

A STUDY OF THE RULES GOVERNING ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES FOR THE NINTH GRADER
IN THE SEPARATE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL UNITS AS COMPARED TO THE RULES FOR
THE NINTH GRADER IN A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL IN MONTANA

by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the school year it is not uncommon for a ninth grade athlete in the separate junior high school unit to have limitations imposed on his athletic participation which do not exist for a ninth grader who is in attendance in a four-year high school. Examples of the difference between the rules which apply only to the ninth grader in the separate junior high school unit and to one attending a four-year high school are as follows:

1. Rules governing age of participants
 - a. A boy shall be ineligible for junior high school interschool athletic competition when he attains his 16th birthday on or before midnight, August 31.¹
 - b. No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31 of a given year.²
2. Rules governing number of football games in one season
 - a. No junior high school team or individual shall participate in more than six games.³
 - b. The football season officially ends with the last regularly scheduled game or the state championship game.⁴

At the Fall Class "A" Conference Meeting held in Bozeman in October 1967, a discussion was held concerning the rule inconsistencies that govern athletic activities for ninth grade boys in a junior high school as compared with the activities of ninth grade boys attending a four-year high school.

¹Montana High School Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 158.

²Ibid., p. 17.

³Ibid., p. 160.

⁴Ibid., p. 26.

It was proposed that a study be made to ascertain if a feasible method could be found to resolve the inconsistencies.

The Problem

As the introduction indicates, there is a conflict in the rules governing the athletic activities of ninth graders. Montana has a unique problem in that the smaller schools throughout the state could not conduct an athletic program if their freshmen were governed by the same rules as those which apply to the ninth graders in the separate junior high schools units. Many states, for example New York with its 685 junior high schools, are not confronted by this problem because of greater population.

Present indications are that Montana will continue to develop more separate junior high school units. Because of this trend it was determined that an investigation into the rule inconsistencies, describing them and recommending solutions for these inconsistencies should be made.

Procedures

The data of this investigation was obtained by a questionnaire survey. All member junior high schools of the Montana High School Association were included in the sampling. A total of 15 schools was involved and 15 principals, 4 athletic directors, and 37 coaches were sent questionnaires. The instrument consisted of eight items designed to measure respondent reaction to the inconsistencies found in the rules and regulations taken from the Junior High School Section of the Montana High School Association Handbook.

Each item allowed the subject an opportunity to choose one of four options. A comment section was provided for each item for any additional ideas or suggestions the individual might have wished to express.

The survey included the following rules governing the ninth grade athlete in the junior high schools:

1. The rule governing age of participants.
2. The rule governing the number of football games to be played in one season.
3. The rule governing the number of practices before the first interschool football games.
4. The rule governing the number of games to be played during one season.
5. The rule governing the number of practices before the first basketball game of the season.
6. The rule governing participation in basketball tournaments and play-offs.
7. The rule governing the number of events per individual in track meets.
8. The rule governing wrestling and wrestling tournaments.

Respondents were given an opportunity to indicate their preference with respect to these eight rules in the following choices: (1) All schools should adopt the rules that govern the separate junior high school units; (2) All schools should adopt the rules that govern the four-year high schools; (3) The rules should remain as they are; or (4) Recommendations not available in choices 1 through 3.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to fully understand the results of this study, one must have a background of the history of athletics, its entrance into the schools, and the development of the state and national athletic associations.

With the development of separate junior high school units came the problem of athletics and its place in these schools. Many arguments for and against athletics in the junior high schools were registered with such strength that still today the pros and cons on the subject are hot issues. In such states as Michigan, New York, Indiana, and Montana the high school athletic associations have accepted the jurisdiction over athletics in the junior high schools. This action has eliminated many of the same problems that existed in the high schools before the advent of state and national athletic associations.

Literature on the Entry of Athletics into the Schools

Athletic competition in our schools has come to be an American tradition and institution. In no other country have intercollegiate and interscholastic athletics developed to the same extent as in the United States.

Athletics were placed in the schools much the same as were mechanical and industrial arts, physical education, and music through community influence. The schools were the logical institutions which could set up programs and introduce the students to these worthwhile activities which the people in these various communities felt were of importance to their children. In most schools it has been less than half a century since the "good

old days," when everyone from the superintendent to the janitor played on the team. It is significant that, although athletics came into the schools with a decidedly professional and perhaps questionable heritage, today our interschool games have reached high amateur and ethical levels. This result is in large measure due to the unceasing efforts of schoolmen to develop and improve standards of athletic competition. Once our colleges and high schools took over the control of athletics, it was not long before interscholastic athletics were established on an educational basis in the schools of the nation. Since then the problem has been to maintain proper perspectives as they involve player, spectator, school, and community.⁵

Literature on the Development of State Athletic Associations

State high school athletic associations have been important factors in the improvement and maintenance of high standards for the administrative control of interscholastic athletics. Schools organized themselves into state associations because they felt that in unity there was strength.

Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois were three of the first states to set up state-wide organizations for the control of athletic activities for their respective states, all initiating programs before 1900. Shortly after 1900 most states had the beginnings of their athletic associations.

The Montana High School Athletic Association was organized in 1921 by secondary administrators to establish requirements on age, amateurism,

⁵Charles E. Forsythe, Administration of High School Athletics (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1962), p. 1.

attendance, and scholarship. In 1943 the name of the association was changed to the present name of the Montana High School Association in order to supervise non-athletic as well as athletic activities on a state level.

It is the object of the Association to promote clean amateur competitive activities and to assist in their promotion both on the local and state levels. It strives to promote good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit among schools. It studies local, state and national contests affecting secondary schools to determine the value of such contests in the education of high school youth. The M.H.S.A. directs, supervises and approves activities and contests for its member schools.⁶

A pattern for the objectives of the Montana High School Association can be found in the objectives of the Michigan High School Association which follow:

1. To increase the educational value of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state.
2. To assist in the regulation of competition so that the athletic program fits into the high school curriculum.
3. To regulate the interscholastic athletic program so as to safeguard the physical welfare of students participating.
4. To insure a greater degree of physical fitness of high school students by providing opportunities for participation in vigorous, competitive athletics designed to meet the needs and abilities of all.⁷

The Minnesota State High School League was originally organized in 1916 as a State Athletic Association for the purpose of unifying the high

⁶Montana High School Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 11.

⁷Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1967-1968, p. 5.

schools of Minnesota in the promotion of pure amateur sports and to strengthen and unify eligibility rules governing participation in interschool contests.

In March, 1929, The State High School Athletic Association changed its name to the Minnesota State High School League and assumed control over all athletic activities as well as debate and speech activity contests.⁸

In the final analysis the superintendent under board-determined policies is responsible for the athletic activities of the school system. His duties will vary according to the size of the school system, ranging from the larger schools where all duties are delegated to the smaller schools where he may be both the administrative and the executive officer. In either case it is his duty to have set up a definite school athletic policy and to assure a complete understanding of that policy by all concerned.⁹

Literature on the Development of the National High School Association

The National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations had its beginning in May of 1920. The National Federation has attempted, within proper limits, to effect the national regulation of high school athletics. Its purpose is, in general, similar to that of the state associations but projected nationally. The National Federation was a reflection of the feeling of schoolmen that they should make a nation-wide effort to keep

⁸Forsythe, op. cit., p. 59.

⁹Ibid., p. 46.

athletics in the schools. There was evidence that outside interests, both academic and commercial, had designs for their own advantage. Although local state athletic associations could control matters within their own borders, it was difficult to secure uniformity of action without uniformity and unity in organization.¹⁰ Montana joined the National Federation in 1934.

Because it was felt that schools were the logical place for the control and development of athletic activities, schoolmen found themselves with a non-academic orphan. Many schools--private, public, and preparatory--used this orphan to add prestige to their school programs. This caused more concern on the part of the schoolmen who had the responsibility for controlling this type of extra-curricular activity. This concern led to the development of the state athletic associations and eventually to the forming of a national organization for the supervision of high school athletics. In recent years many of the state associations have deleted the word "athletics" from their names and taken over the responsibility of governing such non-athletic activities as music, speech, drama, and debate along with the athletic activities.

