

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

Policy 127CSR3 Provisions Governing Contests
Comment Log
May 14, 2015 – June 15, 2015

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/ TYPE	RATIONALE
		§127-3-7 2 Out-of-Season Coaching		
05-14	Jan Kidwell Administrative Assistant Berkeley County Schools Martinsburg WV	I would like to see this possible because other states allow year round and it would put us on the same playing field. There are already schools that find ways around it so this would take the sin out of practicing off-season. I'm not sure why this rule has been in place so long. If a student/player is practicing year round, the risk of injury would go down because the players would be more conditioned. That should equate to less liability and healthier athletes . With the push from the government for healty life styles, this seems to bbe a no-brainier. Active students all year round.	N+	
05-14	Britt Sherman Hedgesville West	As a coach and educator it is simple to me that we need to level the playing field with surrounding states and open up our coaching rules. Our coaches are the best thing that happen to most of our students. We need to place them in the best hands possible. I believe out of season coaching will benefit our children in several ways:	N+	
05-15	Art Thomm Martinsburg WV	- It will enable positive interaction with the children during times that interaction may otherwise be absent. - it will provide additional extracurricular activities and focus for our youth, thus limiting opportunities for negative influence from outside sources. - It will make our school sports more competitive and place them on an even playing field against neighboring states.	N+	

05-15	James Rife Bunker Hill WV	<p>I believe this would really benefit our kids in WV. Where we live, schools in other states have a competitive edge on us. As long as it is structured properly, the kids of WV could have more scholarship opportunities and be more prepared to compete.</p> <p>Growing up, I often wished that I would have had the opportunity to work all year with Coach Walker at Martinsburg High. I enjoyed playing football and baseball, and wished that I had the opportunity that other states had of getting better at those sports all year long. Now as a coach, I have the same opportunity to work with players that I now coach. Seven on Seven events, legion baseball, camps, and numerous other opportunities on our own field would allow our athletes the best opportunity to be successful.</p>	N+
05-15	Joseph Yurish Teacher (Masters)/Coach Washington High School Charles Town WV	<p>Like in the classroom, the more we are able to repeat and experience material, the better off we will be in the future. We have to be able to prepare our players and young adults for what they may go through at the college level. I understand that not all student athletes will go on to the next level, and some may not want that experience. However, for those who would like to pursue that dream and make that goal realistic, we have to give him/her all available resources.</p> <p>I chose the field of education and coaching so that I may be able to pass down skills and life lessons that I have learned in my experiences with athletics. The biggest reward I have had as a coach is to hear a student-athlete say "thank you Coach for dedicating your time and teaching me valuable lessons."</p> <p>I highly support the idea of year round coaching, and know that my players would benefit from it greatly.</p>	N+
05-15	Richard Hall Martinsburg High School Martinsburg WV	<p>This is an outstanding proposal that benefits the student athlete. To many times I see well-meaning parents trying to work with athletes in the off season only to be accused of favoritism and not implementing what the coaches are teaching, causing there student athletes to be farther behind at the beginning of the season. It also allows the athletes to not be as far behind the surrounding states in the beginning of seasons.</p>	N+
05-15	David Delk Wheeling WV	<p>First, the argument that this proposed rule change is beneficial because it allows "certified" HS and MS coaches to work with athletes year round is a false assumption. Being "certified" in WV</p>	N-

has nothing to do with one's coaching expertise or effectiveness. As a parent, I want my child trained by qualified coaches and programs. Typically, this quality is found outside the schools as these non-school programs offer far better coaching and teaching options than most SSAC "certified" coaches. We all know the pressure that will be put to bear on students who do not participate in these year round school programs and would rather compete in other sports, or at a higher level than their HS sport or want to pursue academic and other extracurricular endeavors in their off-season. Lastly, this rule change is primarily aimed at football and basketball; why not just limit it to those sports? I am the parent of three female athletes who excel at other sports, and their ability at these sports has little or nothing to do with the coaching they receive in high school. For many athletes this rule change would not be helpful at all and detrimental to them attempting to pursue athletic options beyond high school.

Out-of-season coaching would benefit the student athlete that participates in multiple sports in that this would allow them to benefit from coaching from within their school program for a longer period of time without having to choose. Also, a lot of baseball players end up playing travel ball and this would allow them the ability to learn from within the high school program they participate in and be taught the way the program teaches them. Out-of-season conditioning over the watchful eye of the regular season coaches would also help eliminate injury to the student. When the regular season ends, the coaches may not be aware of injury issues those players may be dealing with and could minimize the risk of injuries to those players. From the pitching standpoint, other out-of-season coaches may not be aware of the innings pitched during the high school season and would prevent the overuse of those pitchers arms. For baseball, as it stands now, the 3 week period is held in conjunction with summer seasons the player participates in and because of that spring season coaches very seldom get the opportunity to work with their kids.

N+

05-15 John Lowery
Head Baseball Coach
Jefferson High School
Shepherdstown WV

05-15 Trent Sherman
Principal
Martinsburg High School
Martinsburg West

1. All research shows that the more students are involved in extra-curricular activity the better their attendance & GPA are.
a. This rule would lead to more students participating which could lead to better grades and better attendance.

N+

b. Research shows that students involved in extracurricular activities:

i. Have reduced behavior issues.

ii. Are less likely to drop out of school.

iii. Have a higher self-esteem.

1. In this age of bullying and high teen suicide rates, higher self-esteem is a great by-product of extracurricular activities.

c. Smaller counties less to do in summer.

i. Involvement may deter bad behavior.

ii. Coaches become positive role models year round

2. We are hurting Low SES students with current rule.

a. Affluent families can afford the private lessons, private coaching sessions, tournament fees & travel team fees.

b. If they are low income and have exceptional talent maybe a booster will pay for them, but if their talent is marginal and family cannot afford it they are out of luck.

3. Many argue that students will specialize in one sport.

a. Students can specialize now if they really want to, there are travel teams for every sport and once again it is the poor student who cannot afford these opportunities.

b. We as Principals set the atmosphere in our schools. I will meet with my coaches a couple times a year to discuss this issue with them and set forth guidelines that could possibly lead to suspension if there is proof of this occurring.

c. I would work with my county to get a discipline policy concerning coaches influencing students to specialize in place that may look similar to the one below:

3 strikes and you are out

i. 1st offense Suspended for 10% of season games.

ii. 2nd offense Suspended for 30% of season games

iii. 3rd offense dismissed from position

d. County policy that states if a student is on a school sports team they cannot participate in any other sessions without permission from the Head Coach.

4. Will we be required to pay coaches more for the extra time?

a. Good coaches in good programs are already conducting out of season weight training and conditioning workouts, this will only

change the way in which these workouts are conducted. The coaches will be able to use sport specific balls and drills.

5. AAU & travel team coaches are not certified.

a. We have a highly qualified report for teachers; why would we not want the same thing for our student athletes?

b. Who knows the educational requirements for the students better than the school coach?

i. They know when the test is being held or when the exam is being conducted and know not to have the student at an AAU tournament the weekend prior to a final exam.

6. The Governor's My state my life video says some people think WV is behind; we are behind in this rule. I spoke with an Asst. Director in each of our bordering states and here is what they had to say about their rules, all bordering states offer out of season coaching in some capacity:

a. Tony Gibson WVU DC spoke Monday about how behind WV athletes are in development; in recruiting they cannot see the athlete perform.

b. Pennsylvania

i. Allows anything voluntary for players and coaches

ii. Rationale for rule: Who do we want our student athletes working with; board approved coaches or other?

c. Virginia

i. Allows anything voluntary for players and coaches

ii. Three 1 week dead periods during school year and 1 during summer.

iii. Rationale for rule: Better control of student athletes at the school level; education based coaches know pressures of school better.

d. Kentucky

i. Can instruct athletes year around on sport specific skills; can coach entire team off school site(Due to liability) 1 dead period June 25 – July 9

ii. Rationale for rule: Felt like the high school coach was the most restricted but the most qualified to be dealing with student athletes.

e. Ohio

i. Defines school coaches and non-school coaches.

ii. Coaches can work with students from 8/1 – 5/31 provided it is

only 4 students per team in the facility.

iii. 10 days from 6/1 to 7/31

f. Maryland

i. Allows 2 players per coaching staff per day during off-season; can coach a team of 80% of starting line up from 1st fall practice to spring championships; can coach team with 100% of starting line up from spring championships to 1st fall practice.

ii. Rational for rule: Who do you want athletes with? School coaches or non-school coaches? Low income students are at a disadvantage when it comes to paying high entry fees and private lesson fees.

7. Other options:

a. Current rule 3 weeks period-All sports packed into 3 weeks; a student really has to pick where they want to participate.

i. Spring sports rarely utilize the 3 week period because they have just finished their season.

b. Entire summer:

i. Last time I checked we give students the summer off for a break, to rest & go on vacation with their family. So if we only open the summer different sports are going to compete for their time and pull them away from the break they are supposed to be getting. I believe my proposal alleviates the summer pressure.

8. Please consider passing this proposal; we can test it during the 2015-2016 school year and reconvene at the 2016 WVSSAC Board of Control meeting and make any language changes that we feel necessary.

I am in full support of the new proposal dealing with out of season coaching. The five border states already have a more advanced out of season coaching rule than WV. Let's put our hired, highly qualified coaches in front of our student/athlete's. Would we really want a parent off the street working with our children in the classroom? This is the same concept. Put trained individuals in charge of their programs. Our coaches work extremely hard preparing our athlete's in weight training and conditioning. Our coaches will not work harder, but will change how they work. Let's provide the weight training and develop skills at the same time. It's a win-win for everyone involved! WV is so far behind in a lot of areas, so let's take a proactive stance for once and lead by example.

05-15
Greg Reed
Asst. Principal/Athletic Director
Martinsburg High
Martinsburg WV

N+

Vote for our coaches and more importantly our students! If it doesn't work as planned, then we can revisit and change at next board of control meeting in 2016.

I am writing to you in support of the proposed provision to allow out of Season Coaching in the State of WV. The athletes in the State of WV currently find themselves at a disadvantage to the surrounding states when it comes to recruiting for athletic purposes. Currently, college recruiters are unable to set up sessions with possible recruits and their coaches due to the limitations placed upon the coaches. The recruiters are unable to see the athletes in action and speak with their coach because of the very strict limitations currently in place. This same recruiter can travel to any of our surrounding states and have the coaches and recruits participate in athletic activities any time of the year. The current restrictions also limit the coaches from working with the current athletes to develop their skills due to the current rule. I realize that coaches at A and AA schools may have trouble working together to share the athletes time, but there are numerous athletes in the State of WV who are looking elsewhere for assistance in developing their skills because they are unable to work with their certified coach. WV is bless with many very knowledgeable and skilled coaches who would be able to develop the athletes if only given the opportunity to do so.

05-15 Aaron Snodgrass
Leon WV

N+

05-15 Chris
Teacher
Berk. Co. Schools
Martinsburg Wv

If they are paid more, I'd rather have the money spent on teaching and aide positions

N-

The out of season coaching is a step in the right direction and should be implemented.

05-15 Rodney Moore
father
parent of student athletes
Inwood WV

The intent is to provide the student athletes the opportunity to work with their high school coaches during the off-season. It doesn't necessarily mean they cannot participate in other programs, such as AAU, USSSA, or other sanctioning bodies for continuing their training in a particular sport, it just opens the door for the high school coaches to be more involved and active with the "student athlete" year around.

N+

The school system identifies, conducts back ground screening, and hires these coaches. Many coaches wish to continue their teaching/coaching/mentoring of their players outside of the regular season. It's a chance to work with players on an individual/small group basis by having more time available.

Whether the school is large or small, it will take some accountability from the Principals and Coach's for the various sports to work together and coordinate their plans for each respective program. This will help to reduce, but not eliminate, the inadvertent stress that may be put on the multi-sport athlete to choose.

Although, with that being said, many of these multi-sport athletes are already choosing. They are joining travel teams, going to camps, working with private coaches all the time during their off season. So, they will have another option to consider - and for many it may be the best option (time, location, financial, coaching experience, etc.).

The states surrounding WV, all have some sort of off-season coaching.

The student athletes in West Virginia are at a disadvantage when it comes to potential College opportunities. College recruiters often will bypass or overlook players from WV, due to the limitations there are for players to work out with coaches/fellow players in an organized manner during the off-season -- which in many cases happens to be the recruiting season!

The idea that has been proposed is a good one and should be approved.

At the very least, a program that allows off season coaching to some degree should be incorporated. It's the responsibility of our state leadership to figure out a reasonable and acceptable program that can be agreed upon. Doing nothing is not acceptable --

otherwise we are going backwards. The state of WV needs to take a step forward and continue progressing in our support of our student athletes.

Thanks for your consideration,
Rodney L. Moore

05-15	Matthew Perry coach/teacher CK middle school Kenova WV	I feel that to better compete with other schools and kids from other states that student athletes should be able to have off season practices and workouts with their coaches on a voluntary basis.	N+
05-15	Chuck Hatfield Supt. Putnam County Schools Winfield Wv	This policy would only benefit coaches. Families would suffer, schools and school systems would be burdened with coaches fighting for a student athletes time and biudgets would be strained. The proposal barely passed the governing body.....by one vote, with at least 20 members not voting due to lack of interest. Let's not forget that we're talking about high school students, some as young as 15 years old. We do not need to act as colleges! Let kids be kids and participate in multiple sports and have time for activities other than sports. Keep it in perspective!	N-
05-15	Shawn Dempsey Fayetteville WV	As a parent, I am against the change of this policy to allow for coaches to work with the team for year round. I do not feel this is an acceptable alternative to the current 3 week format. Many of our student athletes play more than 1 sport and this would be a burden they could not bear. There are many opportunities to continue a sport after the School season ends. I do not support this year round coaching change.	N-
05-15	JeremyTaylor Head football coach Hurricane high Hurricane Wv	I am for being able to work with our student athletes year round. I believe that it will only benfit our kids	N+
05-16	David Sibole Teacher Musselman High School Inwood WV	I am in favor of expanding Out-of-Season coaching. This would allow for equity when compared to other states. Teams from surrounding states have a competitive advantage over those from West Virginia. Our athletes are not put on a level playing field, both in terms of contests, and in the form of athletic scholarships. Colleges are more willing to shop out of state due to the greater amount of instruction provided by other states.	N+

I feel that this is a much needed revision to the current situation. As a basketball and soccer coach, I have seen the bad habits that my players have developed by playing in AAU athletics. Being afforded the opportunity to have mini-workout sessions from time to time with my team would be essential to the development of our teams. Also, being in a border county of Kentucky, I have not observed any negative results with their current policy that allows out of season coaching beyond the 3 week period.

