

WVSSAC Series 2: Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility

Comment Log

Comment Period: May 9, 2019 through June 10, 2019

<u>Action</u>	<u>Type</u>
N: No Response	- Negative
NA: Not Accepted	+ Positive
A: Accepted	o Neutral

DATE	INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS	ACTION/TYPE	RATIONALE
		§127-2-5.2 Semester and Season		
2019-05-10 08:42:45	John Gray Teacher Roane County Schools Spencer WV	This is a good proposal and provides a balance between all schools. It levels the playing field for rural schools. Student athletes must ride the bus over an hour to get to school and to get home for most rural schools. It makes it difficult to get kids to participate when they return late from games and then must travel such long distances to get home only to turn around and do it all over again, where student athletes in more urban areas can be home in a relative short time. I like the proposal and only hope that it can be expanded to include all sports across the state. I encourage passage of this proposal.	A/+	
2019-05-10 18:17:23	Rob Benson Ravenswood WV	Need to look at Catholic/Private Schools, not changing the way WVSSAC proposes. All that is happening is giving Catholic/Private two Classifications to win. Look at the facts, the "A" division has 54 teams 9 or 16.66% of which are Catholic/private. There are 13815 students of which 1353 or 9.7% are Catholic/Private schools. In boys basketball over last 18 years Catholic/Private have won 15 or 83.3% of the Championships. The girls have won 16 or 88%. So out of both boys and girls, 9.7% of the student population in WV in the last 16 years, have won 31 times out of a possible 36. Even as bad in those 36 Championship games a Catholic/Private School has had a least 1 participant in every single one. And 22 of those 36 times both Championship participants were Catholic/Private schools. This is what needs	A/-	

		<p>to be addressed, but for some reason (money) looks like this proposal is just a smoke screen to not address the real problem. I hope this unfairness will be looked into, for as of right now 9.7% of the student population is being given preferential treatment over the other 90.2% legitimate student/athletes. If you are looking to do the right thing, this should be obvious and numbers don't lie. Thank You</p>		
<p>2019-05-13 09:29:38</p>	<p>George R Nelson Scott Depot WV</p>	<p>In regard to Proposal 9: Can someone tell me the logic behind using the "driving distance from the school to the county seat" for the new classification system? This doesn't make much sense. The county seat isn't always at the economic center. The formula uses county population divided by distance to the county seat. So as the distance gets shorter (close to zero), the number balloons. Schools that happen to be close to the county seat get hammered.</p> <p>Examples: Chapmanville is ~15 miles from Logan's county seat. Logan High is less than a mile. Logan goes to 3A but Chapmanville gets to stay in 2A. As a former Logan county resident, I can say that Chapmanville and Logan are usually fairly well matched. Chapmanville took its 2nd straight basketball title this year. They also had a better football record than Logan. Why is Logan punished simply by being close to the courthouse?</p> <p>Hurricane High is 12 miles to the county seat. Winfield High is about a mile. Hurricane is clearly in a better economic location. Hurricane is close to the interstate, a Wal-Mart and large car dealerships. Winfield is clearly more rural, but the county seat just happens to be closer. So, they both end up in 4A. Winfield is currently a 2A school. Moving them up to 4A would be a mistake.</p>	<p>N/o</p>	

		As a concerned parent, I implore you to not use this metric in determining the WVSSAC classifications.		
2019-05-14 13:11:38	John mensore new martinsville wv	<p>The formula you use is very flawed, the average county in WV has around 33,000 residents you have 18 counties near or above that measure with Kanawha topping out at 200,000 and you have 10 counties with less than 10,000 residents in total. The threshold for one of your parameters is a city with 10,000 residents or a county seat. The entire county does not even meet the threshold of one city. Your formula sees no difference between these discrepancies. No county below the average of 30,000 should be scored on any metric having to do distance to a county seat that should be a factor for schools only over the average size county. Im shocked that you can say all 55 county seats have advantages like extra facilities and such. That is totally false. I would venture to say only about 20 counties have any such elite gym centers AAU teams, civic Arenas and such. If you truly feel that it is a metro vs rural problem then explain by what metric those bottom 10-15 counties are metro just one metric. You can your issue is in the metro cites we can agree on that but your formula skates around the issue with ridiculous parameters such as county seat and miles form school front door to county seat. Wirt county has a total population of around 5,500 vs Kanawha with a population close to 200,000. and yet they use the same metric either county seat or city with 10,000 residents ridiculous. I think we know the problem is all the private schools are in what most sane people, reasonable people and fair people would say are truly metro areas. There are 55 counties in WV there are not 55 Metro areas.</p> <p>I know your trying to do something this will not work.</p>	A/o	
2019-05-17 14:55:20	Richard Harper Special Education Teacher/ Wrestling Coach Herbert Hoover High	I like the plan that has been proposed. Im interested in how it will work for wrestling but like any change you have to work out the kinks. Right now I feel that a change needs to be made especially for wrestling because I feel A and AA are a very competitive class. I feel AAA has lost numbers and as a whole	A/+	

