

To Members of Joint Legislative Overnight and Sunset Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to all of you today regarding DIAA.

My name is Trina Leclerc. Briefly, I will share a little bit about me. I am a director of youth sports organization that services over 1000 youth athletes yearly in all three counties in Delaware and employs over 80 coaches - many whom are Delaware high and middle school coaches. I have a daughter that participated in athletics since she was five years old in multiple sports and was a DIAA student athlete in high school in two sports. Her experience in DIAA HS athletics at her school is one of the best moments in her life and shaped her into the young lady she is today. Now she is also a coach herself. I also have been managing a volleyball program at middle school for last 12 years. Supporting youth student athletes is my passion.

Before I begin, I would like to share with you the extent of my experience with DIAA. Since August 2018, I have attended every DIAA Board meeting which is 38 meetings in total for almost 200 hours. In addition, I attended 10 Rules and Regulation Committee meeting along with several Sports Medicine Advisory Committee meetings and a handful of Sports Committee meetings. I also attended several Board of Education Meetings with the DIAA related topics on the agenda. I have provided public comment at 90%-95% of those meetings. So, I clearly have a first-hand knowledge of the innerworkings of DIAA, the Board and its committees. In fact, I would say I probably have a better attendance record than more than 50% (maybe even 75%) of board members. So, my comments to come are not a result of one or two experiences but from many and regular interactions and should not be taken lightly.

Enough about that, through the last 2 ½ years, I have seen that the success of the DIAA interscholastic athletics seems be largely driven by the work of our state's athletic directors and coaches along with our student athletes. They are the front line. They make the day to day of DIAA athletics happen and their passion in the last 5 months has shined through the COVID's pandemic. I believe every student athlete and every parent of a student athlete is forever grateful to them.

In contrast, the DIAA board and the DIAA office itself and its process are hindered by red tape, inefficiencies, personal agendas, dominance by a few and quite frankly a lack of leadership. The day to day things get done but moving the organization forward on key topics, initiatives and challenges faces obstacles that never seen to be able to overcome.

When I first started attending meetings, public comment was heard at the start of the meeting and at the end of the meeting. Then, abruptly the public comment section was moved to the end of the meeting three months after I started to attend. What is the purpose of hearing from the public if it is after the discussions/decisions/votes are already made? Imagine how shock I was when I attended State Board of Education meeting this fall and public comment was heard before the discussion and was actually considered in the discussion. Often the public comment at DIAA meeting is after 4-8 hours from the start of meeting and many board members have already left. In fact, multiple times during my public comment when they were in person board

members were packing up their stuff or even holding their briefcases in hand to leave as I was speaking. Not to mention more than 75% of the time my public comments were misstated in the minutes. For example, in October 15, 2020, there was a hot topic around Salesianum football schedule. Several individuals commented on it. However, myself and a few others have other comments related to other topics regarding COVID protocols and the minutes were drafted for approval with just a list of names (including mine) saying they commented on Salesianum football issue. This was not the case and I had to email to get them update. Only recently, I have started to receive responses to any emails sent to the DIAA office with their sunset review on the horizon.

Of course, it also should be noted that individuals including myself often wait hours to make their comments. There was also one instance where a gentleman who knows many of the board members was present to make a public comment and a board member made motion to allow him to speak earlier so he did not have to wait. This was after I waited up to 6 hours or more to speak in the past and many times again after that.

The bottom line is public opinion is often dismissed and is seen as a burden until just recently.

I want to share a few examples of some specific issues I have witnessed with the DIAA Board and DIAA Office.

- 1) Out of Season Coaching – This is why I began my engagement with DIAA as an advocate for relaxing the out of season coaching rules. Tasked by General Assembly in June 2018, this item is just recently starting to get some solid traction again first under past Executive Director Kevin Charles in early 2020 and then again under current Vice Chair Dr. Matthew Donovan in the last 3-4 months. However, the path to get this point was long. When I first started attending DIAA board meetings in August 2018, the DIAA board just started their review of the out of season coaching rules in response to the Concurrent Joint Resolution. The Rules and Regulations Chair and current Executive Director presented that they had reviewed the current regulations and stated they made a few minor edits but out of season coaching was already addressed in their regulations so no further action was needed. A statement was actually made that they just need to show the General Assembly that they did something and they were more concerned with meeting October 1 deadline than actually initiating change and evaluating the current out of season coaching rules. They also asked for a recommendation from two individuals and that proposal basically was never discussed in any meeting at any length during the last two years. Then when more pushback was received, they decided to do a survey to their member schools. The survey provided a wealth of data that largely supported some form of out of season coaching with boundaries. At the point, the Rules and Regulations Committee went to the extreme other side and proposed out of coaching season regulation with unlimited access and no rules. This was beyond what everyone wanted from the original advocates to member schools and met with resistance. In my opinion and many, this was a calculated plan to squash the initiative. I also attached a copy of a letter that was sent to the DIAA Board and the DIAA office in March 2019 regarding these proposed changes that received no response back from the

DIAA board or DIAA office. DIAA board did not pass the regulation change in May 2019 but agreed to go back to the drawing board. From May 2019 to January 2020, the task stalled and then got gained some traction again in January 2020 and then stalled again in March 2020 and picked up some again in August 2020 and stalled again and has seen the most progress in late 2020/early 2021 with a vote for a regulation change anticipated for this week. I find that interesting that progress seems to coincide so close to the start of this committee's review. Yes, there was COVID recently but what were reasons before. I am not sure this timeline for a task completion would be ever be seen as acceptable by any leader. While Dr. Layfield reported in his presentation to this committee on that the Rules and Regulations Committee was ready to bring forward for a vote to a change to out of coaching season for DIAA coaches to be allowed to coach their student athletes in non-school setting during the school year to the DIAA Board, it should be noted that the change has not been voted on by the DIAA board as of today. It was not on the agenda for February 11th DIAA Board meeting even though in the January DIAA Board meeting it was reviewed and it was agreed to provide actual regulation language in next meeting for a vote.

- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic - The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the board's weaknesses and this time with the public watching and tuning in. I found it is interesting to hear board members say in April, May and June that there is no need to plan because the Governor and Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) would tell them what they can and cannot do with COVID. Yes, I agree that the guidelines and parameters may be set by them but the implementation and details needed to come from this Board and most specifically from the DIAA office. Interesting, I was hearing the opposite from the Governor and DPH. As a youth sports organization leader, we began planning in April on how we might be able to re-introduce sports into this new environment and were ready with a plan as soon as youth sports were allowed to resume. The DIAA Office and DIAA Board chose to wait to develop the plan instead of being proactive and perhaps present a proposal to the Governor and DPH. They have the access to lead the resumption of school-based athletics. When in fact, some board members along the athletic directors proposed a plan in July, there was an initiative by a few chosen that were working another agenda to delay the start of fall sports. Then a few weeks later, after pressure from a parent group, the nearly same proposal from athletic directors was put into the motion and approved. This delay led to a shortened fall and winter sports seasons as well as left athletic directors, coaches and schools scrambling to get things in place.
- 3) 2020 Fall Championship Tournament Brackets - The selection of the fall sports tournament teams are left virtually to the Sports Committees, which would be fine if they follow the rules they agreed upon. While COVID brings scenarios may have been hard to forecast, there are several examples on where rules set were adjusted on the fly to give some schools advantage over other schools. With a year of cancelled contests due to COVID and their potential impact on the seeding process, one would think the DIAA Board and DIAA office would have more oversight to ensure fairness but the DIAA Board did not even have a meeting leaving up to the fall tournament selection to make sure all the anomalies are

reviewed and handled appropriately. Does that seem odd to anyone? Interestingly enough, in November 5, 2020 meeting, the DIAA Board agreed that they should review the impact of cancelled contests due to COVID and how they impact the tournament team selection and seeding. This review never happened and most Board members were unaware of the issues until they were raised at the December board meeting.

- 4) Violations of Regulations - Without getting into specifics, violations of regulations are addressed depending on who is involved, what is it, and how busy the DIAA office is. I suggest that you ask the Executive Director about recent out of season coaching from Fall 2019-Fall 2020.

A few other quick observations as an outsider looking in are below.

Several board members are frustrated with the DIAA board, the DIAA office and the structure themselves. Several board members want to drive change but are often hampered by DIAA office or by regulations. Many of the board members are disappointed with DIAA office's leadership to handle concerns, make proposals and drive initiatives forward. These individuals deserve an opportunity to serve in a better scenario.

Board members often arrive to a meeting ill prepared. This is mostly driven by documents that are not provided in a timely manner to review. Documents are often received minutes before the meeting or at the meeting.

A few board members drive the show. Some board members are disinterested and many have never spoken or provided any insight in 2 ½ years I have been attending. Most of public members on the board rarely offer any input. The DIAA Board lacks any representation from an important group of stakeholders – parents of student athletes.

Board members often don't know what that they are voting on it. It is often unclear what the motion is on the table and often is changed multiple times leaving board members confused. Several board members just follow the majority or a chosen few. Prior to COVID-19, passing of motions seem to just be a formality with the few driving the vote and board members following their lead. Since the fall, votes on motions are starting to be more meaningful where more board members truly vote by their own convictions.


Specific sports committee and other committees have a lot of "power" with little oversight from the DIAA Board and DIAA office and often individuals on these committees use their position for their own personal agenda. The Fall sports championship bracket highlighted some of this recently. In fact, during a sports committee meeting regarding tournament team selection, one board member actually stated in the sports committee that "he was putting his 'school's name's' hat.". A public citizen comment on that in December. Her words were spot on. I suggested you review the recording of that meeting to hear her comments.

I mentioned in the beginning the school's athletic directors and coaches are the lifeline of the DIAA athletics. These athletic directors and coaches have expressed their disappointment and frustration with the DIAA board AND staff. Many have expressed concern around communications (or lack thereof), follow up (or lack thereof), guidance/support (or lack thereof) and consistency (or lack thereof) from the DIAA office. Like many board members, many of athletic directors feel that they are without leadership from the DIAA office. I hope you take the time to get their input as you complete your review and consider it in your final recommendations for the path forward.

I see this review as an opportunity to re-vamp the management and oversight of Delaware Interscholastic Athletics, DIAA Board, DIAA leadership and staff and its structure and address the inefficiencies of the current structure. The bottom line is our youth deserve better.

I am happy to speak with any of the committee members to provide more insight or clarity on any other items.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trina Leclerc



October 2, 2018

Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
Attn: Regulation Review

Subject: Proposed DIAA Regulations Regarding Out of Season Coaching by High School Coaches

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to provide my comments on the DIAA out of season coaching regulations on high school coaches in the State of Delaware.

First, I have personally attended two recent DIAA Board Meeting (August and September) at the request of many parents to ensure their perspective on this topic and the impact that the existing regulations are having on their student-athletes is being heard and considered as the DIAA Board reviewed the out of the season coaching rules in response to the Senate Concurrent Resolution 79. I provided a public comment as well as several examples of impacts to different student athletes. I will share those examples again later in this letter. **I also stated clearly that the parents of our student-athletes are supporting a full rework of the DIAA's out of the season coaching regulations and believe that the decision and choice on who can and how their child should receive training for their athletic development belongs with them as the parent.**

Second, I would like to share during the DIAA August Board meeting when the DIAA board were discussing the out of the season regulations that there was a lot of confusion at the meeting about what was being asked by the board to review and approve. Multiple documents were shared and many of the board members asked for more time to review the documents and one board member even suggested that they delay any decision/vote until all of the board members had have the opportunity to review the changes more in depth and possibly complete a more thorough review of the regulations and suggest more beneficial changes to the regulations. At that point, it was stated that the changes that are being suggested by the Rules and Regulations committee were insignificant as the Rules and Regulations committee just reviewed the current out of the season coaching regulations to update some wording to meet the October 1, 2018 deadline that was put forth on them by the Senate. In fact, another comment was made that we addressed the Senate Concurrent Resolution 79 as our current regulations already address out of coaching season. It was also stated that they were no time to do any more review in order to meet October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline but they could possibly continue to review the regulations after the fact. One board member frankly stated that "We have done the bare minimum to meet the October 1<sup>st</sup> date." At this point, the DIAA board voted and approve the updated rules and regulations. **I have to say it was extremely disappointing to hear that meeting the October 1<sup>st</sup> date was more important than actually truly addressing the outdated out of the season coaching regulations that they were asked to review in Senate Concurrent Resolution 79.**

As a parent of a former Delaware high school student-athlete (my daughter is now at sophomore in college), I have witnessed over the years many times that the current out of season coaching rules in DIAA regulations have negatively impacted our student athletes and I personally experienced it with my own child. When my daughter was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she was participating in both a school basketball and club volleyball program. Her club volleyball team

was made up of a group of your closest junior high friends and were being coached by well-known and experienced high school volleyball coach at private high school. During the club season, the girls were playing well and bonded together so well as a team as they were all preparing to go through their separate ways for high schools, the team had agreed to come back together next year to play club again for the same coach. With their coaches and their players, they had the opportunity to be an elite team in the next year's club season. In February of the season, my daughter made a decision to go to the high school of their coach. At the point, the girls and parents realized if my daughter was to remain on the team the following season, they could not have the coaches again as it was a conflict with the DIAA regulations. The girls and parents then told my daughter that she would not be able to be on the team next year. My daughter was devastated. She went from being the team captain to no longer being wanted to be on the team with their friends. This time in her life that was supposed to be a happy and exciting time as she selected a home for the next four years was now dampened because of the choice that she was made on what high school was best for her academically and rules and regulations that limited who she can be coached by and in turn who she can now play with. However, the story does not end there. The club decided to assign another coach to that age group to keep the team together. This was less experienced coach; 23-year-old young lady that had minimal coaching experience. The club convinced the girls and the parents that this was a better option for the team and allowed them to stay together. For us, it initially seems like a great solution but the season was less than great. Besides the fact, the coach was unable to continue to build upon the previous year's success of the team and the training was sub-par, my daughter's physical well-being was put at risk when she took a blow to the head during the work assignment under the direct supervision of this coach. The coach, who was standing next to my daughter when it happened, did nothing but ask her if she was ok. Unlike an experienced and trained high school coach, she played my daughter for the remaining 3 matches after the blow and never informed us as parents of the incident. Several days later, after experiencing concussion symptoms for days, it was determined our daughter had a concussion. In the end, it was her high school volleyball coach that put us in the right direction to seeking proper diagnosis and treatment for our daughter. This season with the inexperienced coach left my daughter with a wasted year of training and concussion that was not properly handled. In addition, her teammates subtly blamed her for their dismal season because they took a chance with another coach and kept her on the team instead of having the coach they originally wanted. In the end, all of these student athletes, not just my daughter, were impacted in this situation and were denied receiving training from the coach of their choice. **Why should an old and out of date rule restrict their choice and restrict the student-athletes from receiving training from their coach of their choice?**

While this situation hits very close to home for me, this is just one example of actual student athletes that was negatively impacted by the rule. Just last November, I had a young lady approached me after her high school team had just ensured a trip to the semi-finals of the state tournament in tears. I asked her what was wrong; she said "Mrs. Leclerc, I am so upset. I cannot play with my team from last year's club season because my high school coach is the coach. All I want to do is play with my friends again. I am thinking of not playing." **Why should a rule restrict a student athlete from playing with their friends or even playing her sport?**

I would like to share a few other actual examples that I have witnessed. I share just the facts here but I cannot share the emotional impact to some of these student-athletes.

#### Example #1:

John Doe wants the opportunity to play for Coach Jones, who is an experienced and well-known coach with a successful high school program at Snickers High School. John Doe wants to play for Coach Jones during the school year but not during the DIAA season for that sport. Coach Jones is not John's current high school coach, however, the majority of the other participants in John's age group attend Snickers High School and play for Coach Jones. So, if John is going to play on a club team, the club team will need to have players from Coach Jones's high school team to complete it. John would not have the opportunity to be coached by Coach Jones and have teammates that are players from Coach Jones high school team.

#### Example #2

Jane Doe, who is now a freshman at Harmony High School has been playing basketball for the same AAU Black Panthers club since she was 11 years old. Coach Sharp is currently a volunteer basketball coach at Harmony High School and coaches the 15s AAU team for the Black Panthers Club. He has coached this age group for the last 8 years. Jane now has to leave her club that she enjoys and feels comfortable with because she is unable to play for their coach who happens to be a volunteer coach at her high school. Jane Doe is actually considering not playing basketball at her high school as the club season may give her opportunity to improve her skills.

#### Example #3

Sally Seasons, a junior at Millcroft High School, is the daughter of the assistant lacrosse coach at Millcroft High School. Her mother, Julie Seasons has been in this position for 10 years. Her mother and the head lacrosse coach, Coach Moore, have been coaching together for over ten years and are both school teachers at Millcroft High School. They also coach non-school affiliated cub lacrosse together in the off season (after DIAA lacrosse season is over but while school is in session). They coach the same age group for club that Sally would be a part of, so Sally cannot be on the team because of Coach Moore's DIAA restriction. Having Sally on another team creates undue hardship on the family and financial impact.

I truly believe that some of the best coaches in any given sport are at our high schools. Restricting these high school coaches from coaching their student athletes and in turn other student athletes limits our Delaware student-athletes from receiving the best training they can to excel in their sport. **This choice and decision should be put in the hands of the student-athlete and the parents, not restricted by rules and regulations. In the end, the student-athlete may feel it is more beneficial to be trained by their high school coach for nine months vs two-three months in the high school season. This is already happening to some of our high school programs.**

With that said, I understand that is a concern the high school coaches having the freedom to practice their full school team year around, (i.e. Basketball coaches should not be able to run team practices daily or even 3-4 times week practices during the off season during their academic year or summer outside their assigned season). I do not advocate for that type of regulation either. Many believe this could create undue pressure and possibly limit the participation in other sports. I am not sure if this would truly be the case especially when it is important to note that the majority of high school coaches have clearly stated that they do not want to coach their high school's student-athletes year around. **However, once again, it is the student-athlete's choice with the guidance of their parents and the responsibility of their parents to monitor any undue pressure and report any concerns to their athlete director.**



However, I do feel that high school coaches should have the opportunity to coach or mentor their own student athletes during the academic school year through outside organizations that are insured and governed by non-school affiliated local or national organization like USA Volleyball, AAU Basketball, etc. to ensure the coaches are monitored and regulated. I also think that these activities should have some restrictions to the number of athletes from their given school that they are able to coach to avoid the above concern I mentioned regarding practicing with their full team, but instead coaching our entire student-athlete population.

My understanding is that the DIAA board requested a proposal from two long time Delaware high school coaches regarding possible suggestions to change the out of season coaching regulation to focus on the goal of coaching all student-athletes, not full school teams. In addition, I understand that this document was drafted after reviewing the rules on out of season coaching from other states including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey and West Virginia. I also understand that this proposal received input from many coaches, parents and athletic directors in the state and they have endorsed it. I believe this was one of the documents that was shared with the DIAA Board at August meeting. **In reviewing this document, it gives the opportunity for the student-athletes to have more access to whatever coach, including their own high school coach, that they choose and believe will give them the best opportunity to further grow in their sport but also limits the access to protect the student-athlete from other concerns that some have raised from out of the season coaching. Also, it gives the coaches that the opportunity to supplement their income and continue to practice their profession without undue restrictions. The proposal also addresses the concern that was raised by several DIAA board members about the insurance and compensation for these coaches' activities and requires those details to be the responsibility of non-school affiliated organization. This is in line with the Senate Concurrent Resolution 79 which did not ask for the member schools to provide payment or insurance for their high school coaches that were coaching in non-school affiliated organizations outside their assigned sport season. This proposal puts the choice back in the hands of the student-athlete and their parents where it belongs.**

I have also heard that one of the major concerns about changing the out of the season coaching rules is to the impact to multi-sport athlete. For the record, my daughter was a multi-sport daughter for the majority of her athlete career which included participation in the club volleyball program for 9 years. She only stopped being a multi-sport athlete her junior year to focus more on her junior year's tough academic schedule and in the end, she would have not made the varsity lacrosse team at her high school. Student-athletes and their parents are going to make the same decisions regarding how many sports they play regardless if they are able to train with their high school coach outside their school's season. They are making those decisions to specialize or not specialize already today. **At end of the day, limiting high school coaches from coaching their student-athletes in the off-season is not going to suddenly make student-athletes participate in more sports. We have to be realistic here as stated above, that decision is going to be made by the student athlete based on what they truly want to do. Parents are responsible for parenting their child and helping them make the decisions that they believe are best for their child's well-being. The bottom line is that the student-athlete is going to get the training if that is what they want to do and no outdated regulations should restrict their options or choices on how or from whom they get that training.**

I also would like to add that after attending the two DIAA board meetings and I had several DIAA board members encourage me to continue to press forward on the issue as it definitely needs to be change for our student-athletes and our high school coaches.

I would like to share with you an interesting statement I heard the other day from a long-time athletic director that has always been opposed to the allowing high school coaches to coach out of the season. The gist of her statement was, “Everyone is finding a way around the rule anyway so we should loosen it and get with the times so everyone can benefit.”

Also, I would like to address the small proposed changes that the DIAA board is suggesting. While they believe they are insignificant, the DIAA board truly missed the impact and how they have expanded the impact to our rising high school student athletes. **By changing the regulations to include registered and accepted students in their school, not just returning players, the regulation is now impacting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.** I will share two things— one as an example and one as a larger impact.

1. Michael Jackson, who is an 8th grader at Thriller Middle School, is playing club soccer for Coach Green in a club season that runs September through May. In February, Michael makes a decision to attend Billie Jean Academy and must register and pay his deposit by February 15th. Coach Green is the soccer's assistant coach at Bill Jean Academy. Once Michael registers, as a result of the proposed regulation's change in wording, Michael either needs to be removed from the team for the rest of the season or Coach Green needs to resign from either Billie Jean Academy or his club team. All options cause impact to Michael, Coach Green and the other players that are impacted by either Michael or Coach Green leaving the team mid-season. **Note: In the end, our experienced high school coaches may choose not to coach our 8<sup>th</sup> grader athletes which puts those athletes at the disadvantage at a critical time before they start to engage in more competitive school programs.**
2. At my daughter's middle school, we have had several high school coaches from multiple sports come to our schools to hold free skill training clinics. For many of these sports, they tend to be in the spring season. Once a student registers or accepts at a high school, they are unable to attend a clinic, camp, training etc. offered during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade by a coach at their high school. **Why is this fair to that athlete? Also, now the coach has to ensure none of the participants in any coaching activity are registered and accepted at their high school to avoid being sanctioned. Perhaps the best approach is to just stop supporting our younger student-athletes because it's too much work to make sure you are in compliance.**

**I asked why is DIAA now looking to restrict the training for our younger student-athletes and in turn further restrict the opportunity for high school coaches to practice their profession or their passion to assist student-athletes in their athletic development.**

A few other things to consider:

- **Restriction of Trade that the regulations are placing on professional coaches to limit their access to this livelihood.** All coaches should have the opportunity to coach as many potential athletes as they are able and want to. I know for a fact that there are many well skilled and experienced coaches choosing not to coach high school teams

because it limits their ability to effectively use their profession to support themselves and their families.

- DIAA is academic based athletics and club sports is a significant avenue for high school athletes to be seen by college coaches, recruited and given financial scholarships to attend college while playing the sport they love, which allows them to continue academic based athletics. **Student-athletes should have the choice to select any coach they believe will assist them in their academic based athletics goals.**

I recognize this submission is quite lengthy, but I believe the restriction on out of season coaching by high school coaches truly negatively impacts both our student-athletes and our coaches in many ways and I wanted to ensure all of the concerns and situations were presented from a parent's perspective.

**I respectfully ask two things:**

- 1) The proposed changes to the regulations not be implemented as they further restrict high school coaches from coaching our younger student-athletes.**
- 2) The DIAA Board and Rules and Regulations Committee properly perform due diligence to review the current rules and regulations as requested by the Senate Concurrent Resolution 79 to bring the out of the season regulations more in line with the current environment and other states for the betterment of our student athletes, coaches and athletic programs. Understanding the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 79, it was clearly not met and further changes are required.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Leclerc

Parent of Former Delaware High School Student-Athlete



March 8, 2019

Dr. Bradley Layfield, Chair  
DIAA  
Collette Educational Resource Center  
35 Commerce Way  
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Dr. Layfield:

We write concerning current proposed changes to the coaching out of season regulation. We greatly appreciate the time and attention the Board and its Rules and Regulations Committee has given to this issue to date and understand it requires careful deliberation to ensure DIAA's mission is preserved. We're particularly grateful for the Board's action to commission WestEd to conduct the 2018 DIAA Member School Survey, finalized in January 2019. The results verify the concerns expressed by a majority in the high school sports community – that we need to modernize Delaware's coaching out of season rules.

That said, the recent work of the Rules and Regulations Committee on February 12, 2019 and the DIAA Board on February 14, 2019, goes well beyond the scope of the motion that was passed at the Board's January 17, 2019 meeting. At that January meeting, a motion was passed to "move the survey data from questions 22 and 24 dealing with coaching out of season for non-school sports [during the school/academic year], and coaching out of season considering the restrictions that are currently in place for the summer to Rules and Regulations Committee for modifications to subsection 7.6 where it pertains to those two areas."

The survey did not provide any data to support the unilateral changes regarding elimination of open gyms, conditioning and unfettered access to the student athletes during the school year. The survey did not ask any questions regarding coaching of entire team or any student-athletes by their high school coaches in school-sponsored events during the school/academic year. At present, there has been no comprehensive data to show that the member schools want this.

In addition, while we do not favor private lessons or exclusive team events which allow coaches to be paid, we do favor fair compensation of our high school coaches who choose to coach outside the school setting that has the potential to benefit all student-athletes from a variety of different schools and backgrounds. These non-school teams must be affiliated with the national organization that monitors and regulates the activity. This issue should receive a fresh look and ensure that the ethical issue relating to a school coach providing private lessons to a student athlete is not being confused with that coach providing professional coaching services to a non-school team.

A proposal suggesting these limitations was submitted jointly by us to the Rules and Regulations Committee in July 2018 (at the Committee's request), yet it has not been referenced or utilized. That proposal is enclosed for the Board's reference and reconsideration.

In conclusion, we request that DIAA stay within the parameters voted on at its January Board meeting – a focus on questions 22 and 24 of the survey, with further discussion around question 23. We purport that an incremental approach allows for more oversight and less impact concerning unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Trina Leclerc  
Parent of Former  
DIAA Student Athlete

MaryPat Kwoka  
President, DE Interscholastic Volleyball  
Coaches Association (DIVCA)

Jennifer Mayer  
Athletic Director/Coach

Enclosure

cc: DIAA Board Members  
DIAA Rules & Regulations Committee members  
Tommie Neubauer, Executive Director, DIAA

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
Attn: Proposed Changes to Regulation 1008 and 1009

Subject: Proposed DIAA Regulations Regarding Out of Season Coaching by High School Coaches

I write to you today about the proposed changes to DIAA regulations regarding Out of Season Coaching. I am a parent of a former DIAA student athlete and a professional involved with multiple youth organizations now and for over ten years.

I have been following this issue very closely and have been at every DIAA Board Meeting since August and both Rules and Regulations Committee meetings in February and March of 2019 and I have made a public comment at every single one of those meetings, often twice. In addition, I have already directly sent two letters (one to the entire DIAA Board and Rules and Regulations Committee and one to Mr. Neubauer, Dr. Layfield, and Mr. Cimagila) that have gone essentially unanswered about my concerns about the proposed regulations in regards to the clarity in the language and the scope of the changes. My public comment at the DIAA Board meetings in my opinion has never been reflected accurately in the meeting minutes and often has been misstated. So, I write this letter with a lot of background to the proposed changes on the table.

First, I do believe that the current rules for out of season coaching in Delaware do need to be updated to reflect the current environment of youth sports and should be revised to be more in line with our surrounding states. The current regulations do put our Delaware student athletes at disadvantage because they are often limited in selecting the coach or team that they believe will allow them to be successful in the athletic endeavors. This decision/choice on who can and how a student athlete should receive training from for their athletic development belongs with the student athlete and their parents and no regulations should restrict that choice. In addition, we are losing qualified coaches in both the school and non-school setting because coaches are making a choice. Many qualified coaches are not coaching high school and many high school coaches (which are some of the best in the state in their sport) are not coaching outside of the school because of these restrictions. Our high school coaches are normally the best vetted coaches and understand the importance of academic-based athletics and why would we not want them to have more reasonable interaction with their student athletes if possible. However, my opinion regarding the out of the season coaching has never supported basically unrestricted year around coaching in any environment that is currently being proposed but instead just for the flexibility for student-athletes and their parents to have the choice of coach, team, club, clinic, camp, etc. in non-school setting in the off-season. I have attached my public comment from 10-2018 as a reference regarding the case for relaxing the restrictions on out of season coaching as well as a proposal that was submitted to the board in July 2018. I also attached the letter (referenced above) that was sent on March 8<sup>th</sup> DIAA Board and Rules and Regulations Committee about my concerns about the proposed regulations.

More importantly, I would like to address my concerns about the proposed changes. These changes go beyond the scope of the original motion that was passed/approved at the January DIAA meeting in regards to Question #22 and Question #24 dealing with coaching out of season for non-school sports activities [during the school/academic year], and relaxing the restrictions that are currently in place for the summer from the WestEd Out of Season Coaching Survey which was also agreed with the Member Schools at their annual meeting with DIAA in January 2019. These proposed regulations will create undue pressure on and burn-out for the student athlete which was never the intent of any effort to change the rules. Student athletes could end up in the gym, court, or field up to 6 hours for each sport they play just at their school in addition to their current sports season without even mentioning the possibility of non-school training activities. The multi-sport athlete, which everyone including yourself says they want to preserve, will end up the victim in this new world. Multi-sport athletes will now feel more pressure to select a single sport simply because 1) the avenue has been given to them to specialize in their own school setting and 2) they will not be able to keep up in the new world. Not to even mention this environment will create the potential for more injuries to the athletes by not allowing them rest or recover.

In addition, stronger programs in school will get stronger, struggling programs will continue to struggle and be discontinued. School programs with better financial resources will far surpass those without, as those programs are

able to finance outside locations to hold practices. Programs that do not rely on transportation for students will have more opportunities for their programs than those that do.

In speaking with multiple parents of student athletes, these proposed changes do not align with their original concerns around out of season coaching restrictions. The majority of parents are looking for the ability to select their athlete's coach for coaching services outside of the school season without any restrictions on their choices. Now by allowing high school coaches to hold regular school-based practices during the school year, their choice has essentially been made for them again even if these practices or activities are labeled voluntary.

Also, these proposed changes do not align with the WestED survey data. The survey did not provide any data to support the unilateral changes regarding elimination of open gyms, conditioning and unfettered access to the student athletes during the school year. The survey did not ask any questions regarding coaching of an entire team or any student-athletes by their high school coaches in school-sponsored events during the school/academic year. At present, there has been no comprehensive data to show that the member schools want this and the large majority of athletic directors recently validated that in their April's meeting that they do not support the regulations 100% as written and were not pleased with the change in scope. It is my understanding this occurred before the last DIAA Meeting and several DIAA Board members were aware of the athletic directors' concerns and nothing was raised at DIAA Board Meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> which could have been an opportunity for the DIAA Board to revisit proposed regulations at that time.

While my suggestion would be to modify these regulations before approving and passing, if DIAA chooses to stay with the regulations as they are drafted, they need to be rewritten for more clarity in language. Recently, I have engaged in discussion with others about them and received two different interpretations from two separate attorneys. The use of the word "programs" being defined as "school sponsored" in section 1.1 clearly impacts the application/meaning of section 7.6.1.2. One opinion states that the subsections of 7.6.1.2 only applies to the out of coaching season in a program (i.e. school sponsored). With that said, high school coaches would now be able to provide instructional contact to their school students outside their designated sports season in a non-school affiliated organization without any restrictions, rather it be time, numbers, availability, compensation, etc. This is consistent with the comments I heard from DIAA Board and Rules and Regulations Committee members that they cannot regulate the practices of outside organizations. On the other side, another attorney has interpreted that since 7.6.1.2 states "Programs" that high school coaches are only allowed to coach their school students outside of the designated sports season if it is in a program (school-sponsored). While he stated this is the proper way to read the regulation, he also stated the 7.6.1.2.4 reference to non-school affiliated organization does not fit in that section and creates inconsistent language and intent of the regulations. Again, based on the meetings I attended, there is clearly an intention to allow the high school coaches to provide instructional contact outside of the designated sports season to their school students in non-school setting. This is further reinforced based on the fact that the original motion passed at the January meeting was to review the rules and regulations specifically related to Question #22 in the DIAA's Out of Season Coaching survey as it relates to non-school affiliated programs. A few other areas of inconsistent or unclear language raised are:

- 1) Do the dead periods apply only to programs or any type out of season coaching in any environment?
- 2) Are the dead periods applied only to student athletes that are participating in the current sports season?
- 3) Also, does the 6 hours limit apply to non-school camps and clinics? The regulations only seem to waive that specifically for school sponsored camps and clinics.

