

January 21, 2009

To: Fiscal Concerns Committee and NYS Executive Committee Members

From: Gary VanDerzee, Section II Football Coordinator and RCS retired AD

HELP! Would someone, anyone, please give me some facts and figures on which you have based your recommendation to reduce the maximum # of games NYS athletes can play each season? I am sure you have these facts and figures because I know you would not put forth such a potentially devastating proposal without an abundance of research and data to back it up.

I request this information because I want to understand how an organization, NYSPHSAA, dedicated to the promotion and protection of athletic programs and student athletes of NYS could propose such a devastating action.

This proposal, from a financial point of view, according to my rough calculations would/could save individual districts at MOST about \$10-\$15 per athlete, IF schools were already playing the maximum number of games allowed. I will go way out on a limb and suggest to you that most districts do not schedule or play the maximum number of contests allowed each season in every sport!

Let me break this down further based on what few facts you have given us. I will use a Class B sized school with a \$40 Million dollar budget. Based upon the recommended reduction in the maximum number of games this district would save between \$9,000 and \$10,000 or .025% (that's 2.5 one hundredths of 1 percent). Strictly using the numbers that you have indicated, ASSUMING every team was scheduled for the maximum number of games, you would be saving .025% of a districts budget by restricting about 700 student athletes from participating in 82 additional contests.

I am basing these figures on that Class B size school fielding 38 teams in 20 different sports. Obviously this will vary from district to district (**which is why it should be a district choice**). Let's extrapolate a little further the potential ill affects of this decision. How many fans, parents/family, students' will not be attending these games or entering our schools and using our facilities? Low-balling let's say each event (would have) 100 fans, maybe 8 to 10 thousand people would not use our community facilities. How about the loss of good will and potential positive budget votes? What does this translate into by way of lost concession sales for booster clubs, etc.? The other thing that I have not factored in is any revenue producing games that are lost (Football, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, etc.).

How do these figures compare to the ones you based your recommendation on? I have not been able to get an answer from you so I am just curious.

Sincerely,

Gary VanDerzee