The state and national athletic associations strive to promote good sportsmanship, amateurism, and good wholesome competitive athletic activities. The associations are constantly making changes in their objectives and regulations to keep abreast of the times so that the program of athletics will correlate as smoothly as possible with the objectives and goals of

¹⁰Ibid., p. 10.

the entire curriculum. In making an attempt at revising its objectives, the Indiana High School Athletic Association Handbook expresses this view very well:

The concept of a good athletic program as a function in the modern educational system would demand that it must be progressive, forward looking, and must foster a willingness to change. Athletics are more closely tied to the actual educational program of our public schools than at any time in the past.

Participants cannot be considered to be athletes apart from the curricular aspects of the school; they must be students first, athletes second. Administrators, coaches, and communities must adjust their thinking to these facts of life. With secondary schools adopting higher standards of achievement in the classroom and higher requirements for graduation; with colleges and universities requiring higher standards for admission; and with industries expecting more knowledgeable employees; an athlete, to take advantage of his opportunities and skills, must be determined to develop his academic and vocational abilities as well as his athletic prowess. In other words, athletes are no longer at an advantage in college entrance or in job placement because they are athletes; they will only warrant scholarships and good jobs because they have developed intellectual skills along with their athletic ability.

A greater participation by students in the secondary school athletic program is more desirable today than ever before. Young people need the discipline, the responsibility, and the physical development achieved through athletics. Our democratic society is a competitive way of life and athletics must be a force in stimulating competitive spirit. The knowledge of sports and the skills developed by the participant will prove very beneficial to the young individual because of the leisure time brought about by automation in industry.

Athletic programs must be a part of an all-consuming way of life--not just a way of life. Administrators must assume the responsibility of developing a broad program of athletics and intramural sports; not alone for boys, but also including girls. Coaches must be educators in the real sense of the word, excellent teachers in the classroom as well as fine teachers in the area of athletics.¹¹

In many of the state association handbooks can be found the philosophies, objectives and purposes of the athletic programs in the secondary

¹¹The Indiana High School Athletic Association Sixty-Fourth Annual Handbook, 1967, p. 5.

schools. Many of the associations include a code of ethics for the school administration, community, coaches, officials, student body, and cheerleaders in regard to the athletic activities in their schools. One handbook states the objectives of athletics to the athletes by analyzing the word "athletics":

The A stands for ambition--ambition to be the best possible player in one's position on the team.

The T stands for training--the first requisite of any athlete.

The H stands for honesty--honesty to oneself and one's teammates.

The L stands for loyalty--loyalty to team and to school.

The E stands for eligibility--without which an athlete is valueless to his team.

The T stands for trustworthiness--a trait all good athletes possess.

The I stands for improvement--which is always observable in good athletes.

The C stands for courage--courage to do the thing that is right regardless of how the game is going.

The S stands for stick-to-it-iveness--the best trait in any athlete.¹²

Literature on the Development of the Junior High School

The junior high school development has had its greatest impetus during the last half century. It came about largely as the result of a need for "clearer understanding of the nature of adolescence and the rapidly

¹²Forsythe, op. cit., p. 432.

changing conceptions of the nature of learning within recent decades."¹³

The first three-year junior high school appeared in 1908-1910 in Berkeley, California. However, in Columbus, Ohio, another separate three-year school was authorized in the summer of 1908 and began operation the following September. Davis lists the following statements as the functions of the junior high school:

1. To provide a gradual transition from the elementary school to the secondary school.
2. To exercise a holding power function and reduce dropouts during this period.
3. To help youth understand the nature of the society of which they are a part.
4. To provide an exploration period for youth to discover and understand their "capacities, interests, and aptitudes."
5. To assist pupils to make the fullest adjustments possible for self-realization and service to society.
6. To provide definite vocational career preparation.
7. To recognize the uniqueness of this school to provide for the needs of early adolescence.¹⁴

The junior high idea prospered and grew during the last half century. This new type of school was created in which the great mass of students might be given a broader and more fundamental education than the traditional four-year high school had offered. Seventh, eighth, and ninth graders made up the new organization, bringing traditions from both the elementary and

¹³Nelson L. Bossing and Roscoe V. Cramer, The Junior High School (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1965), p. v.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 35.

high schools. The curriculum was enriched, terminal courses were introduced in limited numbers, and sampling or exploratory courses were offered. In fact, much of the philosophy upon which the junior high school has been founded has been based on the idea that it is primarily an exploratory or career-acquainting institution.¹⁵

Literature on the Development of Athletics
in the Junior High School

As the junior high schools developed they were influenced to a greater extent by the high schools than the elementary schools. Because of this influence, the new school organizations were endowed with the high school athletic activities. Such sports as football, basketball, track and field, and wrestling were introduced. Along with becoming a problem for the administration, many people in the communities objected to the intrusion of high school athletics on the basis that the students were not mature enough physiologically, psychologically, and sociologically to compete in high school sports. Athletics were not educationally sound and the cost of equipping and providing facilities for the junior high school athletic programs presented a good argument from the taxpayers point of view. The physical educators expressed concern over athletics because they felt a good intramural program could do more for the students than athletics and involve a greater number of participants.

As might be expected, the junior high schools in their early periods of establishment turned to the high school pattern for suggestions much more

¹⁵Ibid., p. 414.

to the elementary schools. In many cases the junior high schools became young high schools during the first few years of their existence. This tendency was especially noticeable in their athletic programs. Many junior high schools introduced the accepted athletic activities that had been sponsored for years in high schools and colleges. Junior high school football developed; track and field events, baseball, and basketball became part of the interscholastic program; and junior high school swimming teams were sponsored where facilities permitted. In other words, our interscholastic program was simply "stepped down" from the nine-to-twelve grade level to the seven-to-nine grade level.¹⁶

Continually questions are being raised regarding the advisability of considering the junior high school as a young high school as far as its athletic program is concerned. The feeling of many schoolmen, however, is that the chief athletic interest on the junior high school level should be largely intramural in nature because such a policy is more in keeping with the principles of the junior high school. Mr. Elmer Mitchel expresses his opposition toward athletics in the junior high school in the following manner:

Physiologically, boys in the junior high school period are in the stage of very rapid growth. Consequently, boys of these ages should not be subjected to additional strenuous activities which are of long duration.

Psychologically, the boy is not ready emotionally for the mental strain, tension, and excitement engendered by the varsity-type competition.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 417.

Sociologically, these young people are too young to be regimented in the manner of high school and college athletes. They are at an age when they need to develop self-reliance, independence, and to make their own choices.

Economically, interschool athletics are expensive. The cost of equipment, facilities, coaching staffs, medical care, travel, and other items is exceedingly heavy.

Educationally, the junior high school period is one in which the students should explore a wide variety of interests. Specialization should come in the senior high school or later.¹⁷

The proponents of junior high school athletics argue that many of the criticisms of the program are unfounded. They point out that practices are shorter, fewer games are played, and the length of games is reduced to bring the competition within the capacities of the players. Research data are not available to demonstrate the physiological and psychological harm of such competition. Thousands upon thousands of junior high school boys have participated in interschool sports with no apparent ill effects. Walker found an injury incidence of 5 percent in junior high school football in Texas as compared to 10 percent incidence in senior high school football.¹⁸

Insofar as the educational argument that the junior high school period is too early to specialize in one sport is concerned, supporters of the program point out that students have the opportunity to become acquainted with a variety of activities in the physical education program. They also contend that only a small number of players participate in the varsity program in more than one sport.

¹⁷Edward F. Voltmer and Arthur A. Esslinger, The Organization and Administration of Physical Education (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1967), p. 314.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 316.

To justify the varsity program in junior high schools it is pointed out that unless the school provides a program for the superior performers various agencies within the community will do so. Ordinarily these agencies will not conduct the program on as high a level as the school will. It is a fact that many boys participate on several different teams during the same season. The possibility of deleterious consequences of this type of competition are decidedly greater than that involved with school teams.¹⁹

There are differences of opinion among physical educators and educators in general regarding the advisability of interschool athletics for junior high school students. The physical educators argue that the needs of the majority of the students must have priority.²⁰

It must be pointed out that interscholastic athletic programs have been increasing in number in the junior high schools of the country. Tompkins and Roe found that 85 percent of the 2,313 junior high schools they surveyed had interscholastic athletics.²¹ This development parallels the growth of athletics in senior high schools and the growth of athletic activities for youths of junior high school age conducted by non-school organizations.