I suggest strongly that wording of the regulations needs to be addressed to make it clearer before the regulations can put into effect. Yes, they will be a learning period and yes, they will misinterpretations but I do believe for a change of this magnitude that could impact the next year's sports season tremendously that it should start in a place with consistent language, wording and understanding. To ignore these inconsistencies or lack of clarity is a bad business practice and opens the DIAA Board to the opportunity for negative criticism and puts the coaches, athletic directors and student athletes in a world of ambiguity.

Next, I would like to address the compensation (or lack thereof) to these coaches for out of season coaching. While I understand this stance lies in the Public Integrity Committee opinion of 2003 (16 years old), the climate of youth sports and student athletics is much different now. While I do not favor private lessons or exclusive school team events which allow coaches to be paid, I do believe in fair compensation of our high school coaches who choose to coach outside the school setting that has the potential benefit to all student-athletes from a variety of different

schools and backgrounds. This issue should receive a fresh look and ensure that the ethical issue relating to a school coach providing private lessons to a student athlete is not being confused with that coach providing professional coaching services to a non-school team, camp, clinic, as long as the program is open, voluntary and available to all student athletes. How is this any different from a teacher that works for outside organization and teaches SAT class? What about athletic trainers or school doctors that are providing services to a school for their athletes during school season and then those athletes go to their practice for additional services or follow up treatment? Should these trainers or doctors not receive payment for these services?

If compensation for coaching your players out of season is 100% prohibited, I ask the following scenario to be considered or addressed. If a coach is coaching a team of 10 players, and 3 of them are from their school, can the coach's salary be reduced by number of players from their school – in case by 30%. In this scenario, the coach is not being paid to coach those players.

In closing, at this time, as written, I recommend that the DIAA Board not simply reject the proposed changes but modify these proposed changes to stay in the scope of the original motion in January 2019 board meeting and adjust the regulations to only address out of coaching in non-school setting (Question #22) during the academic/school year and changes in the summer months (Question #24). The DIAA Board and Rules and Regulations Committee has made progress on this complicated task and heard from both the public and members schools positively that some of the restrictions should be relaxed. Therefore to fully reject this proposal would be a step in the wrong direction but instead scaling back the access of coaches will allow for this initiative to move forward and give the opportunity for more oversight and less impact concerning unintended consequences as well as a better understanding what changes are causing any negative impact to our student athletes.

Respectively submitted  
Trina Leclerc  
Parent of Former DIAA Student Athlete  
[REDACTED]

Senator Gay and Representative Dorsey-Walker:

Thank you for speaking with me on Tuesday afternoon. I also appreciate you addressing my concerns on Tuesday in the Joint Legislature and Sunset Committee meeting.

I wanted to share you that I find it interesting that on Wednesday morning, Dr. Layfield sent an email to the person who originally submitted the proposal (that I referenced in my public comment) for out of season coaching at their request back in July 2018 asking for her feedback and some questions. This is the first communication on this document to date with the author and the first time it has been given any review.

I also wanted to say that I think Mr. Rodriguez's comments about the concern from the medical community and the athletic directors on the DIAA Rules and Regulations Committee's and DIAA Board's proposal that was on the table in the Spring of 2019 was a little misleading. I believe I addressed this in my public comment as well as in two letters that I sent to the DIAA board back in that timeframe. I included those letters in my previous public comment and have attached again. The original scope that the DIAA board (based on feedback from the athletic directors and the WestED survey) tasked the Rules and Regs committee with in the January 2019 DIAA Board meeting was to look at two very specific pieces:

- 1) Out of season coaching during the school year on non-school teams and
- 2) Out of season coaching during the summer for school-sponsored teams.

Instead, the Committee, the Executive Director and the DIAA Board ignored that scope and went to a completely other side to having unrestricted out of season coaching in both school and non school settings which was never the request and in fact, out of season of student athletes in school settings during the school year was never addressed or asked about in the WestEd Survey. I personally believe that this was a calculated move by several board members, committee members and the current Executive Director at the time in order to attempt to show that there was no support for out of season coaching.

I believe DIAA should have taken the out of season coaching piece by piece and implemented small changes to start and then work through the more complicated pieces in order to gain more oversight or less impact concerning an unintended consequences. This is a standard good business practice with any task. However, surely 2.5 years should have been enough time. Instead, they purposely have complicated the issue to make it almost impossible to move forward.

I also believe that the December 2021 deadline is way too long for an initiative that has been in the pipeline since June 2018 and in fact I would argue that the out of season coaching has been a topic of the DIAA board for at least the last five years even before the Joint Resolution was passed. In addition, I think for changes to be effective they need to go in before the start of next years school year (2021-2020) for fall sports (effective no later than august 2021 but June 2021 would be best) because to delay to December 2021 will only mean that it would mostly likely be delayed for another full school year.

If in fact, Dr. Layfield's claim is valid that they are making progress now and they are very close I'm not sure why that deadline is not achievable. Also, I think it's important to note that the Rules and Regs committee meeting that was scheduled for this past Tuesday was canceled. Also, I want you to be aware that in the January 2021 DIAA Board meeting it was requested that the proposed regulation wording for coaching out of season on a non-school team during the school year be cleaned up to make sure it was clear on what was being proposed and be presented to the Board for a vote in the February meeting. This did not happen and the DIAA Board met twice in the month of February.

Thank you again for your time. I am happy to provide any more additional information to help with the review of DIAA at anytime.

Please add this document as an additional formal public comment on DIAA.

Best,  
Trina Leclerc



To: JOINT LEGISLATIVE & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE / Sunset Committee

From: Danielle Martin Moffett

It was shared with me the Sunset committee was performing a review of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association. I have attached the public comment I voiced at the December 10, 2020 DIAA Board meeting, addressing very visible miss-conduct by some members of the DIAA football tournament selection committee. The December 6 and December 10th meetings were both on zoom and were recorded. You can view them.

After this statement, many members of the DIAA board acknowledged:

- what was done was wrong,
- went against DIAA guidelines and
- suggested the DIAA board should give apologies to the DE athletic programs.

Unfortunately, nothing has been done since the meeting. No accountability and no changes. Please sincerely read this letter and determine for yourselves what changes to this organization are needed to focus on a fair and impartial leadership going forward that gives every athletic program in DE a fair and equitable chance to compete and be rewarded honestly.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Danielle Martin Moffett, MTS**

Chief Executive Officer

Speaker | Author | Non-Profit Strategist | Writing Coach

**Arising Ministries, Inc.** - Non-profit

[www.ArisingMinistries.org](http://www.ArisingMinistries.org)

*Building Amazing & Transforming Relationships with God and Others - Connecting God's will to our Everyday Life - Matthew 6:9-10*

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- Jeremiah 29:11

P.O. Box 658

Bear, DE 19701

Direct: 302 559 3811

**Check out my first Tedx Talk:**

<https://youtu.be/etaut0XMcw0>

December 10, 2020

To: DIAA Board and Football Tournament Selection Committee

From: Danielle Martin Moffett

Re: My Public Comments on the December 10, 2020 DIAA Board Meeting

Hello, I am a High School football parent and wife of Coach Moffett.

I had the privilege of viewing the December 6, 2020 DIAA Football Tournament Selection committee meeting, where Delmar's 4 games quickly became the hot topic. A rule change was proposed at the top of the meeting. Why? DIAA's response should have been quick and concise. Follow the rules set at the beginning of the season, giving every school a level playing field. Why not make it cut and dry by saying Delmar didn't meet the mandatory minimums and Delmar is out per the 5-game minimum rule? Why was Delmar's record Key? Because Sussex Central is Out if Delmar is eliminated from the process of consideration.

Central needed a rule change. Manipulating the rules as DIAA did, put Sussex Central in the playoffs. It's a domino effect. Delmar's games counting alters CR's record, and because of that, Sussex Central would get a bonus point. Just the extra help Central needed to get in the playoffs. This extra help/this extra point was provided by DIAA. That's sad breaking your own rule to give an advantage to one school over another.

Every football coach, every DIAA committee member and other HS football enthusiast knows how to count up playoff points. By Saturday night Dec 5<sup>th</sup> they/you knew Hodgson was in and Central was out. Yet DIAA's first order of business was to qualify a team that only had 4 games. Knowing even if Delmar qualified, they couldn't make the playoffs! Something else was in the works. What's done in the dark comes out in the light.

If you had followed your own original 2020 rules, Hodgson Vo-Tech would be in the playoffs. The 4 teams seeded would be Middletown, Smyrna, Hodgson and St. Georges.

DIAA is supposed to represent all Delaware high school athletic programs in an impartial way. On a public zoom meeting many on the committee put on a Sussex central hat and bent the rules for one team; clearly showing prejudice. That's a lack of integrity and I'm quite frankly disappointed. That's not leadership. That's not the "Fair Competition" as is written in your purpose statement. What happened at the football tournament selection committee meeting was unfair competition, deliberate and premeditative.

You are not on this committee to represent your favorite school, favorite school district, or favorite conference. Many of you broke your commitment to the student athletes across the state on Sunday. I question your ability to be impartial and effective when putting on your school hat. I cannot, we cannot trust a committee that misuses it's power so recklessly. I would challenge you to regain the trust of Delawareans and start by each of you taking a look in the mirror and decide if you are still the right person for this job. Can you be a person of integrity? Can you represent all schools and athletes? You must do better. Changes are necessary. What I'm asking you to do in the future is to use your position for good, your privilege for good, your title for good and your power for good. May God help you.

Delmar was not the only school who was impacted by COVID but ironically, they were the only team discussed and an exception given. Why???

Delawareans, schools, and student athletes deserve better, we are watching you and we expect much more from you.

Thank you for allowing me to share my voice.

Sincerely,

Danielle Martin Moffett

Author, Pastor, Speaker

[dmmoffett@arisingministries.org](mailto:dmmoffett@arisingministries.org)

## **Opening Remarks**

Good Afternoon, Madam Chair, and committee members.

After chairing the Sunset Committee, I know first-hand the work that goes into performing legislative reviews on our state's agencies, boards, and commissions. I want to thank the members of the Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset Committee for their hard work, and for allowing me to speak today. I stand here today, with the goal of strengthening the DIAA so it can operate better for our student athletes. After numerous complaints and discussions, I would like to share and explain what I have observed. I will also share the history of a resolution produced in 2018, waiver requests, standing committees, funding, and of course, I would never come to my colleagues without sharing thoughts for a resolution to these issues.

Reflecting back to 2018, I introduced SCR79, directing DOE and DIAA to promulgate regulations that permit coaches to coach student athletes out of season, with restrictions that minimize the risk of unethical activity. This resolution passed with the overwhelming support of my colleagues in the Senate and House.

A few years ago, DIAA conducted not one but a total of 3 surveys on this topic. The first survey was completed by a focus group of athletic directors in 2015. In 2017, there was a survey of athletic directors on the same subject, but it was disregarded based on the previous Executive Director's feelings that there were not enough respondents. Yet, the majority of respondents wanted the rules and regulations changed. A follow-up survey was distributed at the most inopportune time, because ask yourself: how many school members are checking their email to fill out a survey during the holidays? DIAA distributed the second survey on December 18th, 2018 and it closed on January 8th, 2019. However, the survey still had an impressive 60% response rate with a total of 949 responses. The majority of respondents identified as a coach at a DIAA member school (78.6%), 9.1% identified as a principal or headmaster; and the remaining respondents identified as an athletic director and coach, or district level administrator.

The survey results clearly indicated that there is support for out-of-season coaching, changing the current coaching guidelines so that a coach could coach athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season. To enlighten this committee further on the disorganization of DIAA, they met consistently since January, 2019 where they set their goal to provide a regulation for out of season coaching. They committed to having this completed by June 1, 2019. There have been several iterations of what transpired between the Board, the Rules & Regulations committee and other groups involved. Part of my written comments will be the documentation of a portion of meeting minutes that reflect conversations of an ad hoc committee that was tabled in July, 2019. I bring this all to your attention, because this is clearly not a well designed plan that supports coaches, AD, parents and more specifically our students and

completely violates the resolution. What is most reflective is the lack of articulated meeting minutes; and the neglect to comply with SCR79, because to date, out of season coaching has still not been created by the Rules & Regulations committee nor voted by the Board for implementation.

### **Waiver Requests**

DIAA's 2020 Annual Report indicates that their Board of Directors heard all thirty-seven requests for waivers of their regulations. It was reported that twenty-two of the thirty-seven were temporary waivers granted by the Executive Director and approved by the Board. It is noted in the Regulation 1006, that "In any event, all requests for a waiver of the rules, with all documentation complete, must be received by the Executive Director at least 21 calendar days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the DIAA Board in order to be placed on the agenda for that meeting". However, there is a lack of transparency when it comes to the timeline around these waiver requests, specifically, whether the waiver request **must** be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting in the conditions previously described. This is something that should be clearly outlined in order to prevent postponements and increase productivity.

The most recent incident took 7 months for a young student athlete to receive a waiver and only after the father wrote to DIAA and the Board members multiple times in combination with my several messages to other Board members, the Executive Director, and the Secretary of DOE. This amount of delay is unacceptable, and there should be active communication every step of the way.

### **Standing Committees**

Currently, the public does not know who sits on each of the committees with the exception of the Chair. The standing committee member selection process is not listed in the Code and is unknown to the public. The appointment process and who has legal appointing authority is not clear. It would be beneficial if not only the members of each standing committee were listed, but also if this membership consisted of the same balance that the DIAA Board has. (geographically, # of members of the public, # of members of different positions from schools/districts). In order for the process to be clear and transparent, it would be helpful to put something in the Code.

This is an area of concern for all of the standing committees, but especially for the Rules & Regulations committee. Currently, when my constituents come to me with a question or concern, and I go to look at who sits on this committee, I cannot find it.

The omission of these processes in the Code is not limited to just DIAA, but also many other boards as well.

## **Funding**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I understand the DIAA's fiscal concerns for FY21 and FY22. However, in DIAA's 2020 Annual Report, they reported that they ended FY19 with a loss of \$186,540. While FY20 appeared to be immensely better, it is not clear what led to the loss in FY19. A detailed annual financial report is necessary in order to better understand and assist DIAA's financial situation.

## **Recommendations - Opportunities for improvement**

In conclusion as promised, the DIAA is an important group that our student athletes, parents, coaches, and athletic directors, and others look to for guidance. I have provided comments today not to hinder the work of the DIAA, but to help it better serve our student athletes. Therefore, I have some opportunities for improvement that I would like to share with you:

1. The completion of regulations for out of season coaching should be a priority.
2. DIAA and its member schools would greatly benefit from an overhaul/revamp.
3. According to the Code, the Executive Director is an employee of DOE. The Executive Director's direct supervisor is the Associate Secretary of Student Support, who is also employed by DOE. This connection with DOE demonstrates a conflict, rather than a benefit to the Board and its functions. The ED should not report or be hired by DOE. HR business is OK, but this practice is a conflict of interest. There must be more accountability rather than a dotted line to DOE.
4. Accountability and transparency
  - a. Publicly accessible information is very limited. For example, the overall organization of DIAA's website is lackluster at best. The average person should **not** have to dig into the DE Code and DIAA Regulations in order to be aware of its rules and functions.
  - b. More accountability and transparency would improve public engagement.
5. Membership of standing committees should be known to the public and they should have bylaws.

Hopefully it is not too late to comment.

My concern with DIAA is that there is a definite conflict of interest. During the Football committee meeting to establish the tournament teams for the 2020 season, a member of the football committee is also the chairperson of DIAA, principal of one of the schools involved in the tournament and has a relative that coaches on that school's team.

The discussion about the criteria to determine the teams in the tournament impacted this member's school directly. He spoke in favor of changing the original criteria and voted in favor of the criteria that allowed his school to participate in the tournament (knocking out another school).

Clearly a conflict of interest - as a minimum he should have recused himself from voting. I would also wonder if other members of the football committee voted along with the DIAA chairperson because they may have felt pressure.

Thanks for listening

George Guy

January 17, 2019 DIAA Board of Directors Meeting

he feels a timeline would be good for the Rules and Regulations to work with. Mr. Cimaglia explained a realistic timeline and suggested placing a goal on making changes. Some Board members commented that they do not feel a timeline should be placed on changes to the rule. The motion carried by a vote of 12 – yes [Waterman, Andrus, Laws, Harris, Cimaglia, Layfield, Watson, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, Thompson, and Bley]

Mr. Laws made a motion to give direction to the Rules and Regulations Committee that the Board's charge is to be its top priority and to report back in February with its status and at that point in time have action by the Board to move forward to get changes enacted with a tentative goal of June 1. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to second the motion. Dr. Fitzgerald withdrew his second. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried by a vote of 7 - yes [Waterman, Andrus, Laws, Harris, Watson, Evans-Gunter, and Thompson] and 5 – no [Cimaglia, Layfield, Fitzgerald, Breeding, and Bley].



# 2018 DIAA Member School Survey Results

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**Pamela MacDougall**  
**Natalie Lacireno-Paquet**

**Date – January 15, 2019**

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## Background

The Delaware Department of Education and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) asked WestEd to assist with administering a survey around issues of out-of-season coaching, open-gym and conditioning programs. The survey was administered through SurveyMonkey. The survey opened on December 18, 2018 and closed on January 8, 2019. The survey was sent to 1, 574 coaches, athletic directors and school and district administrators as identified by the DIAA. The survey had a 60% response rate, with a total of 949 responses.

The majority of respondents (78.6%, n=742) identified as a coach at a DIAA member school. Eighty-six respondents (9.1%, n=86) identified as a principal or headmaster of a DIAA school, while 3.2% (n=30) identified as an athletic director and coach at a DIAA member school and 2.3% (n=22) identified as a district level administrator of one or more DIAA member schools. Five respondents skipped this question. The majority of respondents indicated that they were part of a public school (70.2%) and of those respondents who indicated they were part of a public school, 66.7% were part of a traditional public school.

We first present a brief narrative summary of the survey results. Below that, is a report of the survey findings by question.

### Coaching Out of Season

Over 90.0% of respondents from each role indicated that they were aware of what is and is not allowed under the current DIAA rules and regulations. Their responses to the specific questions about coaching out of season varied:

Respondents were asked if Delaware athletes are at a disadvantage when competing against athletes from schools in other states that allow coaching out of season. District level administrators and athletic directors were split on this question compared to coaches, principals/headmasters and those who indicated they are both an athletic director and coach. The majority of respondents in those categories indicated that they thought athletes were at a disadvantage.

When asked if a change [relaxing] in the current out of season coaching regulations will result in greater undue influence, District administrators were the only group where a majority (75%) indicated yes. Sixty-five percent of district level administrators also indicated that they are not in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season during the school year. Whereas a strong majority of principals/headmasters (64.6%), athletic directors (57.1%), coaches (54.9%), and those who are both athletic directors and coaches (56.7%) reported being in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach could coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated school sport season.

Some other notable findings include:

- A majority of respondents in all roles were also in favor of changing the rules to permit coaches to coach student athletes during the summer without the current restrictions.
- All respondent groups, except for athletic directors were in favor of coaches being compensated for their coaching services during the summer season.
- There were not large differences in opinions on the use of no contact periods during the school year. Except for athletic directors and those who are both athletic directors and coaches, each

group was split with about 40-50 percent being in favor of no contact periods and 50-60 percent not being in favor of no contact periods.

- Overwhelmingly (67% and higher) all respondents groups indicated they did not favor the use of no contact periods during the summer.
- A majority of all respondent groups except for district level administrators were in favor of coaches being able to coach an unlimited number of student athletes outside of the designated sports season.
- A majority of district level administrators, athletic directors, and those who are both athletic directors and coaches believe that it is highly likely or somewhat likely that a relaxing of the current out of season coaching rules will deter students from participating in multiple high school sports.
- District level administrators felt strongly that relaxing the current out of season coaching rules will favor larger enrollment schools (80%), whereas opinion was more mixed for the other groups.

### Open Gym Programs

For the most part, there were not large variations in responses about the open gym programs. Some highlights from the survey include:

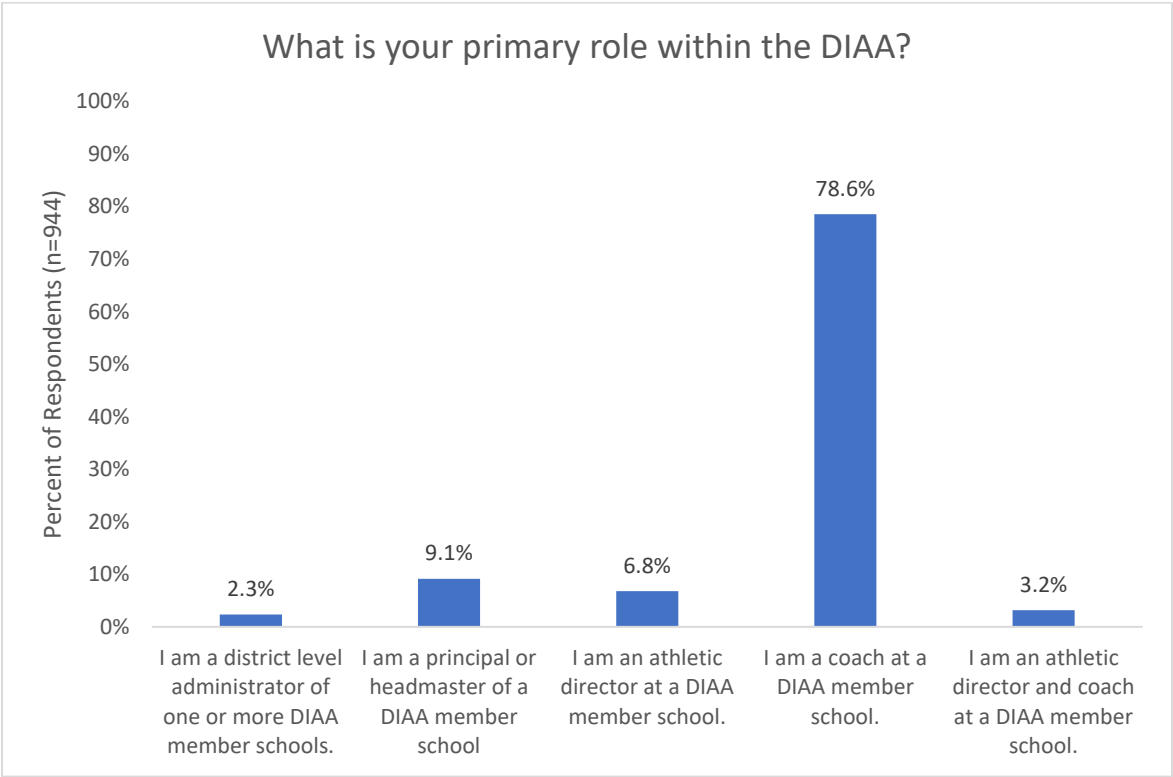
- At least 65 percent of District Administrators, principals, Coaches believe the DIAA should NOT limit the number of open-gym programs a school can offer per week. Opinion among Athletic Directors and those who are Athletic Directors and Coaches, was more evenly split.
- A vast majority of all respondent groups do not think open gym programs should only be initiated by students.
- A vast majority of all respondents agree that open-gym programs should be subject to approval of a school's principal/headmaster.
- A majority of all respondents, except Athletic Directors, agree that schools should be required to publish the dates of their open gym programs on their sports calendars.
- District level administrators were split, 55 to 45 percent in their opinion of whether a coach should be able to organize activity during open gym. Whereas a vast majority of all other respondent groups believe a coach should be able to organize the activities held during an open gym session.
- A majority of respondent groups do not believe that non-school approved personnel should be able to interact with students during an open gym period.
- District level administrators overwhelmingly did not think the DIAA should do away with open gym regulations. The opinion among other respondent groups was more mixed., but none of the groups had a majority in favor of doing away with the regulations.
- A majority of District Administrators, principals, and those who are both Athletic Director and Coach do not think that the DIAA should amend its current conditioning programs regulations. Opinion on the matter was evenly split for Athletic directors and coaches.

### Conditioning Programs

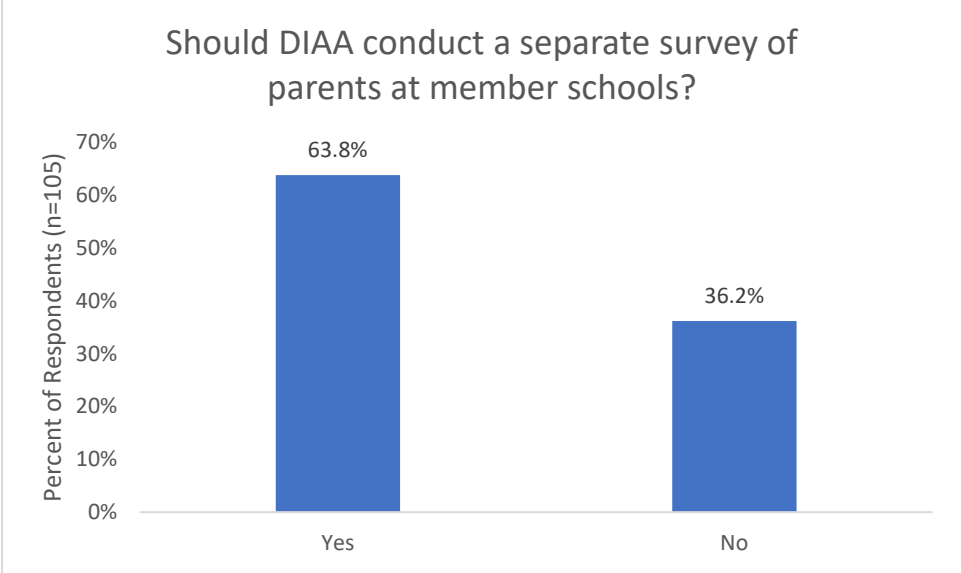
Respondents were asked whether or not the DIAA should amend the current Conditioning Programs regulation. Athletic directors and coaches were split on whether the regulations should be amended, while respondents who identified as a district administrators, principal/headmaster or athletic director and coach were mostly against amending the current Conditioning Programs regulations.

# Coaching out of Season

Q1. What is your primary role within the DIAA? Please check one:



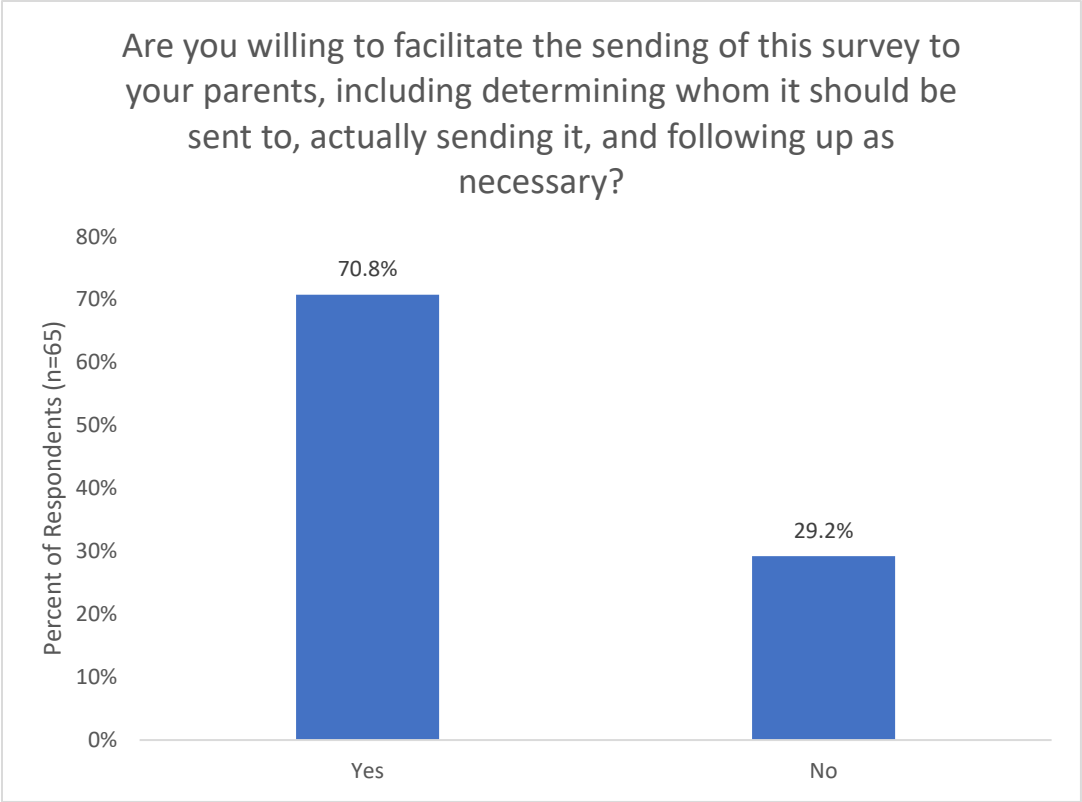
Q2. DIAA is charged with developing rules and regulations related to member schools' interscholastic athletics. Should DIAA conduct a separate survey of parents at member schools?<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they were a district level administrator of one or more DIAA member school or indicated that they were a principal or headmaster of a DIAA member school in question 1.

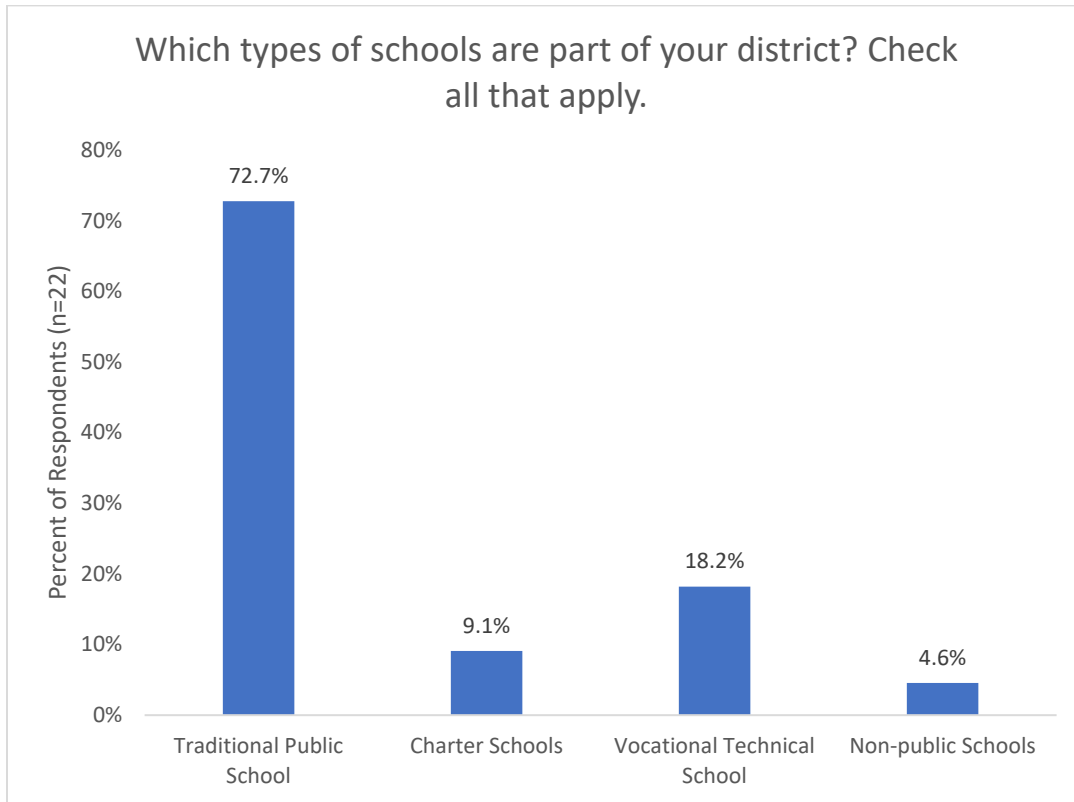
Q3. Are you willing to facilitate the sending of this survey to your parents, including determining whom it should be sent to, actually sending it, and following up as necessary?<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>2</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who answered yes to question 2.