05-16 Jeremy Davis
Math Teacher/Coach
Mingo County Schools
Delbarton WV

A common argument is that this policy change could lead to burnout or lead to a negative impact on academics, etc. I feel that as coaches, we understand our players and understand their boundaries. AAU teams or other teams that they may be participating in do not care. I was speaking with a former player this week who is playing on an AAU team and did not return home until 11pm on a school night. Student athletes will find an opportunity to play even if they have to travel to do so. I feel it would benefit all students if they had the ability to work on occasion with their coaches beyond the 3 week window. Thank you!

N+

05-16 Josh Watson
Teacher, Coach
Lincoln County Schools
Branchland WV

WV is well behind surrounding states in allowing school coaches year round contact with their own players. There isn't a season that goes by that I don't get multiple complaints about WV's ancient laws preventing coaches from coaching their kids. Parents and kids would prefer continuity in their team play. You don't want kids moving from school to school for education so why force them to go to different teams for their sport. It's time to make that change.

N+

05-16 Rob
Bridgeport WV

As a teacher and coach, I am against this action. Let kids be kids and not have to worry about a sport all year long. My vote would be for better enforcement of the current policies by local, county, and state administrators.

N-

05-17 Christopher Hahn
Basketball Coach (boys)
East Hardy High School
Baker WV

Coaching at a rural public school your pool of available resources is not as deep as that of urban areas. The access to AAU and travel teams is very limited here. I have had several kids in the past want to work on their game and develop there skills but I've had to tell them no I can't work with them AND then I had to tell them that I'm sorry but we don't have anyone that can let you in the gym

N+

either because we are the only gym around and you have to be a hardy county employee to get into the building. If you open up the coaching period several things will happen small A schools will have a chance to bridge the competitive gap that currently exist. Also I have 20 kids on my team varsity and Junior Varsity only 1 player currently only plays a single sport. 19 other kids have to choose in the summer 3 week period if they are going to go with me or football or baseball. If you open this up I don't have to make that decision harder for the kids and their parents.

I ask to to open up the coaching period now and if it needs tweaked in a few years tweak it, but the 3 week period now just isn't working as intended.

I feel this would benefit our student athletes in that it would help them improve their skills. This would allow our athletes to have better chances at college scholarships. I agree that out-of-season coaching should not be a requirement to make a team.

I do not believe year-around, out of season coaching will do anything to help the athletes of West Virginia, at least not how it is being portrayed. The rules allow for plenty of off-season work as is. The small number of kids who get athletic scholarships does not make this worth the effort. More efforts need to be made in education, raising test scores, raising teachers pay to be competitive than out of season coaching. The kids who would work are already working. The kids who aren't would not go, anyway.

It's time for West Virginia to "catch" up with this era. As it is so often in this state, we are stuck in the past. The WVSSAC needs to make this change for the kids.

This change in rule for West Virginia is a mojour step in the right direction for our young athletes. With regard to athletics our state is well behind the curfve of every surrounding state. My hope is that this will allow our professionally hired coaches the ability to work on off season skills and prepare their athletes for their perspective seasons. This is not a "play football, basketball or baseball all year round" rule. This rule will allow coaches to better train their athletes to compete with athletes, not only within the state but athletes that are being recruited over our athletes outside of our

05-17 Dwayne Clark
Teacher
Southside K-8
War WV

N+

05-18 Ryan Epling
Wayne WV

N-

05-18 Stacy Greely
Bridgeport West

N+

05-18 Josh Matheny
Teacher/Coach
Martinsburg High School
Martinsburg WV

N+

state. Big steps for our state. Statistically students that are involved in an after activity do better academically. This now allows coaches to keep kids involved that aren't involved in our current off season limitations. This rule has a large upside not only athletically but also academically and with school and school discipline.

This change in rule is guided by the misconception that West Virginia athletes are at a competitive disadvantage relative to other states in the competition for athletic scholarships. Has anyone in the state actually done, or found, a controlled study comparing like schools state-by-state with regard to success in students attaining athletic scholarships? One will find that demographics are the defining factor, not out-of-season coaching. In WV we have very rural high schools competing with a few large urban schools. The bulk of student athletes moving on to college athletics come from these urban schools which play more competitive schedules. With this rule change, these schools may benefit with regard to athletic performance, while the rural schools will fall further behind due to difficulties in getting kids to extra practices/coaching. Example, in Monongalia county the players actually already practice all year (maybe not with their coaches, but with interested parties), but kids in Preston County have a hard time getting to June practices. How will this rule help those kids in Preston?

N-

In addition, student athletes will continue to have to specialize at earlier and earlier ages to keep up. Studies have shown this is counterproductive and dangerous. Football coaches, for example, will have "voluntary" workouts that are obviously not voluntary which means kids will struggle to attend practices for other sports. At some schools this will mean specific secondary sports disappearing due to lack of participation.

In reality, if the state is truly concerned about the well-being of our student-athletes and competitive high school sports, a better job of enforcing current out-of-season practice rules and policing athletics based transfers should occur. In recent years, we have had more out-of-season practice allowed than Ohio and it hasn't made WV teams more competitive against Ohio schools or erased the scholarship differences. Ohio has modified their rule to allow

05-18 Mike Goldcamp
Morgantown WV

additional LIMITED out-of-season coaching, but they still aren't allowing year-round team practices...and they will continue to have more kids per capita gaining athletic scholarships due to demographic differences between the two states.

I think that a system which gives coaches a little more flexibility than just the 3 week coaching period in June is needed.

Coaching the whole team throughout the entire year may not be the best option, but a system in which coaches can work with small groups of players in the offseason is sorely needed, especially in basketball.

05-18 Dave Stahnke
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
Wheeling Park High School
Wheeling West

Our counterparts in Ohio (I teach in Ohio) are thriving having the ability to use small group workouts throughout the offseason. N+

The boys basketball coaches at the small rural school I teach at (Union Local) have developed a quality squad from a school that has had limited success due to their new found ability to develop their players in these small group workouts. The ability to work with their players in the offseason has created a culture of winning that has never before been seen at the school.

05-18 Cory Beck
Teacher/Football Coach
Huntington High
Huntington WV

The student athletes of West Virginia are not receiving the same opportunities as those athletes in surrounding states do to less time spent with their school affiliated coaching staff. Working with student athletes year round would allow the polishing of skills, the building of team chemistry and keeping STUDENT athletes focused on an education because now coaches (who are usually one of the largest influences on young people) would be more involved on a daily basis. N+

05-18 ZAK BART
TEACHER/COACH
TEACHER/COACH
CLARKSBURG WV

I think out-of-season coaching needs to pass but I think it needs to be clarified as to exactly what is the goal trying to be achieved. As a coach I know how frustrating it is to have a kid ask you to go to the gym with him to work on his jump shot only to tell him no because it violates a pre-historic rule. The mis-conception that people are having with out-of-season coaching is that teams are going to drill and practice year round. If this was the circumstance then I can understand why people would vote this down, but until N+

someone clarifies the actual guidelines how is this ever going to pass? It is hard enough to get enough players to participate during the season in some sports let alone during the offseason, I think this is a huge mis-conception that needs cleared up.

The three week period that is in place right now is an absolute mess. I have watched a head football coach and head basketball coach about get into a fist fight over kids because the set up is not getting the job done. How can you expect three sports to fight over individuals for three weeks? You have kids making decisions and some kids going to three practice sessions a day for every sport they play. The three week period was a band aid to make everyone happy but it has caused a lot of harm amongst programs and their coaches and players.

My suggestion is to present some guidelines to what is going to be allowed if a proposal is ever passed and then maybe an even greater majority of people will see the benefits of what this will allow. Whether that be different practice periods for each sport or another plan, it needs to be handled by a group of people who are not from the "old-school" way of thought. West Virginia is always playing catch up, how about we try to get ahead for once?

My proposal:

-Different sports have different "Live Periods" - this would cut down a lot of turmoil and hopefully not burn-out kids.

-Teams and their coaches can participate at anytime during the year if a collegiate level camp is held. A lot of times camps and leagues are held outside the WV Live Period and limits our schools selection of camps.

-Create an offseason "Practice Cap" (kind of like a salary cap in Pro sports) each sport's coaching staff is permitted so many sessions/games during the offseason. An example would be a basketball staff can coach or practice 25 times during the offseason. You can still have your designated "dead" times around July 4th

etc. But this at least allows some flexibility.

Thanks for your time.

Zak Bart

Out of season coaching will become great benefit for the athletes that play in the state. The first issue that comes up that athletes are falling behind from other athletes around the country. The athletes from other states are able to get coaching year round and help them develop their game to higher levels. With that extra coaching, they are getting better opportunities than those athletes in West Virginia.

I believe the argument would be that the smaller schools or other sports will lose players because the coaches will hold those players out of other sports. I would find that hard to believe and I can only speak from experience from my own school. That we encourage players to play other sports and enjoy playing the sports they want to in their four years of high school athletics. I will say though, that we have thirty to forty athletes that do not play a winter sport or run track in the Spring(I coach football). Under the current rules, we can't have a ball out or have any sport specific activities with those athletes. Many of those athletes will be attending combines and camps during that period. I can't say that they will be fully prepared to do good in those camps, and from a coaches perspective, I can only take responsibility for my players not being prepared. During this off season period, it will allow younger kids who are behind, more individualized coaching and have more time for one on one time to help them improve their ability and slow it down to help them understand.

The last point is that AAU coaching is constant in basketball and is starting to make its way into football as well with 7 on 7. Many of those coaches are not certified and are only in the business for monetary benefit. This ideology only attracts adults who do not care for the kids and only for the money benefit. These athletes will be getting coached from adults who are not qualified and who are not capable of proper coaching. I would not go as far as completely trashing every AAU coach in the world, but there are many AAU

05-18 Max Lilly
Assistant Coach
Woodrow Wilson High School
Beaver WV

N+

coaches who should not be anywhere near any athletes, much less being a role model for those athletes by being their coach. Next time there is an AAU tournament near you, just walk into the building for 10 minutes, and more than likely you will see the characters that I am talking about.

I Think the SSAC should rule all AAU and travel ball players ineligible.

This would cut down on year round playing one sport and also transferring and recruiting by other high schools. The stated reason for players to get noticed is bull. If a player is good enough for college the recruiters will find them (with social media today nobody can hide).

Let the kids play high school ball and after the season move on to another sport or rest their body. I talked to our basketball coach and not one player has been contacted by a college or the coach contacted by a college because the kid was seen playing AAU and/or travel ball. This type of thinking has kids being used by people who want to raise their ego and also is causing a recruiting problem in high schools. Other sports will suffer and the kids will be torn because of this. If a kid wants to play little league or any other local sanctioned ball thats ok as long as it is local, but do away DO AWAY WITH ALL Travel BALL. EXCEPT SCHOOL BALL.

Out-of-Season Coaching should be allowed - period. Many coaches do it anyway with no penalty - as it is a rule that cannot be strictly enforced. Furthermore, it is an issue that divides students by socioeconomic status (which is against state law). In tennis, for example, students who come from wealthier backgrounds can afford private coaches year round, thus improving their performance in state sponsored competitions. Students who do not have access to a private coach cannot improve their performance because of funding.

There are at least two cases where tennis players from WV actually leave the state to train out of season (and one did so during the season - only participating in the required six matches before leaving for his training program in another state).

05-18 Mickey Thompson
Coach
Teacher Coach
Madison WV

N-

05-18 Chad Spencer
English Teacher/Tennis Coach
Musselman High School
Inwood WV

N+

05-18	John Kelsey Salesman Consolidated Pipe Greenville SC	My friends from WV who coach are at a major disadvantage to my peers in SC. Since they are unable to give viable instruction during the off-season, their players fall behind. I know a lot of college coaches from this region don't even have WV on their recruiting trips. Please change this for WV.	N+
05-18	Jim Guinan JROTC Instructor Martinsburg HS Martinsburg WV	I support proposal to allow coaches to work with their athletes year around. In the lives of many young men and women, their coach is the primary adult role model. Allowing that coach to continue to mentor the young person year round is a very good idea!	N+
05-18	Alan Coach Football, Basketball, Track Ellenboro WV	I agree that year-round coaching should be allowed for most of the year. Grace periods need to be established. The first week of summer needs to be protected so student-athletes can rest and the chance of injury will not be as substantial. Secondly, a grace period of the two weeks before Fall sports begin need to be protected to once again give student-athletes a chance to recuperate from the increased risk of injury.	N+
05-18	Shawn Martz Special Education Teacher Berkeley County Schools Inwood WV	Lastly, out of season coaching needs to be limited to a certain percentage of time. If football runs 15 weeks out of 52 weeks of the year that comes to 26.9% of the calendar year. Therefore, you can make rules that football should get either 27 days of the summer (excluding Saturday or Sunday) for coaching or 27% of the summer days for coaching practices, whichever is the least. This issue has two separate considerations in my view. First, obviously is the student athletes themselves and the impact this would have on their development. Secondly, is the impact the current restrictive regulations have on the professional development and income opportunities of WV coaches on how these changes will open up these opportunities that are closed currently. The student athletes are and should be our first consideration. I have had the opportunity to travel and witness first hand the progression of other states (both neighboring and elsewhere). I can tell you that WV has the most restrictive regulations on coaching our athletes of any state around. There can be a debate on whether student athletes choosing to be great at one or two sports is a	N+

positive thing or a negative thing but the reality of today's landscape is that it is happening and it is going to continue to happen whether we like it or not. I personally believe that kids choosing to be great at one or two things rather than mediocre at several things is a commendable pursuit. Regardless of our personal views the reality is that times have changed and WV and our regulations have not changed with these times. We have not been progressive in this area as most all other states have. Not only are our teams competing versus these teams from other states on the field, our student athletes will be competing against these kids from other states for scholarship and professional athletic opportunities and this playing field is not a level one. I have attached at the bottom of this comment some research I completed on our surrounding states 6 years ago when we were trying to get our rules loosened. Some of the states such as VA have even loosened their restrictions farther since this research (others may have as well). Lets even the playing field for our youth in our state and allow them to be coached by trained professionals in a safe environment. Lets not hold back our young people who have made the choice to be great but have limited resources to meet that goal.