Literature on the State Athletic Association and the Junior High Schools

There are some states that do not recognize the junior high school

¹⁹Ibid., p. 317.

²⁰Forsythe, op. cit., p. 418.

²¹Ibid.

and its participation in interscholastic athletics; therefore, junior high schools in these states take one of two courses of action in the governing of the athletic program: (1) each school develops its own rules and regulations or (2) these schools follow the same rules set up for the high school interscholastic athletic program. About 40 percent of the junior high schools follow regulations established by their state high school athletic associations. In 30 percent of such junior high schools they developed their own standards or, as was the case in approximately 25 percent of such schools, they conformed to standards established by a local school system.²²

States which have taken the lead in recognizing interscholastic athletic activities in the junior high schools and developed a modified program of rules to govern them are Washington in 1954, Florida, Nebraska, and Tennessee, with Montana one of the most recent to adopt a separate program in 1963.

A Junior High Activities Committee was appointed by the Montana High School Association to study the feasibility of developing a separate set of rules to govern the activities in the junior high school units. Members of the committee were James Dutcher, Athletic Director of Billings; Principals James Weir, Helena, Sidney Bachelder, Great Falls, and Hiney Lund, Bozeman; and Superintendent Joseph Lutz of Red Lodge. The committee submitted their report at the 1962 annual meeting of the association with the rule recommendations being adopted and printed in the 1962-1963 Montana High School Association Official Handbook.

²²Ibid., p. 416.

Many state high school athletic associations did not recognize that there was such a thing as interscholastic athletic competition by students below the ninth grade or in schools that did not include the upper high school years. A number of states, among them Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, and Michigan, have definite regulations for junior high school athletic competition. In such states it was felt that it was preferable to set up standards knowing that certain schools would engage in interschool play.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's responsibility was extended into two new areas in 1964-1965. The State Department of Public Instruction asked the Association to govern and control girls' sports activities and supervise the junior high athletic programs. The supervision of the junior high school athletic programs became effective in 1965-1966.²³ The junior high schools in the state of Washington came under the jurisdiction of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association in 1954. Action was taken in this area as early as 1946 with a junior high committee created in March, 1952, which has since become a permanent part of the state association.

The philosophy used in developing the rules for the interscholastic athletic activities in the junior high schools paralleled that of the junior high schools in general, namely one of experimentation and exploration.

The Michigan Junior High School Athletics Committee recommends the following as a guide in preparing rules and regulations to guide in the athletic programs for the junior high schools:

²³Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 9.

I. Self-Checking for Quality Programs--The Michigan Junior High School Athletic Committee believes that the type of the intramural or interscholastic athletic program in a school should, in general, be a matter for local school system determination. It realizes that there are varying philosophies and basic principles motivating schools to establish aims and objectives to meet the needs of pupils in such schools as well as the communities which they serve.

II. Planning and Working Together--The Committee firmly believes that cooperation between school and community leaders is essential in all phases of education. In planning athletic programs for junior high school children there must be cooperative working relationships between school people, recreation leaders, representatives of child-serving agencies, civic and service clubs, and other groups. The aid and understanding of parents and other citizens also are necessary to insure desirable community-wide programs for youth.

III. Administrative Suggestions--It is the belief of this committee that a critical self analysis as suggested above should aid in determining whether a school has the available space, facilities, personnel, equipment, and time allotment to sponsor an interschool athletic program. It also should indicate whether it is providing all the opportunities it can in physical education, intramurals, and recreation for all the students before it sponsors interschool athletics.²⁴

The philosophy under which the junior high school athletic program could be directed is indicated in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Handbook as follows:

1. To provide as broad and varied an athletic program as is possible with an opportunity for competition on an equal basis for all students. A desirable program will encourage participation in intramural competition at several achievement levels and provide interschool competition in a sports program for the more talented in as large a variety of sports as possible.
2. To realize that the individual schools have the final responsibility to equalize competition and must administer the program so that no over matching of teams or individuals shall be permitted.

²⁴Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1967-1968, pp. 104-105.

3. To conduct the athletic program so that educational objectives shall be achieved; so that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld; so that no single phase of the athletic program is promoted at the expense of other equally important programs.
4. To realize that the athletic program must be integrated with all other activities essential to junior high school youth, including those which may be conducted by out-of-school groups, to avoid an excessive load for any student.
5. To administer the program in such a manner that participants are properly examined, approved, equipped, insured, classified, instructed, and supervised in order that a safe program is conducted.
6. To administer the program so that there shall be no over-emphasis given any sport, no loss of school time, with limited publicity, competent officiating, limited awards, and every effort made to keep the program in its proper perspective.
7. To provide qualified faculty leadership that understands the teaching of sports to this age group, the objective of this modified sports program, and the emphasis on safety procedures.
8. To cooperate with schools in the area in providing an inter-school athletic administrative unit that will achieve the objectives and will aid in the development of the highest type of cordial interschool relationships.
9. To conduct the program so that proper respect for authority is achieved and so that all evidences of undesirable athletic mannerisms are avoided.
10. To compete within the spirit of the rules, to give every opponent due credit and respect and to make every effort to win honorably and to lose graciously.²⁵

The junior high school athletic program, like that in any high school, may be both a blessing and a detriment; its general policies and their administration are the factors which will determine the contributions it will make to the boys and girls concerned. It is essential that policies be

²⁵New York State Public High School Athletic Association Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 55.

well understood and followed within local schools.

In concluding the discussion of the junior high school athletic program, there are several policy-making considerations. Circumstances vary in different schools and in different parts of the country. Considerations which have been weighed in the making of junior high school athletic policy in different schools and different parts of the country include density of population, proximity of schools, size of enrollments, and racial or other characteristics of student bodies. All of the above are determining factors in the establishment of athletic as well as general educational principles.²⁶

²⁶Voltmer and Esslinger, op. cit., p. 318.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Chapter two contained a survey of literature covering the entrance of athletic activities into the secondary schools; the development of state athletic associations as well as the development of the national athletic association as the governing bodies over these activities; the development of the separate junior high school units; and the entrance of athletic activities into these separate school units.

In this chapter the reader will become acquainted with the rules governing the athletic activities in the separate junior high school units taken from 12 different state athletic association handbooks. The 12 state association handbooks surveyed represent a cross section of the United States from Florida to Michigan and New York to Washington.

The survey will be concerned with how these other states provide for the ruling on the eight items concerned in this paper.

Item 1 Rule governing the age of the participant in the separate junior high school units.

Montana A boy shall be ineligible for junior high school interschool athletic competition when he attains his 16th birthday on or before midnight, August 31.²⁷

Wisconsin A Grade 9 boy may not participate in interscholastic competition above Grade 9 unless (a) his school does not provide competition in a particular sport or (b) he reaches 16 years of age prior to September 1 of any given school year.²⁸

²⁷Montana High School Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 158.

²⁸Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 55.

Washington In fall or winter sports a player shall be under 16 years of age as of September 1 of the current year. In spring sports a player shall be under 17 years of age as of March 1 of the current year.

A ninth grade boy who is ineligible to compete in junior high school athletics due to the age rule may participate in all sports in the senior high school of his district provided that both junior and senior high school principals of the school district concerned approve.²⁹

Tennessee No student shall be eligible to compete in the Junior Division during any school year if he becomes 16 years of age on or before September 1.

A school with teams in both the Senior and the Junior Division may certify a student in grades 8 or 9 as a member of the senior or the junior team; but once such student has been certified to the state office as a member of the senior team, he must continue as a member of that team for the remainder of the season for which he has been certified.³⁰

In summary, 11 of the 12 state athletic association handbooks surveyed indicated age 16 as the maximum age for participation in junior high school athletic activities with 8 of the 11 making provisions for the boy attaining the age limit for participation at the senior high level in all athletic activities.

Item 2 Rule governing the number of football games a school or individual may participate in during a single season.

Montana No school team or individual may participate in more than six games.³¹

²⁹Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 41.

³⁰Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Official Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 21.

³¹Montana Official Handbook, op. cit., p. 160.