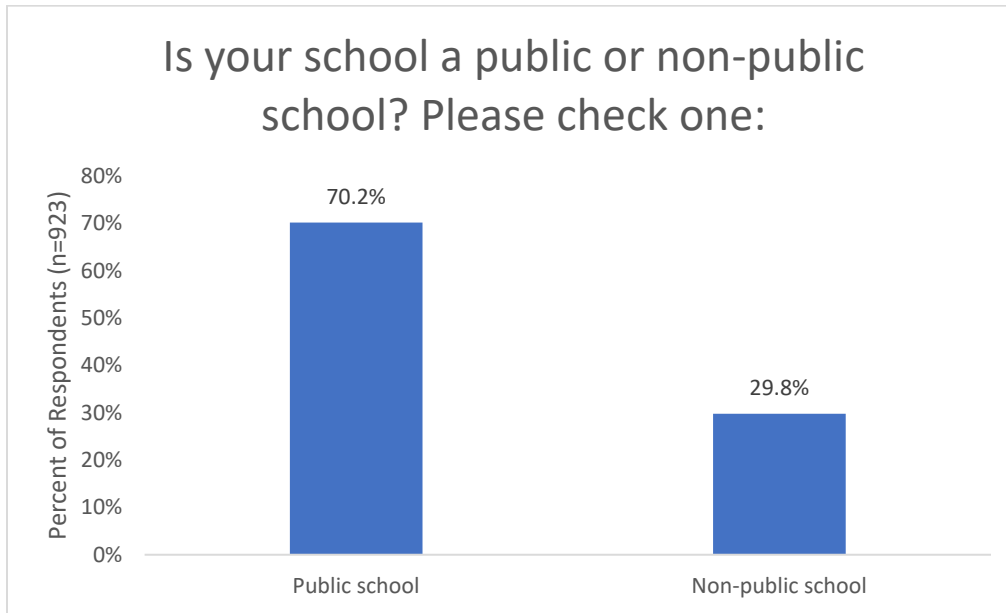
Q4. Which types of schools are part of your district? Check all that apply.<sup>3</sup>



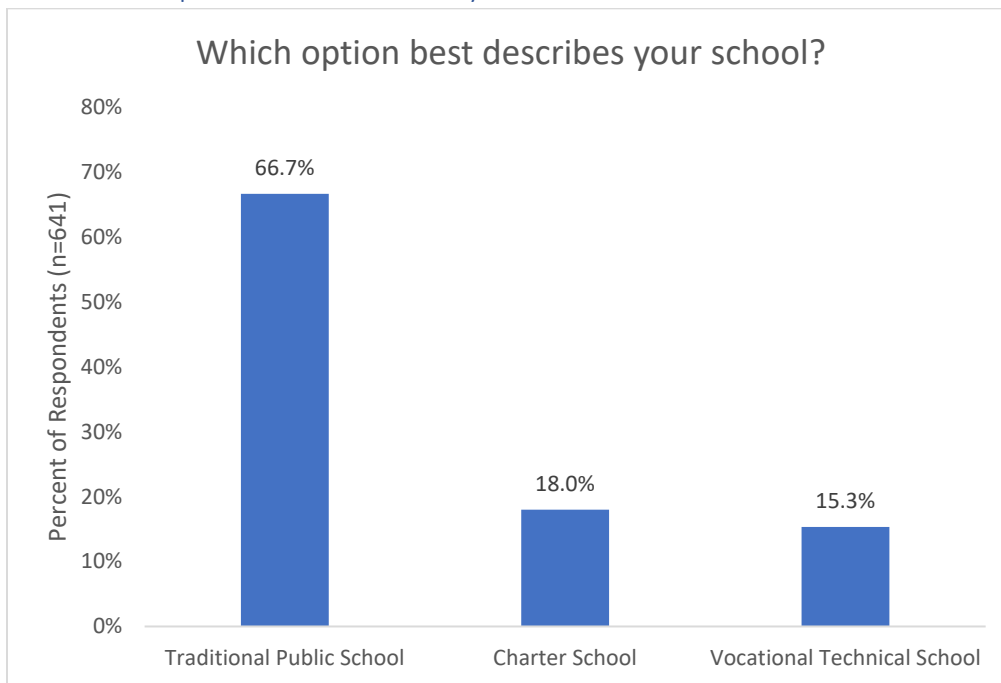
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<sup>3</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they were a district level administrator on question 1.

Q5. Is your school a public or non-public school? Please check one:<sup>4</sup>



Q6. Which option best describes your school?<sup>5</sup>



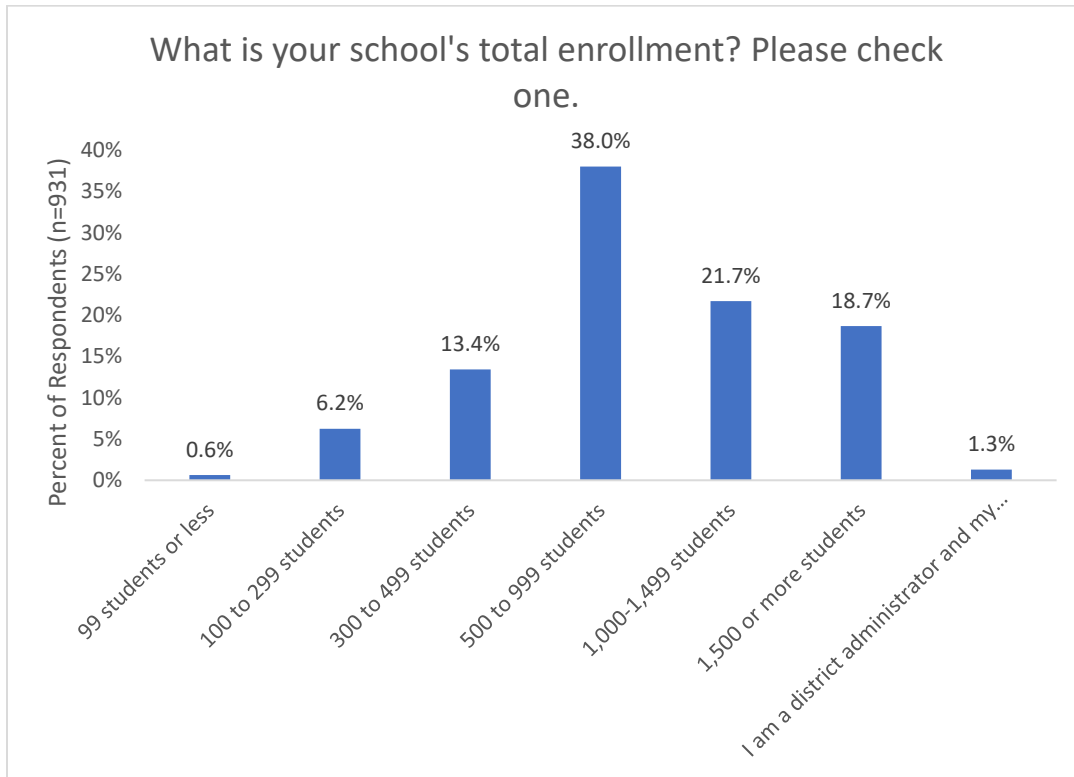
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<sup>4</sup> This question was asked of everyone except those who identified as a district level administrator on question 1.

<sup>5</sup> This question was only asked of those who identified their school as a public school in question 5.

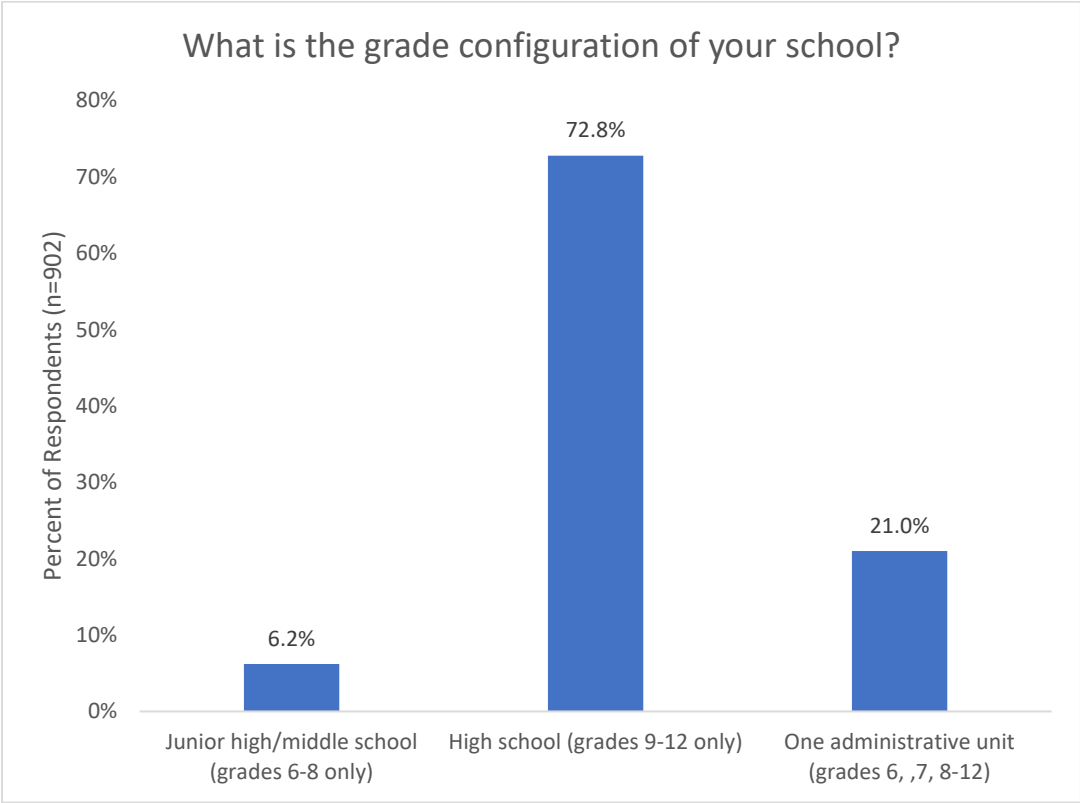


Q7. What is your school's total enrollment? Please check one.



Twelve respondents selected the response option “I am a district administrator and my district/charter enrollment is \_\_\_\_”. The average total district enrollment reported by these administrators was 7,950, with the highest total enrollment at 16,954 and the lowest total enrollment listed as 1,200.

Q8. What is the grade configuration of your school?<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>6</sup> This question was not shown to respondents who identified as a district level administrator in Question 1.

The following questions (Question#9 - #11) were only asked of respondents who indicated that they were a district level administrator in Question 1.

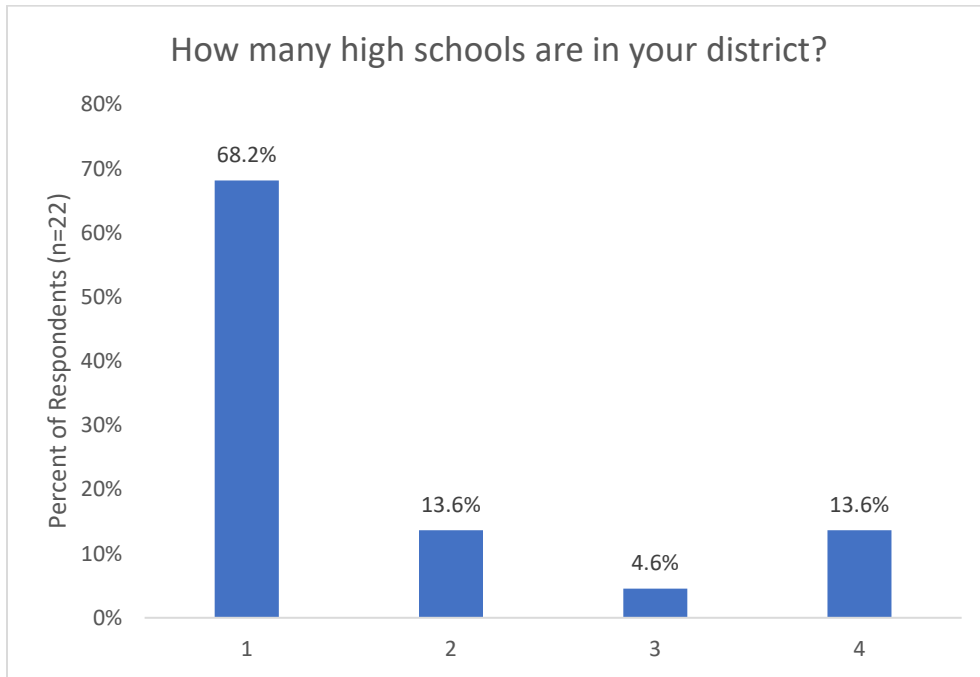
Q9. What DIAA sponsored sports does your district or school offer? Check all that apply. \*

\* Respondents could select more than one response option, thus the percentages will add up to more than 100%.

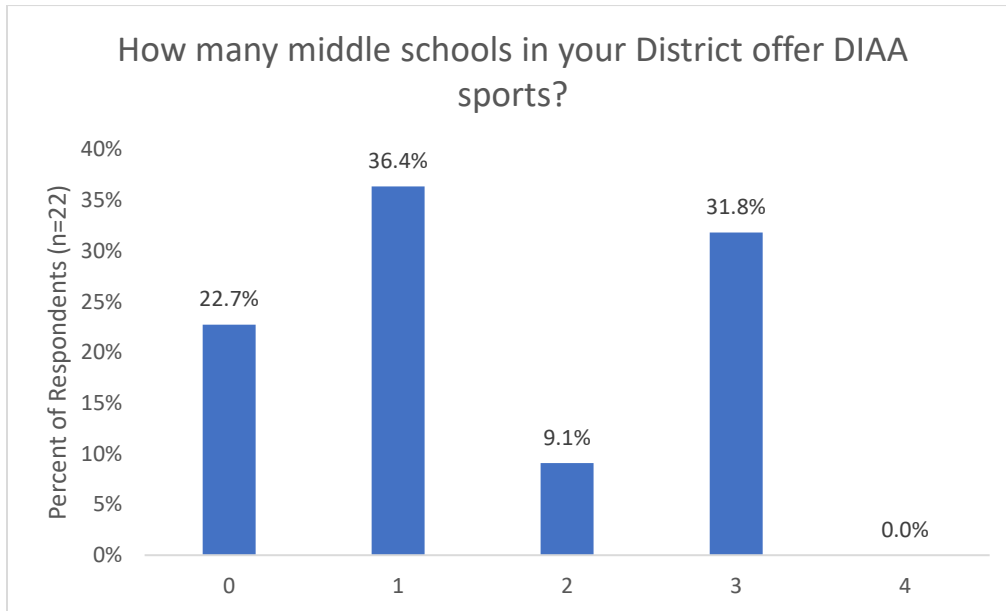
**Table 1. What DIAA sponsored sports does your district or school offer?**

Sport	Percent (N)
Boys' Basketball	99.1% (n=106)
Girls' Basketball	98.1% (n=105)
Boys' Soccer	94.4% (n=101)
Baseball	90.7% (n=97)
Volleyball	87.9% (n=94)
Field Hockey	86.0% (n=92)
Girls' Soccer	86.0% (n=92)
Cross Country	83.2% (n=89)
Softball	82.2% (n=88)
Wrestling	80.4% (n=86)
Track & Field	79.4% (n=85)
Football	73.8% (n=79)
Boys' Lacrosse	70.1% (n=75)
Golf	68.2% (n=73)
Indoor Track	56.1% (n=60)
Swimming & Diving	54.2% (n=58)
Tennis	54.2% (n=58)
Girls' Lacrosse	51.4% (n=55)
Unified® Flag Football	29.0% (n=31)
Unified® Basketball	25.2% (n=27)
Unified® Track	24.3% (n=26)
None of the above	0.0% (n=0)

Q10. How many high schools are in your district?



Q11. How many middle schools in your District offer DIAA sports?



Q.12 What DIAA-recognized sport(s) do you coach? Check all that apply.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 2. What DIAA-recognized sport(s) do you coach? Check all that apply.**

Sport	Percent (N)
Football	17.5% (n=138)
Track & Field	12.0% (n=95)
Volleyball	11.9% (n=94)
Girls' Soccer	11.9% (n=94)
Boys' Soccer	11.8% (n=93)
Baseball	11.6% (n=92)
Cross Country	11.3% (n=89)
Boys' Basketball	9.9% (n=77)
Boys' Lacrosse	9.5% (n=75)
Field Hockey	9.4% (n=74)
Girls' Basketball	9.4% (n=74)
Softball	9.1% (n=72)
Wrestling	8.9% (n=70)
Indoor Track	8.3% (n=66)
Golf	7.3% (n=58)
Tennis	7.3% (n=58)
Swimming & Diving	6.7% (n=53)
Girls' Lacrosse	6.6% (n=52)
None of the above	3.7% (n=29)
Unified® Flag Football	1.7% (n=13)
Unified® Track	1.7% (n=13)
Unified® Basketball	1.5% (n=12)

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<sup>7</sup> This question was only asked of those respondents who indicated they were an athletic director or a coach, or both at a DIAA member school

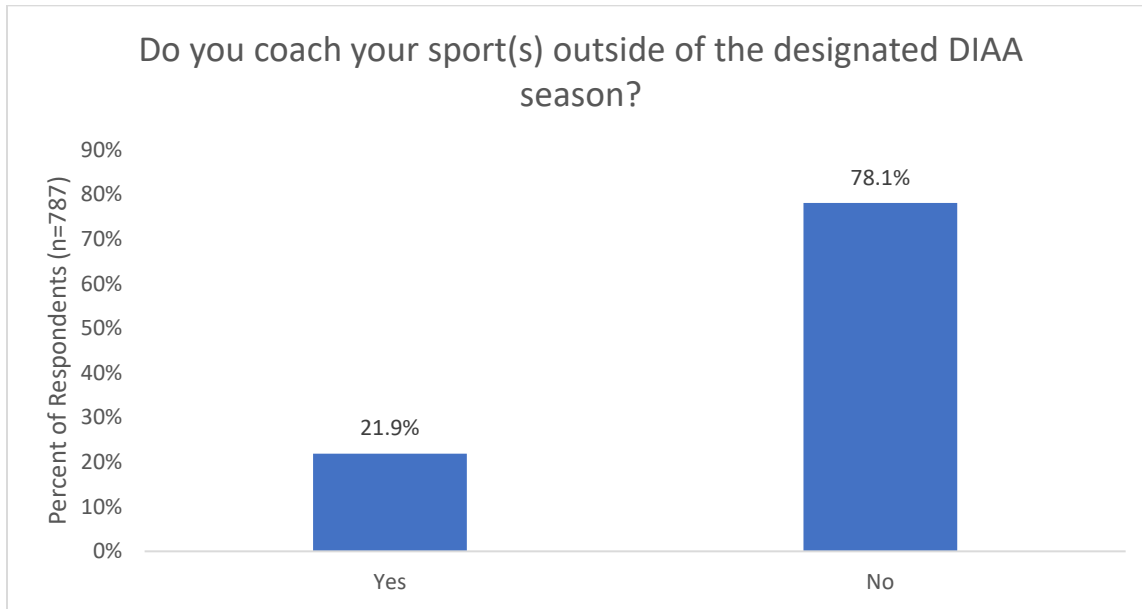
Q13. What type of contact do you have with your athletes during the out of season time period? Check all that apply.<sup>8\*</sup>

\*Respondents could select more than one response option, thus percentages may add up to more than 100.

**Table 3. What type of contact do you have with your athletes during the out of season time period?**

Type of Contact	Percent (N)
Conditioning Program	47.3% (n=352)
Organizational Meetings	43.0% (n=320)
Summer League	33.2% (n=247)
Open Gym Time	30.8% (n=229)
Other (please specify)	24.1% (n=179)

Q14. Do you coach your sport(s) outside of the designated DIAA season?<sup>9</sup>



Q15. What sport(s) do you coach outside of school outside of the DIAA season?<sup>10</sup>

\*Respondents could select more than one response option, thus percentages may add up to more than 100.

<sup>8</sup> This question was only asked of those respondents who indicated they were an athletic director or a coach at a DIAA member school

<sup>9</sup> This question was only asked of those respondents who indicated they were an athletic director or a coach at a DIAA member school

<sup>10</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they coached a sport(s) outside of the designated DIAA season in Question 14.

**Table 4. What sport(s) do you coach outside of school outside of the DIAA season?**

Sport	Percent (N)
Volleyball	15.0% (n=26)
Boys' Basketball	12.1% (n=21)
Wrestling	11.0% (n=19)
Boys' Soccer	8.7% (n=15)
Baseball	8.1% (n=14)
Boys' Lacrosse	7.5% (n=13)
Football	6.9% (n=12)
Girls' Basketball	6.9% (n=12)
Swimming & Diving	5.8% (n=10)
Softball	5.8% (n=10)
None of the above	5.8% (n=10)
Field Hockey	5.2% (n=9)
Girls' Soccer	4.6% (n=8)
Tennis	4.1% (n=7)
Track & Field	3.5% (n=6)
Cross Country	1.7% (n=3)
Golf	1.7% (n=3)
Girls' Lacrosse	1.7% (n=3)
Indoor Track	0.6% (n=1)
Unified® Flag Football	0.0% (n=0)
Unified® Track	0.0% (n=0)

Q16. What type of team(s) do you coach outside of school? Check all that apply.\*<sup>11</sup>

\*Respondents could select more than one response option, thus percentages may add up to more than 100.

**Table 5. What type of team(s) do you coach outside of school?**

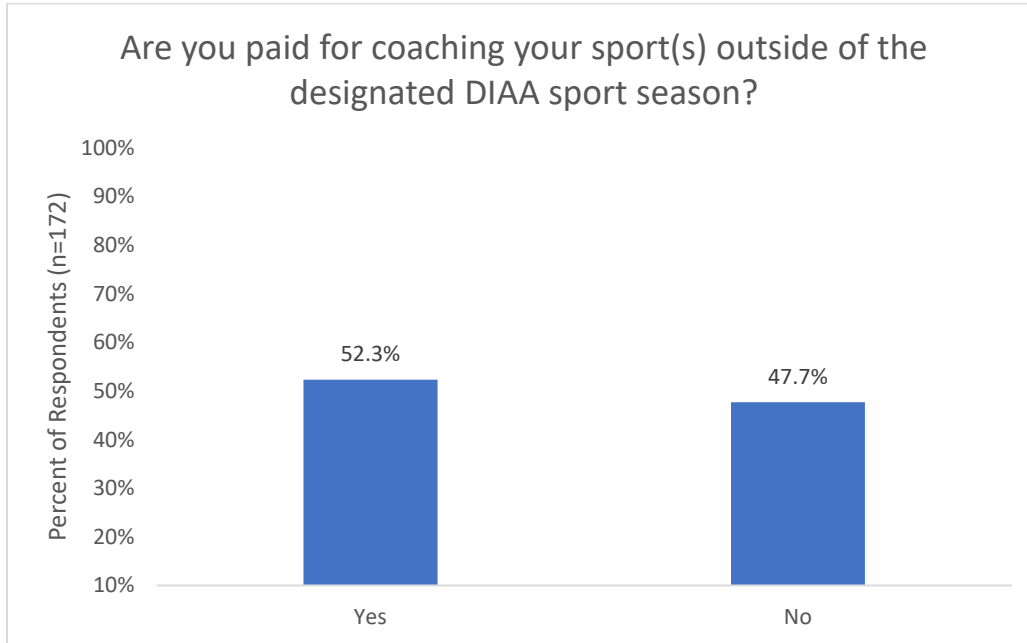
Type of Team	Percent (N)
Club travel team	54.7% (n=94)
Camps	49.4% (n=85)
Summer League Team	36.1% (n=62)
Clinics run a non-profit organization	22.7% (n=39)
Clinics run by a for-profit organization	20.4% (n=35)
In state club team	18.0% (n=31)
Other (please specify)	13.4% (n=23)

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<sup>11</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they coached a sport(s) outside of the designated DIAA season in Question 14.



Q17. Are you paid for coaching your sport(s) outside of the designated DIAA sport season?<sup>12</sup>



Q18. How are you paid for coaching your sport(s) outside of school? Please list the sports below for each of the options that apply.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 6. How are you paid for coaching your sport(s) outside of school?**

Method of Payment	Percent (N)
I am paid through a club team for the following sport(s):	65.9% (n=54)
I am paid as a camp instructor for the following sport(s):	62.2% (n=51)
I am paid as a clinic instructor for the following sport(s):	53.7% (n=44)
I am paid through private lessons/instructions for the following sport(s):	50.0% (n=41)

<sup>12</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they coached a sport(s) outside of the designated DIAA season in Question 14.

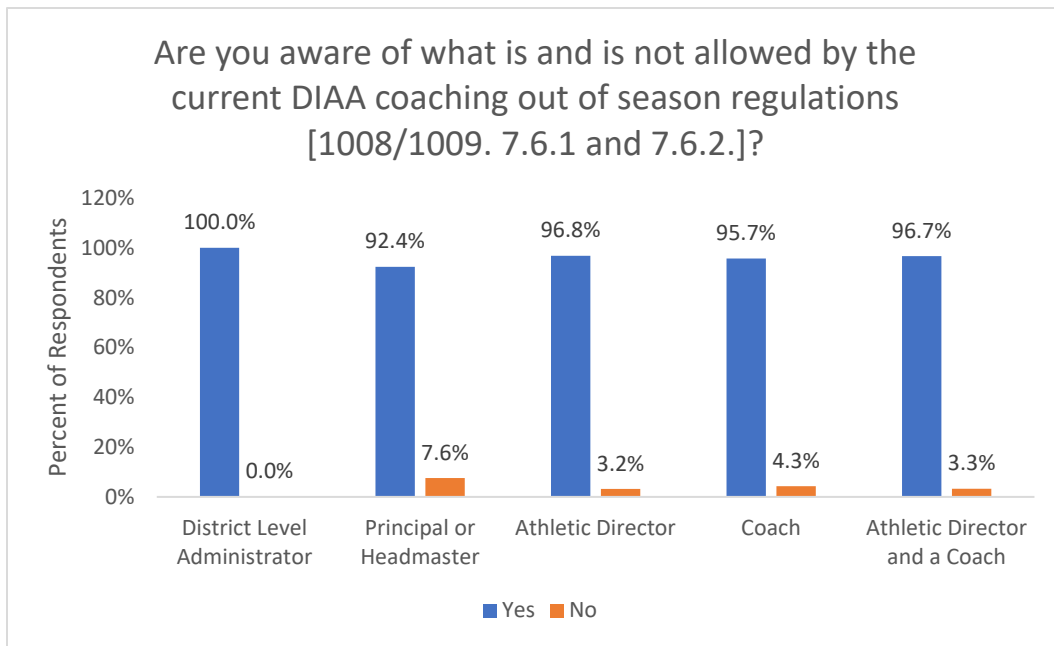
<sup>13</sup> This question was only asked of respondents who indicated they were paid for coaching the sport outside of the designated DIAA sport season in Question 17.

The following questions (Question#19-#45) were shown to all respondents. The following sections disaggregate their responses by their roles.

## Coaching Out of Season (Regulations 1008 & 1009-7.6)

Q.19 Are you aware of what is and is not allowed by the current DIAA coaching out of season regulations [1008/1009. 7.6.1 and 7.6.2.]?

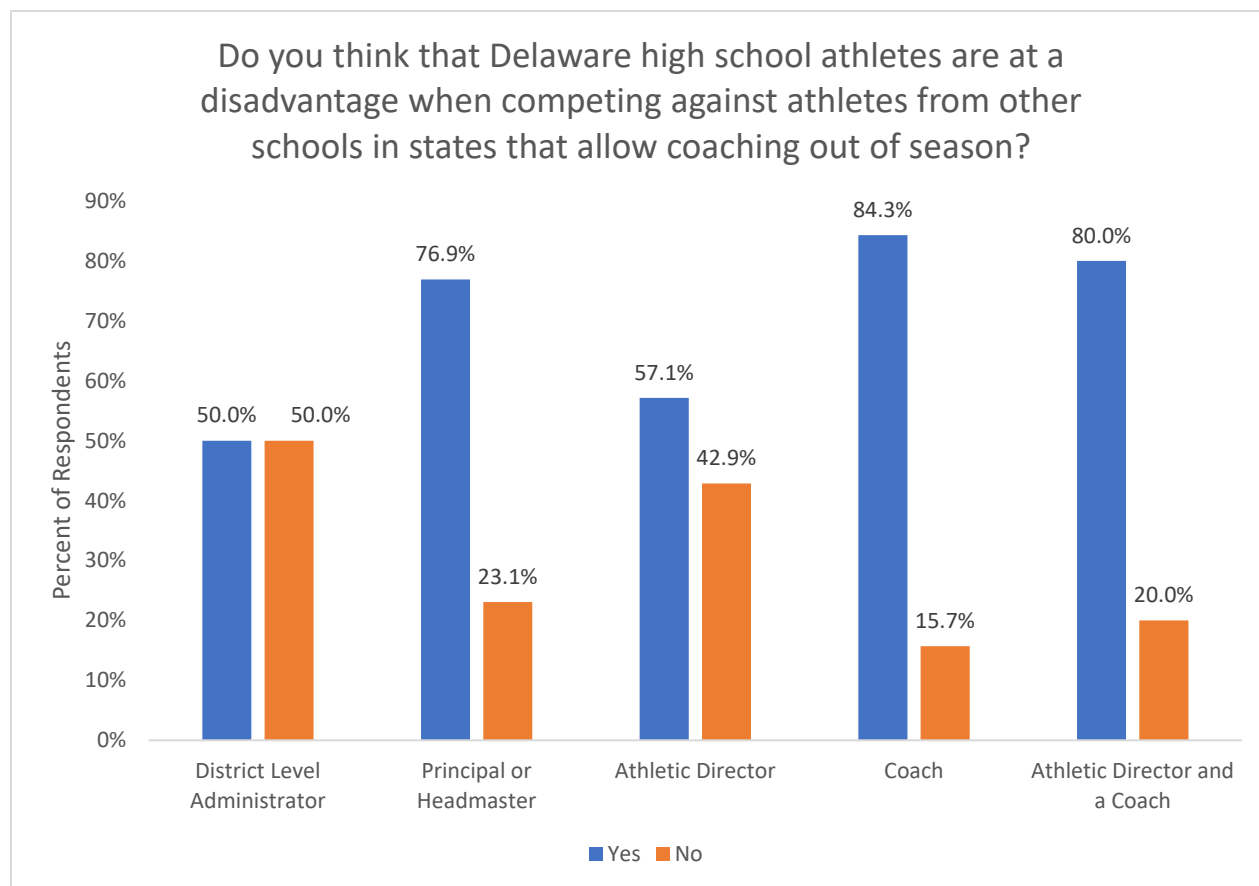
(<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1000/1009.shtml#TopOfPage>)



**Table 7. Are you aware of what is and is not allowed by the current DIAA coaching out of season regulations?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	100.0% (n=20)	0.0% (n=0)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	92.4% (n=73)	7.6% (n=6)	100.0% (n=79)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	96.8% (n=61)	3.2% (n=2)	100.0% (n=63)
<b>Coach</b>	95.7% (n=647)	4.3% (n=29)	100.0% (n=676)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	96.7% (n=29)	3.3% (n=1)	100.0% (n=30)

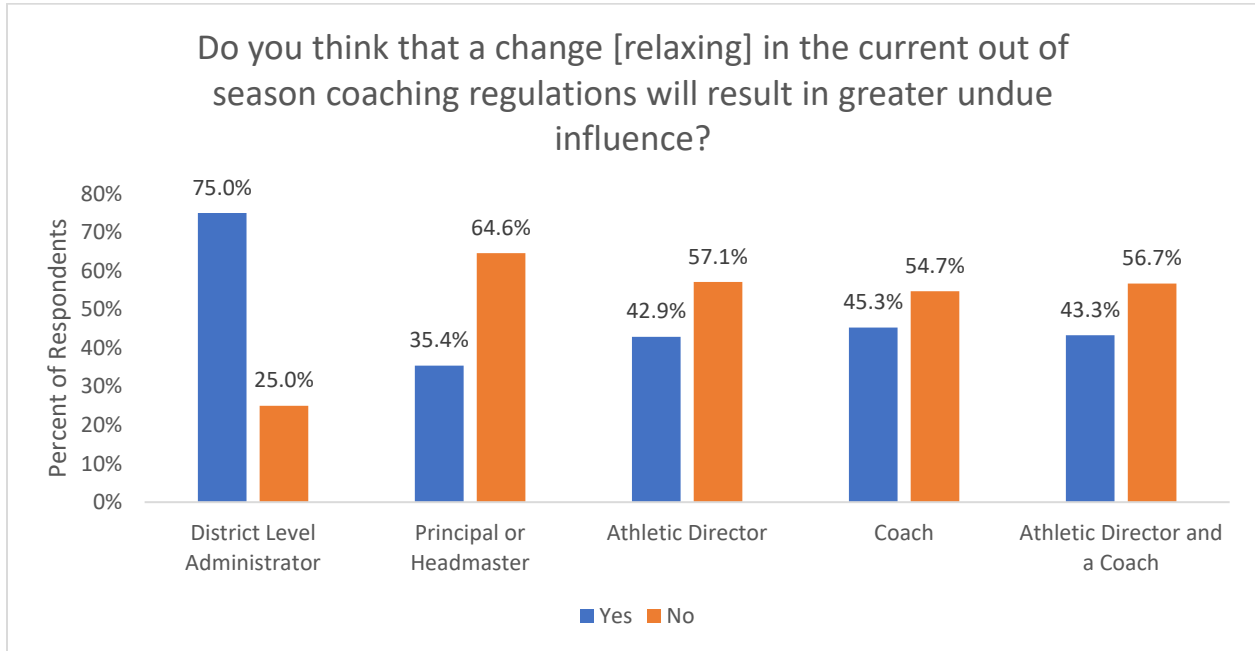
Q20. Do you think that Delaware high school athletes are at a disadvantage when competing against athletes from schools other in states that allow coaching out of season?