	School Elkview WV	has become a weaker class. Not enough depth in AAA. Again just my opinion so yes I agree with the changes being made and still think that things will be a continuous work in progress and we just have to keep trying to make things better.		
019-05-23 13:43:23	Craig Snyder Teacher/Head Football Winfield High School Winfield WV	Regarding the 4 Class proposal system. From my perspective, as the head football coach at Winfield High School, our students will be at a great disadvantage if forced to play in the largest classification in a 4 class system. Our current enrollment, less than 820, coupled with the huge discrepancy in school of opposing schools puts us at a distinct competitive disadvantage for multiple reasons. Football is a numbers driven sport, more than any other sport. The lack of depth causes one of the biggest safety issues. I know the difference between Winfield and the smallest AA schools is considered large now, a few hundred. Well in AAAA we would be forced to compete against school with greater than double our own enrollment. Please consider the lack of logic based on ENROLLMENT alone. I believe the other factors are arbitrary when it comes to classification. PLEASE consider that there is potentially an extreme lack of logic and consider leaving it as 3 classes for athletics OR base the 4 class system on enrollment only. This will have a great negative effect on our school and athletics program that are widely competitive in all classes in our state. Football, Basketball, and Baseball. Thank you for reading my comments.	A/-	
2019-05-24 13:40:07	Kelli Lewis parent my household Fraziers Bottom WV	This proposed new classification system, specifically moving Winfield High School to AAAA from AA, is a safety concern. It benefits no one except the WVSSAC who may get another day or two of basketball tournaments. You will drive solid athletes from Winfield into the arms of smaller classed school so these kids can compete.	NA/-	
2019-06-04 08:31:37	Eric Cline Group leader	I feel it would be extremely unfair to move these smaller schools up to AA because they live in a area that is not on free lunch. This is stupid and crazy unfair.	NA/-	

	<p>TMMWV Eleanor Wv</p>	<p>Go back to equal amount of schools in each division. Quit patronizing schools in AAA So they can be competitive and divide them equally. The AAA schools that are the largest Cable midland , Jefferson Parkersburg are not dominating high school sports. So those teams on the bubble need to stop complaining. It's much more to make a small school play double A because the are not poor or live near a city.</p> <p>Moving the private schools who can recruit or give scholarships up a level is ok without affecting everyone because of 3-4 schools.</p> <p>You will kill small town sports and hurt the spirit of fair play against equal opponents.</p> <p>Thanks</p>		
<p>2019-06-04 14:34:55</p>	<p>Eddie Thompson Parent Buffalo High School Eleanor WV</p>	<p>Although I believe there is a need to make revisions for competitive balance in Single A sports, I believe the scoring system used is flawed and has unfairly placed Buffalo High School from Single A to the last Double A school on the proposed list. The location score is flawed in two parts. We are a rural community and share a county population with Winfield and Hurricane. Our distance to the county seat is less than Hurricane although our enrollment is probably a fifth of Hurricane High School. As for economic scores, you would find that our median incomes are way below Winfield and Hurricane but we are having their incomes factor into our score. What compounds this is that we don get the benefit of reducing our economic score with reduced lunches because our community is less probably to take advantage of school lunches. Its a death sentence to our schools sports programs to put us in Double A when we barely compete in Single A. If the reason to go basketball only for the first two years is because of safety concerns, then shouldn that tell you that we don belong in Double A for football and all sports anyways? The real issue that "competitive balance" is trying to address is the private schools who are in the championship games of every sport every year. Recruiting, manipulating the system, whatever you call it. Its not just in Single A, its across all classes where parents, athletes, schools manipulate the system,</p>	<p>N/o</p>	