Florida The number of games which an independent junior high school may play shall be limited to six.³²

Indiana The maximum number of interschool games for any team in football shall be ten and one jamboree.³³

Missouri The maximum number of football games allowed each team or individual in grade 9 shall be six.³⁴

In summary, the greatest number of football games a team or individual may participate in at the junior high level is ten in the state of Indiana with the majority of the state association handbooks indicating six as the maximum number of football games a junior high athlete may participate in.

Item 3 Rule governing number of practices before the first interschool football game for members of a junior high school team.

Montana No school may play interschool football until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.³⁵

Nebraska All interschool football competition must be preceded by at least fifteen practice days in which Saturday practice days may be included, but not Sunday.³⁶

New York No school may play interschool football until 28 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice. A player must take part in at least 20 practice sessions before participation in an interschool game is permitted.

³²Florida High School Activities Association Incorporated By-Laws, July 1967, p. 35.

³³The Indiana High School Athletic Association Sixty-Fourth Annual Handbook, 1967, p. 36.

³⁴Missouri State High School Activities Association Thirty-Ninth Annual Official Handbook, July 1967, p. 21.

³⁵Montana, loc. cit.

³⁶The Nebraska School Activities Association Thirty-Third Annual Yearbook, 1967-1968, p. 23.

Tests: Each boy should be carefully checked to determine his readiness before being allowed to participate in interscholastic contests as follows:

Physical--Medical examination which shall include a thorough review of history before and as needed during the season. Tetanus shots are recommended.

Maturity--Careful evaluation of the individual's age, weight, height, physiological maturity and degree of coordination with relation to all of the other boys with whom he will compete, especially that boy above or below average of others in height, weight, physiological maturity as related to his age, should be made.

Individual Skills--A thorough program of screening for a period of two weeks shall be conducted. Basic conditioning, running, cutting, falling, rolling, catching, line and backfield fundamentals, blocking and tackling techniques, ball handling drills should be participated in. Dummies and sleds should be used and no boy should be permitted in live contact drills until he has proved his ability to partake in them. Contact drills should be conducted against equals only.

Team Skills--Team play leading to game situations should be taught through controlled scrimmages with boys placed in groups of similar maturity and skills.

Desire--Observation of the individual's alertness and general desire to participate must be noted.³⁷

Indiana There shall be ten separate days of organized practice by each player in football preceding participation in interschool contests. Only one practice may be counted for any one day.³⁸

In summary, Indiana has the fewest required practices before the first interscholastic football game with ten, while New York has the greatest number required at 28. The average number found in the 12 handbooks surveyed

³⁷New York State Public High School Athletic Association Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 64.

³⁸Indiana, op. cit., p. 37.

was 15 practices before the junior high school football player may take part in his first interscholastic football game.

- Item 4 Rule governing the number of basketball games a school or individual may participate in during a single season.

Montana The maximum number of games for interschool play shall be: 9th graders--18 games.³⁹

Tennessee There shall be no more than 14 basketball games for grade 9 during any one season.⁴⁰

Michigan (Boys) schedule of not more than ten (10) games of six (6) minute quarters; student may not take part in more than one (1) game per day and in not more than two (2) games per week.⁴¹

Florida The maximum number of games, exclusive of approved tournaments, which any team may play during any season is 22 for schools which have football teams and 26 for those which do not have football teams.⁴²

In summary, Michigan allows the fewest basketball games per season by a junior high school team or individual with 10 while Florida goes as high as 26 games per season for the junior high school participant. In the survey of all 12 handbooks it was found that the average number of basketball games participated in by junior high school athletes was 14.

- Item 5 Rule governing number of practices before first interschool basketball game for members of a junior high school team.

³⁹Montana, loc. cit.

⁴⁰Tennessee, op. cit., p. 22.

⁴¹Handbook of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1967-1968, p. 71.

⁴²Florida, op. cit., p. 37.

Montana No school may play interschool basketball until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.⁴³

Washington Each player must have at least ten days of practice before the first interschool basketball game.⁴⁴

Wisconsin No school may play interschool basketball until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.⁴⁵

Oklahoma Basketball practice may begin with the opening of school. Non-football schools may not have interschool scrimmage before October 1 and football schools before November 1. The first interschool basketball game of the season may be played November 1 in schools not having football and the last weekend in November for schools playing football. A weekend is Thursday, Friday and Saturday.⁴⁶

In summary, Washington requires the smallest number of practices before participation in the first interschool basketball game by junior high athletes with 10, while Wisconsin requires 21 practice sessions before their junior high athletes may take part in the first interschool basketball game of the season. The average number of practices required for junior high athletes before taking part in the first interschool basketball game of the year was 15.

Item 6 Rule governing tournament play in basketball for the junior high school teams and individuals.

Montana There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, . . . championship tournaments, or play-offs.⁴⁷

⁴³Montana, loc. cit.

⁴⁴Washington, op. cit., p. 50.

⁴⁵Wisconsin, op. cit., p. 57.

⁴⁶Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Yearbook, 1967-1968, p. 25.

⁴⁷Montana, loc. cit.

Oklahoma Basketball teams may participate in not more than three tournaments. Interpretation: Ninth grade students, who may participate on either the junior high and/or senior high teams, are limited to two basketball tournaments in addition to the high school championship series in order to be eligible for that series. Junior high students who do not participate in the high school championship series may participate in three tournaments.⁴⁸

Tennessee Basketball tournament play shall be limited to the district tournament.⁴⁹

Michigan Participation will be permitted in one county, league, or invitational basketball tournament by a school. Such tournament participation counts as two (2) of its allowed number of games which may be played during the regular basketball season, regardless of the number of games played in such a tournament.⁵⁰

In summary, the survey of the 12 association handbooks indicated that 10 of the 12 states allowed the junior high basketball teams participation in from one to as many as three tournaments per season. Some states counted the number of basketball games played in a tournament in the total number of games to be played during the regular season.

Item 7 Rule governing competition in track and field events for junior high school participants.

Montana 9th grade--a maximum of 3 events as follows:

1. 3 field events.
2. 2 field events and 1 running event of 220 yards or less, including the relay.
3. 1 field event and 2 running events of 220 yards or less, including the relay.

⁴⁸Oklahoma, op. cit., p. 33.

⁴⁹Tennessee, op. cit., p. 22.

⁵⁰Michigan, op. cit., p. 80.

4. 1 field event plus 1 running event of 440 yards or over.⁵¹

Virginia A contestant may compete in any number of field events but shall be limited to participation in only three running events, except that a contestant who takes part in either the 880-yard run or the mile run may compete in only one other running event and a contestant who takes part in the two-mile run may not compete in any other running event.⁵²

Tennessee A contestant may enter not more than two field events and two running events. If one of the running events is the 880-yard run he shall be limited to this one running event.⁵³

New York A boy may enter only two events. If one of these is a track event of more than 220 yards, the second event must be a field event. In any race longer than 220 yards, there shall be no trial heats. The race may be run in "sections" with results based on time. A boy may not compete in two relays.⁵⁴

In summary, New York limits the junior high track athlete to just two events per meet, while Virginia places no restrictions on field events but does limit the number of running events to three. There were five association handbooks that stated the same rules governing the high school track and field athletes should apply to the junior high school track athletes.

- Item 8 Rule governing wrestling tournament participation by junior high school athletes.

Montana There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, . . . championship tournaments, or play-offs.⁵⁵

⁵¹Montana, op. cit., p. 161.

⁵²Virginia High School League Handbook, 1967-1968, p. 83.

⁵³Tennessee, loc. cit.

⁵⁴New York, op. cit., p. 65.

⁵⁵Montana, op. cit., p. 162.

Tennessee Schools shall be limited to ten matches and one tournament.⁵⁶

New York No tournament competition is permissible for junior high school wrestlers.⁵⁷

Oklahoma In the absence of specific rules in the junior high regulations, the senior high regulations will apply.⁵⁸

In summary, three of the twelve state association handbooks surveyed had separate rules and regulations governing wrestling in the junior high school. The remaining nine governed the wrestling activities with the same rules that govern wrestling in the senior high school.

⁵⁶Tennessee, loc. cit.

⁵⁷New York, op. cit., p. 67.

⁵⁸Oklahoma, op. cit., p. 29.