I know our representatives on the state school board are worried about the 2% of the rogue coaches who may abuse this situation and practice their kids 5 times a week all year. But we can't shape our rules based on this 2% we need to shape our rules to give the most benefit for the majority of our students. I strongly believe that the majority of coaches will use this extra time to assist those athletes who want to reach the next level and want to get in extra work and not force "team" type of practices regularly. It works in other states and not surprisingly those states generally produce higher level athletes and teams. The question is why wouldn't it work in WV? I believe it would we just have to be more progressive in our thinking.

The second aspect of these restrictions is the impact they have on our coaches professional development and supplementation of their salaries. Under the current rules our coaches can not work a camp (outside the 3 weeks in June) regardless of any of their athletes are

involved or not. Currently a coach could not go to California in July and work a camp outside the 3 week period in June. I get asked to work several college camps during the summer that do not even have any WV kids participating that I have to turn down because of our rules. Consequently forfeiting thousands of dollars in extra salary earned. Coaches should have the right, when acting as private citizens, to supplement their incomes using their acquired coaching skills. Coaching a non-school sponsored team (ex. An AAU team) or working at a summer camp provides unique opportunities for coaches to substantially supplement their earnings. In addition, the restriction of these opportunities completely negates the professional development benefits these types of positions provide. The inability to improve as a professional and to build one's resume is not only unfair to our WV coaches, it in turn hurts the high school athletes for which they are assigned to coach. It is a goal of West Virginia Board of Education to provide the best teachers for WV students and they actually mandate professional development. We think the same goals and opportunities should be extended to our coaches and athletes.

It is our understanding that these restrictions were originally incorporated in our state regulations to inhibit the practice of coaches illegally recruiting athletes from other schools. Since the inception of these regulations WV have significantly changed the transfer rules which have made it considerably more difficult for students to transfer based on athletic opportunities. Taking in account these changes, the present rules are now outdated and should be updated to reflect these changes.

In closing, I think that the positive benefits of this proposed change in regulations far outweigh the possible negative consequences. We should be modeling ourselves and take lessons from the other states that have shown that these types of changes are beneficial and are positive like the PA and/or VA. Thanks for your time.

My former research (6 years ago) on our border states:

Overview/Outline of Surrounding States Rules on "out of

season coaching•

Pennsylvania: Any coach when they are acting as a "private citizen" can work with athletes in non-school sponsored camps, teams, etc. at any time of the year outside that designated season. There are additional criteria as for as team names not being used, equipment, etc. as it pertains to the definition of non-school sponsored.

Virginia: Any coach can work a camp or coach a non-school sponsored team as long as there are athletes that from or representing at least two different schools.

Maryland: Can work with athletes in a camp setting or a non-school sponsored team outside the designated sports season as long as no more than 80% of a starting lineup of athletes from your school are involved in the camp or team. (Ex. 80% of volleyball would be 4 players, so they can coach a Junior Olympic vball team as long as no more than 4 players from their school are on the team) There are no stipulations about coaching athletes from other schools.

Ohio: Is very similar to MD except the percentage is 50% instead of 80%. Again OH does not regulate coaches working with athletes from other schools at all.

Kentucky: The most restrictive of the five (not including WV), coaches cannot work with athletes from their school at all during the school year (outside the season). They can coach their own athletes all summer with the exception of a two-week dead period. KY has no rules prohibiting the coaching of athletes from other schools.

West Virginia: Coaches cannot work(drills, skills, etc) with ANY athletes of high school age outside the season they are assigned to coach. (w/the exception of three wks. in June) They/We are not

allowed to coach a camp or traveling/non-school sponsored team outside of those three weeks, regardless if no athletes from the coach's school are involved. For example, a wrestling coach could not go to California and work a camp in July even if not one of his kids from the entire state would be present. What is wrong with this picture?

05-18 Mark
Martinsburg WV

This would be a great move that would positively effect our students. Motivation is key in anything you do and this definitely serves as a positive motivator for all young student-athletes.

N+

Out-of-season coaching needs passed to keep up-to-date with surrounding states. I believe sometimes our student-athletes do not get the exposure they are deserving of when it comes to recruiting for collegiate sports.

Secondly, I believe there needs to be some "protected" times that are shared between sports. You cannot have a multi-sport athlete devote all their time to one sport and not give any time to their other sport. If this is not protected, then you will see an elimination of sports in schools with lower populations. Football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, track, softball, and baseball will be the only sports left in some smaller counties because students will be want to participate in other sports because they were not given the time throughout the summer to gain an advantage in their sport.

05-18 Alan Snodgrass
Teacher
Doddridge County
West Union WV

N+

Thirdly, the risk of injury will increase dramatically if there are not periods of rest for our student-athletes. If a multi-sport athlete consistently participates in sports from the time they are freshman to the time they graduate, all year long, they will become more susceptible to the risk of injury. Too much involvement and conditioning will cause our youth's bodies to become overworked and the risk of season ending or career ending injuries will dramatically increase.

Fourthly, to compensate for injuries, and shared time, the administrating body (SSAC and State BOE) need to set and strictly enforce the number of practice time or days that each sporting event can be allotted for out of season practices. I do think that with this rule, you will see football take the precedents over all

other sports. This is unfair and should not be allowed. You need to make sure that each sporting event gets an allotted time that is equivalent to the length of their season. Meaning, if football is the longest sporting season, they should get the most out of season time. If cross country is the shortest sporting season, they should get the least. This way, the amount of time spent coaching out of season is comparable across every sport and the time is equal to their season. If football season is 14 weeks, coaches should get 1/2 of the amount of that season for their sport in out of season coaching, with 50% of the allotted time given during the summer. Therefore, football would get of the 7 weeks, 3.5 weeks during the winter and spring months to coach football, and then get 3.5 weeks during summer toward their sport. That way, other sports have the chance to get to the multi-sport athletes.

Fifth, I do think that if you are going to give "rest" periods throughout the summer, you need to strictly enforce the rules. Like college and pro sports, if they break the rules, there should be consequences. Major consequences at that, including post-season bans, loss of out-of-season practice times, fines, etc.

05-18 Mike brewbaker
parent
parent
inwood wv

Great idea

N+

05-18 Brad Napier
Pe/ coach
Teacher
Delbarton Wv

West Virginia is way behind time on this subject and it's coasting our student athletes. Many times I have had colleges coaches call me and ask if they can come and watch guys workout in the off season. It is really hard to look at them and say no my state doesn't allow me in the gym with players in the off season. Their are students who with a little help could get scholarship money and those are the ones the current rule hurts the most. Instead of certified coaches being able to work with our students we have to let people who may or may not be qualified do it. Because kids who love sports are going to play in the off season. It is much safer for certified well trained coaches to be with the students. I'm glad to see the principal's have finally started to see how far our kids are getting behind and took their best interest in mind. Now all we need is for our state board to be for giving our students the best

N+

05-18	Dave Piepenbrink Agent State Farm Inwood WV	<p>opportunity to be successful and compete for scholarships against surrounding states. In closing I would also like to say no coach is going to want to practice their kids six days a week all year.</p> <p>Mr. Ray, As a former Huntington East player and college coach at Marshall, I feel the better prepared these players can be can only elevate the talent level in West Virginia. College coaches are gravitating towards our neighboring states that have the ability for the coach to work with players year round. Good luck and thanks for all you do for HS Baseball in West Virginia!</p>	N+
05-18	John Farrell Gerrardstown WV	<p>I think it's time to allow coaches to be able to coach during the off season especially baseball. We have such a short season due to weather. To be competitive to other schools south of here we need to get the teams to practice as much as possible, it will make for a better team and better baseball.</p>	N+
05-18	Douglas Allen Coach Musselman baseball Inwood Wv	All for it	N+
05-18	Patrick Northcraft Gerrardstown wv	<p>I think is this a "no brainer". In order to stay competitive with other schools in other states, we needs to break away from the old way of thought and embrace the future. High school athletics is as competitive as ever and allowing WV coaches to work with student athletics in the off season improves that competitiveness. This will not in any way force students to commit to one sport. Student athletes are committing already before high school. With the number of travel teams available for baseball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and now even football, most student will find their passion for a particular sport long before high school. Coaches want to work with students, so lets allow this to happen. This is a good move for all of WV students athletics and coaches.</p>	N+
05-18	Rob teacher school smithers wv	<p>Definately think it would be a plus for any child participating in sports. Sports and other school related activities are very good for children. It occupies their time and energy toward something positive, instead of looking for other agencies so that they can compete legally.</p>	N+
05-18	Sean Meddings	Needs to be passed. West Virginia needs to catch up with our	N+

	Teacher Wayne WV	surrounding states.	
05-18	Lance Sutherland Boys Basketball Coach Hurricane High School Hurricane WV	I think there should be some form of out of season contact other than what we have now. It would lessen the hold that AAU has on basketball, plus the influx of "basketball guru's" that take parents money and tell them that their children are the best thing since slice bread, when in reality they aren't. I think that with any rule change, some people will misuse it, others will do the right thing. I think that this a step in the right direction, but the principal and AD will have to monitor it to stop abuse, and the coaches will have to work together.	N+
05-18	Eric Rodia Martinsburg WV	I believe allowing Out-of-Season Coaching would be a great thing for our student athletes. As long as our children are busy with sports they are off the streets and doing something productive. I also feel we are not doing a justice to our children as far as getting them a free education at the next level. Our children are struggling to keep up with kids from neighboring states that are being coached year round. The scholarship opportunities that our children are missing out on due to not having the same advantage out on the ball field may be the difference in that child going to college or not.	N+
05-18	Ross Robinson Assistant Football and Assistant Baseball Coach Webster County High School Webster Springs West	I support the proposal to allow coaches to work with high school athletes year round. I believe this is beneficial to athletes and also gives them greater access to college coaches as the current three week period falls in a NCAA "dead period" that does not allow contact. This will allow potential college athletes to demonstrate sport specific skills for college coaches not just being restricted to weight lifting as is now the case.	N+
05-18	Bonnie Henthorn	Comments are my own and do not reflect the opinions of any other	N-

President
Tyler County Board of Education
Middlebourne WV

Board Member or the board as a whole of Tyler County. Although I do support extra-curricular activities in schools, I do not agree with the provision to allow Out-of-Season Coaching for a few reasons.

(1) The argument has been made that coaches and/or teams are already trying to find ways around this rule and so therefore, we should just change the rule so that they will no longer "cheat". This is a reward for those who are "cheating" and "gaming the system" and should not be tolerated in any circumstance and definitely NOT by changing the rules for those who dishonestly push their kids to excel illegally. Punish the "cheater" instead. Is this what will happen if students "cheat" in school, are we just going to do away with the "no cheating" rules because they are "doing it anyway"? This is an insane argument to use for making educational policy.

(2) Children are already under enough stress in school, with the excessive testing, Common Core and the like, they need time off AWAY from the school for all purposes. They already spend enough time within the school day and with homework that summer should be used as "down time" for them and not a way to ensure additional time under the control of the "system".

(3) Family time is very important to the development of children, whatever their age. We are taking children away from their parents for too much time already. We should not forget that summer break is not only a time for "down time" as mentioned above, but there is a huge amount of learning that takes place over the summer break in 'soft skills' that should not be encroached upon.

(4) Under the calendaring provisions, family time is severely impacted already with many schools remaining in session until well after June 1 (Tyler for example, will be in school until June 16), thereby restricting the time that the children have with their families. Family time should be respected and should not be encroached upon by coercing students to spend time away from family under the guise of practice for sports. Although the thought

might be to make this 'optional', it will end up as a 'requirement' with children who do NOT attend summer practices being left out when required practice begins.

We have forgotten that sports are to be an enhancement to education, but it has become an overarching and much too important part of school. The policy should be left as is and punish those who choose NOT to follow the rules. Who is to say that these "cheaters" will follow this new policy anyway? If they don't respect the former rules, will they respect this rule? Probably not. The idea of cheating under this rule is in order to get more practice and thus have a better team than everyone else. If they are doing it already, they will do it even more so when you reward them by allowing more practice.

I urge you to protect family time...family time provides children with what schools can NEVER provide and it should be respected and upheld at all costs!

Out of season coaching is a must. West Virginia athletes are so far behind other states and this could be the turn around moment for our state. Colleges and universities aren't looking in West Virginia for their athletes, but elsewhere. If approved, this change could have many positive effects and help West Virginia become more active in the world of athletics. We will be able to send more of our students to college on scholarships and promote academics. Furthermore, with this change, athletes are able to get stronger and prevent less injuries. Students can now become committed to a sport rather than only participate in season only!!

05-18 Robin Hatfield
Teacher/Coach
Mingo Central High School
Delbarton Wv

N+

05-18 Larry cook
Head coach
Westside high football
Clear fork Wv

Suggest the rule passes!

N+

05-19 Mickey Thompson
Teacher Coach
Scott High School
Madison WV

I commented about this on 5/20/2015 and saw this article to back up what I was saying: (copy and paste to your browser)
http://espn.go.com/espn/commentary/story/_/page/keown-110823/elite-travel-baseball-basketball-teams-make-youth-sports-industrial-complex

N-

You also might also to look as high school sports message boards such as

<http://www.wvtailgatecentral.com>

You can see how this b problem is growing at a tremendous rate without governance.

I have a lot of friends from WV who coach and they are at a major disadvantage to my coaching friends in GA. Georgia has full contact spring football. This extra time really helps with injury prevention, because instead of working toward plays and getting ready in a hurry for a game, the coaches can focus on fundamentals and injury prevention during this extra time.

Our state is long over due for this matter. We're the only state relevantly close that does allow coaching year around with several dead periods. That's why we are having the least amount of kids recruited by colleges or kids wanting to transfer schools. If our own coaches coached kids instead of AAU coAches we would have a lot less transferring. I think it's great and needs approved.

The dead period is a great idea. Also, you need to limit the number of "team" activities. Look to Ohio for a good example. I believe coaches should be allowed 10-12 team activities per summer outside of the dead period. Also, they should have unlimited individual workouts consisting of 3 to 4 athletes during the summer outside of the dead period.

On the surface it seems like a wonderful idea to year-round-coaching. I feel, upon reflection, that is would not benefit the students. Nearly all research indicates that athletes engaged in a single sport year-round tend to be less flexible, and more prone to injury. In addition, new research has indicated that multi-sport athletes are more desired by collegiate scouts. Having year-round coaching will 'force' players to choose just one sport. Participation numbers in most schools are woefully low as it stands...further depletion will weaken (and potentially destroy) some sports.