**Table 8. Do you think that Delaware high school athletes are at a disadvantage when competing against athletes from other schools in states that allow coaching out of season?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
District Level Administrator	50.0% (n=10)	50.0% (n=10)	100.0% (n=20)
Principal or Headmaster	76.9% (n=60)	23.1% (n=18)	100.0% (n=78)
Athletic Director	57.1% (n=36)	42.9% (n=27)	100.0% (n=63)
Coach	84.2% (n=567)	15.8% (n=106)	100.0% (n=673)
Athletic Director and a Coach	80.0% (n=24)	20.0% (n=6)	100.0% (n=30)

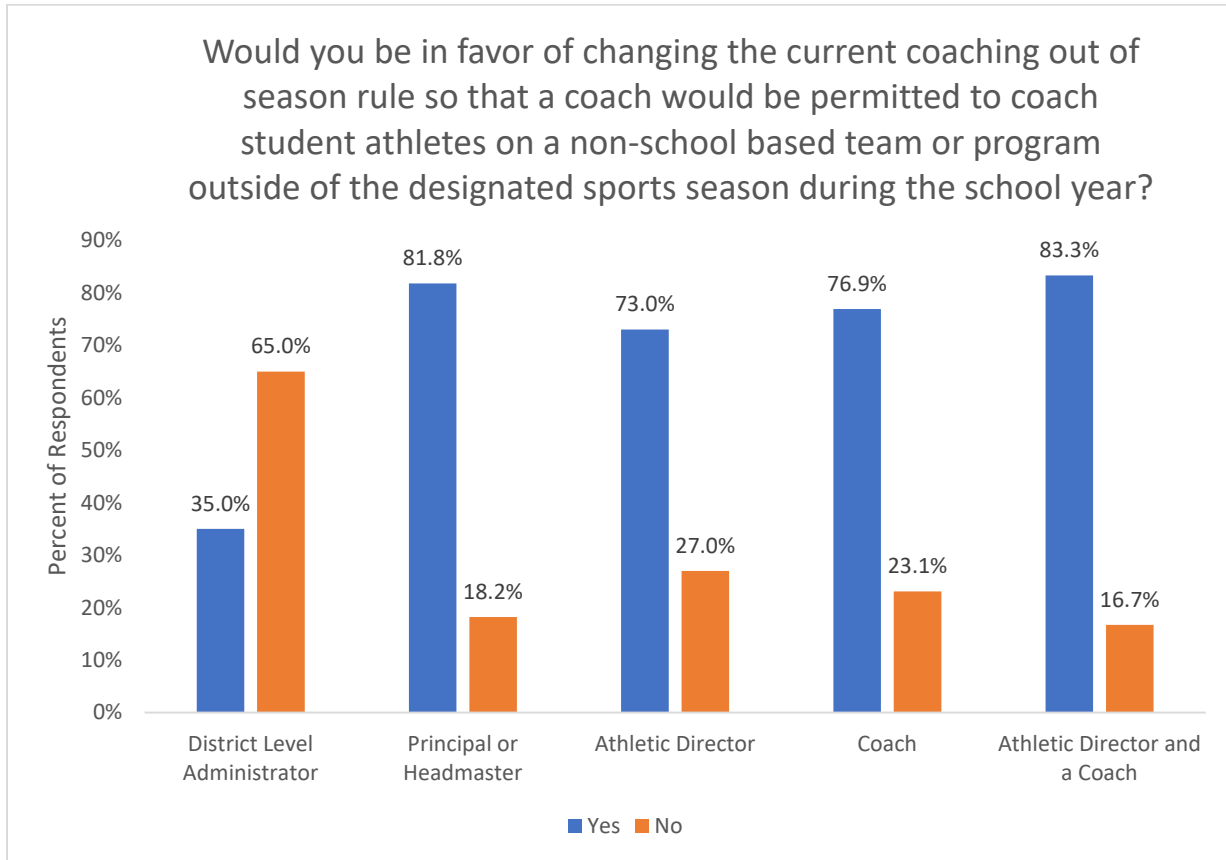
Q21. Do you think that a change [relaxing] in the current out of season coaching regulations will result in greater undue influence? [For more information regarding Undue Influence, Refer to DIAA Regulation 1008/1009.10 and the FAQs for 1008/1009.10]Regulation Link - <http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/1000/1009.shtml#TopOfPage>  
 FAQ Link - <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/348/FAQs%201009.pdf>



**Table 9. Do you think that a change [relaxing] in the current out of season coaching regulations will result in greater undue influence?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	75.0% (n=15)	25.0% (n=5)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	35.4% (n=28)	64.6% (n=51)	100.0% (n=79)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	42.9% (n=27)	57.1% (n=36)	100.0% (n=63)
<b>Coach</b>	45.3% (n=297)	54.7% (n=359)	100.0% (n=656)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	43.3% (n=13)	56.7% (n=17)	100.0% (n=30)

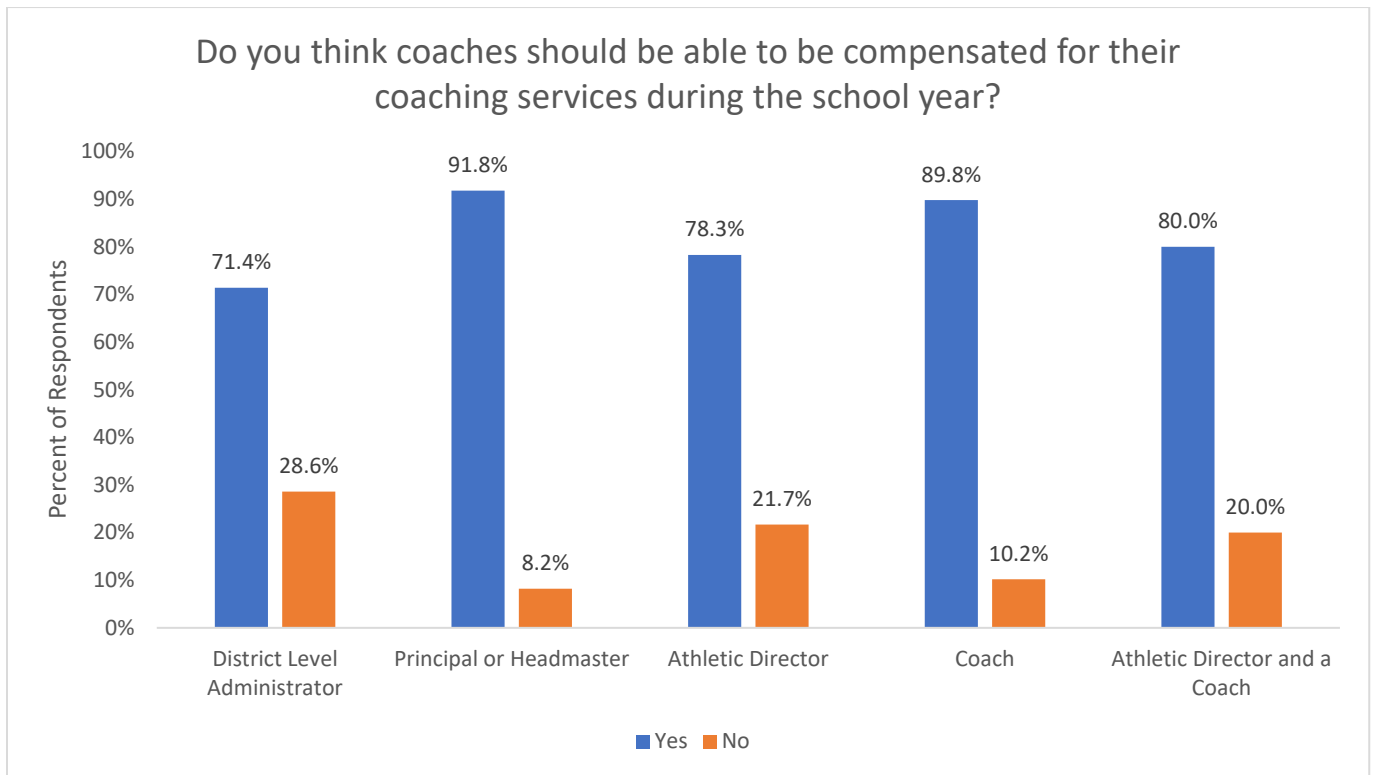
Q22. Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season during the school year?



**Table 10. Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season during the school year?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	35.0% (n=7)	65.0% (n=13)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	81.8% (n=63)	18.2% (n=14)	100.0% (n=77)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	73.0% (n=46)	27.0% (n=17)	100.0% (n=63)
<b>Coach</b>	76.9% (n=519)	23.1% (n=156)	100.0% (n=675)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	83.3% (n=25)	16.7% (n=5)	100.0% (n=30)

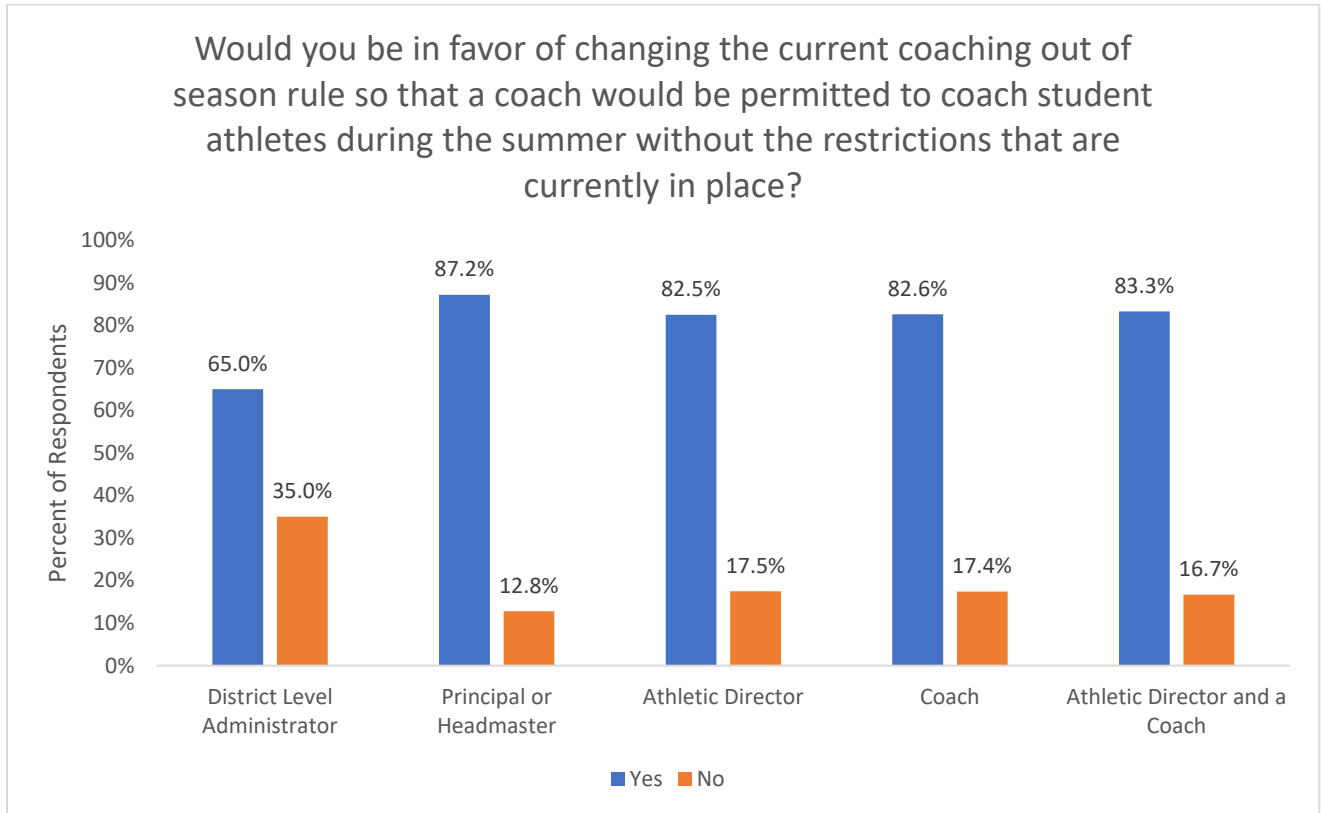
Q23. Do you think coaches should be able to be compensated for their coaching services during the school year?<sup>14</sup>



**Table 11. Do you think coaches should be able to be compensated for their coaching services during the school year?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	71.4% (n=5)	28.6% (n=2)	100.0% (n=7)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	91.8% (n=56)	8.2% (n=5)	100.0% (n=61)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	78.3% (n=36)	21.7% (n=10)	100.0% (n=46)
<b>Coach</b>	89.8% (n=466)	10.2% (n=53)	100.0% (n=519)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	80.0% (n=20)	20.0% (n=5)	100.0% (n=25)

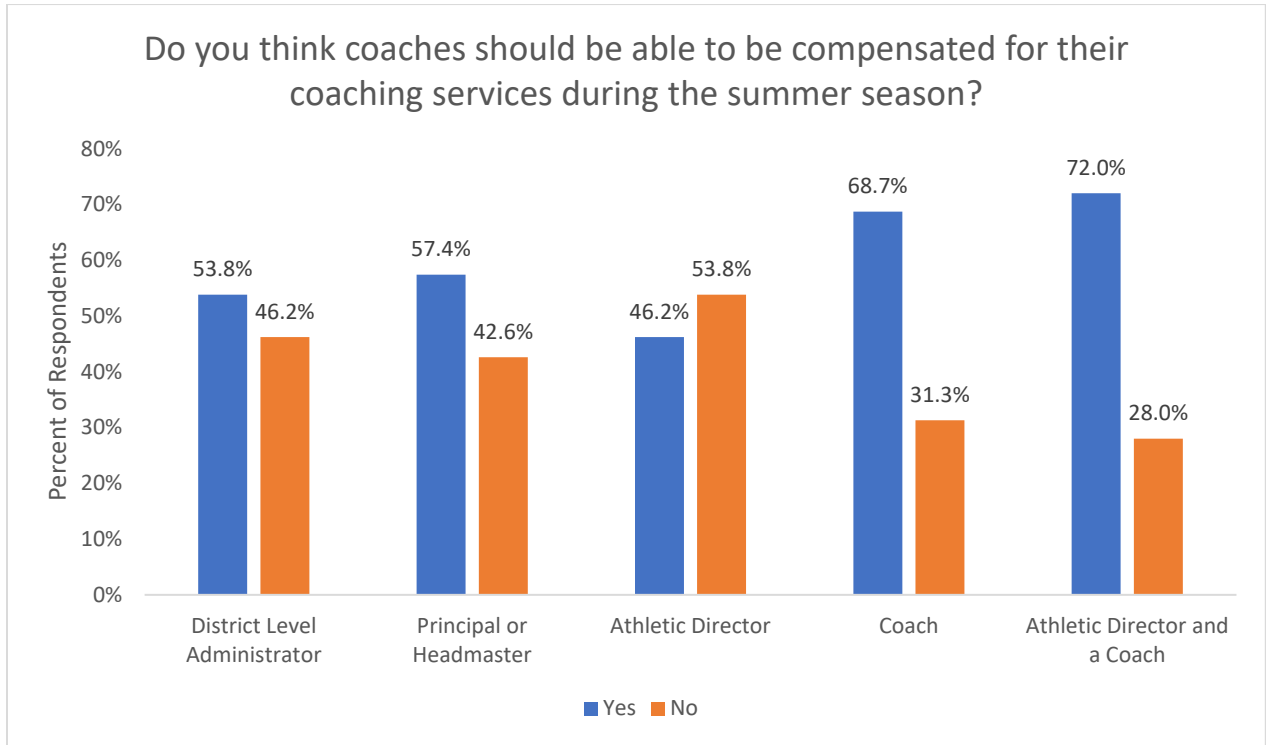
Q24. Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes during the summer without the restrictions that are currently in place?



**Table 12. Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes during the summer without the restrictions that are currently in place?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	65.0% (n=13)	35.0% (n=7)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	87.2% (n=68)	12.8% (n=10)	100.0% (n=78)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	82.5% (n=52)	17.5% (n=11)	100.0% (n=63)
<b>Coach</b>	82.6% (n=556)	17.4% (n=117)	100.0% (n=673)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	83.3% (n=25)	16.7% (n=5)	100.0% (n=30)

Q25. Do you think coaches should be able to be compensated for their coaching services during the summer season?<sup>15</sup>



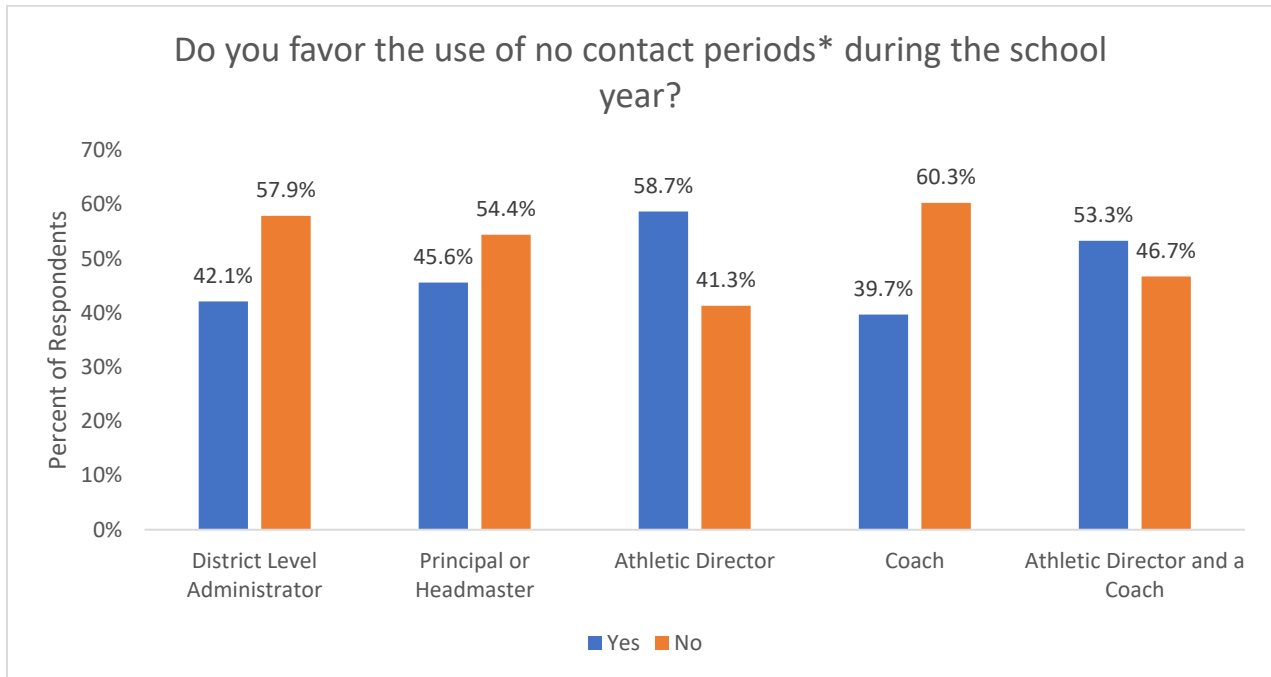
**Table 13. Do you think coaches should be able to be compensated for their coaching services during the summer season?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	53.8% (n=7)	46.2% (n=6)	100.0% (n=13)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	57.4% (n=39)	42.6% (n=29)	100.0% (n=68)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	46.2% (n=24)	53.8% (n=28)	100.0% (n=52)
<b>Coach</b>	68.7% (n=380)	31.3% (n=173)	100.0% (n=553)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	72.0% (n=18)	28.0% (n=7)	100.0% (n=25)

<sup>15</sup> This question was only shown to respondents who answered yes to Question 24.



Q26. Do you favor the use of no contact periods\* during the school year? \*A no-contact period is a designated time when coaches may not have any athletic-based contact with their athletes. Routine school interaction is allowed.



**Table 14. Do you favor the use of no contact periods\* during the school year?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	42.1% (n=8)	57.9% (n=11)	100.0% (n=19)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	45.6% (n=36)	54.4% (n=43)	100.0% (n=79)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	58.7% (n=37)	41.3% (n=26)	100.0% (n=63)
<b>Coach</b>	39.7% (n=264)	60.3% (n=401)	100.0% (n=665)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	53.3% (n=16)	46.7% (n=14)	100.0% (n=30)

Q27. When do you think these no contact periods should be? Check all that apply.\*<sup>16</sup>

\*Respondents could select more than one response option, thus percentages may add up to more than 100.

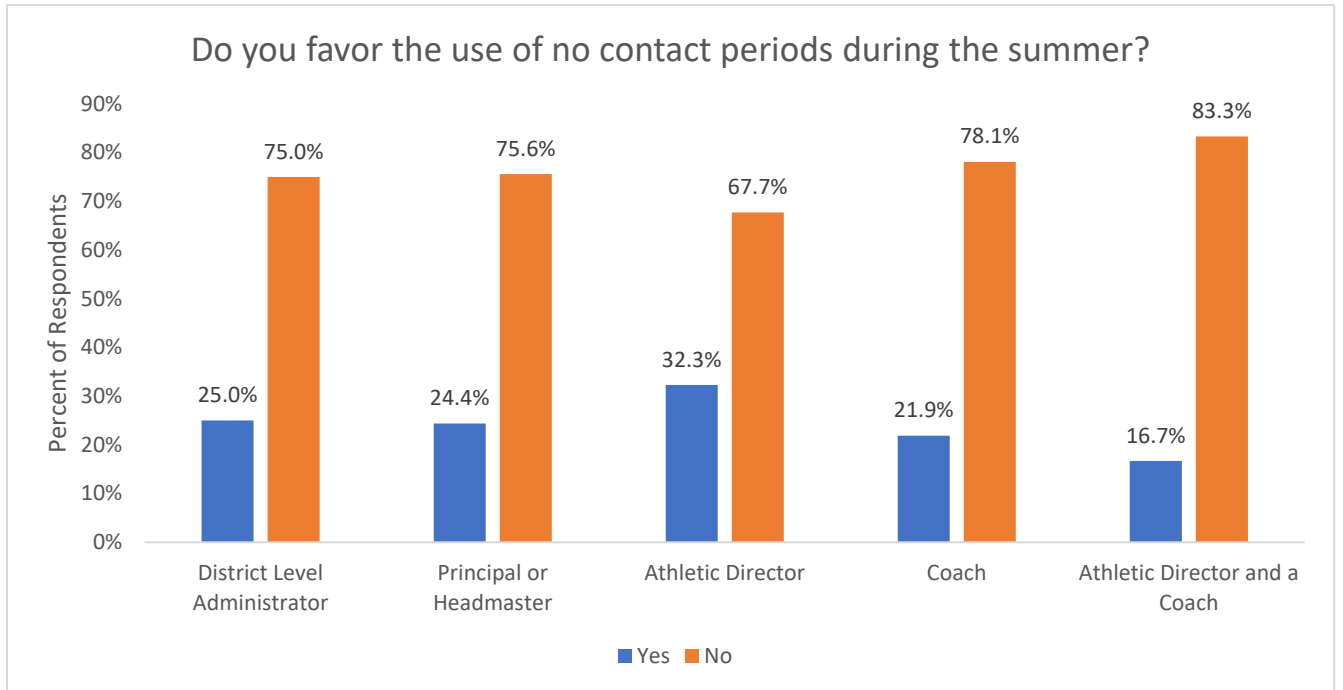
**Table 15. When do you think these no contact periods should be?**

	District Level Administrator	Principal or Headmaster	Athletic Director	Coach	Athletic Director and a Coach
<b>Mid-term break</b>	0.0% (n=0)	10.4% (n=11)	6.6% (n=7)	77.4% (n=82)	5.7% (n=6)
<b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>	1.3% (n=2)	9.2% (n=14)	7.2% (n=11)	78.3% (n=119)	3.9% (n=6)
<b>Christmas/New Year holiday</b>	1.1% (n=2)	8.6% (n=15)	6.9% (n=12)	80.5% (n=140)	2.9% (n=5)
<b>End of first three marking periods</b>	1.9% (n=1)	11.3% (n=6)	7.5% (n=4)	73.6% (n=39)	5.7% (n=3)
<b>Practice period (3 weeks) before every sports season competition</b>	3.8% (n=6)	10.2% (n=16)	17.8% (n=28)	63.1% (n=99)	5.1% (n=8)

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<sup>16</sup> This question was only shown to respondents who indicated that they favored the use of no contact periods in Question 26

Q28. Do you favor the use of no contact periods\* during the summer? \*A no-contact period is a designated time when coaches may not have any athletic-based contact with their athletes. Routine school interaction is allowed.



**Table 16. Do you favor the use of no contact periods during the summer?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	25.0% (n=5)	75.0% (n=15)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	24.4% (n=19)	75.6% (n=59)	100.0% (n=78)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	32.3% (n=20)	67.7% (n=42)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	21.9% (n=145)	78.1% (n=517)	100.0% (n=662)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	16.7% (n=5)	83.3% (n=25)	100.0% (n=30)

Q29. When do you think these no contact periods should be? Check all that apply.<sup>17\*</sup>

\*Respondents could select more than one response option, thus percentages may add up to more than 100.

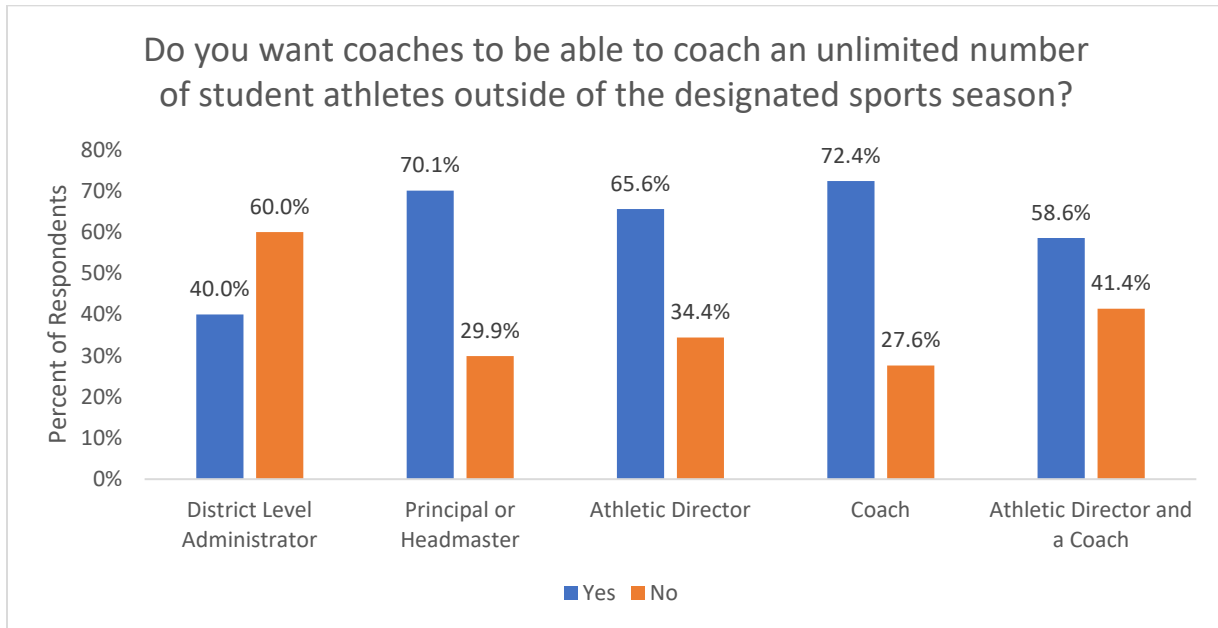
**Table 17. When do you think these no contact periods should be?**

	District Level Administrator	Principal or Headmaster	Athletic Director	Coach	Athletic Director and a Coach	Total Response
<b>4<sup>th</sup> of July week</b>	1.9% (n=2)	10.5% (n=11)	7.6% (n=8)	79.0% (n=83)	1.0% (n=1)	100.0% (n=105)
<b>Other designated week before August 1st</b>	1.1% (n=1)	12.6% (n=11)	6.9% (n=6)	77.0% (n=67)	2.3% (n=2)	100.0% (n=87)
<b>During Fall sports practice period 3 weeks before Fall competition</b>	4.1% (n=3)	8.2% (n=6)	16.4% (n=12)	67.1% (n=49)	4.1% (n=3)	100.0% (n=73)

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<sup>17</sup> This question was only shown to respondents who indicated that they favored the use of no contact periods in Question 28.