CHAPTER IV

TREATMENT OF DATA

The data obtained from this study will be presented in this chapter. The respondents to the questionnaire were given an opportunity to indicate their preference with respect to the eight items listed in the survey with the following choices: (1) All schools should adopt the rules that govern the separate junior high school units; (2) All schools should adopt the rules that govern the four-year high schools; (3) The rules should remain as they are; or (4) Recommendations not available in choices 1 through 3.

A total of 56 questionnaires were sent to 13 junior high schools that are presently (1967-1968) members of the Montana High School Association. The returns numbered 48, or 85 percent, of those sent out by the investigator. Returns were received from 9 of 13 principals, 4 of 5 athletic directors, and 35 of 38 coaches.

Due to the small number of principals and athletic directors compared to the number of coaches, the two were put in the same category which was labeled "administrators", because both positions require an administrative point of view.

The evaluation of the survey indicates that in the opinion of 82 percent of the administrators and 90 percent of the coaches the present rules do merit changes to bring these rules governing athletic activities for the ninth grader in the separate junior high school unit closer to the rules governing athletic activities for the ninth grader in a four-year high school.

Forty-eight percent of the administrators and 24 percent of the coaches preferred that all ninth grade athletic activities be governed by the same rules that now govern the ninth grade athlete in the separate junior high school unit. Twenty-four percent of the administrators and 56 percent of the coaches preferred to have all athletic activities governed by the same rules that now govern the ninth grade athlete in the four-year high school. Eighteen percent of the administrators and 10 percent of the coaches preferred to have the rules remain as they are now. Ten percent of the administrators as well as 10 percent of the coaches presented a proposal for rule changes.

It must be emphasized at this point the only students concerned in the survey were ninth graders and not seventh and eighth graders. Many of the rules adopted for athletic activities in the junior high schools were made with the major concern for the seventh and eighth grade athlete rather than for the ninth grade athlete. The writer ascertains this to be the major reason for the wide gap between the two sets of rules governing the athletic activities of ninth graders in a separate junior high school unit and ninth grade athletes in four-year high schools.

In the evaluation of the eight items listed in the questionnaire, graphs will be used. The following is a key to the interpretation of the line graphs used. Rule A will refer to the rules governing the athletic activities of ninth graders attending separate junior high school units; Rule B will refer to the rules governing the athletic activities of ninth graders attending four-year high schools; Same will refer to the choice that

the rules should remain as they are; and Proposal will indicate the respondent chose to make a proposal to the rule changes.

Item 1 Rules governing age of participants.

Rule A A boy shall be ineligible for junior high school interschool athletic competition when he attains his 16th birthday on or before midnight August 31.

Rule B No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31 of a given year.

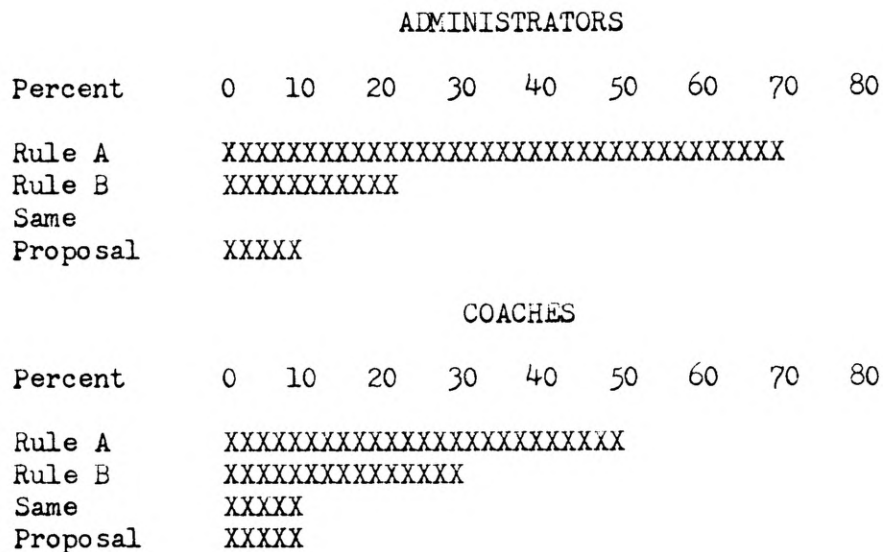


FIGURE 1. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

Seventy percent of the administrators and 50 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A to govern the age of the participants in athletic activities. Twenty percent of the administrators and 30 percent of the coaches preferred Rule B to govern the age of the participants in

athletic activities. None of the administrators preferred the rules remain the same as they now are, while 10 percent of the coaches preferred that the rules remain as they are. Proposals were expressed by 10 percent of the administrators as well as 10 percent of the coaches. An administrator offered the following proposal as a means to bring the two rules closer together:

"I think that all ninth graders, whether in a junior high or senior high school, should be allowed to participate at the varsity level if he can make the team." A coach had this proposal: "A ninth grade athlete in the junior high school who becomes ineligible for athletic competition because of the age factor shall be granted permission to take part in athletic activities at the senior high school level provided both principals involved agree."

Item 2 Rules governing the number of football games to be played in one season.

Rule A No junior high school team or individual shall participate in more than six games.

Rule B The football season officially ends with the last regularly scheduled game or the state championship game.

Sixty-six percent of the administrators and 28 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A to govern the number of football games to be played in one season. The administrators did not indicate a choice for Rule B, while 60 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule B in governing the number of football games to be played in one season. Eleven percent of the administrators and 4 percent of the coaches preferred to have the rules remain as they are now. Thirteen percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches offered proposals for rule

changes. One administrator made the comment, "A 10-game schedule is unrealistic for ninth-grade boys."

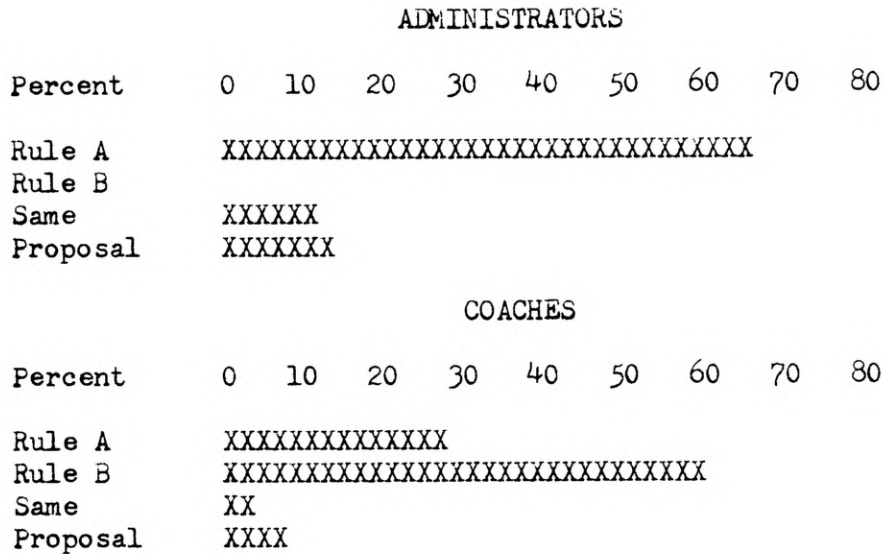


FIGURE 2. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING THE NUMBER OF FOOTBALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED IN ONE SEASON

Item 3 Rules governing the number of practices before participation in the first interschool football game.

Rule A No school may play interschool football until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Rule B No football game shall be played until each team (squad) has a minimum of 15 practice sessions of at least one practice session per day on 15 different days at the start of the football season.

Thirty-three percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A to govern the number of practices before participation in the first interschool football game. Rule B was preferred by 55 percent of the administrators and 64 percent of the coaches to

govern the number of practices before participation in the first interschool football game. That rules should remain the same as they are now was preferred by 12 percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches. The administrators did not express a proposal for a rule change with 20 percent of the coaches preferring to propose a rule change.