I honestly believe this is in the best interest of Student Athletes in WV. It would help put WV on the same level as surrounding States that we often play in Sports.

Please allow this to pass and give it a try just to see how it turns out after it being turned down for several years.

05-19 Jermyn Chester
Engineer
Savannah Steel
Savannah GA

N+

05-19 Tyler Hodge
Asst coach
Tug Valley
Williamson Wv

N+

05-19 Christopher Beck
Assistant Varsity Football Coach
Williamstown High School
Williamstown WV

N+

05-19 Daryl Hayes
Head Football Coach
Washington HS
Charles Town WV

N-

05-19 Ed Forshey
Parkersburg WV

N+

I agree with Ms. Kingery's quote that out-of-season coaching will "separate the haves from the have-nots" (Herald Dispatch May 15. Huntington, WV) so this approach would further hurt our struggling students and school systems. There are other reasons I am strongly opposed to out-of-season coaching:

As children are developing physically, they need opportunities to engage in many different activities in order for their muscles to develop fully. Engaging in year-round practice will provide repetitive strain and potentially result in physical pain (knees and ankles in particular) in adulthood.

Out-of-season practice would limit the opportunities for children to engage in different activities. This variety is necessary for children to have well-rounded development of their interests. Out-of-season practices will result in children feeling like they have to choose between engaging in an activity that they may enjoy if they had the opportunity to do so as opposed to participating in an out-of-season practice. Examples of activities they may feel they have to choose to miss out on are camps (4-H, church, Boy and Girl Scouts), family vacations, county and state fairs).

Out-of-season practices will be a strain on the opportunity students have to focus on their studies. After all, children are students first and athletes second.

Lastly, out-of-season coaching would lead to children having less self-directed time which research has proven is vital to the emotional health of our children.

For the sake of our youth and families, please put their well-being first and put sports second.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I believe that as long as the time restrictions are enforced that it is a wonderful idea to allow our kids as much time as they can get to work with quality coaches.

It's time for WV to step up and allow this to take place, the

05-19 Julie Ferry
Huntington WV

N-

05-19 Carly Taylor
Milton WV

N+

05-19 Serena Brafford

N+

Citizen
Mathias WV

provisions are there for it to be regulated. Allow our students a fair shot at a career and not just a high school past time. Our students WILL benefit from this.

I believe the state of WV should allow out of season coaching. I am originally from PA and we were allowed to be coached out of season and it really had an impact on how we performed in season. I know for softball we barely get our 14 practices in before our first games and there really is no time to cover fundamentals enough and it shows on the field when we have contests. There just is not enough time and not to mention the horrible weather. Our second time on an actual softball field was our first game of the season. That is terrible. I would be happy changing the season to be in August through October and switch volleyball to the spring.

N+

First off, I am a parent. Second, I am a teacher. And at a distant third, I am a head coach at the high school level. I say that to give some scope with regards to my opinion on the 'out of season' coaching topic that is now up for public discussion. Let me first say, that I am putting my complete trust in those at the state board who will have to weigh the lengthy options, trying to do the best to make an informed decision as to whether or not 'out of season' coaching should be allowed to pass. I realize that my two cents may not make a huge difference, but I want to take a few moments to explain a perspective that I believe to be unique when it comes to this very important issue.

05-19 Chris Burg
Teacher / softball coach
Martinsburg High School
Martinsburg WV

05-19 Stephen Hibberd
Cabell County Schools
HUNTINGTON WV

I have coached out of state in both North Carolina and Virginia at the high school level, so I have experience with other states that have different rules than our state does, and I see the pros and cons with both of their unique rules as opposed to ours. I am also a single father, and I see from those eyes, the time that I could possibly be away from my son if this passes. For a majority of the time that I coached in Virginia, we shared the rules that West Virginia currently has. The coach that I had the opportunity to work and learn under while there, led the charge each year to have the chance to coach kids 'out of season'. His point was a simple one. If a student/athlete wants to stay after school and work on his game (whatever game that is), and the school has policies in effect to make sure that athlete is insured, the facilities are available, and

N+

there is a coach there that is willing, then how can we say no to that kid? He would go on to say that if his son or daughter played an instrument, was in the theatre, competed in the band, or did show choir, then it would seem silly to say that they could have a chance to play, be taught, coached, or work on their craft whenever they like, but an athlete could not. Imagine playing the piano and having a teacher/coach who was interviewed by the school, background checked and vetted, that could only work with your child for four months out of that school year. For the other 8 months out of the year, you would be forced as a parent to either find someone else to help your child, or not give them an outlet to improve on their chosen instrument or activity. This was the crux of the "coaches" point that eventually led to Virginia allowing what they call "green days", which is their unique version of "out of season" coaching. It is structured (which I think our state could take a lesson from), and has worked out positively for them for the past 6 years.

There are many rebuttals to the possibility of "out of season" coaching passing, including the buzzword "specialization" and questions like how to pay coaches, and making sure that kids have chances to work on any sport they choose, without undue pressure from coaches who want their athletes with them only. These are all small hurdles and should be able to be addressed much easier than the questions I get from parents as to why I can't stay after school and help their son or daughter improve on something they have chosen to be a part of. Team sports need to have the chance to be as good as they can be and the days of "season only" coaching are helping to take away the chance of many kids to do just that. Let me ask, Would we consider telling a math student that they can't get assistance from a math teacher here at school outside of contract hours? It seems an interesting parallel that if a teacher is willing to offer their time, that they can do that for a student, but at this point, it cannot be done for an athlete.

My son is four years old, and if the state doesn't change its current rules, and if he and I chose to make being the best player he can be with right instruction a priority, then how could we not consider moving to a neighboring state that would allow his coaches to coach him to be the best he could be whenever he wants. The fact that parents have to weigh those options, makes allowing coaches the ability to do what they signed up to do in the first place, coach, the last big hurdle to letting our athletes be the best they can be.

As a coach, I believe the best way to express my approval of this is to give a sample plan of how I will implement this plan at South Charleston High School. We lift from January-June and count that as "Out of Season" lifting. On a daily basis, our skill kids want to throw the football around and work on the passing game. With the approval of this rule, I would designate one day a week that we could go out as a group and work on the passing system together. The day might be designated, but would not be mandatory.

Secondly, I would choose a 5 day period in May and have a week of team practice. The purpose of the team practice is to invite colleges to come and scout our kids. May is the biggest month in recruiting. Allowing a set time for colleges to come watch our kids actively compete will help in the recruitment of our kids. Also, this will prevent kids being pulled from the classroom to meet college coaches and miss out on valuable education. Also, kids who have trends in missing school, will now have more of a reason that they need to be at school. Even if this is only a five day deal, school attendance is extremely instrumental in the educational process. Outside of the May practice window, I would set a schedule for 7 on 7 schedule for tournaments only and cut out the three weeks in June. We generally compete in six tournaments in the compacted three week window. Now, with an expanded window, I could do three in June and three in July. If a kid has a vacation planned at the time of an event, he would be excused just like he is now under our current plan. This provides us, the coaches, a chance to work with other kids and develop depth. Kids love to compete in these tournaments and want to do more, but we are held to cramming a bunch of tournaments into a 15 day window which is much more demanding. Allowing us to compete outside of that window, helps

05-20 Donnie Mays
Head Football Coach
South Charleston High School
Clendenin WV

N+

us make the schedule less strenuous and allows us to compete Nationally if we are successful in bigger tournaments like the National Select 7v7 Tournament. So, to recap the schedule, we would be spacing our plan out over time and not setting 15 days of team practice, but rather 5.

By the month...

Weights with one day instructional for skill development per week [Voluntary]-(January-May)

5 Day Team Practice for recruitment and skill development-(5 Days in May)

7v7 Tournaments-Minimum of Six with potential for Regional play.

So, looking at this plan, we eliminate cramming practices into June while other sports are doing the same. We allow recruiters to visit on a 5 Day Practice window. We plan practice at the most critical time of the school year to promote attendance. We allow our kids to compete on a National level in passing tournaments, also giving our kids much needed exposure. There are too many positives for this proposal not to pass. Years ago, the WV State Dept of Education was concerned how weight-lifting in schools might negatively impact our kids education. Don Nehlen, former WVU coach for 21 Seasons, was instrumental in getting the weight programs implemented for team development and that has been a success. This is no different. In fact, allowing educated coaches to be around kids yearly, prevents outsiders from starting programs that have to direction or reasons to educate the youth. Teachers have background checks and are held to a different level when it comes to working with kids. If we don't allow educated coaches to work with these kids, then we are opening up avenues for anyone to take interest in these kids and have personal agendas. Please understand that I would want nothing for the best for my kids. I have a family and I don't want to spend an entire year just working on football with no vacation. I am responsible and understand family time. I believe this proposal would increase my family time by not demanding a window of three weeks. Please consider this proposal for approval. Thank you.

I am opposed, for a number of reasons, to the expansion of coaching to a year round status for school sports. Expanding the ability of coaches to work with students in each sport on a year round basis will infringe on the limited amount of time available to families during the summer months. Not only will family time be squeezed during the summer, school sports will be competing with other worthwhile community and club type activities that take place during the summer.

I am also concerned, that despite the best of intentions, students will be encouraged to specialize in a particular sport to the exclusion of other school teams. This will negatively impact the ability of some schools to field teams, and narrows the athletic experiences of students.

The proposed rule change indicates that there is not a fiscal note for the implementation of this rule. At best, I find that thinking highly naïve on the part of those supporting this rule change. It appears much more likely that school districts will find themselves in a position to expand coaching contracts in order to protect themselves from liability issues of not having the coach employed for the time they are working with students. I also feel certain that coaches will be expecting increased compensation for the extended coaching responsibilities. Expansion of coaching throughout the entire year could also result in increased costs connected with the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Employees that work an average of 30 hours per week are entitled to health care insurance under the ACA. This could allow substitute teachers that serve as coaches to reach that threshold much easier. Other individuals which are not employed by the school system in other ways could also qualify for insurance benefits under the expansion of coaching duties allowed under this rule.

Many school systems face very tight budgets with very little room for expanding expenses. In most instances, school systems have little ability to control increasing costs. Imposing this type of additional expense upon school systems can be avoided by rejecting this proposed rule change. If personnel costs expand in

05-20 Blaine Hess
Superintendent
Jackson County Schools
Ripley WV

N-

this area, many school systems will be in the difficult situation of reducing other services to students to balance their budgets.

I would also like to point out that the action by the WVSSAC Board of Control on this matter was my no means an overwhelming vote in support of this measure. The proposed rule change only passed in that organization by one vote.

I strongly urge the West Virginia State Board of Education to reject this proposed rule change.

I am opposed to this on many levels:

1. Coaches will be pressuring students to participate in "their" sport
2. May prevent students from taking after-school college classes
3. May prevent students from taking advantage of tutoring
4. Shouldn't our focus be on leveling the academic field
5. Once eligibility ends, student is abandoned with no life skills

This would only elevate the level of play for athletes. We are the only state in the tri-state area that does not allow year round coaching. It would lessen injuries during the season, especially head injuries due to continuously being taught proper techniques. It would increase the number of sports scholarships that our instate athletes could earn. It would increase levels of pride and respect around the community and school. Grades would show improvement. There are really no negative side effects that come along with out of season coaching!

I am not in favor at all of year-round out-of-season coaching. I see many more disadvantages than advantages to this situation. As a coach, could I expect to be paid for the extra time I put in out of season? Coaches are certainly not compensated well at all for the time they do put in; if this were to pass, would parents expect coaches to put in even more time with no extra compensation? The lack of facilities at many schools will also cause many issues. Many schools do not have facilities to allow multiple teams to practice during the same time frame. As for the athletes, this out of season coaching would mean that those young people who play more than one sport would have to choose which practices to

05-20 Wanda Miller
Martinsburg WV

N-

05-20 Ryan
Assistant Football Coach
Kesner
Inwood Wv

N+

05-20 Mary Anne Mullenax
Tennis coach/teacher
North Marion High School
FARMINGTON West

N-

attend. While coaches may be told not to discriminate against students who may choose to practice another sport out of season, I'm sure either consciously or subconsciously, students will find themselves looked at differently if they choose to practice another sport out of season, or not practice at all. I was also the parent of a multi-sport high school athlete. She was involved in summer league basketball programs that turned into fall and spring league play. She also participated in soccer and track. During the fall and spring, when she was involved in the other sports, she did not participate in the basketball leagues. While nothing was ever said "out loud," I'm sure that her failure to play in those leagues impacted her playing time from November to March. Finally, if students were to be expected to participate in sports year round, when do they get to be kids? When do they have a break from after school/weekend activities? Students need some "downtime."

05-20 Melinda Phares
Track Coach
Martinsburg High
Hedgesville WV

I am in favor. As a track coach in WV, I have six weeks to train kids to compete while neighboring counties have been training all year. Our kids can't compete with them.

N+

05-21 Michael Webb
St. Marys WV

Just because surrounding states do something doesn't mean it is appropriate. Student athletes get worn out. Coaches very rarely work together for the best outcomes. Principals ignore their responsibilities. Opening up summer months may be OK, but not the entire year.

N-

05-21 David Helmick
Boys' Basketball Head Coach
Tucker County High School
Hambleton WV

I am commenting to offer support to expand the Out of Season Coaching. If this period is expanded then we can work together with other sports to insure that these students are not getting 6 weeks of work jammed into 3 weeks. Some of my players are practicing football for 2 hours then coming to basketball practice for 2 hours. I would like to be able to practice my players in an environment that basketball is the only sport they need to worry about that day. It would also be nice to work with players more on an individual level. If this period is expanded then I can schedule individual workouts with my players and work with them more detailed on a one on one basis.