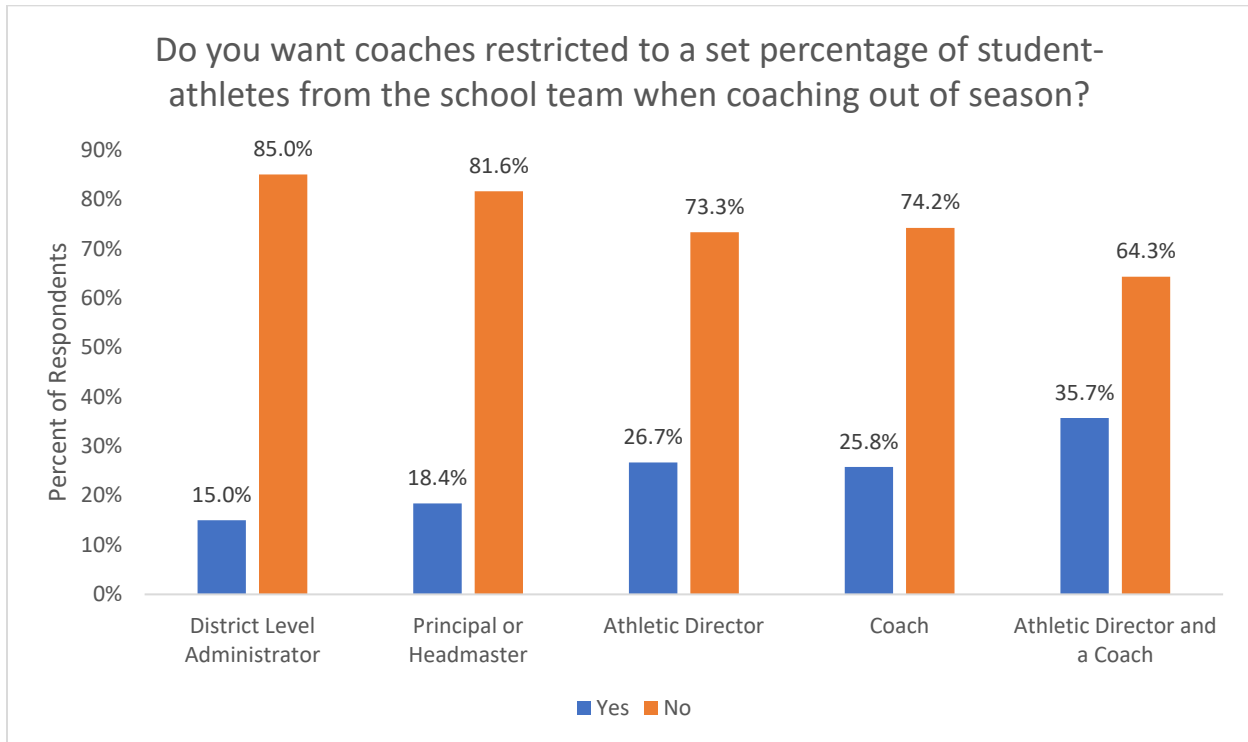
Q30. Do you want coaches to be able to coach an unlimited number of student athletes outside of the designated sports season?



**Table 18. Do you want coaches to be able to coach an unlimited number of student athletes outside of the designated sports season?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	40.0% (n=8)	60.0% (n=12)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	70.1% (n=54)	29.9% (n=23)	100.0% (n=77)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	65.6% (n=40)	34.4% (n=21)	100.0% (n=61)
<b>Coach</b>	72.4% (n=478)	27.6% (n=182)	100.0% (n=660)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	58.6% (n=17)	41.4% (n=12)	100.0% (n=29)

Q31. Do you want coaches restricted to a set percentage of student-athletes from the school team when coaching out of season?



**Table 19. Do you want coaches restricted to a set percentage of student-athletes from the school team when coaching out of season?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
District Level Administrator	15.0% (n=3)	85.0% (n=17)	100.0% (n=20)
Principal or Headmaster	18.4% (n=14)	81.6% (n=62)	100.0% (n=76)
Athletic Director	26.7% (n=16)	73.3% (n=44)	100.0% (n=60)
Coach	25.8% (n=169)	74.2% (n=486)	100.0% (n=666)
Athletic Director and a Coach	35.7% (n=10)	64.3% (n=18)	100.0% (n=28)

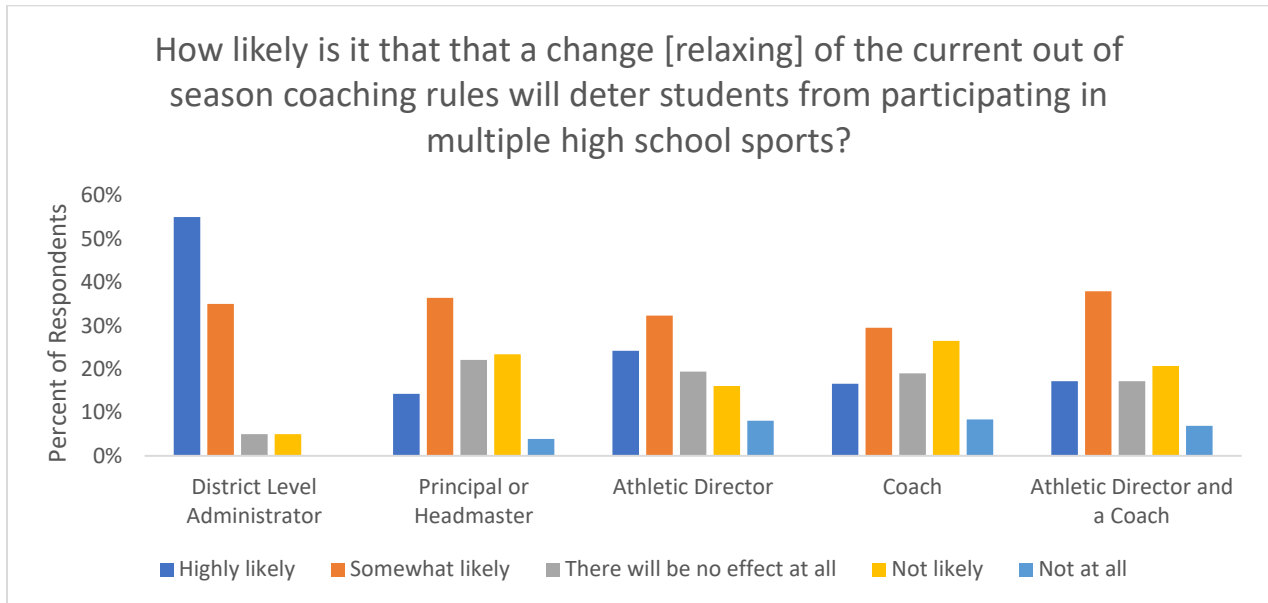
Q32. Would you be in favor of these percentage restrictions being in place...<sup>18</sup>

**Table 20. Would you be in favor of these percent restrictions being in place...**

Primary Role	During the school year only?		During the summer period only?		During all out of season time periods?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	33.3% (n=1)	66.7% (n=2)	66.7% (n=2)	33.3% (n=1)	66.7% (n=2)	33.3% (n=1)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	58.3% (n=7)	41.7% (n=5)	66.7% (n=8)	33.3% (n=4)	85.7% (n=12)	14.3% (n=2)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	53.9% (n=7)	46.2% (n=6)	53.9% (n=7)	46.2% (n=6)	56.3% (n=9)	43.8% (n=7)
<b>Coach</b>	47.9% (n=69)	52.1% (n=75)	54.2% (n=77)	45.8% (n=65)	68.2% (n=105)	31.8% (n=49)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	55.6% (n=5)	44.4% (n=4)	50.0% (n=4)	50.0% (n=4)	88.9% (n=8)	11.1% (n=1)

<sup>18</sup> This question was only shown to respondents who answered yes to Question 31.

Q33. How likely is it that that a change [relaxing] of the current out of season coaching rules will deter students from participating in multiple high school sports?

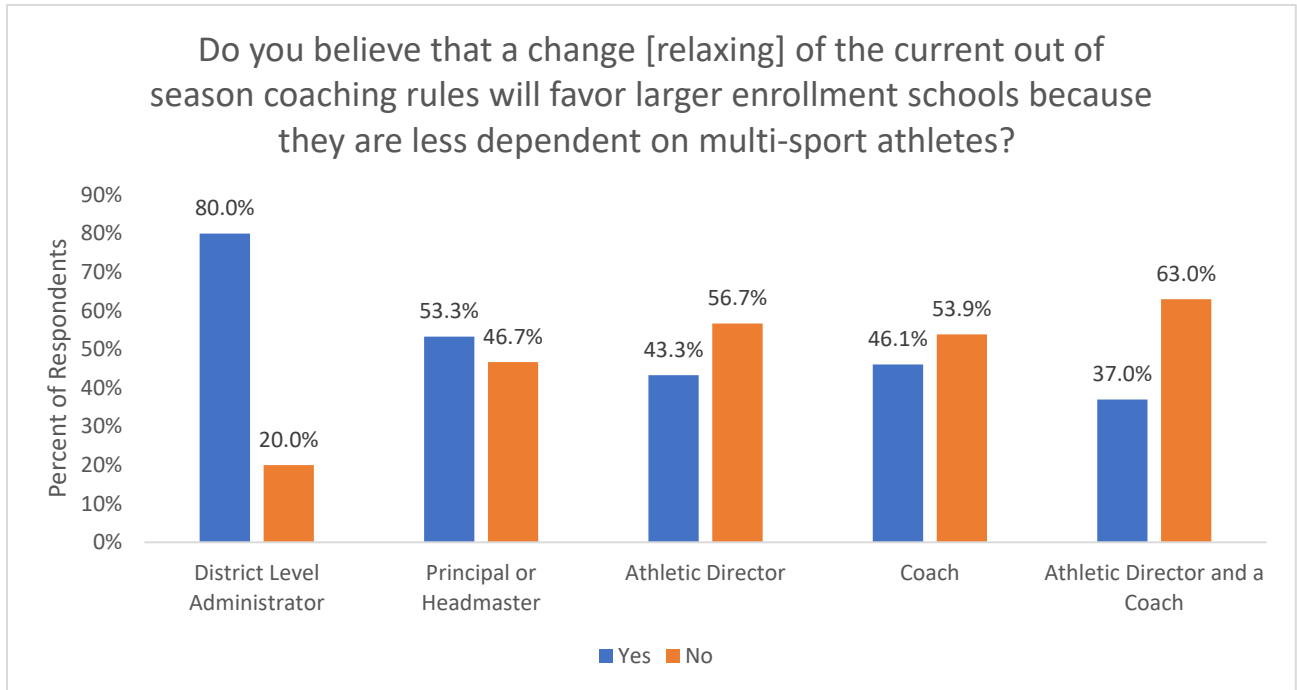


**Table 21. How likely is it that that a change [relaxing] of the current out of season coaching rules will deter students from participating in multiple high school sports?**

Primary Role	Highly likely	Somewhat likely	There will be no effect at all	Not likely	Not at all	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	55.0% (n=11)	35.0% (n=7)	5.0% (n=1)	5.0% (n=1)	0.0% (n=0)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	14.3% (n=11)	36.4% (n=28)	22.1% (n=17)	23.4% (n=18)	3.9% (n=3)	9.1% (n=77)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	24.2% (n=15)	32.3% (n=20)	19.4% (n=12)	16.1% (n=10)	8.1% (n=5)	7.3% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	16.6% (n=109)	29.5% (n=194)	19.0% (n=125)	26.5% (n=174)	8.4% (n=55)	77.8% (n=657)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	17.2% (n=5)	37.9% (n=11)	17.2% (n=5)	20.7% (n=6)	6.9% (n=2)	3.4% (n=29)



Q34. Do you believe that a change [relaxing] of the current out of season coaching rules will favor larger enrollment schools because they are less dependent on multi-sport athletes?

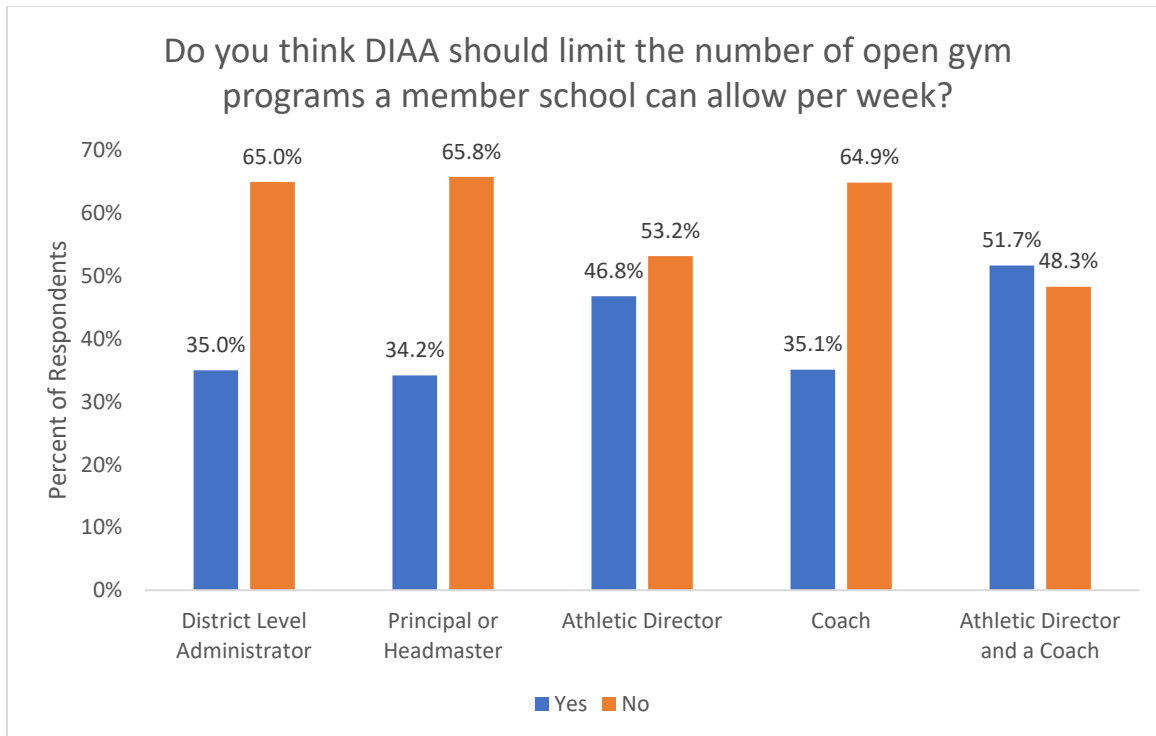


**Table 22. Do you believe that a change [relaxing] of the current out of season coaching rules will favor larger enrollment schools because they are less dependent on multi-sport athletes?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	80.0% (n=16)	20.0% (n=4)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	53.3% (n=40)	46.7% (n=35)	100.0% (n=75)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	43.3% (n=26)	56.7% (n=34)	100.0% (n=60)
<b>Coach</b>	46.1% (n=298)	53.9% (n=349)	100.0% (n=647)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	37.0% (n=10)	63.0% (n=17)	100.0% (n=27)

## Open Gym Programs

Q35. Do you think DIAA should limit the number of open gym programs a member school can allow per week?



**Table 23. Do you think DIAA should limit the number of open gym programs a member school can allow per week?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	35.0% (n=7)	65.0% (n=13)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	34.2% (n=26)	65.8% (n=50)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	46.8% (n=29)	53.2% (n=33)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	35.1% (n=228)	64.9% (n=421)	100.0% (n=649)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	51.7% (n=15)	48.3% (n=14)	100.0% (n=29)

Q36 Please specify what you think the limit should be.<sup>19</sup>

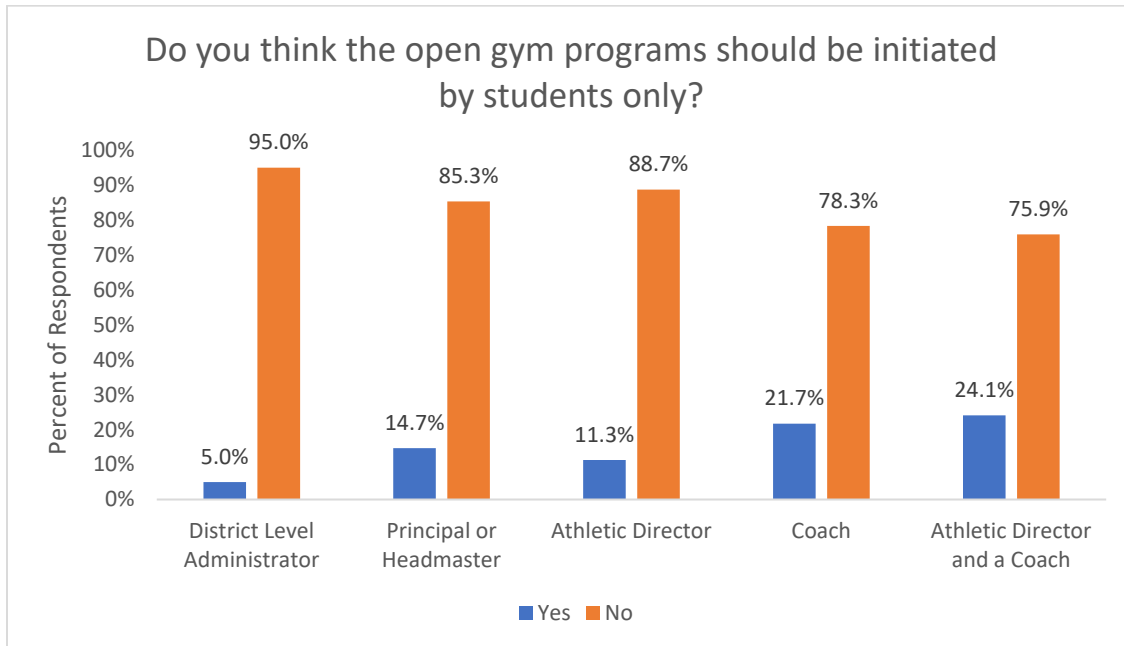
**Table 24. Please specify what you think the limit should be.**

Primary Role	1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	0.0% (n=0)	14.3% (n=1)	85.7% (n=6)	0.0% (n=0)	0.0% (n=0)	100.0% (n=7)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	4.2% (n=1)	50.0% (n=12)	37.5% (n=9)	4.2% (n=1)	4.2% (n=1)	100.0% (n=24)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	24.1% (n=7)	41.4% (n=12)	27.6% (n=8)	0.0% (n=0)	6.9% (n=2)	100.0% (n=29)
<b>Coach</b>	16.0% (n=36)	39.6% (n=89)	36.9% (n=83)	5.3% (n=12)	2.2% (n=5)	100.0% (n=225)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	20.0% (n=3)	46.7% (n=7)	26.7% (n=4)	0.0% (n=0)	6.7% (n=1)	100.0% (n=15)

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<sup>19</sup> This question was only shown to respondents who answered yes to Question 35.

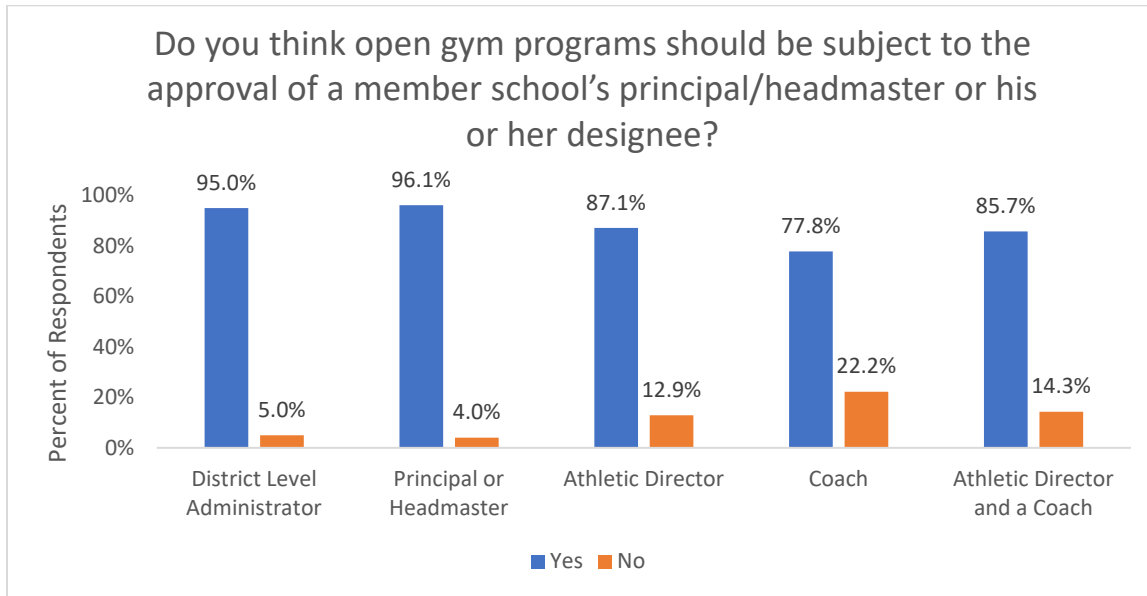
Q37. Do you think the open gym programs should be initiated by students only?



**Table 25. Do you think the open gym programs should be initiated by students only?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	5.0% (n=1)	95.0% (n=19)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	14.7% (n=11)	85.3% (n=64)	100.0% (n=75)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	11.3% (n=7)	88.7% (n=55)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	21.7% (n=141)	78.3% (n=509)	100.0% (n=650)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	24.1% (n=7)	75.9% (n=22)	100.0% (n=29)

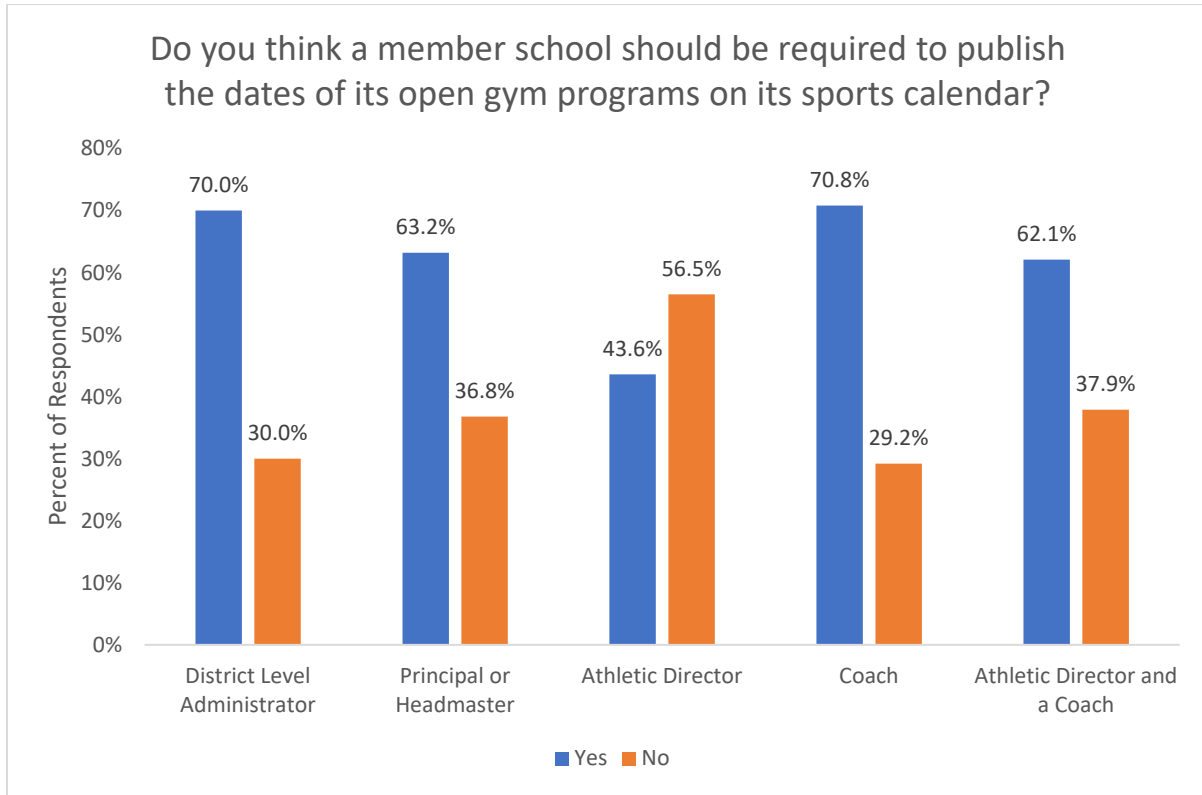
Q38. Do you think open gym programs should be subject to the approval of a member school’s principal/headmaster or his or her designee?



**Table 26. Do you think open gym programs should be subject to the approval of a member school’s principal/headmaster or his or her designee?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	95.0% (n=19)	5.0% (n=1)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	96.1% (n=73)	4.0% (n=3)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	87.1% (n=54)	12.9% (n=8)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	77.8% (n=504)	22.2% (n=144)	100.0% (n=648)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	85.7% (n=24)	14.3% (n=4)	100.0% (n=28)

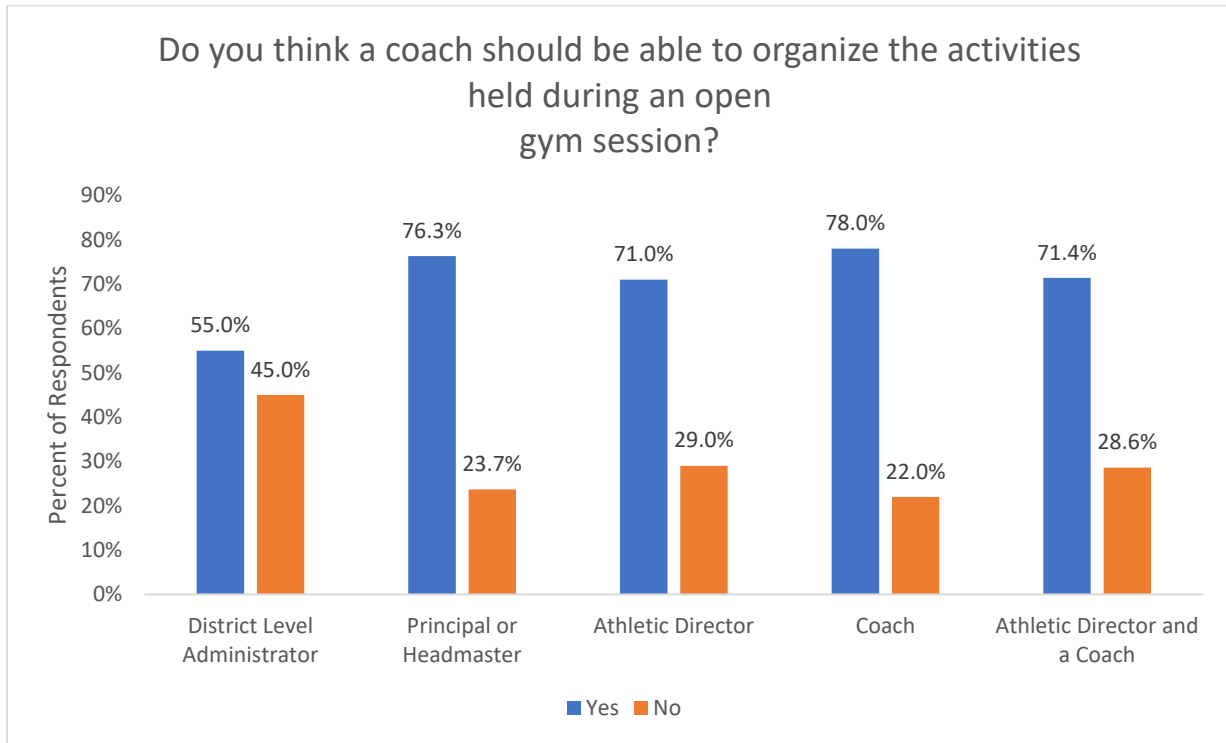
Q39. Do you think a member school should be required to publish the dates of its open gym programs on its sports calendar?



**Table 27. Do you think a member school should be required to publish the dates of its open gym programs on its sports calendar?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	70.0% (n=14)	30.0% (n=6)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	63.2% (n=48)	36.8% (n=28)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	43.6% (n=27)	56.5% (n=35)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	70.8% (n=458)	29.2% (n=189)	100.0% (n=647)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	62.1% (n=18)	37.9% (n=11)	100.0% (n=29)

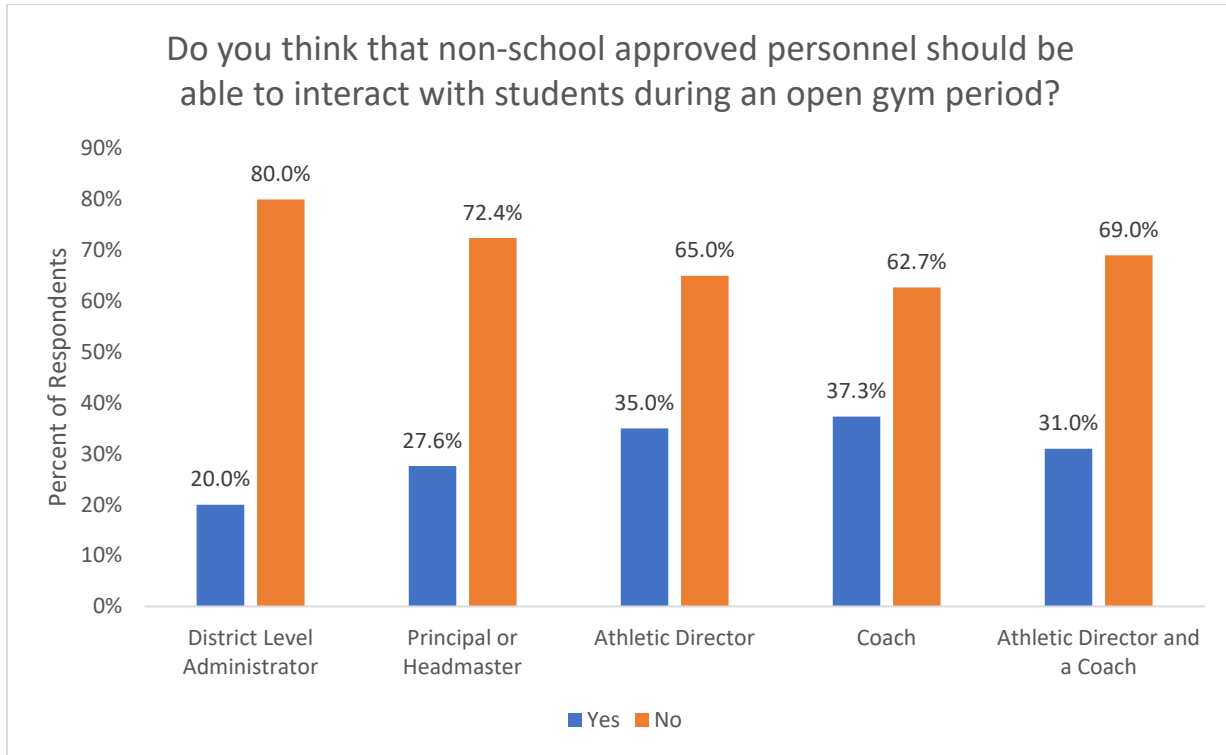
Q40 Do you think a coach should be able to organize the activities held during an open gym session?



**Table 28. Do you think a coach should be able to organize the activities held during an open gym session?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	55.0% (n=11)	45.0% (n=9)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	76.3% (n=58)	23.7% (n=18)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	71.0% (n=44)	29.0% (n=18)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	78.0% (n=504)	22.0% (n=142)	100.0% (n=646)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	71.4% (n=20)	28.6% (n=8)	100.0% (n=28)

Q41. Do you think that non-school approved adult personnel should be able to interact with students during an open gym period?