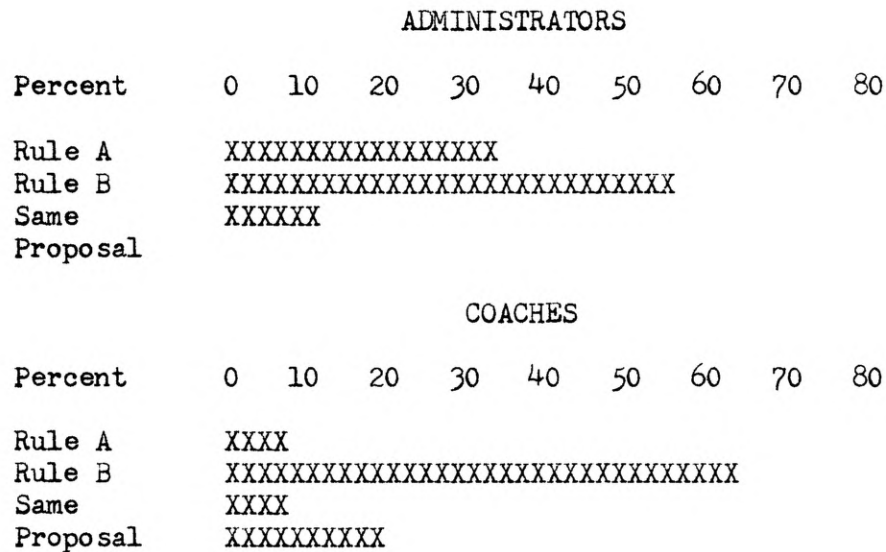


FIGURE 3. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING THE NUMBER OF PRACTICES BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN FIRST INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME

One coach expressed the following comment in regard to a new rule proposal governing the number of practices before a participant can take part in the first interschool game: "Interest starts to lag if the practice period lasts too long before the first game." Another coach proposed that "15 practices on 15 different days is plenty before the first interschool football game of the season."

Item 4 Rules governing the number of basketball games a participant may take part in during a single season.

Rule A The maximum number of games for interschool play shall be 18 games.

Rule B Twenty games will be the maximum limit for Class "A" (Big 32) schools. These game limits apply to each squad--varsity, J.V., "B", and freshman.

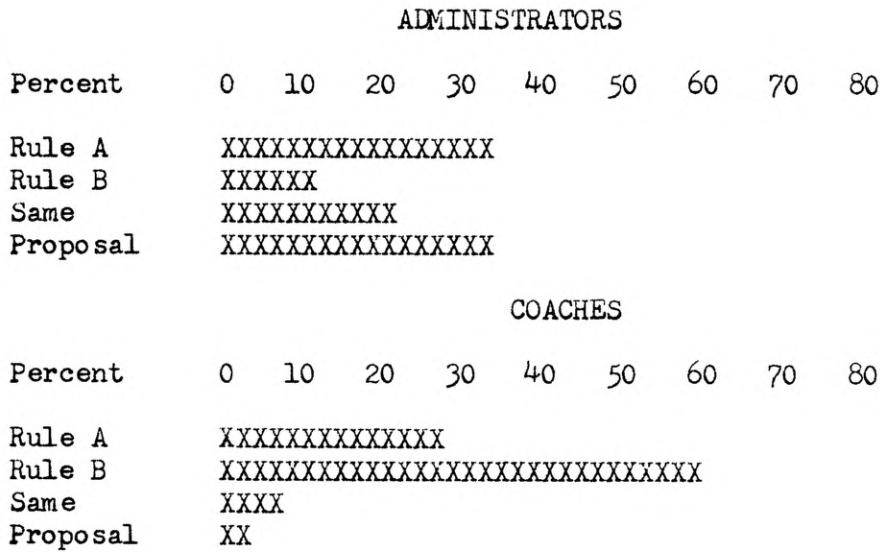


FIGURE 4. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING THE NUMBER OF BASKETBALL GAMES A PARTICIPANT MAY TAKE PART IN DURING A SINGLE SEASON

Figure four shows that 33 percent of the administrators and 27 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A to govern the number of basketball games a participant may take part in during a single season. Rule B was selected as the governing rule over the number of basketball games a participant may take part in during a single season by 11 percent of the administrators and 60 percent of the coaches. That the rules should remain the same as they are now was preferred by 22 percent of the administra-

tors and 8 percent of the coaches. Proposals for rule changes were listed by 34 percent of the administrators and 5 percent of the coaches. One administrator commented, "Anything to shorten an already too long season." A coach proposed limiting play to one game a week as he stated, "Limit participation to one game a week."

Item 5 Rules governing the number of practices before participation in the first interschool basketball game.

Rule A No school may play interschool basketball until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Rule B No Class "A" schools shall start basketball practice before Nov. 15, and the first game shall not be played until the first Friday following Thanksgiving Day.

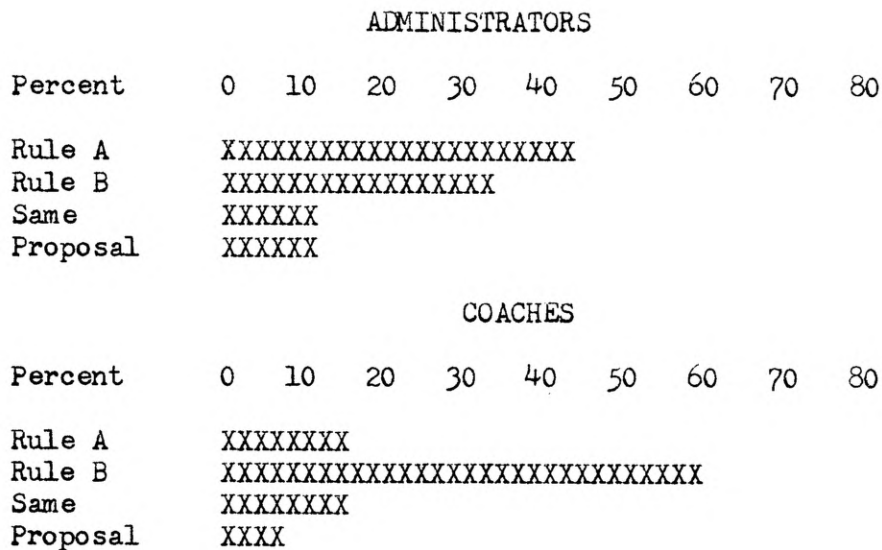


FIGURE 5. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING THE NUMBER OF PRACTICES BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME

Figure five shows that 44 percent of the administrators and 16 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A to govern the number of practices before a participant may take part in the first interschool basketball game. Rule B was selected as the governing rule over the number of practices before a participant may take part in the first interschool basketball game by 33 percent of the administrators and 60 percent of the coaches. Of the administrators 11 percent preferred to have the rules remain as they are, while 16 percent of the coaches preferred to have the rules remain as they are now. Proposals for a rule change regarding the number of practices before a participant may take part in his first interschool basketball game were listed by 12 percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches. One administrator felt that basketball takes up too much of the student's time and allows less time for education. He stated, "Shorten the season to provide more education for students. We are not supplying year-round entertainment for the adult population."

Item 6 Rules governing tournament play in basketball.

Rule A There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, . . . championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school . . . passing grade in at least fifteen periods of prepared work per week. By-Laws, Article VI and in General Rule 2.

Figure six shows that 44 percent of the administrators and 28 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A for the governing of tournament play in basketball. Rule B was preferred by 22 percent of the

administrators and 60 percent of the coaches. That the rules remain as they are now was preferred by 22 percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches. Proposals for rule changes were listed by 12 percent of the administrators and 4 percent of the coaches.