N+

05-21 Rob Strcula
Teacher and Coach

I am in favor of coaching all year. However, I feel a very important guideline needs to be put in place. I would set a certain amount of

N+

	Parkersburg Catholic High School Parkersburg WV	hours a coach can practice with his team within a week. For example a basketball team can be in the gym with their head coach for no more than 8 practice hours a week. I would require the coaches to log in the date and times of the practices and also require the coaches to turn in their logs to their AD or principal.	
05-21	Vince Monseau Educator/Coach New Martinsville WV	This policy will have a negative affect on the athletic departments in the West Virginia School System, particularly in the small schools. The students will be torn between participating in multiple sports or practicing in the sport some coach says is their major sport. Mentally & physically this is not good for the young students. Please use some "common sense" and vote this policy out. There is no way this is a positive policy for WV. This will also discourage student from participating in multiple sports. The major sports, "football & basketball" will want their participants practicing all year. Are we trying to turn everyone into a professional athlete? Again, this policy should NOT pass.	N-
05-21	Bill Harper Assistant Principal Hedgesville Middle Martinsburg WV	Its overdue the state needs to come into the 21st Century.	N+
05-21	David walker Assistant principal Berkeley county schools Martinsburg Wv	The change is needed. Our student athletes need the same opportunities that other student athletes get in other states! Give West Virginia kids a chance!	N+
05-21	Jeffery Bailey Athletic Director University HS University HS Morgantown WV	Although I agree that there needs to be some changes to our "out of season" coaching rules, the current rule proposal would be devastating to high school sports in West Virginia. This rule proposal would all but eliminate multiple sport athletes. Our student athletes will be pressured to work strictly a specific sport year round. This rule proposal will be devvasting to small schools in West Virginia. As I said before, there needs to be some changes but this is not it. Please think about the student athletes of West Virginia and vote no to this proposed rule.	N-
05-22	Barbara Copenhaver Bailey Morgantown WV	We need to allow for students to have some time off in the summer to be with family. This will add to burn out in our students. They need down time. Additionally, this is very detrimental to the small schools in WV as it encourages student athletes to focus on one	N-

sport and the small schools need to have multi-sport athletes.

I am absolutely against year round coaching . This will be devastating to the smaller programs in the school system as well as the small let schools. This will bring division among our coaches within the school. We have other choices to address the additional contact a coach has with players. Year round coaching is not the answer. Allow players to enjoy their high school years, with AAU our young people are already getting overwhelmed.

I believe that the this would benefit students as many of our students would benefit being a part of a sport organization with some of the great coaches in our state. Many times the only association we have with athletes are during season. Students often will accept the guidance of their coaches more than any other and not only could we provide them guidance and hold them accountable for their classroom work and behavior but we could also develop them physically to be more ready for college if that is the route they choose. Many of our athletes are not ready for the jump to college. I also see the draw backs and coaches should work to share athletes at schools and not limit the sports they play as multiple sports make the athletes more rounded. More time with athletes would benefit many schools while I also agree that kids should not be targeted by coaches just to participate in their sport.

I absolutely support year round coaching 100% without reservation. I have been coaching for over 10 years in various border states of West Virginia, and this is the only state that has such an arbitrary rule on coaching athletes year round. The offseason is where you can teach young players the skills necessary to be successful during your season. The current rule makes it illegal to hold clinics, camps, and practices with your team outside the coaching window. This is a complete disservice to all students who would like organized, structured activities in their respective sports. This rule also harms rural areas where there may not be many people in the community outside of coaches who are capable or willing to coach young athletes in the offseason. I respectfully ask that you support out-of-season coaching in the state of West Virginia.

I fully support out of season coaching. I coached for 4 years in

05-22 Donavon Riggleman
teacher/ head coach
university high school/parent
morgantown wv

N-

05-22 Wes Swain
Head Coach
Baseball
Ravenswood WV

N+

05-22 Shan Richardson
Head Coach
Elkins Middle School
Elkins WV

N+

05-22 Ashley Cameron

N+

	Teacher/Coach Randolph County Elkins WV	Pennsylvania before moving to and coaching in West Virginia. I believe limitations on coaching in the offseason put our athletes at a tremendous disadvantage in regards to college recruiting. The offseason is the when you have the time to really teach the basics especially to the younger athletes. I ask that you fully support out-of-season coaching.	
05-26	Ronnie Olson Teacher/Coach SSHS Shady Spring WV	As an educator first and coach second it is refreshing to see WV implement a change for the better of our student-athletes. Allowing year round coaching will allow student-athletes to be on a level playing field. I think this rule will have a greater impact for the players rather than the coaches. Players will be able to hone their skills with their coaches, which in turn will hopefully create more WV players going to play in college.	N+
05-26	Dwayne Hedrick Head Coach Petersburg High School Petersburg WV	As a high school softball coach, I am in favor of changing the out-of season coaching rule to include all year for coaches for the following reasons: 1. Neighboring states already allow for out of season coaching. 2. Too many out of season restrictions exist for high school coaches...ex: I can't give a kid a ride to a travel ball tournament or a softball camp in the off season. 3. I find the current 3 week out of season coaching window to be ineffective...ex: Since this is the only allowable window, all sports seem to cram practices/games into this time. 4. I do not want to coach all year but would simply like to have the flexibility to talk with players or provide constructive feedback to kids during off season games/tournaments.	N+
05-26	Dave Barr Head Football Coach Wahama High School Mason WV	Thank you for time and what you do for high school athletics. I am not sure that the rule proposed is the answer. But, I do feel the current rule does work against the athletes of West Virginia. I like Ohio's rule that has a very low athlete to coach ratio for offseason skill development. For example, this would allow kids to work on quarterback-center exchange following a strength workout. In the summer, I think a better answer is to give the coach of each sport a set number of days during which he can work with his athletes. Then, leave it to the principal and coaching staff at each school to reach agreement on when these workouts are set up so that kids	N-

don't have multiple practice sessions on a day in June.

Increasing the duration of off-season coaching may have a negative impact on students being able to participate in summer educational opportunity programs, such as HSTA, HCOP, Upward Bound, GHA's, and 4-H camps. These programs provide vital academic and social support for students and help prepare them for success both in high school and beyond.

As a representative of the Salem International Upward Bound program (a federally funded educational opportunity program for low income/first generation/at-risk high school students), I am concerned about the proposal to extend athletic practices during the entire summer. Our program hosts a 6-week summer program that helps our students build academic and social skills, as well as college and career readiness. It is hard enough to get our students to participate fully in the academic-year activities that we offer due to extracurricular activities they are involved in, plus school work and homework. In the summer, we get to have their (mostly) full attention that allows us to do intensive work with them to get them caught up with high school classes and ready for college academically and socially. Our students already often have to choose between working a part-time job in the summers (to help provide for their low-income families) or attending our summer session. We are also competing with other camps, family vacations, etc. While we encourage all of our students to participate in extracurricular activities, including sports, for the many benefits they offer, extending athletic practices through the entire summer would be a devastating blow to our summer program. Please consider the effect this would have on our program, our students, and all students who have the opportunity to attend ANY enrichment program in the summer.

I have been a Head Coach in the State of West Virginia for 25 years. I have been a Head coach on a A level school, AA level school, and a AAA level school. For this reason I feel qualified to speak on this rule. As a Coach and educator I am concerned with the lack of opportunities afforded to our athletes because of the constant restraints placed up coaches when it comes to the amount of instruction allowed by the powers that govern such rules. One of

05-26 Frances Bennett Clark
Director
West Virginia University Upward Bound
Morgantown WV

N-

05-26 Tiffany Sharp
Curriculum Coordinator / Counselor
Salem International University Upward
Bound
Salem WV

N-

05-27 John H. Lilly
Head Football Coach
Woodrow Wilson High School
Beckley WV

N+

the basic priorities of mine as a coach is to assist in the future of our players within our program. The following issues concern me on our current path in that process:

1. With certified coaches under the guidance of each School District, all coaches must be certified, have background checks, and be approved by school boards. This is done to make sure we do not allow people that may not be the best role model or person of choice for our young students. However with the current rules in place we actually are saying the opposite. That the Professional Coaches and educators approved by school boards are not allowed to coach outside the 3 week window allowed by the WVSSAC and in season. What is puzzling is why the State Department finds itself promoting the NON Professional that does not have background checks and all the safeguards to coach our players the remaining amount of the year. I do fully understand that many fine people with good intentions that coach these athletes and do a superb job. However, I personally have crossed path with some of the worst possible people you could imagine coaching our athletes as well. From convicted drug dealers to scam artist. Many of these coaches are actually making a living off these players. After just graduating my youngest son I have witnessed this all first hand. For this reason alone I can not understand why anyone would not want these simple safeguards in place for our athletes.

#2 People that oppose this rule have stated that it places too much pressure on these players with the amount of time each player has. I do understand that point but many of those people must not be well versed in what is currently going on. These players are already performing in travel ball in numerous sports and going to out of state combines and camps already. Why would the WVDE not want this all under the window of the Athletic Director and Principal. At the end of Basketball season there was advertising in all local newspapers in my area for tryouts for the AAU team two days after basketball season was over for an example. Who governs the time in that players day, certainly not the Coach, A.D. and Principal of the school hired to govern the issue.

#3 Small Schools would not be harmed but in fact be enhanced by the rule. Currently many small schools will split there 3 weeks up to give equal time. Once again limiting the amount of practice time

for the player forcing him or her to go other places, When you have all year there is no limited time to practice and give coaches a longer time frame to work within. Once again, under the guidance of the school athletic department. A lot of these complaints don't add up in the area in which the rule is intended. The rule just limits the Professional coach not the outside coach. The player will seek the instruction from somewhere.

#4. Why should football players be forced to drive all over the country to seek camps, combines and tryouts? We hear all the time that our local colleges do not recruit players in state, well they are only given 3 weeks for them to have them on campus and be evaluated, while other states have their players trained and prepared for these type of workouts. Forcing our players to seek once again outside help in the matter.

In summary Why has every Coach at W.V.U and Marshall as well as for the last several years Principals and Athletic Directors all recommend the change in the rule. Are these professional educators in knowledge of what is going on with in sports today, not the 1970's. Give the students in W.V. a chance to compete equally with other states by allowing them to be instructed by the people that were hired and governed under to do their job.

John H. Lilly

I totally support out of season coaching. It will level the playing field for our athletes compared to our neighboring states. The offseason allows coaches to teach fundamentals.

N+

I do not agree with this rule change for the middle school level. Children at ages 11-14 have enough pressure with schoolwork and other activities to expect them to practice year round. I fear this will put added pressure on our student athletes to attend an out of season practice rather than a quality time activity such as fishing with their grandfather or going on a family vacation. I understand many participate in AAU type leagues, however this is a choice. I know the proposal says it will not have an affect on the student in regards to the school team but I fear by nature it will.

N-

Also, it is already extremely difficult for us to find quality coaches

05-27
Ross
Teacher
Randolph County Schools
Elkins WV

05-27
Curtis Mann
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Barboursville Middle School
Barboursville WV

at this level. This change in policy will cause more issues for coaches that do not wish to conduct out of season practices. They will get complaints from parents that other schools are practicing and they aren't doing their job by not practicing out of season.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I feel that allowing coaches to practice our children out-of-season is a huge advantage for our student athletes in WV. I do not think it should be a mandatory type thing or held against a child if they can't participate all year. However, for athletes like my son, he puts everything into wrestling year round. I feel that he and every other athlete should have this as an option to better their skills. I also feel that it would save a lot of money that parents spend, sending their child to camps in the off season.

Mr. Ray,

Even with the dead weeks during the summer months, this policy would allow coaches to develop their athletes more during those months and help them better prepare for their respective competitions throughout their sports. As a coach and a long-time runner, I know that our summer conditioning would really help students prepare more for the season, and we wouldn't have to spend as much time developing our athletes' endurance capabilities for the first few weeks. Our students would become more interested and motivated to train throughout the summer so they could make improvements and compete well with schools outside of West Virginia. Although it is voluntary to students anyhow, we would have the better opportunity to coach the proper habits that they need to be successful.

I do not believe having year round coaching in our county would be good for students. It will lead to athletes having to pick one sport to concentrate on as well as coaches pushing their sport as the only one an athlete should concentrate and focus on. Small counties have enough trouble getting athletes for all the sports and many athletes participate in multiple sports. Who will pay coaches for the year round coaching. This could be a financial hardship for those counties with limited revenues. I am also worried that this could cause students to be more susceptible to injuries, a football player

05-28 Kristyn Adkins
Barboursville WV

N+

05-28 Charles Walters
Math Teacher
Berkeley County Schools
Martinsburg WV

N+

05-28 Roy Wager
Superintendent
Upshur County
Buckhannon WV

N-

involved in full contact year round could have more chance to be injured.

I agree with Trent Sherman's reasoning to allow more than three weeks of out of season coaching. I believe out of season coaching will allow the young athletes of West Virginia to compete with other states. I'm from Virginia and athletes are allowed to play Flag football which is coached by certified Tackle coaches. So, it gives the kids more opportunities to work on their fundamentals and improve their skills in other areas no matter the sport. The flag football league is not associated with AAU which some athletes cannot afford. For each sport, I would allow at least 3 months of Out of Season Coaching. The NFL or College Football are examples of out of season coaching such as Spring Practice and OTA's. Three weeks to get ready for a football season is not enough to install an offense and defense and find your starters without some instruction beforehand. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Please allow our athletes to formally train year-round. Please pass this proposal.

I believe student/athletes should be permitted without penalty to participate in skill development with their high school coaching staff for their specific sport. I would much rather for my son to work with a qualified coach throughout the year being in a supervised and structured environment.

I think this is a great idea for structured coaching. Our state is behind in athletics at a D1 level. I have 3 sons, 1 in the ssac rhelm and his a D1 prospect, my other 2 sons need as much skill development with qualified coaches. year around coaching only better kids abilities to earn scholarships at all levels of college. Keep them busy and shows them hard work pays off, builds great relationships with teammates that last forever. Please pass this for WV and get our athletics on the map at a higher level than what

Jonathan Woodfork
Football Coach
05-28 Eastern Panhandle and Fairfax youth
Football
Martinsburg WV

Patty Wager
Buckhannon-Upshur High School Boys'
05-30 Track coach
Upshur County Schools
Buckhannon WV

Todd Layhew
Head of household
06-01 Parent
Sandyville WV

Chad Johnson
06-01 Ripley Wv

N+

N+

N+

N+

they are now. Thank you

The out-of-school coaching period for high school sports, and especially boys basketball, needs to be extended. This needs to be done to allow adequate time for teams to practice as a cohesive unit with under the supervision of their coach(es). An extension of this out-of-season period would benefit programs statewide in their ability to perform at the highest level. Also, this rule would allow coaches to spread out their games and practices during this time, decreasing the risk of injury. Please consider extending the out-of-season coaching period.

When my friends from WV told me that they did not have access to their kids year round I was floored. In Texas we have Spring Football. We work with other sports so kids can play baseball and track but as a former NFL player, I cannot imagine if I wouldn't have received this instruction during high school. This is the LEAST that should be done for these kids.