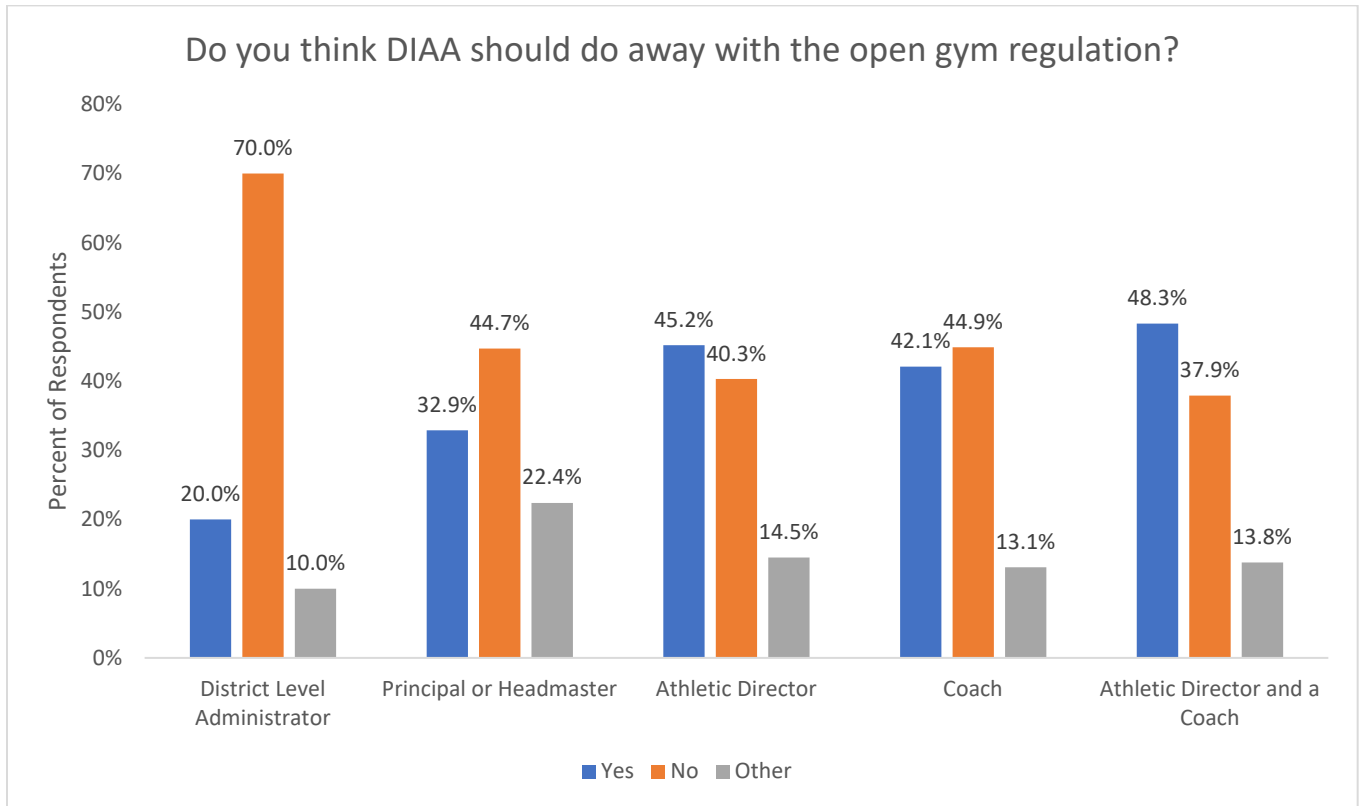


**Table 29. Do you think that non-school approved personnel should be able to interact with students during an open gym period?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	20.0% (n=4)	80.0% (n=16)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	27.6% (n=21)	72.4% (n=55)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	35.0% (n=21)	65.0% (n=39)	100.0% (n=60)
<b>Coach</b>	37.3% (n=241)	62.7% (n=405)	100.0% (n=646)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	31.0% (n=9)	69.0% (n=20)	100.0% (n=29)



Q42 Do you think DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?



**Table 30. Do you think DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Other	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	20.0% (n=4)	70.0% (n=14)	10.0% (n=2)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	32.9% (n=25)	44.7% (n=34)	22.4% (n=17)	100.0% (n=76)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	45.2% (n=28)	40.3% (n=25)	14.5% (n=9)	100.0% (n=62)
<b>Coach</b>	42.1% (n=270)	44.9% (n=288)	13.1% (n=84)	100.0% (n=642)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	48.3% (n=14)	37.9% (n=11)	13.8% (n=4)	100.0% (n=29)

Q43 Why do you think that the DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?  
 Check all that apply.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 31. Why do you think that the DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?**

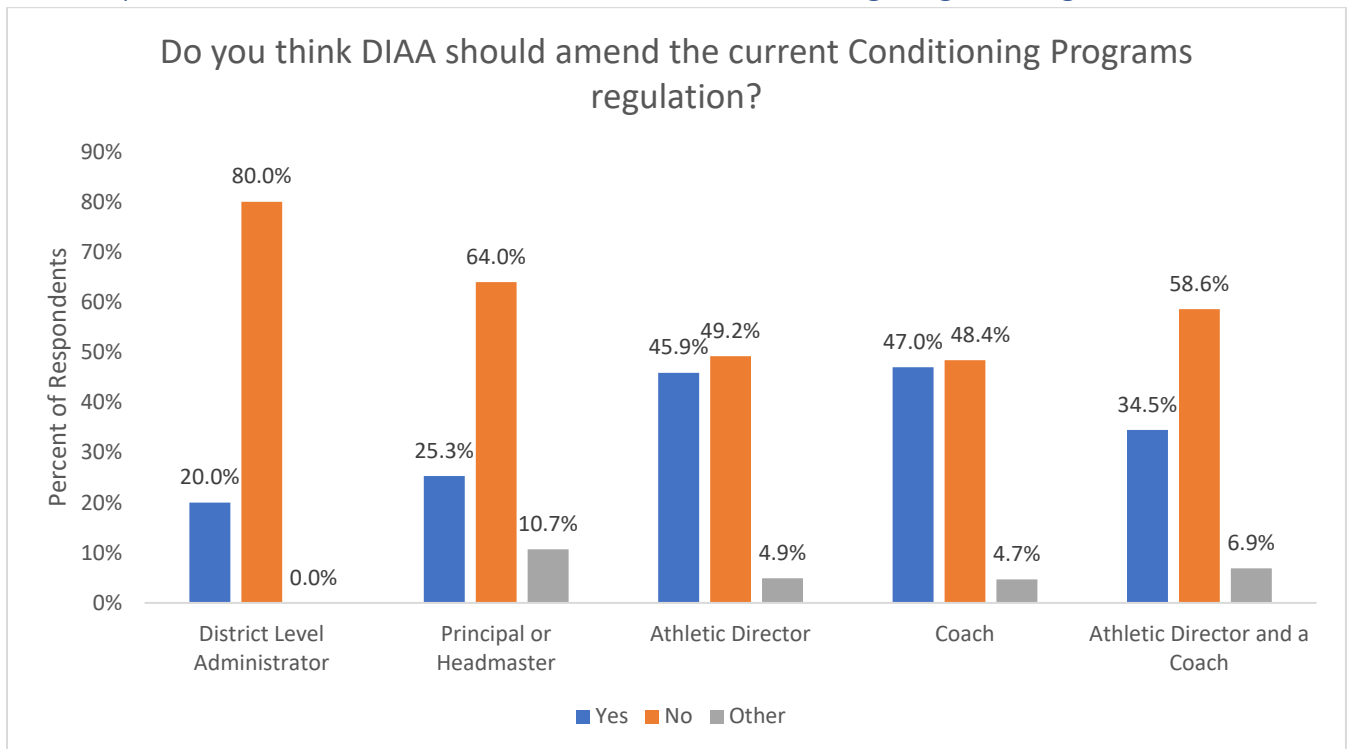
	District Level Administrator	Principal or Headmaster	Athletic Director	Coach	Athletic Director and a Coach
<b>Regulation is too difficult to enforce.</b>	100.0% (n=4)	75.0% (n=18)	82.1% (n=23)	67.5% (n=181)	92.9% (n=13)
<b>Gym time is too limited.</b>	50.0% (n=2)	50.0% (n=12)	46.4% (n=13)	60.1% (n=161)	28.6% (n=4)
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	25.0% (n=1)	16.7% (n=4)	17.9% (n=5)	14.9% (n=40)	14.3% (n=2)

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<sup>20</sup> This question was only asked of those who answered yes to Question 42.

## Conditioning Programs

Q44 Do you think DIAA should amend the current Conditioning Programs regulation?



**Table 32. Do you think DIAA should amend the current Conditioning Programs regulation?**

Primary Role	Yes	No	Other	Total
<b>District Level Administrator</b>	20.0% (n=4)	80.0% (n=16)	0.0% (n=0)	100.0% (n=20)
<b>Principal or Headmaster</b>	25.3% (n=19)	64.0% (n=48)	10.7% (n=8)	100.0% (n=75)
<b>Athletic Director</b>	45.9% (n=28)	49.2% (n=30)	4.9% (n=3)	100.0% (n=61)
<b>Coach</b>	47.0% (n=300)	48.4% (n=309)	4.7% (n=30)	100.0% (n=639)
<b>Athletic Director and a Coach</b>	34.5% (n=10)	58.6% (n=17)	6.9% (n=2)	100.0% (n=29)

Q45 Please share any other comments you have below:

Open ended responses to this question are compiled in a separate appendix.

# 2018 DIAA Member School Survey – Text Responses

## Table of Contents

2018 DIAA Member School Survey – Text Responses .....	1
Q2. DIAA is charged with developing rules and regulations related to member schools’ interscholastic athletics. Should DIAA conduct a separate survey of parents at member schools? .....	2
Q13 What type of contact do you have with your athletes during the out of season time period? Check all that apply.....	3
Q16 What type of team(s) do you coach outside of school? Check all that apply.....	7
Q18. How are you paid for coaching your sport(s) outside of school? Please list the sports below for each of the options that apply. ....	8
I am paid through private lessons/instructions for the following sport(s):.....	8
I am paid through a club team for the following sport(s):.....	8
I am paid as a clinic instructor for the following sport(s): .....	9
I am paid as a camp instructor for the following sport(s):.....	9
Q19 Are you aware of what is and is not allowed by the current DIAA coaching out of season regulations [1008/1009. 7.6.1 and 7.6.2.]? .....	10
Q20 Do you think that Delaware high school athletes are at a disadvantage when competing against athletes from schools other in states that allow coaching out of season? .....	16
Q21 Do you think that a change [relaxing] in the current out of season coaching regulations will result in greater undue influence?.....	32
Q22 Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season during the school year?.....	45
Q42 Do you think DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation? .....	56
Q43 Why do you think that the DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation? Check all that apply.....	61
Q44. Do you think DIAA should amend the current Conditioning Programs regulation? .....	64
Q45. Please share any other comments you have below:.....	66

Q2. DIAA is charged with developing rules and regulations related to member schools' interscholastic athletics. Should DIAA conduct a separate survey of parents at member schools?

If no, please explain
Not needed
I believe it would dilute the process. School leaders are in their positions to make the best and most informed decisions on behalf of students and families.
parent input is always good, as long as there is no expectation that we will change rules based purely on parent wishes. parents will not always understand the impact (regarding, for example, college eligibility) of decisions they may wish to see made.
Parents are generally uninterested and uninformed regarding athletic regulations. They may inadvertently advocate for changes that have unintended consequences. Changes should make only after a full study of all impacts of any proposed revisions. In other words, informed decision making yields better results.
what kind of survey? many parents do not understand the workings of this organization
I'm not sure if parents at the middle school level will have enough information about middle school sports.
What is the purpose of asking the parents? If asked for input, you better use the input in a visible way. As a school system, we already compete with single sport "burn out" and increased injuries. This is often caused by sports specialization and parents supporting club teams and year round participation in a single sport.
Parents should express opinions through school. Schools should represent their parents. Parent opinions are not always based in good information or based on what is best for the group of student athletes.
not necessarily. It depends on what is being asked in the parent survey and what the stated goal of the survey is.
The responsibility of students and safety land fully on the district so rules and regulations should not be developed by outside sources
While I believe there DIAA should consult more with parents as a general rule, more consultation with principals and coaches is also necessary and should always take precedence.
You can only have so many people making decisions. Open it up to parents and you will have a million opinions on how coaching/handling of athletes should be handled.
To biased
I believe most parents will answer best on what is best for their child and not consider the impact on students as a whole. Staff involved in the school can offer input based on the bigger picture.
only if there is not a general consensus across member schools

Q13 What type of contact do you have with your athletes during the out of season time period? Check all that apply.

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
I have virtually no contact with the athletes out of season.
Online Logs
Clinics and Camps
I am there teacher so I check in with them, but none other than that.
District-run clinics
Fall League
class
Summer wrestling camp
Weight lifting,
Fundraiser/community service
team plays winter league - I organize sign-ups
Give interested guys rides to open mats
Team camp they attend but I do not coach
one information meeting pre-season, some athletes participate in other sports that I volunteer coach for.
Leadership Seminars
not much
I am a part-time coach and have very limited access to the student-athletes outside of the season.
Weight Room
Bible Studies
Summer meetings(2 at a time) mini summer camps
With seniors, trying to get colleges to take a look. With underclassmen, giving them new training ideas and keeping on track.
Indoor lacrosse league coached by a parent
email communication
Optional practices 2-3 times a week
Recruiting / College Prep
Captains organize occassional summer runs
I teach the "athletes" ELA and I advise the Unifired Club (not to be confused with the sports aspect- this club is to promote inclusion within the building and in our communities).
Indoor during winter
group runs
camps and clinics by non school organizations without pay
None, i visit their club meets

I am also the athletic trainer and strength and conditioning coach so I do a lot of injury prevention and strength work with athletes as individuals or small groups throughout the school year.
In class
I am a PGA Director of Instruction at a local golf club. If they would like a paid lesson, I will accommodate. This does not happen regularly.
coincidentally at indoor club
I don't coach them so no reason to meet with them
Team camps hosted by NCAA member institutions
practice
Parades for community. Holiday exchanges.
Workout sessions with one or two at a local park.
Leadership meetings
No contact out of season
As Athletic Director I speak to the athletes all of the time and watch them play, but I do not run any practices.
I only see them during the season
Team De open to all kids. Various coaches also come and teach.
Nothing, as they are in other sports or activities.
None mostly they play on their own
none, our kids will not participate
camps
Team Wrestling Camp
i oversee all coaches working with athletes during the off-season
Winter League
Winter league
None as we are not allowed
I organize indoor league and spring tournaments. I have to find people to coach.
summer camps
Community service, 7 on 7 tournaments
We are not allowed to contact out of season.
Team Gathering- team building
I do not have contact with our swimmers during the off season. I coach different sports at the middle school level.
team camps
Winter league
Team showcase
We have no off season practice
open field

7 on 7
I am the AD.
2 hour limit - 2 people at a time during a designated time period
Only in school academics/PE
None, i organize and pay for the winter leagues but do not coach them. They do captains practices with a parent for any winter/ out of season workouts
Captains' practices in summer; I show up to pick-up/drop-off my own child, who is on the team.
teacher
Regular contact as a school counselor
For football its summer lifting and camp.
Suggest to join club league and notify for open gym or play date when available
As JV coach I do not have much contact outside the season...students do participate in summer league and conditioning and there is a meeting usually at the end of the school year and beginning of the new season.
Athletic Director is around during most school
None, it's not allowed for cross country.
No organized or structured contact with athletes outside of the season
Team Camp
Post season player evaluations
For Golf - we encourage our athletes to play golf. We do not meet with them to play or coach.
No contact as they are involved in other sports activities throughout the year.
Team Camps
None, unless run into them at the course
Club/ travel teams
WATCH THEM PLAY FIELD HOCKEY AND RUN CROSS COUNTRY
email
Indoor field hockey
Athletic Administrator
I do not have contact. My Captains organize team runs and communicate with students.
I do not coach
Winter League
Open runs
I have my own coaching business some students attend
Only Athletic Director
Anything else I can do in accordance to DIAA bylaws



none, just varsity golf head coach-volunteer at b ball
Team camp
Email tutorials.
None, Coach them all three seasons....maybe an email here and there
Fund raising
Communication contact only regarding conditioning, open gym, camps, tournaments and clinic opportunities
Interest meetings and end of the year thoughts
summer emails
Study Hall/Mentoring
Teacher
we hold one organizational meeting in May, prior to summer
Suggested Workouts
simply programming upon request but no physical meetings
7 on 7 Football
Indoor Lacrosse - Boys Lacrosse
7-7 League/camps
Winter league
relay information about plans for season, winter league, gear, etc.
Individual basketball workouts per DIAA rules
Announcements of programs or camps
Fundraisers
Volunteers run our summer league, not coaches
none, I've always been told we're not allowed to have contact with runners in the summer.
Not much
weight room
Captain Runs organized by student athletes
Summer BBQ, Movie Nights, Booster Events
Teaching
Occasional golf chat via text/email.
individual workouts June 1 - August 1 initiated by players

Q16 What type of team(s) do you coach outside of school? Check all that apply.

<b>OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)</b>
Parks & Rec teams
Speaking
Fall Ball league sponsored by Thunderstix
Youth Ice Hockey
PGA Junior League
occasional club sponsored teams at tournaments
team delaware wrestling. I coach other member school kids.
School Team Summer League
sons team for soccer and wrestling
I am professional tennis coach
Individual Training
American Legion Baseball
USA FH Future's program
boys' volleyball (which is moving towards state sanctioning)
Off season Football, position-specific drills.
club academy
I have my own running distance academy
Travel team different age group
Youth football
USFHA Futures Program
Private Lessons for non-team members
rec league

Q18. How are you paid for coaching your sport(s) outside of school? Please list the sports below for each of the options that apply.

I am paid through private lessons/instructions for the following sport(s):

Sport	Count
<b>Volleyball</b>	10
<b>Tennis</b>	7
<b>Soccer</b>	5
<b>Basketball</b>	4
<b>Baseball</b>	3
<b>Golf</b>	2
<b>Running</b>	2
<b>Swimming</b>	2
<b>Field hockey</b>	1
<b>Lacrosse</b>	1
<b>Track and Field</b>	1
<b>Wrestling</b>	1

I am paid through a club team for the following sport(s):

Sport	Count
Volleyball	22
Soccer	9
Lacrosse	5
Swimming	5
Baseball	3
Basketball	2
Field hockey	2
Indoor Hockey	2
Tennis	2

I am paid as a clinic instructor for the following sport(s):

Sport	Count
<b>Volleyball</b>	11
<b>Tennis</b>	6
<b>Soccer</b>	5
<b>Basketball</b>	4
<b>Lacrosse</b>	4
<b>Baseball</b>	3
<b>Field hockey</b>	3
<b>Golf</b>	2
<b>Other</b>	1
<b>Running</b>	1
<b>Swimming &amp; Diving</b>	1
<b>Wrestling</b>	1

I am paid as a camp instructor for the following sport(s):

Sport	Count
Volleyball	10
Soccer	9
Basketball	6
Lacrosse	5
Tennis	5
Baseball	3
Field hockey	3
Golf	2
Other	2
Cross Country	1
Football	1
Running	1
wrestling	1

Q19 Are you aware of what is and is not allowed by the current DIAA coaching out of season regulations [1008/1009. 7.6.1 and 7.6.2.]?

**Please explain your response:**

I believe I do. Basically I am not allowed to coach out of season other than for the summer league put on for the high schools. Other than for the summer league, I am allowed to help only two athletes at a time IF they come up to me to ask for help.

I follow DIAA regs

7.6.1 States from last day of Spring season until 8/2, a coach shall not provide instruction out of the designated season assigned to their sport. Example: I can only provide softball instruction between March 1 and the last game of our season.

A coach may coach as a volunteer in an organized league that has established rules during the time that does not contain DIAA sports (last day of spring sports to August 1.. The league must be open to members of the school and there must be rules regarding practice, reimbursement, etc.

adhere to rules. If it feels borderline then don't do it.

After reading it, I have a better idea. But unless terms like "instructional and coach" are defined, who knows what that entails. Is that coaching in any capacity, is that conditioning, is that sport-specific training, etc. I simply avoid it altogether.

As an athletic director it is my duty to know the regulations set by DIAA

As long as it is in a league or tournament, it is legal to coach out of season.

as outlined above

As written it is extremely confusing. An explanation by a member of the DIAA Board should provide an explanation and made annually.

because i would like to know how XXX can take their baseball kids to florida before spring practices and we cant do a damn thing before that

Because tennis is such an individual sport, I feel that any out of season instruction by a coach is not a good idea.

Bottom line, need to diligently avoid contact with athletes out of season

But I do want to state that rules are being changed and not explained by DIAA thoroughly to the coaches. Example would be the change from working with 2 players out of season to unlimited in a formal fashion after last competition date. Very misleading in my opinion

can not coach out of season.

can't coach new/returning players in the same sport outside of the end of spring HS sports and August 1.

can't do it outside of the specific season...Joke

Coaches can not hold organized practices with their teams out of season

Coaches can work with multiple players at the direction of the athlete

Coaches shall only coach during prescribed DIAA dates for conditioning and season dates allowed.

Coaching can only occur in the summer after the last tournament game and until August 2. Coaches cannot coach and provide instruction to athletes outside of the season.

coaching out of season regulations and guidelines in detail.

Coaching out of season violates DIAA regulations and is prohibited unless my team is enrolled in summer league. Indoor, winter leagues prohibit coach involvement.

Consistent with information provided.

Despite reading through every word I am still unclear of what I can and cannot do. I know I can not coach my own players in the offseason except for 2 to 1 coach volunteer sessions that you don't set up? And I am unsure if I understand that correctly even. SIMPLIFY AND LET US COACH OUR KIDS IN THE OFFSEASON!

During the school year you may only coach your players during the season in your school sport. During the non school year you are allowed to coach your players in certain situations as provided by DIAA.

Everything is explained to us by our AD.

expected to read the handbook, and questions have been addressed by the AD

For the most part yes but the rules are sometimes not as clear and can be misinterpreted - what is allowed and what's not.

Got it.

Have been an AD for 14 years, was on the DIAA Board of Directors and coached seven years

have read the rules

How do I explain a yes. I read the regulations.

However, I believe that the rules allow for significant variation between member schools in terms of out-of-season coaching. There is no question that schools can exploit the heads-up clinic week and 7v7 leagues to have install practices and large coaching staffs have a huge advantage in the "one coach, one kid" summer coaching rules. There also is minimal to no enforcement with consequence the few times that issues have been demonstrated.

I am 90% sure of most situations. There is a lot of gray area in which I have no interest of being in. In my opinion, operating in "gray areas" is really lying through omission.

I am a Middle School Principal, I don't need to know the rules like a High School Principal would.

I am aware

I am aware and uphold but do not agree with said regulations.

I am aware as to what is and what is not allowed outside of a season.

I am aware based on the above information.

I am aware of all.

I am aware of some of it, but my AP and AD oversee athletics.

I am aware of the coaching restrictions out of season

I am aware of the current restrictions regarding coaching out of season

I am aware of the DIAA rules and am very careful not to have any players on my club teams that I coach during the school season.

I am aware of the out of season coaching regulations.

I am aware of the rule.

I am aware of what I am allowed to do out of season. I do not participate in anything out of season except legally permissible summer leagues.

I am aware of what is allowed and not allowed when it comes to coaching out of DIAA season, even by the regulations of the DIAA

I am aware of what is and is not allowed. However, I firmly believe that there is not enough and there will never be enough people to monitor what is and is not allowed. There is a tremendous amount of out of season coaching in lacrosse taking place. While I'm sure most of it is legal, I was never quite certain what I could do to tote the line without breaking rules. In all sports, the rules are being bent just enough to not cause an outcry. Most of the coaches in the state believe that our out of season rules are outdated. Therefore, they are less likely to report out of season coaching.

I am aware of what it states, but confused as to what exactly it entails and who is allowed to do what and why some teams are allowed to do more but others are not.
I am aware that coaches, etc are allowed very specific interactions with accepted players within their sport within specific times of the year.
I am aware that we are not allowed to do such things but I am also aware of MULTIPLE schools that do not adhere to these rules.
I am fully aware as AD
I am just the official scorer and would attend pre-decided practices often to assist as needed
I am made aware of rules/regs. through the handbook.
I am middle school so we don't have coaching out of season.
I am not allowed to coach or contact any player who is on the HS team that I coach at during the off season.
I am now that I have read them.
I am very aware of the rules of coaching out of season. Our athletic director does a phenomenal job of working with us on this topic.
I am very careful to ensure I coach a separate age level so that I do not violate the DIAA rules of coaching my in season players or those who might matriculate to my school.
I believe we as coaches need as much time with our players as possible. We need to develop our players and we can't do it with limited time.
I can coach out of season only if my current high school players are not involved.
I cannot coach my swimmers out of season even if I am a coach at their swim club.
I cannot coach student athletes (from my team) out of season if the team is sponsored by myself, coaching staff, or school.
I coach clinics and camps operated and managed by other coaches. I am there as a supplemental coach and they are done either on the weekends or over the summer months.
I coach my daughters travel softball team. None of the girls on her team are attending XXX where I coach the high school softball team. I have organizational meetings, and am planning on open gyms for the high school team. If I am at the open gyms I will only observe and no one from the staff will run them. They will be open to all students at the school, not only returning players.
I didn't think I could coach my players at all out of season
I do have any of my student-athletes as paid customers for private coaching or campers. All athletes under my guidance are from schools other than where I coach/teach.
I do not coach any of my players during Fall Ball. The team is made up of players who sign up for clinics at Thunderstix
I do not coach any of my players out of season.
I feel it should be opened up a little, for a coach to spend some time with his student, some students need direction from a coach because of their family life or other issues.
I follow the guidelines established by DIAA.
I fully understand regulation 7.6
I have a basic knowledge of what is permitted.
I have a decent understanding of what is and is not allowed.
I have a fairly strong understanding of what is and what is not allowed by the current regulation, although there is some confusion on a few points.
I have a general understanding, not sure if I do understand them all, but I'd say I do have a general understanding.

I have been coaching for over 30 years and have read and re-read these rules each year hoping for a change in permission and view of why I should have an opportunity to coach My member school athletes after my designated season and before/after the designated end of year to Aug 1 time frame.
I have been informed of coaching out of season regulations by my AD
I have been involved in coaching swimming for 30 years at the high school level and am very well aware of the rules. I also served on the State Committee for many years.
I have made myself aware of the regulations against coaching out of season.
I have previously reviewed the regulations and have had numerous conversations with our AD.
I have read and printed these notes. Is this information also provided to all Athletic Directors and/or how does this information get disseminated? I am happy to provide a copy to my coaching staff, if needed.
I have read and understand the out of season regulations.
I have read the guidelines
I have read them and generally knew we are not to coach out of season except within the tournament/organized league systems
I have read/reviewed the rules
I have the regs on file
I have worked well within the rules that are in the code of conduct for coaching out of season. I coach my team at a team camp and summer league.
I just read them.
i know the rules
I only coach other kids from other schools. Other coaches coach my wrestlers from my associated school. All team de practices are open to everyone in Delaware.
I pay close attention to what is permitted and make sure to not violate any guidelines (even if I disagree with many)
I read Regulations 1008 & 1009-7.6.
I read the regulations when I was hired.
I read the rules
I read the rules and follow them.
I read the rules each year and attend the rules clinic
I reviewed the regulations above.
I tend to error on the side of caution and do less than allowed. I do summer league with kids. Because many kids do club volleyball or another sport, I do not do conditioning.
I understand but my ad sees the rules differently
I understand that from the end of my season in November, until June when the spring tournaments are over, we are not allowed to coach our athletes in field hockey, and during the summer we may coach them once a week per our summer league by-laws.
I understand the rules and expectations schools and coaches must follow.
I understand the rules.
I want to make it clear that coaching out of season is after August 2 until June 1 after spring sports postseason. From June to August 1 you can coach in a summer league
I was a former AD and Coach
I was an athletic director for a year.



I was completely aware of the DIAA rules but apparently some minor changes have been made recently. My concern is that in this survey question, you cut off the statement that these rules don't go into affect until June 2019. If a coach does not investigate the full and complete DIAA handbook and was not educated in the previous rule, they could very well think this rule has been in affect for quite some time and that could affect their answers and comments in the survey.

I was not aware of the full scope of the regulations.

I was under the impression that you could work with two of your players out of season 1 hour a day

I would say that I have awareness of the regulations but would need to review the regs to interpret individual situations.

I'm aware of the rules.

I'm brand new. I've only coached one season.

instructional camp or clinic in 7.6.1 is confusing

It seems extremely convoluted and confusing.

It's a little confusing with the wording...but I get it and understand

I've read the regulations in the past when I wanted to have my players participate in summer league and when I used to coach at camps where some of my players might attend.

Just read regulations

long standing rules of DIAA

Most rules have been established and in force for a long while. All coaches should ave an ample opportunity to become familiar with, and follow them.

my AD has reviewed with us

My AD has thoroughly explained the regulations.

My athletic director reviews them with us, and I have read them repeatedly.

My school busses our 6th graders over to our district 7/8 School and therefor I have little involvement with this.

Need to read up on it again

No contact in a coaching capacity with players during the school year.

Not to coach or have any type of organized activity after August 2

Our AD keeps us updated on on regulations

Our Principal and A.D. make sure we understand what is allowed and not allowed.

Right now there is a very limited window for working with athletes out of season. This window is limited by the number of athletes a coach may work with and is supposed to be driven by the athlete.

Rules are to be followed so being aware of them is essential.

Rules are understood, but many do not follow or have grandfathered in exemptions or have found loopholes that lead to an unfair advantage.

rules explained by AD

Simply stated coaches can coach their student athletes out of season from the last DIAA spring championship contest until August 1st.

The change from limiting to unlimited on the number of student-athletes that can be coached during the summer is the only change in the regulation that was new to me.

The current rules are a complete disadvantage to traditional public high schools and players do not have the luxury of affording or going to play on club teams on the offseason. Instead they sit dormant until the next season while the other schools are coached by qualified coaches. Many of these players

play on the same team and just come back even more as at team ready for the first day of competition.
The head coach attended a seminar
The previous athletic director and the retired head coach of girl's basketball reviewed the rules and regulations to coaching out of season.
The regulations above govern when coaches can and cannot have contact time and coaching time with students in and out of season.
The rules are explained above
The subsections seem to be a little confusing as to what is and what is not allowed as coaching. If the players want to get together during the off season and ask me to come along and play, I am not sure if that is or is not allowed.
This is my first year at the current school.
This is not enforced consistently, not sure because some who don't follow are connected to DIAA? Regardless, surrounding states allow coaches to interact and coach outside the season. Now that AAU (boys) has blown up, its time to consider allowing high school more flexibility. There are high academic student athletes who have potential to earn scholarship \$\$\$, D2 and D3 and most school offer no resource to assist families. Coaches could help with this process but Delaware is so far behind many college coaches don't give any creditability to current basketball environment. Part of the reason why so many athletes leave the state, families need to put son or daughter in position to get exposure and with a coach who has connections.
Though I'm not familiar with all of the rules thoroughly, I do know where to easily access them when I need further clarification.
Time periods when u can't have contact and time period u can have contact.
was not aware before I just read them here.
We are conditioning and the majority are girls for the girls soccer season , we have a conditioning coach, but he is mostly focus on football and the girls feel intimidated and can't do the type of conditioning that group does.
We are the only state that doesn't have spring ball- makes no sense and sets us back compared to all other states. As a former NCAA athlete, people make fun of our state for our pointless rules, regulations, season times, and playoff status. Very disappointing.
We do not have flag football outside of the season, and I do not coach any other sport. If I ever did question my ability to do something I would see my Athletic Director.
We have had meetings with our AD about rules.
We have it open to all students and do not do any sport specific drills.
We receive briefings and professional development support from our AD
Yes and no, the language can be interpreted differently by a coach and a DIAA Board or legal team. There needs to be cut and dry rules.
Yes I am aware of the off-season coaching policy.
Yes I aware of what is and what is not allowed when coaching outside of season
Yes I have read the above passage from the rulebook.
Yes, after the last day of the spring sport season through August 1st, I'm allowed to provide instruction. I also understand that i am not compensated for my time.
Yes, but I believe the rules are hurting the development of our players. We have players that are willing to play in off-season "Sunday league " game and the coaches are not allowed to coach it. This rule also stops coaches to register and sign the team up for a recruiting tournament during the off-season, which hinders the players opportunity to be recruited. Of course the players can sign up to

play for a "Club/AAU Team." But we all know that many of our players can not afford those teams. This is just another example of our privilege players having an advantage.
yes, I am aware that I cannot provide instruction to any of my athletes until the season begins.
Yes, I completely understand.
Yes, I have read the handbook.
Yes, I think I am aware of is and is not allowed.
Yes, it is clearly stated in the out of season regulations isn't clear as some teams seem to be coached by their head coach in out of season activities
Yes. But, I believe those rules are monotonous since they severely hinder our player's ability to excel.
You can not coach your own athletes during the school year (Aug. 2nd- E.O.Y.) unless it is with your school. You can not coach high school aged athletes from your school at a club or league practice. The school can not fund any summer or club team
You cannot coach outside of your designated season in the same sport with students registered to the school you coach for. You cannot be on the same team with the students registered at the school you coach for. You cannot officiate any event your students participate in unless it's an organized league competition. You may not coach outside of practices, scrimmages, and competitions. If so, you will be suspended.
You cannot coach your players outside of the season of the sport you coach.