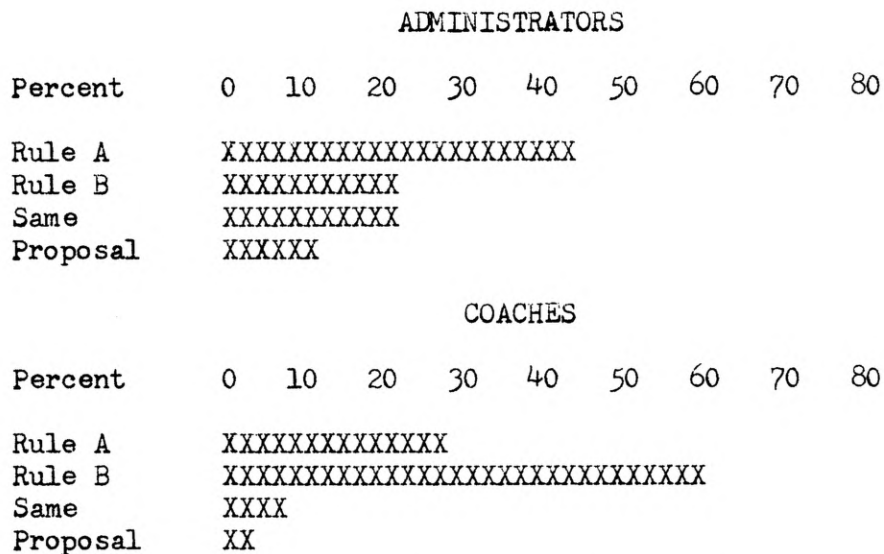


FIGURE 6. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING TOURNAMENT PLAY IN BASKETBALL

Comments by both administrators and coaches would indicate there is strong feeling pro and con concerning tournament play by ninth graders in basketball. "There may be interschool participation in the following: tournaments, championship tournaments, or play-offs as long as these games are included in the 15-game limit per season," writes one school administrator as a proposal for rule change. Another comment strongly urged that tournament play in basketball at all levels be discontinued. It read, "There shall be no interschool participation in the following: pre-season

or post-season tournaments, jamborees, championship tournaments, or play-offs. This goes for all schools."

Item 7 Rules governing competition in track and field events.

Rule A A maximum of 3 events for grade nine athletes as follows: (1) 3 field events; (2) 2 field events and 1 running event of 220 yards or less, including the relay; (3) 1 field event and 2 running events of 220 yards or less, including the relay; (4) 1 field event plus 1 running event of 440 yards or over.

Rule B Although there is no limitation on the number of events in which a contestant may participate, the following plan is recommended: (1) only four track and field events including the relay; (2) three track events of 220 yards or less plus one field event; (3) only three field events plus one track event; (4) the 440, or the 880, or the mile, or two-mile and also three field events.

ADMINISTRATORS

Percent	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Rule A	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX								
Rule B	XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Same	XXXXXXXXXXXX								
Proposal	XXXXXX								

COACHES

Percent	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Rule A	XXXXXXXX								
Rule B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX								
Same	XXXXXXX								
Proposal	XXXXXXXXXXXXX								

FIGURE 7. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION IN TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS

Figure seven shows that 44 percent of the administrators and 16 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A for the governing of track and field events. Rule B as the governing rule over the track and field participation by ninth graders was preferred by 22 percent of the administrators and 44 percent of the coaches. That the rules remain as they are was preferred by 22 percent of the administrators and 14 percent of the coaches. Proposals were expressed by 12 percent of the administrators and 26 percent of the coaches.

The following rule proposal came from an administrator: "A boy may participate in four events plus a relay. Of these four events, a boy is limited to two short dashes (100-yard dash and 220-yard dash) and the relay; one dash (100-yard or 220-yard), 180-yard low hurdles and relay; or one dash, the 440-yard run and a relay or the 880-yard run and one relay. Any of the stated combinations plus field events to comply with the rule of four events and the relay." A coach proposed: "Ninth graders should run only one of the following: half mile, mile, or two mile in a meet but could be in any number of field events."

Item 8 Rules governing participation in wrestling tournaments.

Rule A There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, . . . championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school . . . passing grade in at least fifteen periods of prepared work per week. Also Article VI under the By-Laws and Rule 2 under General Rules.

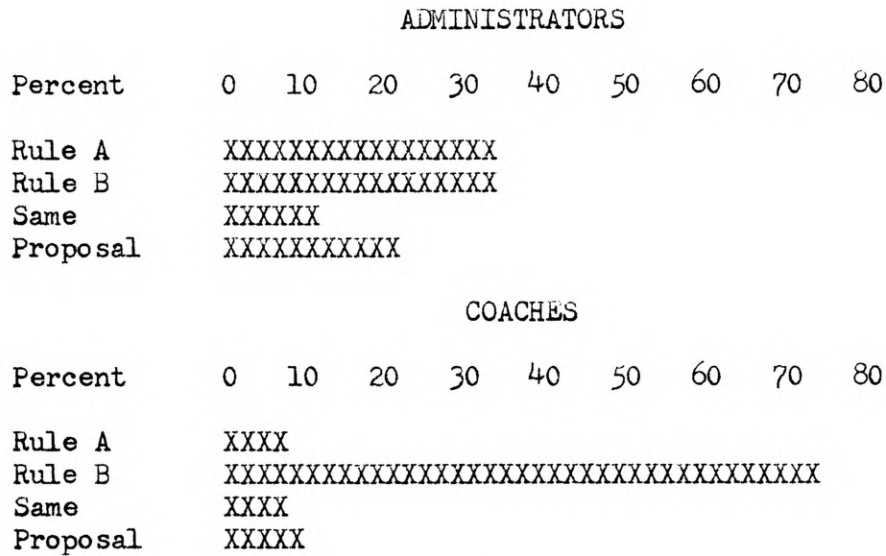


FIGURE 8. ADMINISTRATORS AND COACHES CHOICES AS TO THE RULES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

Figure eight shows that 33 percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches preferred that all schools adopt Rule A in governing participation in wrestling tournaments by ninth grade athletes. Rule B was preferred by 33 percent of the administrators and 74 percent of the coaches to govern participation in wrestling tournaments. That the rules remain as they are now was preferred by 12 percent of the administrators and 8 percent of the coaches. Proposals for rule changes were expressed by 22 percent of the administrators and 10 percent of the coaches.

The majority opinion of rule proposals by administrators was given by one administrator as he proposed: "Ninth graders in the junior high school should be allowed to participate on the varsity because of the lower weight divisions. Or permit wrestling tournaments for ninth graders but not on the state level."

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this study was to ascertain if a feasible method could be found to resolve the rule inconsistencies that now exist for ninth grade athletes in the separate junior high school units as compared to the ninth grade boys attending a four-year high school.

A questionnaire was developed and sent to all principals, athletic directors, and coaches associated with the junior high schools in Montana that are presently members of the Montana High School Association. This study was conducted with the cooperation of Mr. Rex Dalley, Executive Secretary of the Montana High School Association.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to find out if, in the opinion of the participant, any of the present rules merit changes which might bring the two sets of rules closer together.

The literature reviewed indicated that many of the state high school associations have rules similar to those found in the Montana High School Association Handbook governing junior high school athletic activities. Participation in senior high school athletic activities for the ninth grade athlete in the separate junior high school unit is allowed by a majority of the state high school associations surveyed.

Conclusions

It is the writer's belief that in the opinion of the junior high school

principals, athletic directors, and coaches the present rules governing ninth grade athletic participation merit changes to bring the two sets of rules closer together. Forty-six percent of all administrators and coaches preferred that all schools adopt the rules governing the ninth grade athletic activities in a four-year high school. Only 30 percent preferred that the rules governing the ninth grade athlete in the separate junior high school units be adopted by all schools. A desire that the rules remain as they are was expressed by 12 percent, while another 12 percent suggested new proposals that would bring the two sets of rules closer together.

Recommendations

Ninth grade students enrolled in accredited junior high schools that are members of the Montana High School Association and administered as separate units apart from the senior high schools and elementary schools should be eligible to participate in athletic activities in football, basketball, wrestling, and track on the same basis as ninth grade students in accredited four-year high schools unless a local school rules otherwise. If a local school makes a ruling to prohibit its ninth grade students within a junior high school from participating in these athletic activities, such action by the local school should not be subject to review by the Montana High School Association or its Board of Directors.

CHAPTER VI

PROPOSAL

According to the analysis of the related literature and the questionnaire, the writer feels the following rule revisions would be necessary in order to bring the two sets of rules closer together.

Rule A Category of ninth graders attending separate junior high school units.

Rule B Category of ninth graders attending four-year high schools.

Item 1 Rule governing age of participants.

Rule A

A boy shall be ineligible for junior high school interschool athletic competition when he attains his 16th birthday on or before midnight August 31

Rule B

No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31 of a given year.