I played baseball for Shepherd College and was behind a lot of my peers when I went to college because of not being able to work with my coach on a year round basis. Also as a teacher, I see daily that when kids are involved in activities, they come to school and are accountable for their actions. Most off seasons is when kids get in trouble and do not attend school regularly. We need to change this for our students in WV.

I have coached all over the country and we have never had WV on our recruit board because we could not evaluate players in the Spring period. West Virginia is a state that geographically is hard to navigate and when you cannot evaluate talent, most schools don't bother because they don't get anything out of their time there. My friends who coach there are very limited in what they can do. I looked at taking a position in WV at a college last year but did not and that was one of the factors into my decision. Its a big gamble signing kids you cannot properly evaluate.

I fully support out-of-season coaching. I believe this will allow more potential athletes a taste of the sport and the opportunity to try it before a full-blown season commences. I also believe that it has the potential to decrease injuries for the athletes. I volunteered with the local Rec Board for over 17 years and had student athletes

06-01 Mike Morgan
Parent
Ravenswood High School
Ravenswood WV

N+

06-02 John Leake
Self Employed
Leake Enterprises
Dallas TX

N+

06-02 Andrew Fincham
Teacher
Berkeley County Schools
Martinsburg WV

N+

06-02 Joe Bever
Coach
New Mexico Highlands
Las Vegas NM

N+

06-02 Sandra Hamilton
N/A
N/A
Martinsburg WV

N+

in the school system for years. They would have benefited greatly from out-of-season coaching. Instead, I paid and traveled to benefit my children. Permitting out-of-season coaching will one day benefit my grandchildren, with your approval. I urge your consideration and approval of this allowance. Thank you!

Allowing year-round coaching is a BAD, BAD, BAD idea!! There is already a lot of pressure put on kids to condition year round for a particular sport, and this will only intensify things! Being a multi-sport athlete will be more difficult, and there is much evidence that participating in multiple sports is beneficial to student athletes. Although the policy states that students should not be required to participate in out of season coaching as condition of making the team, it DEFINITELY will.....it already does now. What about school systems that can't afford to compensate coaches for year-round coaching? Just BAD policy!

I think extending out of season coaching to the whole year is a mistake.

1. Sports other than football and basketball will suffer. Coaches will have "voluntary practice . The student athlete will be pressured, real or not, to attend the practices.

2. Even colleges have restrictions on days that you can practice out of season.

3. Coaches will want more money for coaching on already tight athletic budgets.

4. I would like to see the summer time opened up, but limit the number of practices allowed.

I think it would be wonderful if coaches could work with kids during the out of season time frame. They could learn so much as an athlete and also as a person. Spending time with coaches instead of getting into trouble would be a huge positive that could come out of this. Student athletes could grow by leaps and bounds, improving their skill set and preparing for college ball, if that is their focus. It would help to make us more competitive in comparison to other states.

As a coach I have always fought for this rule, as a parent and no longer a coach, I still fight for this rule. Is it going to increase the chance for our kids to go Division 1, probably not, but what it will

06-02 Melanie Hummel
Moundsville West

N-

06-02 Bernie Dolan
Assistant Superintendent
Ohio County Schools
Wheeling WV

N-

06-03 Stacy Rhodes
Parent
Ravenswood High School Boys Basketball
Ravenswood WV

N+

06-05 mark hatcher
father/ex-coach
none

N+

Logan WV

allow is those kids that want to be better, and those coaches that are willing to spend the extra time, to do it, and to do it without fear of breaking rules.

Maybe it does increase a few kids a year the chance to get a college level scholarship, no matter what level, but really it just allows our kids and our coaches the freedom to work. That is an American right! If you want to work hard, then this country was built on hard work pays off. But our states seems to always be fighting that when it comes to sports.

As a former coach, I am sure that some coaches will take advantage of this and try to make it mandatory or even at times it may affect the relationship of a few coaches. But we had that same argument many years ago, when the 3 week period was started, and its simply not to big of a problem at all.

Would you not rather have a hired professional looking after our kids than a crazy AAU coach, or someone that does not have to have a background check, or meet any kind of criteria.

Why not give it a chance.

Mark Hatcher

Retired Coach Logan Wildcats

I am not in favor of the out of season coaching proposal. I feel it will make athletes choose what sport they want to do in high school and concentrate just on that one sport. There are not enough athletes at lower enrollment schools to be able to choose which sport they want to play and be successful. The reason this proposal will make students choose is because they will be pulled all different directions all year long by all of their coaches. Students will not be able to fully commit to all of their different sports and thus have to choose one that they want to commit to and concentrate on.

In my professional opinion, I do NOT think that the open practice plan is a good thing for the student athletes of the state of West Virginia. The students need more "off" time for family activities. They also need to experience various sports if they so desire. I'm afraid over zealous coaches will demand that their sport athletes are to give the majority of their time to their sport. I'm concerned about Football and Basketball especially. I don't think this would be an

06-08 Jordan Toth
Teacher/Coach
Lincoln High
Shimston West

N-

06-08 Arthur Petitto
Athletic Director
Bridgeport Middle School
Bridgeport WV

N-

issue if we were talking about Volleyball or Cross Country coaches. I think the whole process will be dominated by Football and Basketball. In my middle school situation, we assign one week of the presently allowed three to each team. We stagger the practices so that the students may attend and experience different sports if they choose. The students really do get to experience various activities. I don't think that administrators will be able to control this year round. So, I say NO to the extended "Out of Season Coaching." Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Arthur Petitto

The primary reason I believe this proposal should pass is for safety reasons. If we are going to require employed coaches to be certified with a teaching degree or a WVSSAC coaching certificate in order to coach in the regular season, it does not make sense to have non-certified coaches working with athletes 9 months a year. Approving year round coaching would ensure the safety of our athletes.

Please, PLEASE do NOT move to year round coaching. There are simply too many reasons this should not happen. If you truly have "what's best for the children" in mind, you will NOT approve such a potentially damaging measure.

The move to allow expanded "summer coaching" (read: mandatory practices in function if not in name) is a misguided attempt to improve high school athletics. The practice will force youth to commit to one sport over another and sacrifice much of their summer vacation in the name of advancing their athletic "careers". It is a big overstep by the SSAC to consider encroaching further on the summer activities of children solely in the name of competition. There are other extra-curricular activities including academic remediation, summer camps, and various learning environments which should take precedence over expanded athletics. The practice will lead to increased youth burnout in sports (as evidenced in the report linked here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ken-reed/youth-sports-injuries-and_b_5966664.html and here:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/01/140103205139.htm>) confirm the long held belief that children who cannot differentiate their playing experience with various sports are more prone to burn

06-08 Tim Murray
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Wirt County High School
Elizabeth West

N+

06-09 Craig Presar
Agent, 4-H Youth Development
WVU Extension Service
Buckhannon WV

N-

06-09 Bill Woodrum
Parent
None
Winfield WV

N-

out, injuries and a quicker withdrawal from organized activities. As a parent of a middle school age child, I do NOT support this expansion.

06-09 Harrison Case
Morgantown WV

I am opposed to year round coaching. The students need a break and this will make family summer activities difficult. It will also discourage multiple sport athletes and contribute to premature burnout.

N-

06-09 Laura Partington
Morgantown WV

Please do not allow this to go forward. This would have many negative impacts on young athletes including a rest period for their bodies and the potential to participate in multiple sports or activities. I oppose this measure.

N-

06-09 Shannon Myers
MORGANTOWN WV

I do not agree with kids being coached for the same sport all year around! Kids need to be able to explore other sports while in high school. Not only that, but families need time to be together and have those moments of rest! As a parent of two boys who are heavily into sports, I strongly disagree with out of season coaching!!

N-

This is an extremely bad idea! These are 14-18 year old children. This will limit all youth athletes from living a normal high school life. Doing schoolwork, spending time with family, doing volunteer work which is required for graduation, church life, vacation opportunities, spending quality time developing social skills with friends, and a dozen other life skills will be in jeopardy of being lost. Why would the school board promote those actions when it is detrimental to the children you are supposed to be a caregiver for?

06-09 Angie Inskeep
Morgantown WV

This limits coaching staff and will cause animosity between them. One will be fighting tooth and nail to keep their "stars" in their genre and "bully" them away from others.

N-

It will limit certain sports like lacrosse from utilizing practice fields because we all know FOOTBALL is the beginning and end of high school sports, right? WRONG! Football is no more important than any other choice. All kids should have an opportunity to make themselves into whatever adult they want to be. So if my nephew wants to play LAX AND Basketball then he should be allowed.

06-09	Amanda Grantham Middleway WV	<p>This is an asinine option and should be tossed off the table!</p> <p>As a mother of a child not yet old enough to attend public school, I try to keep an eye on items that will impact my daughter when she does get to be that age. I am firmly against out of season coaching. I believe that summer should be a time to allow our children to have unstructured time to explore the many things they enjoy, not just a sport. Children should be able to use the summer months to attend 4-H camp, travel, or have a part-time job or internship. Out of season coaching would force a child to chose between playing a sport for the school year or using the time to explore other passions in life. Please let our children have their summers!</p>	N-
06-09	Sarah Brown Wv	<p>Stop trying to push year round everything!!!</p>	N-
06-09	Jill Mazzella Wellsburg WV	<p>I am against out of season coaching because it will creat an atmosphere of year round participation for students. I have believe children or young adults at that age are prone to repetitive injuries. Children do not always make the best decisions to rest or let heal minor injuries that then become major issues. At 16 they don't consider the consequences of blown out knees and shoulder and what that would mean to them at age 36. Sports have seasons so one can end and a different sport begin. Let's keep it that way.</p>	N-
06-09	Jill Mazzella Wellsburg WV	<p>I am against out of season coaching because it will creat an atmosphere of year round participation for students. I have believe children or young adults at that age are prone to repetitive injuries. Children do not always make the best decisions to rest or let heal minor injuries that then become major issues. At 16 they don't consider the consequences of blown out knees and shoulder and what that would mean to them at age 36. Sports have seasons so one can end and a different sport begin. Let's keep it that way.</p>	N-
06-09	Wendy parent wheeling Park high wheeling wv	<p>Please think about this! As a mother of two athletes of multiple sports I do not think this is for the better of the child. My children not only are athletes, they are involved in summer academic, church, and four H camps. They are well rounded, high honors students that will be forced to chose.</p>	N-
06-09	Martha Garton Private Citizen	<p>I am totally against the proposed out of season coaching. Ultimately it will force students to choose just one sport and for our</p>	N-

	Petersburg WV	small school this would be devastating. The short summer break is the only time available for students to participate in out of school activities such as 4-H and church camps and leadership conferences. Coaches put an inordinate amount of pressure on young people to attend practices and other related activities as it is. Many even seem angry when youth go with their families on vacation. This out of season coaching proposal would increase this pressure beyond where it already is. Passing this measure is not in the best interest of our students or of family values.	
06-09	G Goodwin Parent Morgantown West	Let kids be kids and enjoy their childhood. Summer camps exist for kids who wish to improve their skills and school sponsored sports should not be year round. Saying itbis optional is a joke because some coaches will take advantage of the kids. This is just a really bad idea.	N-
06-09	Tammy Wells Director Wetzel County Schools New Martinsville WV	As an educator, 4-Her and mother of past student athletes/bandies, I cannot support this proposal. I believe in kids being kids and families sharing at least some time as desired. Childhood is fleeting.	N-
06-10	Tanner Hill Athletic Director Washington Irving Middle School Clarksburg WV	Please keep the seasons the way they are. Year around practice for our athletes is not a good idea. TH	N-
06-10	Cathy Orndorff Morgantown WV	I don't believe that full-time training for high school sports is necessary. It leaves no time open for family trips, 4-H Camp, or a much needed break for growing bodies. It seems that high school athletics is being elevated to that of professional sports and that was never the point. It is disappointing also that the money for this will most likely have to be taken from another area of academic education. Our daughter played volleyball and our son played football in high school. The practice schedules were rigorous and basically controlled our lives. Did it get them a scholarship? No, but their academics did. This is just a bad idea. Coaches will say that they don't have to attend all the sessions but then the kids are discriminated against if they aren't there. Also, there is the problem of transportation because all of this is on the parents to see that they are there since there is no busing. Again, discriminatory against both parents who are working or parents who do not have the	N-

means to transport their student everyday. Let's get back to more emphasis on academics and less on sports. Allow families to have a few weeks in summer in July when they can go on a vacation. Please vote no to this proposal.

I am for Policy 127-3-7-2. I believe that our student athletes should be given an even playing for when competing for college scholarships with other states which allow there coaches to work with their student athletes all year.

N+

When I got into teaching/coaching, I did it because I wanted to help kids. I had a great high school athletic experience and I wanted to help others get that same kind of experience. I always hear educators talk about "putting the kids first". With the way these rules are currently structured, the kids aren't being put first.

As coaches, we try to do more than teach our kids the games we coach. Our main priority is helping kids understand how to be successful beyond their athletic careers. We try to emphasize things such as work ethic, accountability, discipline, commitment, the importance of togetherness, etc. Creating those habits will not only help them succeed on the court but will go with them a lifetime.

However, with the current system, it's very difficult to create those habits. First of all, we have roughly 5-6 weeks (3 weeks in June and 2-3 weeks in the preseason) in a 52-week year to get our kids prepared before we play our first scrimmage game of the season. Don't forget the fact that we have to have a try-out as well. That eliminates a few those days a minimum. Does that not seem absurd? We're talking about trying to get in skill development while also implementing some kind of offensive and defensive system in roughly 5 weeks? Because of the time limitations, we can't teach effectively. There just isn't enough time to do all that you need to do and our kids are the ones who are suffering.

N+

If you look at surrounding states (Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, etc.) that compare with our state's demographics, the amount of West Virginia athletes who get scholarships is way behind. Again,

06-11 Gary Brown
Teacher
McDowell County B.O.E.
Welch WV

06-11 Evan Faulkner
Boy's Basketball Coach
Ripley High School
Ripley WV

if we're trying to put kids first, then we have to look at this issue and figure out what the problem is. As a Kentucky native, where coaches can basically coach year around, I know that the time we can spend working out doesn't even compare to some of the better schools in our neighboring state. It really isn't rocket science. More time spent coaching our kids is going to correlate to more athletic scholarship money given. If more scholarship money is given, more kids will go to college.