Q20 Do you think that Delaware high school athletes are at a disadvantage when competing against athletes from schools other in states that allow coaching out of season?

Please explain your response
If coaches in other states are allowed to coach their players out of season and the players can be in programs where their coaches coach, then they have an advantage because they have more options.
We play out of season showcases against out of state teams in front of college coaches from every division. They are coached year round and run a variety of offenses and defenses. Our athletes are not shown in the best light because they are unprepared for the competition. They are unprepared because they have not practiced all summer long as a group. We are all competing for the same scholarships and we do a great injustice to the student-athletes in Delaware.
For the obvious reason that the DE athletes are permitted fewer opportunities to train, develop skill and learn positional play than their counterparts from schools allowing coaching out of season.
There may be somewhat of a disadvantage but scheduling teams out of state is a choice made by the member schools.
many student athletes can't be developed in the short time frame allowed for instruction and coaching.
DIAA rules limit instructional time relative to Pennsylvania rules. Especially within Football where we have limited time to teach safety related and proper contact techniques. This is can be construed as a safety issue especially with novice players. We follow the current DIAA guidelines strictly and it limits us severely.
Coaching is valuable especially when there is already an established coaching relationship with athlete and parents

<p>Most athletes are training all year round to compete at a high level.</p>
<p>Our out of coaching rules are restrictive and I constantly hear about it from my coaches. We follow the DIAA regulations and hear that many do not. On the flipside, not all coaches are able to coach out of season, which will put some programs at a disadvantage. If coaches are allowed to coach out of season, will that lead to expected and then who will fund this. We shift from voluntary coaching off season to required and public schools may not be able to support it.</p>
<p>If other states allow for out of season coaching then those athletes will receive more instruction. However, I might leave coaching if out of season coaching is implemented. I am a teacher, I don't have time to coach year 'round.</p>
<p>For the sport I am involved with it is absolutely necessary for breaks but it is critical to keep active with a prepared plan to avoid injury and increase all of the athletes progression in a safe and manageable manner</p>
<p>I believe Delaware high school athletes are at a major disadvantage when it comes to competing against athletes from other states. In speaking of just football other states provide spring football that normally concludes with a competition of sort against another opponent. I also think are mandatory time off is during the wrong time. If we are not allowed to condition as a team after August 2nd, there is a possibility my player will not condition for the last 13 days prior to the start of the season. I am in agreeance of time off just not during the last 2 weeks prior to the start of the season. Some states have their mandatory time off based around the 4th of July.</p>
<p>I not only think DE athletes are at a disadvantage to other states but public and private school kids have a disparity as my kids cannot afford to play on a club team. I would coach them for free if given the opportunity just so they MIGHT have an equal chance for playing at a college level of securing scholarships that they truly need to advance in their academic career.</p>
<p>Most every serious student athlete is involved with a club sport that rarely is associated with education.</p>
<p>possibly if the athletes have no other means to play in a sport off season. For example some families pay for travel sports or leagues outside of the season. Everyone cannot afford this and school coaching may be the only option for some.</p>
<p>Athletes from other states are getting an opportunity to improve and refine the skill set for the respective sport(s) through instruction from the high school coach gaining continuous growth in that sport(s) under the same tutelage. In Delaware due to the out of season rule an athlete has to go to an outside source for instruction that has lead to multiple issues. Amongst those are coaching styles and instruction where the athlete is learning something different and for months and when reuniting with high school coach it isn't the ay the coach would like it down wasting time and probably money. Another issue is outside sources training individuals leading to poaching of players.</p>
<p>In other states the club teams can be formed around their high school team to ensure playing time, position rank on a team, as well as, iron out any "kinks" prior to high school season. These teams then become super teams because multiple players have created a tight bond and awareness of skills that can be developed over a long years period with the coach that will continue coaching them in school season.</p>
<p>We have athletes who are trying for scholarships in our respective sport, but need a coach to help them year round. Additionally, we are at a serious disadvantage when competing against teams that have winter programs and we do not. We have to work harder to bring our athletes up to par in a shorter period of time in order to be ready for competition. This puts additional stress and strain on not only the coach, but the athletes.</p>
<p>Absolutely. It is obvious when you leave the state to see that other teams have been practicing together throughout the offseason by the way they are playing. Huge disadvantage!</p>

Unless all states and schools have the same rules, some schools will be at a disadvantage, for sure.
Simple, they are coached more often and participate in more events.
It allows for teams to create a tactical understanding and team environment before season starts. It also allows for students un-able to plat travel to have opportunity to receive adequate training in off season.
Student athletes need structure and routine. Also most of our athletes cannot afford to participate in club or travel sports. By allowing a coach to organize an open gym or off season practices, our athletes would thrive during their high school careers and also post high school.
The question implies that advantage is gained when schools permit their coaches to coach their student athletes out of season/year round. If you subscribe to the idea that more is more, then less must put our schools/coaches/athletes at a disadvantage. Personally, I do not subscribe to this theory. Kids can (and do) receive year round instruction from any number of sources. In theory, DE student athletes are not at a disadvantage as they can receive year round instruction.
We have a disadvantage because we can only work with our players for 15-19 days before our first contest. Makes it very hard to be competitive against schools that can work with players all year.
There is less face time with coaches to improve their skill set.
the more you practice the better you play.
More repetitions over longer periods build instinctive muscle motor skills. Conditioning for wrestling is better when wrestling.
We don't play many out-of-state schools; schedule is dictated by our conference
I don't know for sure the impact the regulations have made.
In our particular sport there are only a handful of really quality high end coaches. To limit who students can go to in such a one on one sport disadvantages them significantly
Students should feel free to join other sports- broaden their experiences. Having coaching out of season may limit this.
The rules were well intended, but they are old.
Get more training time with coaches.
Team Chemistry, Conditioning and skill development are hindered.
Other states allow coaching out of season and allow high school coaches to coach in SANCTIONED LEAGUES with at least 1 practice for each league game.
Those who get to practice out of season are much more prepared due to being able to work with their future team ahead of time
The majority of our teams/athletes show very well when competing against athletes from other states. I think it is to our athletes advantage to play for different coaches throughout the year. They learn new or different techniques that allow them to further develop as athletes. Having played against teams from other states where coaches are permitted to coach year round I think we have an advantage with our rules.
In my sport, no.
Yes, athletes are more prepared and have a higher skill set in there respective sports and athletes IQ/knowledge/awareness of there sport are higher than athletes in Delaware because they are being coached and trained as a whole. I have lived in 3 other states and have seen athletic programs and athletes with more advancements in skills and program performance.
Sort of. Some more summer flexibility would be good but not coaching during other sports seasons of the school year.
I think enough play their desired sport out of season with clubs and travel that they are still getting instruction.

There are 3 DIAA sanctioned running sports and many schools do not provide for the indoor track season. Those athletes fair far worse against schools with the 3 sports. This would prove that summer training would be valuable. However, I do not believe it is the school's responsibility. Simply put, DIAA needs to stick to school sports and stop regulating summer activities that occur outside the school realm.

Many cannot pay for private instruction that high school coaches are willing to provide, but are not allowed under our current system.

More practice makes better players

I think abandoning the coaching-out-of-season rule will create a situation in which athletes will be encouraged to specialize in one sport. Coaches will also be encouraged to do something with their kids year round. This is not a good idea. Kids are better served when they play multiple sports. That being said I would like to be allowed to offer instruction to students who may want to learn some fundamentals prior to the start of the season or hone some skills in small groups similar to students seeking extra help outside of class. I would also favor relaxing the rules to allow coaches to instruct their students to encourage their participation prior to the regular season.

The skill level will be different

Players having the ability to get proper organized training in the offseason clearly puts DE athletes at a disadvantage.

Not informed enough to respond.

All states that surround us allow their coaches to work with their kids and coach their kids in leagues That is more instructions from a real coach.

Our concern should be fair competition in the state. Too many variables come into play when you go outside the state. Differences in level of competition cannot be linked to coaching out of season. Little leagues and youth programs are a big influence.

Other players have the benefit of working with their coach throughout the year, while Delaware players are limited in exposure to their own plays, teammates and expectations,

We have been down this road plenty of times, the state of Delaware is way behind in terms of competition. We are now competing against travel ball organizations that are taking are kids away from us, because they provide more opportunities.

When a child is given an opportunity to play or participate in a program that is of their choosing (not school related) and are limited to the level of coaching they are seeking because of this out of season rule, my kids suffer. I feel that qualified coaches should be given the opportunity to coach any child from all schools when that child/family so chooses that program. On most occasions My student athletes get a less qualified coach and do not flourish as a player because they are not challenged or given the opportunity to grow their knowledge or skill level of the game.

The coaching out of season is occurring in our own state. It is very hard to monitor.

Athletes may improve more if they work with their coaches out of season.

It is up to a school to determine if it wants to play teams out of state. when determined to be beneficial, they are aware of the possible disparities that exist amongst the athletes.

Other states are allowed to work with their players/coach all year around. Public school coaches in Delaware are at a disadvantage when it comes to the private schools in Delaware

Minimal competition with out of state schools.

This depends on the expectation one believes should be the results of athletics.

I am at the middle level and don't feel knowledgeable to speak on HS preparation

The athletes are more conditioned and prepared coming in to the season

Some players are playing for AAU programs and are being coached by coaches who are not qualified.



They are practicing their specific sport all year vs ours who are only during season
When playing against teams that are together out of season gives that team an advantage because there is very little lag time in their training and team cohesion.
student athletes learn more with more time spent on their sport.
In wrestling there are clubs available for athletes to get off-season workouts
Current regulations limit access of Delaware student athletes to the most qualified coaches and inhibit the development of positive relationships between athletes and the coaches of their choice.
I don't think I have seen this be an issue for any of my athletes
Of course. They have already gelled as a team, worked out personnel issues, started strength training, etc. they would be at a huge advantage
Students that compete at a high level will work out on their own
Two things you cant coach, hustle and experience. My players are unable to afford to play for travel or any other type of leagues. The only experience they receive is the 3 month of softball season with me.
For player's safety, it would be better for the athletes to be able to execute the non-contact "heads-up" drills out of season.
Club sports make up the holes. The High School Coaches are teachers and school affiliates then and not club coaches recruiting for their club teams. The recruitment (although still bad in DE) is far less than would be otherwise if club coaches were aloud to coach at the HS.
I do not think that should be the primary focus. I think conference first.
It should be the same across the board.
It makes things somewhat more challenging.
Athletes who truly love and are passionate about their sport will continue to train and practice after their season has ended.
Although I am opposed to single-sport specialization for any HS athlete, I feel that states and schools that permit out-of-season coaching do hold a competitive advantage over DE HS programs.
Yes. Because the head coach can coach summer league. They can hold summer workouts at school.
I do not know enough about the surrounding states to answer this question. Based on our own state and how things are enforced the teams and schools that are capable of providing more are at an advantage and those that follow the rules are at a disadvantage.
I think you should be able to have 1-2 weeks of off season camps like football does. Athletes need to be coached by other coaches and learn as much as possible from other people about sports and life.
Self explanatory
From what I have seen the club level coaching is often incorrect, fosters poor player development, lack of discipline, and only care about money.
If an athlete chooses to get extra coaching or practice out of the normal sport season they should be allowed to. There isn't any harm in allowing athletes to train or be coached out of the normal season, especially if it is voluntary.
It is evident in just the overall competition level of Delaware public school athletics vs PA, NJ, and MD schools
Possibly. If other states allow coaches to instruct athletes out of season, why should DE be different?
DE must update these antiquated rules.
they get less coaching time with their coaches.

I don't think it's the out of season coaching that creates this advantage. I think it becomes more about the number and quality of athletes. I'd rather have kids playing basketball or wrestling rather than just working out for lacrosse.

more time with athletes is an advantage for coaches

Athletes gain a clear advantage when being able to work with their coaches in the off season. I think this is an excellent way to keep student athletes busy and off of the streets.

Players should be allowed to play during the off season, especially if they are not playing another sport. In many cases, public school students do not have money to pay for camps and leagues. The coach and school are the only way students can play their sport of choice in the off season. We are putting our public schools at a huge disadvantage, especially in areas where students do not have money to pay for camps and leagues.

our surrounding states are aloud to coach there sport all year long and it helps the student athletes stay at least on track with them. Some may be able to get ahead with their work ethic.

At the most elite level, yes I believe DE student-athletes are at a disadvantage. I have uncles that have coached and been an A.D. in XXX. I coached and taught in XXX for 3 years myself. The regulations in both states allowed for much greater off-season coaching and exposure that coaches were allowed to have with their student-athletes. One distinct disadvantage that DE regulations place on a coach, is that it requires a high school program to only have an off- season program that is managed by non-coaches. So towns or school communities with strong involvement, have strong off-season programs. School programs with limited adult support cannot compete with bigger programs within the state.

Delaware athletes do not receive the benefit of continuous growth and develop throughout the school year as opposed to their out of state peers. Coaching out of season will only improve the quality of sports in Delaware and the performance of our athletes.

Players that want to compete at the highest level receive instruction/coaching/training in other ways that are compliant with the current rules.

Our restrictions limit our students opportunities with qualified people. This is not the same in other states providing a limiting factor on our students. It reduces opportunity for skill advancement which may lead to loss of scholarship opportunity. There is a missed opportunity especially to our economically disadvantaged students who can't afford to play in other leagues during the off season. Our current practice limits the opportunity for our students to interact with mentors and positive role models.

They are at an obvious disadvantage in this instance because they are not receiving the same level of instruction, guidance and even supervision.

It is something that goes on anyway, and it is a way to help those athletes that want to participate in sanctioned events out of season can do so to get better and prepare for the upcoming season.

Because of the length of out of state wrestling seasons they have more mat time. As well as more resources.

Yes, although this is not my primary rationale for hoping that we will relax the rules and allow coaches to work with athletes out of season.

Research shows that adolescent athletes develop better and have less injuries when following a multi-sport athlete model. Having interscholastic coaches begin coaching out of season will completely decimate the multi sport model as coaches will only play athletes that have been working with them year round and not kids that play other sports. We will force kids to choose one sport to be good at and ruin their experience of trying something new. Its the entire reason that high schools don't educate to a job/career. We don't need kids deciding what they want to be good at for their entire athletic career when they are 14.



Private and charter schools in Delaware also have an advantage as their school calendars are not aligned with traditional public schools. These schools, and out of state school have extra time to teach, train and coach their athletes.
Delaware athletes are regulated so much by DIAA specifics that their coaches either ignore the regulations and don't get punished, or it's too much hassle to try to follow the guidelines they don't do anything out of season. Players in other states are able to play with their teammates and be coached without these strict guidelines. This allows for more cohesive play and learning when their sport comes in season.
I'm most familiar with PA and their essentially allowed to coach year round but cannot require participation. Strong PA schools play field hockey at an incredibly higher level than DE schools with the exception of XXX perhaps. Not surprisingly XXX has an excellent, well structured feeder program.
They are limited to qualified coaches and players are not always able to play with the talent that matches their ability.
Our players do not get to play year round with coaching as other states allow. Which makes them at a disadvantage when the are trying to compete with other players in other states getting into college for sports scholarships.
States that allow players to coach out of season have an advantage in preparing their team for competitions in season. A few years ago, a DIAA member school team played together on the travel team circuit during the summer of their junior year. That team won the DIAA
An athlete is at a disadvantage if they cannot train with their coach out of season.
Less time to learn from coaches. Less time to work as a team.
Absolutely !! Proof of it is that the same school are the state champs more often than others . If supposedly we all began with students that have never played the sport before but 3 weeks later with only 2hours during weekdays are (30 hours) playing with an abismal difference ?!
Everyone should be on the same playing field
Coaches and athletes should have the chance to work together if they so desire.
The time in season do develop teams and what is offered over the summer allows sufficient opportunity to compete.
We are at a disadvantage for more than these mentioned reasons, especially since my district does not support or have indoor track like many of the districts in the state of DE
Other states that allow out-of-season coaching are a distinct advantage over Delaware. They are able to monitor students more closely, help them prepare for a rigorous season, stay in shape, and support their academic success.
Yes, but I believe the rules are hurting the development of our players. We have players that are willing to play in off-season "XXX league " game and the coaches are not allowed to coach it. This rule also stops coaches to register and sign the team up for a recruiting tournament during the off-season, which hinders the players opportunity to be recruited. Of course the players can sign up to play for a "Club/AAU Team." But we all know that many of our players can not afford those teams. This is just another example of our privilege players having an advantage.
It's very possible because other states have coaches allowed to have contact year around allowing their athletes to be trained by their high school coaches all year. The better coaches will make athletes better if instructed properly
All other programs in adjoining states allow coaching out of season in summer programs and club programs this puts Delaware athletes and coaches at a significant disadvantage. It also puts Delaware programs at a disadvantage in participating in off season invitational events.
It should be irrelevant because our students should not be competing against students from other states.

In my sport there are simply not enough coaches to coach club teams that dont already coach high school
It forces DE athletes to be involved in time consuming and expensive out of school sports programs to compete in and out of state
The way the question is written it would have to be yes. I also believe some schools break the rules and there is no concern by DIAA.
Year around play allows opposing players to create stronger court relationships. Additionally, coaches have full trust in the instruction provided, rather than facing the potential confusion of conflicting coaching instruction.
They are given more individualized instruction
Most athletes are playing their respective sport at the club level or AAU level anyway.
Most high-performing athletes train on their own outside of high school, with a different coach, team, or organization.
When coaches mentor kids all year round it helps build consistency and rapport with kids. Can also help with getting kids serious about grades.
I've heard that Pennsylvania puts Delaware at a major disadvantage.
If coaching was allowed all year round you would have a better, well rounded team. Plus short timing for certain sports hinders the ability to compete with programs who do
Simply not enough time
Team camps often pit our schools against schools from states allowing much more liberal out of season regulations. Knowledge levels are not always equal!
they can work out all year on fundamentals and we can't , build a program
Players from different states are not prohibited by the off-season rules.
When coaches can work throughout the off season not only do players get more consistent instruction, they develop better relationships with the coaching staff. Teams are able to start a season in shape and with a basic game plan in place which puts them weeks ahead of us.
Teams that are allowed practice and or game time outside of the regular season allows them to
If others can coach throughout the year kids receive more training.
The states close to Delaware have more flexible out of season rules giving them a clear advantage against Delaware teams.
The more coaching an athlete has the better player therefore if other states allow out of season coaching our students are at a disadvantage.
There are available opportunities to play through clubs or travel teams. Players get introduced to other coaching methods and styles.
The out of state athletes are allowed more time to practice and be coached so that gives them a clear advantage
Student-athletes only benefit from working with their coaches in/out of season. Allows them to increase their skill set, health benefits and keeps them out of trouble. Grades increase, attendance increases, parental influence (which is lacking) is consistent and stable. Can only be beneficial. Student-athletes are competing for scholarships and places on rosters.
I think coaching out of season could be beneficial to increase the coach's understanding on what needs to be worked on and a better relationship between coach and athlete.
I grew up in the Washington DC area and the kids there have more access to camps, workouts, and exposure.
Do not play any schools out of state
I have no evidence to support my intuition, but my intuition says yes.

Coaches can organize teams filled of their in season athletes through out the year. This allows their athletes to get the same type of training year round as well as keeping them involved in the sport during the offseason.
In some instances. As a father of student-athletes there were times that the coaching my children received from non-school coaches was better than what they received in school. There were times where this was the opposite too...
I think the Delaware athletes are being held back when you have coaches willing to give their time to even make them better. The kids suffer from this rule not the coaches or DIAA !
Other state's athletes are ahead of the game.
Reality is that these committed athletes of all sports are trained and directed year round DIAA stands pretty alone in a lot of its thinking
I also think that athletes are also disadvantaged by Delaware schools who hold out of season practices and leagues for their athletes by utilizing loopholes or disregard for the DIAA rules because of what school they are.
The answer is inside of the question.
it is unfair that the playing field is not level
Let kids be coached year long
We so far behind the eight ball that our players rather go to other schools in other states that will help them develop. Schools in other states with their coaches are working all the time to reach to the next level. Delaware have some players that reach that high level status to reach D1 but what about the others. I have seen or heard the last time we had a McDonald's All-American for boys or girls
Absolutely. As a parent who son was fortunate enough to get drafted for baseball out of school and speaking with professional coaches across the country we are definitely do a disservice to our athletes.
We rarely compete with out of state schools.
Neighboring states allow coaches to work with athletes outside of the season which puts our coaches at a disadvantage.
The rule is ridiculous, and out dated. To not be able to assist kids in the off season in this day in age when most states are doing it shows how behind we are in our thinking towards student/athletes.
There is a very specific economic line that is drawn, where athletes that have money and other resources are able to pay for or receive year-round coaching and conditioning. This leaves public school students at a disadvantage, especially those who are "at-risk" and need support and guidance from an educator and/or coach.
Delaware athletes are joining travel teams to receive the extra training and exposure so they can play college sports; in the hopes of getting sport scholarship money.
When done the right way increased instruction is extremely beneficial
The other coaches are allowed to coach their teams all year around and compete in different leagues and tournaments.
Especially when it comes to boys high school lacrosse at the level we play at. Other national programs have the ability to practice almost year round which helps immensely build team chemistry and camaraderie. Teams we play like XXX and XXX practice and play together year round and the benefits of that are shown on the field. There is a huge difference between a team that has practiced together for 3 months versus 3 weeks.
Absolutely. They receive either less instruction than others or receive inadequate instruction. They also become prey for the many "street agents" who are charging inordinate amounts of money to the parents with inadequate training.

More practice time allows for greater advantage during competition
Athletes from schools in other states are afforded the opportunity to train in their sport for more time meaning they are able to fine tune their skill in that sport.
If they are not able to train as other athletes are able to train it puts them at a significant disadvantage as other athletes get that extra time that they can put into their craft.
They are at a distinct disadvantage to compete competitively with schools who are permitted to play year-round with one another.
In some ways, especially for football, where neighboring states are allowed to have practices throughout the summer. However, we get to run our conditioning programs, which some states do not allow.
There are plenty of opportunities for athletes to participate out of season on travel teams with other coaches to develop their skills
They practice when ever and there are more spots to play ball in other states.
More time with certified coaches will increase the skill level of the athletes.
The ability to offer the opportunity to kids is biggest issue here. Locally, some deterrents I have heard is that the availability will force kids to choose one sport over the other, etc. Kids are already doing that. With good communication among a school's AD's and coaches, common ground can be found which will help promote better development of skills and fundamentals.
A good example of this is the XXX Festival held over Thanksgiving break. It would be awesome to be able to coach a group of local players and take them to the XXX Festival without them having to pay a significant amount of money to be a member of a club/travel team. It's a
great opportunity for exposure to college coaches.
The more exposure that you can get from your high school coach will allow for skill development that can only happen right now if you pay a consider fee for a student to play on a travel team.
They have more time to practice together and get better chemistry. Chemistry is what makes a team great. If only one player is playing in the off season, then they are getting farther away from the chemistry they were once apart of.
In Tennis, it is crucial to get hitting reps in constantly. A large number of student athletes do not play tennis year round. Missing those reps in the off season is the primary factor that separates players skill set and ability to win.
Coaches in other states are allowed more time with players and individuals and as a team.
We are one of the only states left that do not allow our coaches to coach out of season or coach things like travel ball teams.
Self explanatory - These rules were written to "help" student athletes and in all actuality it hurt the students. Getting coached by those they shouldn't. Not getting the proper training or guidance in general. Left on their own to look for training they cannot afford. There are so many negatives to not allowing us to coach them.
They are getting coached for a full year and more exposure
i feel strongly that student athletes benefit from playing a variety of sports throughout the year. if out-of-season rules "force" them to consider playing other sports to stay in shape, i am in favor of those rules. year-round coaching might improve the quality of the on-field product (teams might be better), but it will lead to burnout of both coaches and athletes.
We are one of the only states that have this rule
From my experience in other states, they have more open rules when it comes to practicing out of season and during the summer.
In a team sport, playing together as a unit can make for a better performing team.

Year round is better than 2 1/2 months
Not sure how to explain that. If an athlete can be coached in the off season they will most likely be better than an athlete not coached in the off season.
The problem is not out of state. Many of the private and more successful public schools (mostly charters) have players who simply go to their club team as soon as the season ends and continue getting quality coaching. Some teams entire team plays together all year round. Most traditional public schools do not have this luxury. Their parents do not have money to afford placing them on club teams and it is up to the player to work on their own to get better. By not allowing offseason coaching we are just widening the gap between the successful programs and the unsuccessful programs. It does not matter to the successful programs whether you allow off season coaching or not. Their players are already getting instructed at a high level! The programs this rule hurts is the traditional public schools.
I am not at all familiar with what other states permit. If other states permit coaching out of season then, and only then should Delaware permit coaching out of season.
Many of these student-athletes are competing for college opportunities and can very well lose out to those given more opportunities.
Need a third response - Not Sure. This may be true for some sports and not for others. Much depends on the type of sport and other variables that make this a difficult question to answer.
Grammatically incorrect wording of the question.
Some HS coaches who coach travel teams are unable to help the student-athlete with recruiting opportunities and instructional opportunities to further their athletic experience IF that student athlete choose to do so.
If they play against a team from out of state that allow the Coach to coach them, then they have a clear advantage. If we get a chance to work with our athletes then we can help get them ready for preseason
Travel Teams and higher level leagues (XXX) expose our athletes to equal competition.
Delaware is in the stone ages as compared to other states
Many of our students are behind in skill development. Students of means and wealth are able to close the "gap" with private lessons etc. The average public school student athlete is at a disadvantage.
Everyone should have the same set of rules by National Federation.
If a player in another state can receive coaching from their coach to perfect their technique all year round. And our players only can work on their technique 3-4 months out of the year the are athletes are defiantly at a disadvantage.
All coaches teach and communicate differently so as in some cases it might be an advantage to get other inputs sometimes it may confuse players if they are told to do the same thing 2 different ways
Generally speaking, the more that coaches can access/influence/teach/mentor/coach their teams and players, the better off those players/teams will be when it comes to competition time. More access out of season means more time to teach playing and instructional philosophies, as well as as focus on physical development and growth through organized speed/agility/weight training programs.
It depends, but overall, no.
Delaware athletes will never be good as athletes from other states that allow out of season coaching. Times have changed and Delaware is still behind.
I feel that there is a lack of qualified coaches to coach club indoor field hockey because they can't use the high school coaches. Many schools we compete against at the club level have more ability to practice with each other year to year because roster decisions do not have to be based on the high school coaches players.

Yes but we should be concerned more with what is happening in our state since most schools don't play an out of state team/schedule.
Other states allow more access. Student athletes end up being coached by unqualified volunteers.
When wrestling in PA as a student, we did good amount of team bounding and improving skills as a team. I feel this was a great advantage and helped push me above other wrestlers, including the few team we competed against from Delaware
Teams should have the option to prepare beyond the limitations that have been set.
If other states allow it, our student-athletes are at a disadvantage
Surrounding states like Pennsylvania do not have restrictions.
Students can get coaching in league play. Having a coach in a league coach their own player my be allowed and this should not be held against them...although there should be restrictions on how many of their own players are allowed on their league/rec team.
Sometimes it can be when there are athletes that play or train in a certain sport all year long by being enrolled in a club/travel team and go through private training sessions.
players are often forced to be on teams that are not in their best interest because the team formed may have their high school coach. They are therefore forced onto a team that may not be the best fit for them simply because their high school coach may be involved in the team. In addition, there are areas of the state in which there are not many opportunities to play on teams or have clinics. The coaches in those communities are the most likely to coach the team or clinics but since their players are not permitted they are at a disadvantage.
Speaking baseball-specific, other states allow a pitching program in February to prepare pitchers more effectively for the beginning of practice (March 1)
Every other state is way above us. Their kids get more exposure and more are successful in college.
The more you work with a group of kids the more comfortable they are with you and the more comfortable they are with each other. That in itself is an advantage.
Obviously, if other states allow coaches to work with their athletes out of season, it promotes continuity of ideals, strategy, and mission that will enhance their program
There are many opportunities for coaches to work with their student athletes in the off season that allow them to strengthen & condition their student athletes both physically & mentally. Team building is also a possibility. Majority of student athletes today are working on their own in specific sports so that skill building is a priority. The one negative their is the instruction may not be as good as we want.
Almost every other state does it and we coaches are losing kids to club sports who can coach them all year round. The best coaches are doing club now instead of high school.
Common sense, more instruction allows for more understanding and better development.
Students should be allowed to condition and train all year around. Structure and competition helps kids year around especially students who are at risk.
In Southern Delaware there are not enough qualified volleyball coaches that are willing to coach in the off season to meet the demand of girls who want to grow in their sport. The players at my high school are at a huge disadvantage because they end up having to play up north because I cant coach them or end up playing for an inexperienced coach
The disadvantage occurs when facing a school that has a year round development program.
Other states that allow out of season coaching are benefitting from players developing which help them get noticed by college coaching.
Several states including ones that border ours allow their coaches access to their players much more than us. We are already at a disadvantage based on the number of games played and then you add



the fact we can't work with them except during our season and it makes it tough for large college programs to take our kids seriously. We also need more access prior to the season starting for safety reasons. No way to condition throwing arms in three weeks safely.
longer training time and individual coaching
To some extent, I see this in volleyball. Look at the universities we send students to as a state. Not a lot of big name schools. Even UD has few, if any, Delaware HS players. XXX was a two time player of the year and played club volleyball. I think she went to XXX So, I am not sure coaching out of season would have mattered in this case. I think it has to do with exposure, level of competition. This state is too small and that won't be changed if I can coach out of season. However, I see some girls who come from poorer backgrounds and they would benefit immensely from coaching out of season because they can't afford club fees to play year round. Could they play at college, maybe.
If other areas allow year round coaching and Delaware does not, how does that help the students who compete against year round practicing students?
I know of states that are able to work on in their sports all year around. I believe it should be up to the parent to regulate.
Our policy encourages multisport participation, and allows education based athletics to fulfill its mission.
State locally allow more practice time as a team, which allow them to get more proficient at there craft. A full spring practice help also in player recruiting.
In a state as small as ours, it is difficult for student-athletes to find quality coaching since current, qualified, and certified coaches from their HS are prohibited from coaching outside of their designated season. If a student-athlete is able to find a qualified coach, many times those coaches require compensation which many athletes cannot afford. Our student-athletes are competing against all other student-athletes from across the country for scholarships and playing opportunities from colleges and universities. When student-athletes from other states are allowed to attend practices and showcase their abilities to college coaches through participation outside of their designated season, it is a significant advantage for students in other states.
Preperation time and available programs to stay in shape and in condition to be better.
Other states are allowing athletes to be coached year round, including national events. Our athletes represent at these events without proper coaching, because of the regulations.
I dont know
<b>ABSOLUTELY</b>
Player development and team development is delayed due to these restrictions. There are not enough coaches to lead teams in the offseason for lacrosse and the players are not getting proper coaching out of season because of this lack of knowledge.
The Pa and Md schools hold 1 practice per week outside of the regular season. They are also unlimited to coach their players on organized, established club teams all year.
Absolutely. Players are seeking consistent instruction to what's provided by the school and it is not available. What is coached and emphasized is not the same.
Cross Country runners from around the area attend camps with Coaches and run practices/events together without fear of repurcussions.
As a coach at a public high school, I'm not concerned with other states. I'm concerned that the playing field is even between all of the schools, public or non-public, in the state of Delaware. If a team needs to compete with that many teams from out of state, I wonder why they would be considered a Delaware high school team/athlete in the first place. That sounds more like an all- star team's issue than a Delaware high school.

Yes and No. Yes, because a student-athlete may be denied access to the best coaching resource or access to the most competitive team because of out of season regs. But NO, because the current regs take pressure off of student-athletes to have choice as to where they prepare in the off-season and also allows for the acceptance of multi-sport athletes. Year-round coaching has potential toxic implications by forcing student-athletes to pay to place in certain coaches programs and to not allow multi-sport athletes to exist. This may work in other states but the smallness in Delaware has already led to coaching alliances that are unhealthy for kids.