PROPOSAL

A ninth grade boy who is ineligible to compete in junior high school interschool athletic competition due to the age rule may participate in all sports in the senior high school provided that both junior and senior high school principals of the schools concerned approve.

Item 2 Rule governing number of football games to be played.

Rule A

No school team or individual may participate in more than six games.

Rule B

Usually not more than ten (10) or depending on varsity schedule.

PROPOSAL

No school team or individual may participate in more than eight games.

- Item 3 Rule governing number of practices before first interschool football game.

Rule A

No school may play interschool football until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Rule B

No football game shall be played until each team (squad) has a minimum of 15 practice sessions of at least one practice session per day on 15 different days at the start of the football season.

PROPOSAL

No football game shall be played until a minimum of 15 practice sessions of at least one practice session per day on 15 different days at the start of the football season.

- Item 4 Rule governing number of games to be played in basketball.

Rule A

The maximum number of games for interschool play shall be 18 games.

Rule B

Twenty games will be the maximum limit for Class "A" (Big 32) schools. These game limits apply to each squad--varsity, J.V., "B", and freshman.

PROPOSAL

The maximum number of games for interschool play shall be 15 for ninth graders.

- Item 5 Rule governing number of practices before first basketball game.

Rule A

No school may play interschool basketball until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Rule B

No Class "A" schools shall start basketball practice before Nov. 15, and the first game shall not be played until the first Friday following Thanksgiving Day.

PROPOSAL

No school, team, or individual may play interschool basketball until 15 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Item 6 Rule governing tournament play in basketball.

Rule A

There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, . . . championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B

To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school ... passing grade in at least fifteen periods of prepared work per week.

PROPOSAL

Tournament play in basketball is limited to one tournament per season with the number of games played in the tournament counting as part of the 15 games allowed during the season.

Item 7 Rule governing competition in track and field events.

Rule A

1. 3 field events
2. 2 field events and 1 running event of 220 yards or less, including the relay.
3. 1 field event and 2 running events of 220 yards or less, including the relay.
4. 1 field event plus 1 running event of 440 yards or over.

Rule B

1. Only four track and field events including the relay.
2. Three track events of 220 yards or less plus one field event.
3. Only three field events plus one track event.
4. The 440, or the 880, or the mile, or two-mile and also three field events.

The above rules are just recommendations.

PROPOSAL

Adopt Rule B.

Item 8 Rule governing wrestling tournaments.

Rule A

There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, ... championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B

To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school ... passing grade in a least fifteen periods of prepared work per week.

PROPOSAL

Ninth grade wrestlers shall be allowed to wrestle in not more than two tournaments in any one season.

The above proposals will bring the rules governing the ninth grade athlete in the separate junior high school unit closer to the rules governing the ninth grade athlete in the four-year high school. With the addition that ninth grade athletes in the separate junior high school units may be allowed to participate in any sport at the senior high school level provided the principal of the junior high school and the principal of the senior high school agree. This addition should be up to the discretion of the local school.

The writer feels that the above proposals will bring the two sets of rules closer together as far as the junior high school ninth grade athlete and the ninth grade athlete in the four-year high school in all Class "A" schools in the state of Montana are concerned.

APPENDIX

Appendix A
Cover Letter

March 27, 1968
Bozeman, Montana

Dear Educator:

At the Fall Class "A" Conference Meeting held in Bozeman in October 1967, a discussion was held concerning the rule inconsistencies that govern athletic activities for ninth grade boys in a junior high school as compared to the ninth grade boys attending a four-year high school. It was proposed that a study be made to ascertain if a feasible method could be found to resolve the inconsistencies. This study is being conducted with the cooperation of Mr. Rex Dalley, Executive Secretary of the Montana High School Association.

It is the purpose of this questionnaire to find out if, in your opinion, any of the present rules merit changes which might bring the two sets of rules closer together. Please do not write your name on the questionnaire so that the information you give will remain anonymous.

The results of the study will be compiled and presented to the Montana High School Association, if the majority opinion indicates that rule changes are in order.

Sincerely yours,

Harold (Buck) Gaustad
Montana State University

Appendix B
Questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT RULES GOVERNING NINTH GRADE
ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

The rules in this questionnaire are taken from the Montana High School Association Handbook for the year 1967-1968. You are asked to evaluate some of these rules which govern Junior High School Athletic Activities.

Please check the position you hold in your school:

☐ Principal	☐ Basketball Coach	
☐ Athletic Director	☐ Track Coach	☐ Coach All Sports
☐ Football Coach	☐ Wrestling Coach	

Rule A Category of ninth graders attending separate junior high school units.

Rule B Category of ninth graders attending four-year high schools.

INSTRUCTIONS:

There are eight rules which are being investigated. Each item allows you the opportunity to choose one of four choices. Please check the one which most closely reflects your feelings about the rule.

Comment Section:

Please use the space so marked for any additional ideas about the rule you may have. Feel free to comment on other rules that may not be included in this questionnaire regarding junior high athletic activities.

Please use the self-addressed envelope to return your questionnaire. In case you may have no comments or suggestions, please return the blank questionnaire.

1. Rule governing age of participants.

Rule A (separate)

A boy shall be ineligible for junior high school interschool athletic competition when he attains his 16th birthday on or before midnight August 31.

Rule B (four-year high school)

No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31 of a given year.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.

☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.

☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

2. Rule governing number of football games to be played.

Rule A (separate)

No school, team or individual may participate in more than six games.

Rule B (four-year high school)

Usually not more than ten (10) or depending on varsity schedule.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.

☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.

☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

3. Rule governing number of practices before first interschool football game.

Rule A (separate)

No school may play interschool football until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

Rule B (four-year high school)

No football game shall be played until each team (squad) has a minimum of 15 practice sessions of at least one practice session per day on 15 different days at the start of the football season.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.
☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.
☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

4. Rule governing number of games to be played in basketball.

Rule A (separate)

Rule B (four-year high school)

The maximum number of games for interschool play shall be 18 games.

Twenty games will be the maximum limit for Class "A" (Big 32) schools. These game limits apply to each squad--varsity, J.V., "B", and freshman.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.
☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.
☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

5. Rule governing number of practices before first basketball game.

Rule A (separate)

Rule B (four-year high school)

No school may play interschool basketball until 21 calendar days have elapsed from the start of practice.

No Class "A" schools shall start basketball practice before Nov. 15, and the first game shall not be played until the first Friday following Thanksgiving Day.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.
☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.
☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

6. Rule governing post-season play in basketball.

Rule A (separate)

There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, ... championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B (four-year high school)

To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school ... passing grade in at least fifteen periods of prepared work per week. By-Laws, Article VI and General Rule 2.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.

☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.

☐ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

7. Rule governing competition in track and field events.

Rule A (separate)

Ninth grade--a maximum of 3 events as follows:

1. 3 field events.
2. 2 field events and 1 running event of 220 yards or less, including the relay.
3. 1 field event and 2 running events of 220 yards or less, including the relay.
4. 1 field event plus one running event of 440 yards or over.

Rule B (four-year high school)

Although there is no limitation on the number of events in which a contestant may participate, the following plan is recommended:

1. only four track and field events including the relay.
2. three track events of 220 yards or less plus one field event.
3. only three field events plus one track event.
4. the 440, or the 880, or the mile, or two-mile and also three field events.

I would prefer that:

☐ All schools adopt Rule A.

☐ All schools adopt Rule B.

☐ The rules should remain as they are.

☐ I would propose the following:

OR:

1. ☐ field events.
2. ☐ field events and ☐ running event(s) of 220 yards or less, including the relay.

3. ____ field event(s) and ____ running events of 220 yards or less,
including the relay.
4. ____ field event(s) plus ____ running event(s) of 440 yards or
over.

Comments _____

8. Rule governing wrestling tournaments.

Rule A (separate)

There shall be no interschool participation in the following: tournaments, ... championship tournaments, or play-offs.

Rule B (four-year high school)

To be eligible to participate in an Association contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school ... passing grade in at least fifteen periods of prepared work per week. Also Article VI under the By-Laws and Rule 2 under General Rules.

I would prefer that:

____ All schools adopt Rule A.

____ All schools adopt Rule B.

____ The rules should remain as they are.

____ I would propose the following:

Comments _____

Please return this questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

THANK YOU.

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