top third dominate both the participation and the championships. The same is true in volleyball, girls' basketball, baseball, and nearly every other sport that the WVSSAC sponsors. It is unthinkable to me that any proposal to split class AAA into two divisions would not include every sport, rather than target one in particular.

On behalf of all student-athletes who participate in interscholastic sports on the class AAA levels, amend the proposal to include all sports, not just football. Every athlete in every sport deserves a fair competitive chance to vie for a state championship. You, as a board, have an opportunity to give those athletes that chance.

Sincerely,



Larry See  
Head Boys' Basketball Coach  
Hampshire High School



EARL RAY TOMBLIN  
PRESIDENT

THE SENATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CHARLESTON 25305

April 4, 2001

*Recd  
4-12-01*

Dr. David Stewart  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Building 6, Room 204  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Dr. Stewart:

Several high school coaches in my district, and from around the state, have expressed strong support for the West Virginia Board of Education's approval of the new classification policy passed recently, by a 2-1 majority, by the Secondary Schools Activities Commission. They, as I, believe the new system will allow Triple-A schools with smaller student bodies to have greater opportunities for equal competition, especially while qualifying for state tournament action.

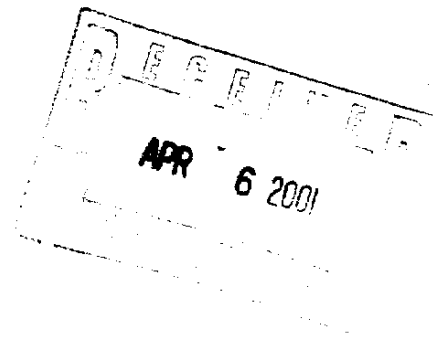
I believe this will foster a higher degree of interest in high school athletics at the Triple-A level, both during the season as well as during tournaments and playoff games. Some of our larger consolidated high schools have a distinct and permanent advantage over schools with declining student populations. The result is reduced attendance and interest in games during the regular season and competition during playoffs which lack diversity.

Please relate to the members of the State Board of Education my strong support for passage of this new system as well as my thanks for their consideration of it. I believe it will improve high school athletics and extra-curricular activities, and in doing so, will enhance the opportunities for hundreds of young people to experience the thrill of competing for a championship.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Senate President-Lt. Governor



ERT:bln

cc: George C. Barker, Head Football Coach, Logan High School  
Jim Thornsburg, Head Football Coach, Spring Valley High School

## The Heldman's

---

**From:** "The Heldman's"  
**To:** "John Ray" <jbrayaccess.k12.wv.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 16, 2001 11:45 AM  
**Subject:** summer camps  
**To:** Mr. John Ray,

Mr Ray, my name is Jeffrey Heldman and am a commissioner of a Pony and Colt baseball league ages 13-14 and 15-16-17. After reading the article about the Board of Education considering allowing coaches to have 10 day camps or instructions for 10 days during the summer I felt that I had to respond.

As a recreation/league director for these ages I feel that this summer program will most likely hurt or even eliminate the summer baseball programs around the state. Our programs start the first of May for Pony baseball and June for Colt baseball with both ending around the middle to third week of July. We now fight coaches demanding that kids play in summer basketball leagues, lift weights for football, attend various football and basketball camps around the country and actually are trying to get kids at 13/14 to make a decision on which sport they are going to play and concintrate only on that one. If this summer program is passed I feel that most summer baseball programs would be 1.) eliminated 2.) level of competition would be reduced for those that are playing or wanting to play high school baseball.

With all the camps that are offered now, weight lifting at local schools, summer leagues that are available and coaches demanding that kids participate this additional 10 days are not needed. I like to see our recreation teams and high school teams do well also but I feel that there is enough pressure put on children already, more is not needed and winning at all cost by some coaches is not in the best interest of students.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this subject. If you like to return an answer my e-mail address is [heldman@charter.net](mailto:heldman@charter.net)/ phone number is 304-295-9545.

Jeff Heldman  
Vienna, Wv.



4/17/01

**Jean Bolyard**

**From:** Jean Bolyard <mbolyard@mail.fscwv.edu>  
**To:** <jbray@access.k12.wv.us>  
**Cc:** <mbolyard@mail.fscwv.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2001 10:31 AM  
**Subject:** summer coaching

Jean Bolyard  
 5/11/01  
 AR

I understand there is a proposal under consideration which would permit secondary school coaches to have 10 days of summer instruction for athletes participating in their particular sport.

I am requesting that you reject such a proposal for the following reasons:

Many students participate in more than one sport. This could consume up to forty days of "their time" during the summer if a student were involved in as many as four sports. Students need down time in the summer and families need vacation time. We as parents and school administrators have an obligation to provide that opportunity for them.

Many coaches already circumvent out of season restrictions under the guise of weight training, conditioning, and summer leagues. Although these are supposed to be voluntary activities, in most instances they are voluntary in name only and students athletes are, in truth, required to be present. Coaches certainly do not need another sanctioned activity to have athletes at their beck and call during the "off season."

Please vote down this proposal.