I understand that the argument behind this is so kids don't have to "specialize" or be pressured to play one-sport. But what about the kids who play one sport by choice? Those 1-sport kids, who have never played another sport, don't have the access to help outside of those 5-6 weeks. Why can't we coach those kids? Furthermore, I personally feel insulted that, as coaches, we aren't trusted to work together and solve those issues amongst ourselves. If it's an issue within a school system, the administrators should be trusted to handle that internally. All schools shouldn't be punished because a handful of coaches are going to try and make kids "specialize" .

I understand that those who oppose this rule are also worried that we're putting emphasis on athletics over academics. I totally disagree. Like I mentioned before, we try to teach habits that are going to help kids throughout life. Wouldn't those habits be useful as they work through their academic curriculum? Most coaches are teachers. Very few are going to ask kids to prioritize athletics over academics. Those who do should be dealt with by their administration. We all shouldn't be punished.

Something else to consider is that the kids who want to play are going to play. With the way travel ball/ AAU has evolved, the kids find a way to play. So the argument about specialization and about time being taking away from academics/studying is really irrelevant because they're spending just as much time now as they would if there was a longer open period. The problem with this, though, is the right people are not coaching them. In most cases, the AAU scene is contradicting those habits that have been

mentioned because of a lack of certified/qualified coaches. Now the time being spent isn't correlating into team/individual improvements. If more time was allotted for team practices/work outs with certified high school coaches, our kids wouldn't be as pressured to play AAU. Also, kids have to pay large amounts of money to part of the team. Factor in travel expenses on top of the initial payment and this becomes an economic burden to parents. Not only is that going to help them on the court, but also could be an economic savings to parents.

The point is that high school coaches are in this business to help kids. It's time to adapt and create a system that is conducive to giving that help. Right now, we aren't teaching them the right things. We aren't showing them that if you want to achieve something, it takes work and commitment to achieving that goal. What we're actually doing is the opposite of that. We're hindering the kids who want to work and protecting the kids/coaches who don't want to. Trust us, as coaches, to work collectively with administrators and collaborate with each other to implement programs with appropriate timelines. Let us help kids understand how to be a good student and a good athlete at the same time. Lets do it for the kids.

Out of Season coaching is not a good idea, we already have the situation where some students have chosen not to participate in organized athletics because of the time commitment required of them by coaches. What they wanted was to be able to play their favorite sport, but found instead a system which required they give up too much control of their summer vacation. This will only become worse with out of season coaching. Excellence in all things should be striven for, but not at the cost of students ability and willingness to participate.

Board Members,

It's time for a change!!!! Staying status quo is not the answer. The WVSSAC & State Board have made little steps in the past in the right direction by allowing our coaches assess to their players during the 3 week period in June in all sports. Now it is time to

06-11 Charles Waugh
Professor Emeritus
West Virginia University
Bruceton Mills WV

06-11 John Kennedy
Girls Basketball Coach
Ripley High School
Ripley WV

expand the window much more. Surrounding states put trust in their coaches and administration by allowing them to spend 40-48 weeks with their players throughout the year. Of course their needs to be some common sense applied here. For example, a week around the 4th of July needs to be off; a week or two off around when school starts and some long weekends such as Memorial Day. By limiting our coaches access to players during season and 3 weeks in June is injustice. It is allowing for travel coaches to create monsters and make it all about individualism. What best for me attitude, instead of what's best for the team, program, school and community. There is very little loyalty anymore to schools. More and more student athletes are transferring due to travel coaches recruiting them to play elsewhere. Also, by staying status quo the WVSSAC & State Board is saying that Joe Bob who only finished high school, who may never have played basketball in their life, never dressed in P.E. class, only coaching because of his son or daughter is playing is better off with our student athletes than our Head Coaches who furthered their education, went to college, obtained a degree, continues their education, goes to clinics, network with other high school and college coaches, possibly received a masters degree and who are truly trying to develop successful individuals through the discipline of sports to lead this nation in generations to come. Now you tell me, who do you want our student athlete around more? Flip the situation and say that teachers could only teach the students at certain times of the year but whoever could spend more time with them educating them on core subjects. How successful are the test scores going to be then. So there is correlation to qualified and experience educators being around our student athletes. Numerous college coaches are reaching out making connections to the state high schools' coaches begging for them to get involved in this. Each college coach is echoing the same statements. Our state's players aren't getting the same quality coaching as the states surrounding us. When you get your players when season starts you have to spend so much wasted time correcting the bad habits that were developed in the off season with travel coaches. They spend more time recruiting out of state players because more opportunities they get to watch them, recruit them and their head

coaches are producing better results because of more instruction from qualified coaches not Billy Bob down the street. Please place trust in your coaches, ADs and administrations of the schools in this state. By staying status quo is a slap in our face and the transferring, disloyalty; fewer in state athlete getting scholarships will continue to stay the same or even drop. Thank you for your time.

John Kennedy
Ripley High School
Girls Basketball Head Coach

Changes to the current out of season coaching policy MUST be made to both protect and promote our athletes. Under the current system, we are given a three week window to work with our players. If a specific athlete happens to be a multi-sport athlete, he/she is asked to push their bodies to extreme lengths during those three weeks so that he/she can participate in several sports. An athlete may go to weight lifting in the morning, basketball workout afterward, 7 on 7 football competition in the afternoon and then a summer league basketball game in the evening. This is absolutely crazy to think that an athlete will be put through this schedule and often even more up to 5 times a week for 3 weeks. In order to protect our athletes we need to lengthen the time allotted to work with players out of season. This would allow sports to work together and create a workout schedule that benefits and protects the health of our athletes AND DOES NOT BURN THEM OUT! Another issue that arises is coaching during summer leagues, camps, etc. Not every county, school or program is blessed with quality knowledgeable volunteers for these contests. As result, we as coaches may be forced to put our athletes in the hands of less knowledgeable and capable coaches so that our kids have the opportunity to simply play the sport they love. The other option is for us to CONTINUE to lose players to AAU teams (who are continuing to hurt youth basketball). If we want the athletes of our state to compete with surrounding states on the playing field, with recruitment and in life we must make a change to this ancient rule. We teach and coach because we care about these young men and women and want what is best for

06-11 Ori Pancione
Head Boys Basketball Coach
Hampshire High School Boys Basketball
Romney WV

N+

them. The current situation is not what is best for our athletes,
CHANGE IS NEEDED!!

Thank you,

-Orie Pancione

Hampshire High School Boys Basketball

Mr. Ray,

I would like to express my support for the approval of out-of-season coaching. I have discussed this topic with many people throughout the years and, while I understand the concerns some may have, I wholeheartedly feel that the good will undoubtedly outweigh the bad. The majority of coaches view themselves as mentors to young people rather than simply a head coach. We develop professional relationships with our athletes and do our best to instill good character and decision making skills. Currently, I have 2 athletes on my middle school basketball team who recently asked if I could work with them all summer to improve their game. It is unfortunate that I had to inform them that this was illegal outside of the designated three week period. They were visibly upset as middle school students do not truly understand why this is the case. Furthermore, as their basketball coach and school counselor, I know that these students come from the rougher area of our community. I truly believe that their request was made, not only to improve at basketball, but to keep them from running around with the wrong crowd in their neighborhood as they know that I have preached character and making the right decisions to them all year. I feel as if it is a travesty that I can't support these students throughout the offseason by providing them with opportunities to improve athletically and personally, while also keeping them off of the streets. I'm sure I'm not the only coach in this predicament as well.

There are many other reasons that I can list as to why I feel that out-of-season coaching should be approved and I'm sure many coaches have voiced these reasons. I truly believe that this approval would positively and significantly impact our student athletes and provide them with opportunities to better their futures. Furthermore, with proper regulations, such as designated dead

06-12 Jared Wratchford
Boys Basketball Coach
Moorefield Middle School
Moorefield WV

N+

periods, we can help our student athletes vastly improve in their respective sports, potentially providing them with scholarship opportunities while still not consuming their entire lives. I firmly believe that students need time and opportunity to spend with their families, relax and be kids as well. Nevertheless, they should not be denied access to essential, positive role models and better athletic opportunities that could greatly enrich their lives.

I truly hope that you will take these comments into consideration prior to making your decision.

Thank you for your time,

Jared Wratford
Moorefield Middle School
School Counselor
Head Boys Basketball Coach

We are in desperate need for the proposed changes to pass. Our athletes are getting further and further behind in development compared to those in surrounding states. In softball especially, a girl cannot be expected to perform as well as someone who is able to hit and field year-round if she is only allowed to work with her coach for approximately three to four weeks before games start. If coaches are able to work with them year-round not only does it help to even the playing field, but it does help limit the possibility of well-meaning volunteers and parents from helping our athletes develop detrimental habits within their respective sport.

Another issue I have with the current out-of-season coaching rule is that the three-week period we have to work with our athletes is not working. In small schools like Ravenswood High, our athletes are often multi-sport ones. Is it fair or safe for a triple-sport athlete to have to practice three different times throughout a day for three weeks straight? It's not. Also, athletes sometimes have to pick and choose which practice to go to because of scheduling issues. As a softball coach, I find that my sport is often passed over for volleyball or soccer because those sports are coming up first, and I can't blame the girls for choosing those practices for the upcoming season. So again, having all sports practice at the same time during

06-14 Cynthia Carmichael
Teacher, Head Softball Coach
Ravenswood High School
Ravenswood WV

a three-week period during the summer is just not working, and we need to be able to work with our athletes throughout the year!

Thank you.

There should be no expansion to off-season coaching. Tremendous pressure is put on kids to perform at a high level by people who are unfamiliar with the physiological demands of sport. In general, that includes the coaching staff and all other athletic staff, as the coaching class they're required to take is not hardly enough to make them familiar. Kids need an offseason. Not just physiologically, but psychologically. Summer vacation should be a time to unwind and enjoy non-structured play. Additionally, excess offseason coaching pressures kids into early specialization, which is very harmful to both their physical and social development. Please, I urge you, do not expand out of season coaching.

As a former WV high school athlete, a certified athletic trainer, WV 4-H allstar and a clinical researcher in the area of orthopaedic injuries, I am uniformly opposed to the expansion of off season coaching for high school sports. Such an expansion is detrimental to all parts of the student athlete. It limits involvement in non-athletic activities such as scouting, 4-H, band, and religious organization, while increasing the risk for overuse and traumatic injuries. The implementation of this proposal will result in many kids being forced to specialize in a single sport, and focus on that sport year round. Such specialization is contrary to the STOP Sports Injuries now campaign. A joint campaign by the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, SAFE Kids USA, the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, and the Sports Physical Therapy Section aimed at reducing overuse and traumatic injuries in youth sports. I am particularly disturbed by the proposal of year-round access at the middle school level. Additionally, as a former AAU athlete I strongly resent the suggestion that many AAU programs have a negative influence on student-athletes. The vast majority of these programs provide excellent coaching and provide talented athletes the chance to play with other high level athletes against regional and national competition, providing a diversified

06-14 Thaddeus Light
St. Marys WV

N-

Jennifer Howard, PhD, ATC
Assistant Professor
06-14 University of Kentucky, Department of
Orthopaedic Surgery
Lexington KY

N-

experience that cannot be offered within WVSSAC programs. My own AAU experiences (and those of many others whom I know) were by far more positive and more instructional than my scholastic experiences. I strongly urge the rejection of the proposed policy change.

I think that the time has come to let our coaches spend the additional time with our athletes as is shared by our colleagues in neighboring states. Administrators and coaches alike will have to deal with the issues that may be caused in a professional manner. It is imperative that we commit to the additional work time to benefit our student athletes. we should also look at this as a yearly process until we get the kinks worked out with additional dead time or player limits to workouts

There should BE NO OUT OF SEASON COACHING not even voluntary 3 weeks!!!. The time now is said to be voluntary AND IT IS NOT. Young people need down time away from sports but physically and emotionally. As a parent, when my child, recently graduated, played a sport I felt like I was giving my child's life over to the coach. This really needs to stop. I am a strong person and made sure that my child's best interest came first but it was not very popular with coaches. Luckily, my son was a good athlete and was wanted bad enough that he was not punished when a decision was made for him to do something other than practice BUT it did not come without shame even when his grandfather died. He played a variety of sport his entire life and we were strong supporters of athletics. Please STOP making sports about winning versus about having fun and developing appropriate physical as well as life skills.

For the longest time, I really did not feel I had an opinion on this issue but I have contemplated and realize I do now. I am not going to make an argument that with this policy that WV may produce more student-athletes to compete on any college level. I am sure a legitimate argument can be made there. My argument is much more personal and simple. Why not give us coaches/teachers the opportunity/time to help our student-athletes reach their full potential. I have a student-athlete who is in the process of transferring from our school to one in nearby Parkersburg (30

06-14 Mike Granato
Head Boys Basketball Coach
Weir High School
Weirton WV

N+

06-15 Brenda McDonald Pruett
Extension Agent/ Parent
WVU Extension/Private citizen
Princeton WV

N-

06-15 C. Bryan Daugherty
Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach & Social
Studies Teac
Ritchie County High School
Ellenboro WV

N+

minutes drive one way) because, among other reasons, he already goes to the Elite Center 3 days a week to get better at basketball. Perhaps, if I had been allowed to work with him (as he desires) instead of his mom having to make that drive 3 days a week; perhaps, he might have considered transferring in the first place. Without this policy, the schools in urban settings and with student populations with higher socioeconomic status will always have an advantage over us smaller and more rural areas. They will have an advantage regardless but even more so. Why should my boys and their parents have to consider getting their boys extra time to improve weighed against the cost of transportation to Parkersburg (or elsewhere) and the cost of such training by other hired professionals. How many kids could I help work on their game right in our taxpaid facilities as much as the student-athletes and coach(es) determine. I like the 3 week period because it blanks out the month July because I think all of us need time off (I will continue to honor that). But those who will not play football or run cross country in the fall, what is wrong with me working with them in the gym a couple or few days a week. Besides, cross country coaches can work with their student-athletes any day, everyday except Sundays. Because our players play with a basketball, both coaches and players are restricted. How is that fair? I do wonder if there is a correlation between the number of cross country runners getting college scholarships and the fact that their coaches can work with them literally year round. How many more of our WV student-athletes get college scholarships for cross country than say football or basketball? Again, I wonder if there is a correlation in those numbers. I may never get a kid at Ritchie County High School to earn a division 1 scholarship, but perhaps with extra work I help a kid in poor, rural Ritchie County to earn D2 scholarship or help at a D3. Give us the freedom to find out. Give us the freedom to help our student-athletes reach their absolute fullest potential; that is all I ask.