		<p>recruit, whatever means necessary to play sports at the school of their choosing. We have kids from our district playing elsewhere, someone transfers to a neighboring school because they don't like the coach anymore, kids from southern WV transfer after football season to another school for basketball and then back again for football. If there was a task force that would oversee these transfers and that they are legitimate "moves", it would eliminate a lot of this and the remaining issue would be private schools. To put it plain and simple, you are not going to get the private schools to stop loading up their teams. The only ideas to combat that would be to limit "scholarship" players, make them move up to Double A, or strictly investigate accusations of recruiting (possibly through a hotline). No matter what anyone says, it is not a matter of private schools being in closer proximity to urban areas. We have the same opportunities to train, we just don't have the same opportunities to recruit. And if you look at the state champs and runner-ups in every sport the last 20 years, there's no denying that private schools have an advantage. Let's not punish Buffalo, other Single A schools who have to move up and other schools like Winfield who would have to move from Double A to Four A just because the private schools need adjusted and/or policed. Thank you for your time.</p>		
<p>2019-06-09 14:02:23</p>	<p>Jeremy D Simmons Fisher WV</p>	<p>Classification for public schools should be determined solely by enrollment. Private schools should play in the classification of the nearest public school.</p>	<p>NA/-</p>	
<p>2019-06-10 08:30:46</p>	<p>Jack Withrow Scott Depot WV</p>	<p>As a parent of a Winfield High School student, I'm in favor of the new WVSSAC 4-Class Proposal.</p> <p>I'm glad the WVSSAC Board of Controls has taken a step towards a more competitive system. I understand this is a pilot program for basketball and that it may not work and some will not like it. But at least the WVSSAC is willing to try something new.</p>	<p>A/+</p>	

		If this pilot program does not work, I would like to see the WVSSAC go back and even out the number of schools in each of the three classes.		
2019-05-09 19:40:20	Nicole Winston Martinsburg WV	I've been coaching for the last 5 years and it is harder to find people who want to coach. Limiting coaches to certain age groups because they can't coach their age group if students also do travel/off season sports is ridiculous. You have people who are willing to coach but the restrictions limits them. I feel as though you are punishing good coaches by the rules that are already in place.	NA/o	
2019-05-09 20:19:38	Jay Sine parent Charles Town WV	Coaches who are dedicated to a sport should not be prevented from coaching same level players due to coaching off season in areas such as travel sports. Teachers who have no idea of the game should not be put in those positions just to fill a void when a qualified coach applied. It limits players who are not able to fully develop skills year round. The schools should want the most qualified candidate in the position period. Do what is right for the sport and give them appropriate coaching staff!!!	NA/o	
2019-05-10 09:16:52	Metina Bongiovanni CHARLES TOWN WV	Coaching rules in this state really need to be revised. Both MD and VA have a % rule of players that their coaches can coach in the off season and PA has none. I know some think this helps the players, but it does not. This vastly limits the coaching pool available for school coaches as off season coaching can be more lucrative, competitive and offer more flexibility and less political drama. Many times coaches will only choose off-season coaching if given a choice. Having the option to have high-quality trained coaches in the schools, not only provides for better players, better teams and more revenue for schools given high participation rates for winning teams, thus more entry admissions into sports activities. The rules don even offer the protections that they are meant to. Most coaches know how to get around the rules if they really want to and the "pressure" to play for them in the off season is always still there even though said coach is not coaching their age. AND when violations are reported, there are no punishments. I just ask that the	NA/o	

		coaching rules of coaching same age and one below be looked at to see if this is really in the best interest of the players and the development of WV school athletic programs. Winning isn everything, but setting sports teams up for failure is a travesty.		
2019-05-10 14:48:03	Eddie Summerlin State sports follower Romney WV	I feel that all coaches should be hired with a 3-5 year right to dismissal by the school for team performance.	NA/o	
2019-05-23 09:12:00	Bill Lusk Assistant Basketball Coach Man High School Man WV	I firmly believe that coaches should be recognized for their dedication in sports. In todays sports world coaches are driven away because of parents or other outside involvement. Recognizing and honoring those with 20 years of service at one school is a great way to say thank you!	NA/o	
		§127-2-5.4 Semester and Season		
		None		
		§127-2-7.1.a Residence Transfer		
		None		