Sincerely,

M J Bolyard

I wanted to be certain you had  
 a printed copy of the e-mail  
 I sent. I have seen very little  
 in the newspapers concerning  
 this proposal. Don't know what  
 your response has been, but I  
 feel certain many parents are not  
 aware that this is under considera-  
 tion.

MJ Bolyard

Rt. 2 Box 409

Farmont

26554

5/11/01

Rec'd  
4-25-01

April 16, 2001

Dear John,

I recently read the prepared rule changes to consider a new Frisbee class. I think it sounds like a great idea. It's been overdue especially for schools with less enrollment.

Being from Parkersburg, I attend a lot of games & often wonder why they can't play 9 games. Believe me it's no fun to sit in rain, snow or zero weather at a playoff game in Wheeling (no pun intended). I feel sorry for those playoff teams who have night games. That's why attendance is down plus weather conditions also some teams could use one less game as they have scheduling problems.

Thanks for listening to my opinion.

Delaney Tranna  
PHS Grad-1953

P.S. The Playoff games should return to Charleston or somewhere more centrally located for teams. There should be a rule to move it anyway say every 2 or 3 years to different areas.

Will Schenerlein  
Coach

Troy Owens  
Assistant Coach

Steve Rader  
Assistant Coach

Dave Satterfield  
Assistant Coach

Chris Way  
Assistant Coach

# Big Red Wrestling

## PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

2101 Dudley Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
304-420-9595 Ext. 390 or 485-8010

*Will Schenerlein*  
4-25-01



2101 Dudley Ave.  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
April 20, 2001

John Ray  
WV Dept. of Education  
Building 6, Room 309  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Mr. Ray,

I am writing to comment on the proposal allowing freshman to participate in sports on the high school level. I feel that freshman across the state should be afforded the opportunity to participate at the high school level if they choose. As you know, there are few schools that do not have freshman competing with the high school teams. This puts those schools at a disadvantage in many sports. In wrestling, freshman are very valuable to their program because they help fill the lower weight classes. It also gives those student athletes an advantage for future success because they have an extra year to compete at a higher level.

I agree with this proposal so that all freshman in West Virginia are treated fairly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Will Schenerlein  
Head Wrestling Coach  
Parkersburg High School



# WHEELING PARK HIGH SCHOOL

**MARK A. NARDONE**  
*Head Football Coach*  
Football Office: 243-0416

***Patriot Football***

April 17, 2001

Mr. John Ray  
State Department of Education  
Coordinator of Healthy Schools  
WV Department of Education  
State Capital Complex, Building 6  
Charleston, WV 25305- 0330

Dear Mr. Ray:

My name is Mark Nardone, and I am the Head Football Coach at Wheeling Park High School. I am writing to discuss the proposal of the Super Sixteen bracket in AAA football. It is my understanding that the components of the proposal state that all 16 teams in the Division 1 brackets would make post season. My feelings are that this is the only way this should be approved.

Wheeling Park finished with a 9-1 record in 2001 and finished in the 5<sup>th</sup> spot for post season. Some teams that would have finished 7-3 would not have made it in the top 8 spots. I feel that this would lead to selective scheduling and downgrading in an attempt to finish in the top 8. However, if all 16 are included in post season, then we could all upgrade our schedules knowing that the battle would simply be for placement.

Again, it is my feeling that the proposal, if approved, should be approved as is, with all 16 teams entering post-season play.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Mark Nardone  
Head Football Coach

Rec  
5-1-01  
JA

4/27/2001

John Ray,

I am writing to tell you that I think putting the largest sixteen schools in a fourth class is a good idea. I have been wondering for the last five years why this has not been suggested sooner. The consolidation of schools has caused a chain reaction, other smaller schools have to consolidate in order to compete in sports. Dupont and East Bank consolidated for that reason. I read a newspaper article in a Charleston paper last week and it mentioned the possible merger of two schools in Putnam County. There wasn't any mention of educational value of the merger, there was mostly talk of how the school would be able to compete in athletics.

The state basketball, baseball, softball, football, and other state tournaments should be moved around the state to different places every three or four years so that panhandle teams don't have to travel six hours every year. Also the money spent at hotels, gas stations, and restaurants would be spread over the whole state, not just Charleston and Wheeling.

Doug Butts  
297 Wilson St.  
Martinsburg  
W. VA. 25401

To: Dr. David L. Stewart

West Virginia Board of Education Member

From: Wayne Sherrard / Dean of Students  
149 Carcord Ave Berkeley Springs,  
Berkeley Springs High School WV 25411

Date: 5/11/01

Re: Consideration of West Virginia Code Title 127,  
18-2-25: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission  
Proposals

I would like for you to consider voting in favor of proposals numbers thirteen (13) and eighteen (18).

Proposal number 13 allows any coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for ten (10) separate days from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Players may participate on a voluntary basis. I feel this will provide our athletes who are already participating in some type of summer program the opportunity to work with professional coaches.

Proposal number eighteen (18) permits high school basketball teams to play a maximum of 22 regular season games.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

Yours in the interest of students and athletes,



Sherrard