Currently the rule is that all coaches can work with their players during a three-week window in the month of June. This rule has created a period of limited time into which coaches are planning various events. Many have perceived this time frame as putting too much stress on athletes that participate in more than one sport. I do

N+

06-15 Scott Stephens
Girls Basketball Coach
Parkersburg South High School
Parkersburg WV

not agree with that point, but I believe that is one of the reasons for the rule change. Another reason for the rule change that I have heard is that it puts our athletes back in contact with their high school coaches and takes away some control from AAU coaches and the traveling team coaches. This, I feel is a very valid point. The school systems have trained coaches that are better prepared to work with our youth. Why turn our student-athletes over to coaches who are not regulated or even had background checks. The proposed rule change will keep instruction in the hands of qualified school employees.

Opponents to the principals'™ proposal offer several arguments. I would like to address some of those that you may have been hearing:

Opponents argue that if an athlete doesn't™ come to summer workouts, he will be penalized by the coach when the season begins. The fact of the matter is that when tryouts come and practice starts, the best athletes will take the playing surface. The summer gives an athlete who wants to improve an opportunity to do so. But just because you came in the summer is not going to guarantee a spot on the floor in the fall. Each coach wants to put the best players he has in a position to function to their potential.

A second concern is that we have many athletes that practice on traveling teams. Many of those travel from Parkersburg to Charleston or Huntington, or Morgantown to play on travel or AAU teams. Why not take advantage of the resources we have? Let the high school coach open the gym and allow the teams to practice locally without the added expense of travel. They will play somewhere, why not at home?

Some will say that summer is a time to relax and take a breather or work the family farm. I believe our youth spend too much time on cell phones and video games, doing the mall crawl or other equally worthless activities and the opportunity to spend some quality time in a gym, on a track, or on a soccer field is a good thing.

People will comment that this summer practice will take away from family vacations and family values. I believe that summer sports will add to family time. Parents and grandparents will flock to events to watch their family members compete. Summer events offer more playing time for multiple athletes because the stakes on the outcome aren't anywhere near as high as they are in season. My daughters always missed one week of the current three-week practice schedule because they went on vacation with their grandparents during their timeshare beach week that couldn't be changed. It didn't affect their playing time and set an example to others that family vacations come first.

Folks will complain that this will put too much stress on the athletes that play 2 or 3 sports. I believe if an athlete wants to focus on one sport during the summer, coaches will be fine with it. Any athlete that plays any sport will improve his or her preparedness for another sport through improved agility, hand eye coordination, and conditioning. I tell my athletes during the three week period that if they aren't there it is ok, just so long as they are somewhere doing something constructive from family vacation, to working, to participating in another sport. I will only be disappointed in them if I learn they are home in bed or on the couch doing nothing. To those that say there will be too much practice, I say give our athletic directors and high school administrators some credit. If they see an overly zealous coach, they can step in if that situation occurs.

You might hear people argue that our athletes are students first and athletes second. With them I agree 100%. I also know that there is much to be learned from being part of a team. Sports teach the benefit of hard work, the value of cooperation, and countless other life lessons.

To close, summer is an opportunity for student athletes to spend time improving their skills doing something they love to do. Why take this opportunity away from them when we have the resources available that are sitting idle during the summer months.. We have invested much in our youth; let them use these resources to chase

the dreams they have.

Thank you for your consideration of these points of view on the subject. There are many in favor of this proposal; it has a lot of merit. I hope you won't let the vocal minority that is willing to express their view point overshadow the silent majority.

Respectfully,

Scott Stephens
Girls Basketball
Parkersburg South High School

As a former HS and NCAA athlete in the state of WV, I am against HS coaches being able to coach year round with their student athletes. I believe athletes are able to grow and improve themselves throughout the play of multiple sports and recreational activities out-of-season. If HS coaches become available to practice year-round with their athletes, this will discourage more well rounded and multi-sport athletes. Selfishness and greed will be the backbone of every HS coach, mandating players only participate in a specific sport. The 3-week open period that has been in effect over the last few years should be an indication of what will only take place for longer periods of time. Student athletes will be asked to participate in out-of-season practices for longer periods of time, creating less of an attraction during season and burnout of the participant and coaches. Also, many HS coaches are not qualified or knowledgeable enough to be apart of out-of-season coaching with the promising students who look to further their play into the NCAA. For the reasons listed, I am strongly against HS coaches able to coach year-round (out-of-season).

N-

After taking several weeks to think about the issue of year around coaching I have decided the I feel that allowing certified coaches to work with student-athletes year around except for the dead weeks would be beneficial to both the student-athletes and to the schools themselves. As an exercise physiologist I have a understanding of both the physical and mental development of young athletes. I

N+

06-15 Cody Loughry
Morgantown WV

06-15 Michael J Ryan
Associate Professor of Exercise Science
Fairmont State University
Fairmont WV

know that a systematic periodization program that slightly but consistently overloads the body , then gives time to recover and adaption will produce the best long term results to for the athlete. Dedicating yourself to a year around training takes a lot of will power on the part of the student-athlete but many of our best athletes are already doing this. As stated in the rational many states have year around coaching including all of our surrounding states. As the Head Cross Country Coach at Morgantown High School I have seen the results of "club" or as stated in the rational "AAU" coaches work with athletes to help make them better. In track and cross country many of our best athletes work with these coaches in the off season. These coaches have varying backgrounds of experience and little to no oversight. High school coaches are vetted by their county school boards and are required to follow certain ethical and moral standards. In closing I feel that West Virginia student-athletes will be the long term winners if they are allowed to train with their High School coaches and teams year around.
 Michael J. Ryan, Ph.D.

06-15
 Andy Auxier
 Pharmacist
 Phillips Pharmacy
 St. Marys WV

I support expanding out of season coaching. This will allow my son contact with his regular coaches all throughout the off season and keep lay people from coaching him. It will be safer for his training. It will allow the multi sport athlete more down time as multiple sports won't be competing with each other during the same 3 weeks. This allows more time for family vacations and camps. I have confidence that my son's coaches will be responsible about not over using this privilege.

N+

06-15
 Dylan Hupp
 College student
 None
 Belmont WV

As a former player, it was always difficult and rough for the players and actual coaches, when the organized team played offseason games with different coaches. Most times it was a parent of a player which caused trouble at times. But in addition, some players didn't get to play much because the coach would not understand and recognize the situation the actual coach wanted. There were several times when we went to play in tournaments outside of the coaching window and team's coaches coached them. What punishment did they receive? None. It was brought up and nothing was done about it.
 To conclude, full time coaching would not only benefit the

N+

program of sports but for the kids in general. It allows for a more equalized and opportunistic reality. Thank you.

§127-3-7 2 a

05-18	Max Lilly Assistant Coach Woodrow Wilson High School Beaver WV	I agree with this. Most coaches will agree with this, but understand not to abuse this. One point would be that, especially in the winter, when the weather is absolutely terrible, it would give a chance for practice to occur when it is needed.	N+
05-18	Alan Coach Football, Basketball, Track Ellenboro WV	Saturday practices should be allowed where Sunday practices should not be allowed. Saturday practices should be optional and not required by coaching staffs.	N+
05-26	Vivian G. Cespedes President West Virginia TRiO Association Morgantown WV	As the President of the WV TRiO Association I would like to strongly oppose the summer long athletic practice. The federal funded TRiO programs which operate in many of West Virginia's high schools with the Upward Bound summer program will be greatly impacted in a negative manner. The students who participate in the program attend for a period of 6 weeks. Many of the students will also participate in sports, band, cheerleading, etc. The Upward Bound program gives students the opportunity to receive much needed instruction to high school students to prepare them when they are ready to attend college. Having students practice a sport all summer will not allow the student to participate in many other programs available to them such as 4-H, HCOP, HSTA, etc. and not to mention spending quality time with family. I urge you to please reconsider and not make this a summer long activity for our students. They already have so much pressure during the regular school year, let them relax for a while and allow them to learn other things that may be more useful for them if they do not ever make it to the big leagues. Thank you for your consideration not to allow this to go into effect.	N-
06-02	Sandra Hamilton N/A N/A Martinsburg WV	I fully support out-of-season coaching. I believe this will allow more potential athletes a taste of the sport and the opportunity to try it before a full-blown season commences. I also believe that it has the potential to decrease injuries for the athletes. I volunteered with the local Rec Board for over 17 years and had student athletes in the school system for years. They would have benefited greatly	N+

from out-of-season coaching. Instead, I paid and traveled to benefit my children. Permitting out-of-season coaching will one day benefit my grandchildren, with your approval. I urge your consideration and approval of this allowance. Thank you!

06-08	Tim Murray Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Wirt County High School Elizabeth West	I think the inclusion of weekend activities with principal approval is needed because a lot of team camps or summer tournaments are held on weekends.	N+
06-12	Deb Dean Leader 4-h Morgantown WV	Our youth need to be give lots of opportunities to be a child and do other things in the summer such as 4-H camp, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or simply enjoy a family vacation! Too much emphasis is being forced on sports!	N-
§127-3-7 2 b			
05-15	Aaron Snodgrass Leon WV	This section of the rule needs to be reviewed before approved. The current wording of the rule is obviously skewed toward protecting football players, but would not allow catchers in baseball and softball to wear their protective equipment during off season pitching workouts and would not allow batters in these sports to wear protective helmets during batting practice.	N-
05-18	Max Lilly Assistant Coach Woodrow Wilson High School Beaver WV	I agree with this to an extent. I believe blocking dummies should be used during this period, as it is safer than not having a blocking dummy. Live contact or thud contact would never be used without protective equipment, but teaching proper technique would be much safer and more beneficial with a blocking dummy.	N+
05-18	Alan Coach Football, Basketball, Track Ellenboro WV	Also, I would like to see that it would be mandatory that in 7 on 7 games, you would have to wear a helmet. The helmet is there to protect the player and there have been too many times a player has been hit in the face either with a ball or hand. If they had the helmet on, it would've been much better for the athlete.	N+
06-02	Sandra Hamilton N/A	I fully support out-of-season coaching. I believe this will allow more potential athletes a taste of the sport and the opportunity to	N+

N/A
Martinsburg WV

try it before a full-blown season commences. I also believe that it has the potential to decrease injuries for the athletes. I volunteered with the local Rec Board for over 17 years and had student athletes in the school system for years. They would have benefited greatly from out-of-season coaching. Instead, I paid and traveled to benefit my children. Permitting out-of-season coaching will one day benefit my grandchildren, with your approval. I urge your consideration and approval of this allowance. Thank you!

§127-3-23 6 b Football

As a football coach, at a school where we do not have a freshman program, I disagree with this amendment. I believe the ninth graders should have the opportunity to play freshman ball, and not have to go up against tenth and eleventh grade players. If a freshman player is "that good," then they should be up on JV or Varsity from the beginning. This case does not happen very often. We need to allow our players time to develop and mature before we can expect them to compete at a higher level. This again supports the idea of having year round coaching and giving those younger students the opportunity to learn the system and get physically stronger before being expected to move up to the next level.

N-

05-15 Joseph Yurish
Teacher (Masters)/Coach
Washington High School
Charles Town WV

05-15 Chris
Teacher
Berk. Co. Schools
Martinsburg Wv

Same

05-18 Max Lilly
Assistant Coach
Woodrow Wilson High School
Beaver WV

This change would be the best for the athletes at that age group. I would say that there are not that many freshman teams around the state anymore(That I am aware of).

N+

05-20 Ryan
Assistant Football Coach
Kesner
Inwood Wv

This would only elevate the level of play for athletes. We are the only state in the tri-state area that does not allow year round coaching. It would lessen injuries during the season, especially head injuries due to continuously being taught proper techniques. It would increase the number of sports scholarships that our instate athletes could earn. It would increase levels of pride and respect around the community and school. Grades would show

N+

improvement. There are really no negative side effects that come along with out of season coaching!

I fully support out-of-season coaching. I believe this will allow more potential athletes a taste of the sport and the opportunity to try it before a full-blown season commences. I also believe that it has the potential to decrease injuries for the athletes. I volunteered with the local Rec Board for over 17 years and had student athletes in the school system for years. They would have benefited greatly from out-of-season coaching. Instead, I paid and traveled to benefit my children. Permitting out-of-season coaching will one day benefit my grandchildren, with your approval. I urge your consideration and approval of this allowance. Thank you!

N+

06-02 Sandra Hamilton
N/A
N/A
Martinsburg WV

This needs to be a rule for all sports not just football.
Geez can we just get out of the dark ages.....

N+

06-05 mark hatcher
father/ex-coach
none
Logan WV

After teaching 38 years with 11 years coaching experience, I would like to comment on this proposed change.

I believe athletics is an integral part of a student's education in our public schools. I also believe that student athletes should be involved to the extent they choose. If coaches are working year round, they will expect their athletes to practice year round. This would limit an athlete's ability to play more than one sport, and severely limit the number of athletes in some minor sports. I feel that many small schools would have insufficient numbers to field teams. This in turn, would take away an opportunity for lesser skilled athletes to participate in sports of their choosing. I do not believe a school's athletic program should be geared only to gifted athletes, or D-I scholarships. The percentage of athletes receiving these is definitely limited. As a former coach, I always preferred that athletes participate in some sport during off seasons, but to never choose to do nothing.

N-

I sincerely urge you to not support Proposal #4.

05-27 Thomas Lash
805 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

As the State Board of Education considers policy on summer training/conditioning of athletes, please give thought to the impact on other summer learning programs.

N-

06-02 David King
Youth Leadership Association

Some years ago the Board adopted a policy allowing conditioning for athletes to begin immediately after the close of a school year. The understanding was this was a voluntary program for students. Students could continue to participate in other summer activities.

The Board would do well to examine how this policy works in practice. Basically students are told that if they do not commit to the “voluntary” conditioning program at their school, they will “sit on the bench” during the sport season. Students are told they can go to other programs – summer camps as an example – just do not expect to start on their team.

In Camp Horseshoe’s case, that policy decision cut our teen attendance at Entrepreneurship and Leadership camps in half. Teens are told, attend if you want, just know you will sit on the bench.

I ask that before any further Board policies add more summer training/conditioning time for student athletes, the Board find a way to assure students may participate without penalty in other non-sports related summer learning.

Thank you for helping students have the widest possible summer learning opportunities in addition to athletic opportunities.