Some sports such as running require year round consistency and maintenance to progress.

if they can

Athletes need consistent messages from coaches. When an athlete is not allowed out of season coaching from their highschool coaches, they often participate in AAU leagues, where they get a different style of coaching, and are forced to respond to different coaching styles. This becomes a difficult adjustment when transitioning back into school basketball. Non-Delaware teams mesh and blend much better than DE teams, because these girls play together all year long, and are under the same coach all year long.

We are the only state that doesn't have spring ball- makes no sense and sets us back compared to all other states. As a former NCAA athlete, people make fun of our state for our pointless rules, regulations, season times, and playoff status. Very disappointing.

Not allowing any players to be coached by their school coach is not helping the players. Other states that allow out-of-season coaching are able to continue to work on skills throughout the year, and not just during their short season.

100% at a disadvantage. From player development and recruiting, our athletes are subjected to NOT working with highly-qualified school-appointed coaches outside of their season and must seek outside entities, trainers, and specialists that can cause more harm than good.

Do we not understand that increased opportunities provide better opportunities for growth?

Absolutely! Kids are receiving coaching and instruction which is extremely beneficial to the individual student athlete and vicariously the team. Furthermore, kids who do participate in travel types ( specifically ) get the advantage of having different coaches as well as their own work with them in a much different environment .

Most other states allow some level of contact/coaching through club teams. Those states place limits on the number or percentage of a coaches athletes who are allowed on a team s/he coaches.

Student-athletes from other states are being instructed by the same coach all year long vs. Delaware student-athletes who are not instructed by the same coach all year long. Out of state schools get to practice together all year long, Delaware schools (legally) do not.

Our teams get drastically better with practice

I believe they may be at a slight disadvantage in sports that allow and promote out of season training such as a full spring football plan.

Other states have more relaxed out of season coaching policies, which enable their athletes to develop themselves both in the mental and physical aspect of their sport

Dependent on quality of coach and character of coach, players are more skilled and gain a competitive advantage if they are involved in a top notch education based athletic program more than just during their sport season.

We don't play out of state teams

I think many athletes in other states outperform Delaware high schools, but without more information, I can't say it is due to out of season coaching. At the end of the day, individuals who have



the time and resources to compete year round (in sports outside of their high school) tend to be more competitive in their sport regardless of state.
Yes you can see a big disadvantage when we go to team camps especially. Teams from other states are running plays and my players are basically paying pick up basketball. It would be much more beneficial participating at team camp if they were able to run some of the things we hope to do in the upcoming season. The other big kids who I believe get disadvantaged are the kids who can't afford to hire a personal trainer.
They can coach athletes year round
we new technology and training coaches need to be able to work with players year round
Full year on-court instruction vs 5-month On-court instruction makes a difference to a players knowledge, skill, and safety
but we need to evaluate if this is desirable and enforcable
The current rules hurt our athletes because we force the athletes seek outside coaching. Most outside coach charges money and don't really have to best interest of the athletes in mind.
Obviously, they will have more instruction time with the team they will be playing for during the season.
Being away from a sport, especially wrestling for that long of a time, regresses the athletes tremendously
When our athletes are striving to play at the collegiate level, they are competing against players from all 50 states, including ones where qualified coaches are allowed to coach their players year round. Not all players can afford travel or club teams and rely on their high school coaches to prepare them for the next level. That is difficult to do in 3 months a year.
Delaware athletes are at a significant disadvantage as compared to athletes from our surrounding states.
As a former XXX football player, I have many friends who are coaching in other areas of the country. In Delaware, we simply can't compete. I know that we are a small state, but there is a ridiculous disparity in competition in this state. A handful of schools win consistent championships, plain and simple. They get the transfers, they have the culture. It is extremely hard to improve team culture without additional coaching opportunities for inferior programs.
Significant academic growth can happen when the student chooses to pursue strengthening exercises, especially from those who know him best. The same is true athletically.
Many of the athletes are still playing and practicing with outside groups. I am very concerned about 1 sport specialization
Other states allow coaches to participate more in out of season activities to better prepare their athletes for competition.
Absolutely a disadvantage for all sports and athletes in the state of Delaware. Coaches and athletes have a limited time to get things ready before the start of their season.
I think our kids, especially in my district, where we have limited middle school sports are at a disadvantage not only out of state, but within the state as well.
Other surrounding states are much more liberal in conducting off season coaching and programs. It is more difficult for our athletes to compete against them on the court/field/mat, and for college positions.
Especially for baseball, the ramp up to in-season games is too short to effectively and safely have the student athletes be prepared for the season. Also due to the lack of number of games there is added pressure to perform in every game which means we need more time in the winter/fall to allow the students to prepare for their season

Absolutely, it seems that these schools can and will coach throughout the year. Our kids are just as talented but due to our regulations we cannot give them the same opportunities.
Absolutely... we go to a XXX summer camp every year and the teams from Pa and No that attend are shocked at the limited amount of time we have with our athletes. They've been practicing all spring putting in playbooks and doing drills. It puts our athletes at a huge competitive disadvantage in my opinion. Also more concerning is it puts our athletes in the hands of trainers and 7v7 coaches all offseason who more often than not teach bad habits we spend most of our preseason post August 15th camp correcting
I can only speak for the sports i coach especially football. Athletes can play other sports all year in different types leagues. Football is a sport or set of skills that needs to be practiced more than just starting in August. It is a physical sport and limiting the athletes learning of technique and other physical aspects puts them at a disadvantage makes aspects of the sport dangerous for them.
Delaware Interscholastic sports are at one of the lowest levels in the country due at least in part to being at a disadvantage from the restrictions on out of season coaching.
Other states offer greater opportunities to run organized practices by knowledgeable coaches
Almost every state is allowed to do camps, alumni games 3 weeks of an off season. Delaware is at a massive disadvantage in all sports
Other states allow their athletes to pursue their goals throughout the year. They get more quality coaching time
I think athletes have a lot of options other than their high school coaches if they want.
Less prepared
Why should we not allow athletes to practice out of season?
Our team has participated in summer events that have schools from PA, NJ, and MD. Since our team is not organized at that point, and has not truly practiced in several months, it is hard for our guys to compete at the same level as the teams that are being coached in the off-season.
Doesn't affect me
PA,NJ,MD Lacrosse teams have there head coaches with then for fall leagues and summer leagues, off season tourney's ect. What I do not understand about Delaware is why wouldn't you want young people around coaches and mentors more often?
players, if serious about their sport are playing on travel teams thus being coached by different coaches which could help athletes in different aspects of their game.
At times, yes, when the school could sponsor more out of season conditioning programs for specified sports. However, they could receive coaching from other clubs/leagues out of season as well, just from a different coach. Generally the high school coach can recommend a coach or club with the same philosophical practices for their sport.
Schools in surrounding states are able to coach their athletes out of season. I think that it would be beneficial with in certain confines.
Most students participate in club sports outside of school all year round
Other states have teams of athletes who compete all year round. These opportunities are not allowed in this state, so some students are at a disadvantage in access to sports outside their school season.
Delaware student/athletes are at a great disadvantage in this area. The other out of state teams are better prepared because they are allowed to coach out of season
I came from New Jersey and still have connections there. They have a tournament run that I have been offered a spot in, but it takes place before our August 15th start date. Those teams are into their preseason prep already at that stage.

Other states allow coaches unlimited access to athletes until 2 weeks prior to the start of season. Distance running is helped by continual practice during summer. Runners in DE aren't allowed to practice with coaches, runners in PA or VA can, I'd say that's a disadvantage for DE xc runners

The rules on coaching out of season are antiquated, with the rise of travel/club teams. If good men and women are willing to volunteer their time to coach these teams, they shouldn't be penalized or have to make choices because of the rules. The issue comes at private schools, that would use their position at the school to recruit for travel/club programs or vice versa. As a coach, I want to impact my players lives in a positive, and in some cases being able to have contact with these students all year could help keep them out of trouble.

Delaware is behind the times.

All surrounding states and most in this country, can coach outside their players in leagues outside of high school. Delaware still can not. I think this is a deterrent to the players development in their sport especially for ones looking to compete with other athletes outside of our state for collegiate positions.

The out of state teams get 9 months of coaching and playing together that out athlete do not get.

Other states have all season to perfect what is different within their group. The level of play is higher in other states due to this.

We are a small state with a small state rule mindset. It doesn't help our students get recruited or the level of competition advance much when we are restricted and surrounding states with a larger pool are not.

Coaches in other states hate the rule. They say its way too much to be coaching their kids year round and wish they would have similar rules to Delaware But I believe changing it would severely harm overall athletic participation and would make it impossible for some adults to effectively coach if it becomes a year-round responsibility.

Q21 Do you think that a change [relaxing] in the current out of season coaching regulations will result in greater undue influence?

**Please explain your response.**

I know students transfer out of Delaware schools to attend schools in surrounding states because of the limitations DIAA has put on out of season coaching.

It may possibly but not necessarily. It will provide the players with more options and the ability for them to be coached by the coach of their choice and for the coach the ability to coach athletes if they choose. We need good coaches, and if there is a good coach that wants to coach out of season and has players that want to be coached by them, they should not be restricted to do so.

I would just like to improve the skills of my players in the off season. If we coaches are the only means they have to improve, why restrict their growth to only 3 months a year. Not all students can afford to pay for private instruction.

This may be rose-colored-glasses optimism, but I like to think that most coaches looking for a change in the current rules are only wishing for opportunities to teach and develop their own players, and that the impetus lies solely within the development of players already in their respective varsity and sub-varsity programs. Those who feel compelled to recruit players away from other programs, to

<p>their own teams, will likely try to circumvent whatever rules are in place at any given time. It is an unfortunate (hopefully limited) reality of competition that some people would rather "buy" a talented team than do the work to build one. The wolves will prey upon the sheep</p>
<p>no matter what, but as long as the wolves are identified and punished appropriately, the benefit in the long run should be to the players for the extra training they are afforded.</p>
<p>I say yes if it is not policed properly. If policed properly, may be a good thing.</p>
<p>I could see that possibility with some of the sports.</p>
<p>Structure and athletics are some of the most positive aspects of a young athletes life.</p>
<p>It will help to level the playing field in many cases. I think you force people to look for loop holes and that's silly. Let's have a system where everyone can be transparent.</p>
<p>It should be strictly voluntary... for both the coaches and the athletes. And No coach should be able to put restrictions on team appointments if they decided to miss these out of season contacts and no coach should be able to state you can't do this sport if you choose to miss for another sport.</p>
<p>I do not know how to answer this. I think at the moment some of my athletes might get lucky and if they get on a club team at least experience different coaches. I think relaxing the rules might allow some schools to take advantage of their current status BUT I believe that our public school kids deserve the opportunity for more and not every coach will offer free coaching. A relaxed set of rules may be more positive than "undue influence" which may already be taking place. Unexpected outcomes is the concern.</p>
<p>Keep them separate. It would only increase corruption.</p>
<p>I think the matter can have both positive and negative influences due to the character of the individual adults. None of it is controllable and it is all based on one's decision making.</p>
<p>It can hurt a sport to have it so kids can be coached by their high school coach as then it will feel mandatory and kids will feel like they have to do it year round or be cut. It ruins their chance to play other sports and increases recruiting, which of course is against the rules.</p>
<p>Unfair to those who cannot coach outside of the season</p>
<p>Certain schools can now persuade involvement in their club in order to solidify their spot on a high school team.</p>
<p>There are certain schools that have been heavily recruiting players for years &amp; they do so without any fear of discipline. Those same schools will continue to recruit regardless, but for many of us relaxing the current rules will actually give us a better chance of keeping our kids by providing them with the opportunities that they want &amp; are looking for.</p>
<p>I do believe that the student will feel more pressure to attend the conditioning because it will impact his/her participation during the season. With travel and family obligations, relaxing the rule would give some coaches the go ahead to have mandatory summer practices.</p>
<p>Only better DE HS sports!</p>
<p>The cultural pressure to specialize in sport is paramount. I am a firm believer in education based athletics. I am a firm believer in the benefits of multi-sport participation. DIAA had a leadership responsibility to uphold its mission. Allowing coaches to coach out of season is counter to education based athletics.</p>
<p>Athletes should be encouraged to participate in multiple sports and avoid specializing in any particular sport.</p>
<p>I think it will just improve the overall program.</p>
<p>No, there are already enough influence.</p>
<p>Most of our coaches encourage multi-sport athletes.</p>

I think that each school should police their coaches to be respectful and fair to all students. As they would teachers of academic subjects. If a student needs to improve their math and takes tutoring from a staff member of that school it is not seen as undue influence. Just an academic improvement. I think students that seek out improvement in their particular sports should not be disadvantaged
If people want to engage in undue influence- they will do so regardless of the regulations.
This must be monitored diligently for undue influence, but I do not believe it would be abused. Athletes need to be free to make choices.
A student athlete may feel more pressure to be a one sport athlete and may not want to disappoint their head coach leading up to the next season.
I believe it would be the best to benefit everyone
Relaxing the rules will definitely result in greater undue influence. Not every coach wants to coach out of season and coaches that do definitely could influence athletes.
"undue stress" has a negative feeling to the phrasing, yet I believe relaxing the regulation will create positive outcomes for our students
It could.
Mostly in the area of transportation and needs of the student required to attend "summer" sessions. Coaches will want to "help" the student whose parents cannot help them.
I guess the best way to say that is No more than already exists. There is a tremendous amount of outright AND subtle recruiting going on. Non-boundary have a great advantage to collect players on the idea of bringing in talented players from different communities (private, vo-tech and charters alike).
I think coaches who are involved in their sport outside of the season (even for altruistic reasons) are already influencing prospective students.
Girls are able to play club ball after their high school season.
Not informed enough to respond.
Allowing non teacher coaches to have more access to student athletes may result in more student athletes following coaches to schools.
Yes, I would be worried that student-athletes would feel more pressure from their coaches to participate in out of season activities in fear that it will impact their playing time during regular season.
First of all, I never tell my kids they have to play a club season of volleyball. I recommend they touch a ball or play a sport that keeps them engaged and active. The more they learn how to use their muscles, get stronger, and try new things, the more they will appreciate the coaching I provide while in my season. I would love to coach my students since I already have a rapport with them, which gives the player stability and acceptance of my coaching style since we have a history. It gives me a jump start to my teaching of skills and strategy of the game. Each student is given an opportunity to grow quicker and faster as an athlete and person once they trust and believe what they are learning is valuable.
I guess some coaches may exert influence but most will not.
I think that it will result in greater pressure to not only have the coaches coaching out of season, but for the families to ensure that their children play on that coaches out of season team.
Maybe
Coaches will put pressure on an athlete to attend his particular sport and the athlete will feel he has to please his coach if he wants to play.
Possibility of coaches encouraging athletes to play a single sport rather than multiple sports.

We want our coaches to be as knowledgeable as possible. Participating in other team sports, officiating, and coaching in the 'off season' better prepares them to coach our students.
Possibly...expecting more time and practice for players/coaches
It just helps to condition the athletes prior to season
I already work with these athletes in off season conditioning from January- Aug
As long as every team has the same opportunities everyone should be fine.
The red flag with some of these clubs is that coaches can possibly recruit into a school that they currently coach
Unethical coaches will always exist and there are other means to address those transgressions without hindering the development of student athletes.
Some teams don't have the transportation for off season, vo-tech kids might have jobs and not have the time
I am not sure about team sports, but the individual sports like golf and tennis need as much coaching they can get and there is less undue influence than team sports. Every individual sport member needs private coaching wherever he can get it.
Coaches will want students to specialize
Considering that it happens frequently than DIAA knows. Too many athletes are influenced by high school coaches who coach league teams
not sure
Out of season Coaching would all but eliminate multi-sport athletes, since coaches would be more able to say they had to attend practices year round to get playing time.
more outside coaching more recruiting
everyone should have a break.
I don't have enough experience with this to make an informed answer at this time, but N/A was not an option on this survey.
I think it happens already.
I believe coaches need time to enjoy and rest after the season has ended. The time off allows coaches to reflect, analyze and plan for the upcoming season.
It already happens, yes I think it would be worse.
As long as the rules are monitored appropriately, providing student-athletes with more opportunity for quality instruction and repetitions, it can surely benefit them.
Amazing how coaches and parents want their kids to train and practice more but wouldn't want them doing extra reading and school work. Misplaced priorities.
In most sports relaxing the current out of season coaching regulations will not result in greater undue influence. May possibly result in undue influence for certain sports such as football, soccer, and basketball.
Even out playing field as Delaware is far behind the curve
Any athlete who wishes to get more training/coaching should be allowed to. Any coach who is willing to give their time to help athletes should be allowed to. At no time should any out of season practicing/coaching be mandatory. It should all be done voluntarily.
It is hard to find trustworthy, competent adults who have the time to coach. If it is possible to get more coaches by lifting this rule, I see it as a win-win for our student athletes.
I think teams who will bend the rules are going to do it anyway. As a coach at a small school, I do believe lax rules are a luxury that benefits the bigger schools where kids may only play one sport year round.

relaxed regulations will need to be regulated
Players are encouraged to play multiple sports during their high school career. Off season coaching is for students who are NOT playing an additional sport. This allows players to get in conditioning and build their skills. The cost should be free, which again allows our public school students to participate. We are excluding so many public school students because of cost and transportation.
yes It will have other coaches trying to influence families to go other places or states because of lack off influence in the high school program.
I think out of season coaching will result in more "one-sport" athletes and limit the number of participants in other sports.
I feel that teenagers will feel pressure from the coach of their "#1" sport to participate in team events outside of the regular season. This can compromise other sport programs at a school or compromise the student's school/life balance.
It will allow coaches to impact their athletes and recruit more directly.
No this will only provide coaches with the opportunity to help students looking for support in a structured way. They should not be made to feel guilty for wanting to provide additional opportunities for their athletes.
More pressure will be placed on athletes to play only one sport
I believe a change in the current regulations would put a public school that doesn't have the money and staffing at a distinct disadvantage
I believe that there are rules in place to regulate and address the issue of the use of undue influence. I actually think that there might be a reduction as responsible adults, hired by schools will be spending more time with student athletes and offering ethical and informed advice as opposed to the people our student-athletes are currently being influenced by and receiving advice from.
not as long as it's consistent for all schools..
We need to be able to have more access with our athletes.
The influence we should be concerned about is the massive influence of club and AAU sports and for-profit organizations that have stepped in to fill the void vacated by schools. The result of the strict DIAA rules has NOT helped to promote multi-sport athletes. It has only increased the likelihood that students will be coached by someone other than their high school coach in the off season.
Even if coaches don't say it, they will favor kids that work with them year round and force kids to choose 1 sport over not only other sports but of theater, math league, community service, etc.
It depends on the personality of the coach. An athlete should not be penalized if they do not attend out of season "voluntary" practices. However, we all know that depending on the personality of that particular coach the athlete very well may be penalized. Not sure if there is any rule that can be put in place to stop that. I believe it is more up to the AD and Admin to ensure those type of things do not occur. With that being said I do not have an issue with coaching out of season. It keeps kids busy and healthy.
I believe schools would violate this regulation regardless of a change.
When student get extra help in the sports they love the seem to do better during season
Year round coaching does not and should not be mandatory. There are students that, regardless of the rules, will be year round participants of one sport. It is these players that will benefit from consistent coaching.
Kids that want to excell have to seek out other playing opportunities to develop their skill. The club system for FH is hampered when they lose good coaches to avoid potential conflicts with the "out of season" coaching regs. A HS coach can't even develop players out of season with occassional



tournaments. PA teams often play together without requiring participation. Players have many options out of season. In northern DE the best players tend to go to PA clubs to avoid conflicts as well as better training.
Parents are to make decisions about their children.
The players will benefit if they can be coached year round as they will be on same playing level as players in other states.
Players and families make the decisions on competing in multiple sports. Long before student athletes arrive at the high school level, commitment to a single sport is already made by parents. I endorse two sport athletes and see it as a plus. My Son played football and basketball in high school. He decided after his 10th grade year to compete only in basketball and it resulted in him earning an opportunity to compete at the Division I collegiate level.
It will impact positively in so many levels. Leadership,skill development, self stem , discipline , grades and many many more.
Some sports and their coaches pressure athlete to only play their sport with negative consequences if the do not.
I believe it would have a negative impact on the multi-sport athlete by increasing the expectation of focusing on one sport beyond the traditional season
Has to be regulated
As long as there are clear guidelines, I have faith that our coaches will follow them
Hold those coaches accountable and punish those that are placing undue pressure on players. Why are we punishing and hold the players back?
Definitely
There are school that require kids to participate in out of season training and limit them from playing other sports now. It will be worse
It is already happening
I think it is very important for the state and individual schools to allow out of season coaching that is not mandatory. Playing multiple sports is something that should not be taken away from a student.
I think that it will be forced on those who don't want to participate. Also, it will be more pressure on athletes.
I think it will help build better relationships with the athletes and kids
We must be competitive with other states
I think it could be bad...at first, but I do feel a set rules and regulations will help regulate any unwarranted problems
Sure, but it depends on what the purpose is, specifically for a smaller school which needs its athletes to perform every season in a sport
There will always be those who go "beyond" the rule and take advantage through practice, recruitment, etc. This will simply stretch that condition.
don't understand what your asking, all i know is , i have kids that only play one sport and i could work out with them. But lets be honest, This is all BS, whoever greases your pockets the most gets to do whatever they want and the rest of us get the shaft.
Off-season training does not have to be mandatory; it can and should be completely voluntary.
Coaches who use undo influence find ways to do so through summer coaches and AAU as it is. We have a bigger problem with coaches who recruit to the private and vo-tech schools that undermines



the credibility of our system. We need to stop that more than we need to worry about out of season contact with coaches.
I believe a change in the "coaching out of season" policy would better prepare teams for the regular season. That being said, I fear that high school coaches could take advantage of the system by "strongly encouraging" their players into committing to their program year round. This is especially problematic if the player uses the off-season to work, play a different sport, or just rest.
I think it will discourage even more players from being multiple sport athletes.
I don't think it will change the influence. If coaches want to "force" players the play for a certain coach/team they already probably do it.
Probably- Coaches/athletes will need to be monitored and under the direction of competent AD's and admin from all schools HS-MS.
I think the families and students know better than to switch schools solely based on the coach. There are many other factors that go into choosing a school; academics are the number one factor in getting a good education.
The change will help the kids that want to go to college for sports.
Specifically regarding tennis, I do not believe that students will be impacted in a negative way if out of season coaching is relaxed or permitted. Most of the girls I coach do not touch a racket between seasons because they cannot afford costly tennis programs. If I were able to offer some simple summer lessons (completely optional no charge), they would at least have an outlet to continue learning off season
Students will go to schools that they truly want to go to anyway with school choice. I do not think this will influence a student to go to a school for an athletic program or coach
There will always be exceptions, but I trust the vetting process that the schools/districts have to select their coaching staff. For this reason I believe that as a whole our student-athletes are better served when they are with our staff
Only the Kids will benefit ! Why do we hold our Athletes back if they want to work harder and get better?
Some coaches really pressure their kids to practice that sport ALL the time. Kids need to be kids and have a well rounded set of experiences, different sports and activities.
I feel like we punish the whole class for one kid chewing gum. Deal directly with individual coaches that you become aware of that are misusing out of season privileges to coach. Don't penalize those coaches doing it right.
The private schools are already recruiting and walking the thin line of this regulation. As are the "trade schools". The traditional public school students who have fewer resources do not have the ability to either retain private coaching, training and guidance, and are currently limited in their potential to attend and compete at the collegiate level. Relaxing the current guideline would give more low income and disadvantaged students a chance to maximize their potential.
This is happening now under other names & conditions. I have heard of students receiving academic scholarships when many students in their schools are much more qualified to receive these monies.
There is the appearance of so many rule violations under the current policy that relaxing the policy while still maintaining a guideline of some type may less undue influence.
Like anything there will be positive and negatives but the positives will outweigh the negative by allowing our coaches who interests are about the kids to oversee their progress.
The athletes who want to play a sport will find a way to play that sport no matter the season. There are camps, clinics, private sessions, etc. all the time for athletes in the off season. These rules are currently penalizing students who want to get better at their respective sport. This hurts Delaware

schools in a big way. The way I see it, is if a coach has the time and resources to give to a program, and athletes are willing to participate, then they should be allowed to practice as much as they want. There should be penalty to other athletes who are playing a different sport during that time of year to miss a practice. The way that the rules are set up now, is that the kids who want to get better, can't because "it won't be fair" to other schools or athletes who can not commit to that time frame. Why are we penalizing the coaches and athletes who want to get better? This is wrong in athletics and it is against the principles of coaching where we tell an athlete that to get better, they have to put in the time. How can I say that to a player and then not give him the time to do it. I would love to see these rules relaxed.

parents and athletes are able to make their own decisions on what they participate in DIAA really has no say in what individuals seek good or bad outcomes

out of season must be voluntary - student athlete directed

I feel it is already being done

Potentially

The rule needs to change with we want to be more competitive. We play teams out of state but their not the top tier team of that state or region.

undue influence is still happening

No, as long as it is stressed that out of season coaching is optional/voluntary

More time will equate to better performance.

The only issue that I see with playing sports outside of the season is that it might deter students from playing more than one sport. Playing multiple sports actually helps athletes because it helps develop different muscles that in turn help the muscles and the muscle memory needed for their main sport.

I think interested participants would welcome the opportunity to play with their teammates year-round

Yes, absolutely. It's already happening. There needs to be a stipend for coaches who spend their time in the weight room out of season. However, with fewer restrictions, we can have a better handle on where and what are kids are doing.

I think that the level of undue influence would depend on too many factors. I don't think it would be fair to athletes with less access to opportunities to have additional coaching outside the regular season for whatever reason, be it financial limits, location limits, or time limits. It also discourages students from or gives students limits on being multi-sport athletes, which I believe is beneficial.

It will create a greater separation between abilities of different school's athletic programs. It will favor those of a higher socioeconomic background. Those who must work in the off season rather than train will suffer. Competition will suffer.

Obviously there are unethical coaches that would potentially abuse this with their players. Yet, most of the coaches are simply trying to provide opportunities that players need and want.

I say no, but that is really effect by how coaches view their programs. IE if the basketball coach feels his sport is above others than undue influence will be greater.

no opinion

The drop out in girls sports are sky rocketing

Off season play is not mandatory. Also its hard to find quality coaching in the off season.

No, athletes are going to participate regardless. I would rather have certified coaches instructing sports.

Certain coaches may attempt to push the envelope, but I feel that it is the responsibility of the AD's to be cognizant of what each coach's plan is and how they are working with their athletes out of season. With proper communication, this will be successful.

It will give us better chemistry as coaches and as a team.
I think a non-mandatory off season practice schedule would be the best way to handle this.
I believe this will help keep students in the schools they are at currently. We talk about the mission being "student athletes" and developing the people as human beings first. Our opportunity to do that is through sports and to take them away from us for 5 months and not allow us to help shape their character and actions more so than their athletic ability is not good. This time away from us allows for more undue influence and changes of schools etc because they have more people in their ear telling them what to do while they are away!
I think it might be a problem when some schools are able to pay their coaches more if they coach out of season, which could lead to some athletes choosing a school based on that.
Would benefit the players in preparing for college
This is a maybe, we won't know until we try, also, it will likely help programs maintain kids because they can stay on them academically, as well as have consistent contact with them throughout the year, in particularly the summer.
Not sure
No students will come on their own free will and be encouraged to play other sports.
It is inevitable that some coaches will put pressure on student-athletes to participate. However, this occurs today even with the rigid rules that are in place.
I do not know all of the regulations at this time.
Certainly there will always be a few that could fall into that category
This again is unclear. Some relaxation in rules may be appropriate; i.e., allowing coaches to assist with training, conditioning and limited practices in the off season. There appears to be a very thin line that some schools come close to crossing now and relaxing said rules will move further in the direction of more "indirect" recruitment, taking away from the purpose of fair and equitable competition and increasing the possibility of greater undue influence. This may be appropriate if you wish to move or change the "Purpose" of the DIAA.
I think athletes are gravitating to club and AAU because DIAA does not allow out of season practice. HS sports are taking a back seat to club / AAU
The current rules are good, however there are too many violations of the rules throughout the state in many sports. Open Gym programs are the biggest violations.
Student-athletes are specializing, whether its right or wrong. IF a student athletes wishes (chooses to do so of his own free will) to participate in a travel organization where their HS coach coaches, they should be allowed without penalty to the coach, player or member school. If there is undue pressure to be found, consequences should follow.
The boys get 2 weeks for preseason while out of school. Girls get none. If we allow Coaches to Coach out of season then we can coach them through a winter league
Undue influence is already in place. The "pressure" is provided by AAU/Club coaches looking to make money by "selling" unrealistic dreams. In addition, many are not interested in coaching the "whole" athlete. Meaning mind and body.
It is open to abuse by coaches that cannot police themselves. i.e., pitch counts and inning limitations in baseball. There would be no need if coaches could actually be entrusted for the safety of athletes. But they cannot.
I think that as long as there are some parameters in place for coaches to respect if their athletes who are in season.

We know the rules as they stand now. Relaxing some may embolden some to relax others in violation of the rules' intent. Additionally, private schools could potentially abuse this even more than they already do.

Changing the out of season regulations will not result in a greater undue influence, if will just increase the number of better quality athletes in the state. Schools will continue to recruit the same as they did before.

Because influential gifts are not allowed, relaxing coaching, should not change it. if school are penalized for recruiting type offers then there should not be an increase. These behaviors have always occurred anyway in terms of fee waivers for athletes so I expect it to neither increase or decrease.

I think there are both pros and cons to relaxing the rules, some of which that could result in an increase in transfers and recruiting violations.

It is inevitable. Everything that is 'voluntary' some how manages to be more than voluntary. Are we to police ourselves? Then there will be coaches who bend the rules.

Many Coaches are involved in outside clubs and clinics currently. Coaches would like their players to find a way to stay involved in their sports somewhat during the off season. This is not undue influence and is not at the exclusion of playing other sports. The simple fact that a high school coach could coach their kids (with adequate rules around it not allowed to be required) would not change any of the dynamics. Allowing coaches to coach out of season would also permit coaches to hold more offerings where players could stay involved in their sport while also playing another sport. It is these high school coaches who are part of the players community, often school community and support structure, why would we want to take away opportunities for the most invested coaches to be involved in young athletes lives.

Players would still be encouraged to participate in multiple sports. Most coaches work with each other and collaborate.

The people that are breaking the rules currently will probably still do so, but I do not think relaxed regs will result in more influence.

I don't think that there is an advantage to coaching out of season, if the training is optional for the athletes. It would be nice to hold clinics for golf, especially since our golfers might be brand new to the sport, but have a natural talent. However, most students play multiple sports, so it would only be an advantage to those students who only participate in one sport.

This is currently happening now so I am not sure why this is now a concern. When is the last time a traditional public school (not charter) won the volleyball championship. We rarely get into the final four and it seems it is only school districts that chose to keep 1 high school (XXX, XXX) vs. having multiple schools (XXX, XXX, XXX). Will it become worse, possibly. When volleyball club fees are \$4,000 and could be waived by the high school coach who happens to be the club coach, if the girl chooses to play for her in addition to a leadership scholarship she gets to go to a Catholic school. I think that is undue influence.

Not 100% sure due to several factors...first students participate in other seasonal sports and activities, may not have a facility to practice in during the cold, and not sure how this will effect their playing skills.

Students will feel pressured by coaches to play a sport year round.

Coaches who will exert undue influence will look to do it no matter how the rules are written

Most of these rules relate to incoming students. Coaches want to work with students already in the program.

I can see coaches discouraging student athletes from playing multiple sports. Sports specialization is a real problem in HS athletics & a change here could make that worse.

This occurs with the rules in place now.
I think it would encourage more students to choice into or out of certain schools if they had a prior connection to a coach.
I think it depends on the coach. You would hope that coaches are understanding of the needs of multi-sport athletes. Also, club coaches already have too much influence over the lives of student-athletes.
With 'relaxed' guidelines I am sure coaches would not abuse the opportunity.
I think that in a small state like ours, coaches that wish to participate in youth leagues and create relationships with players from other districts or parts of the state can already to that fairly easily. I don't think relaxing a coach's ability to see his/her OWN team or players within your district would change that.
Pay to play sports in Delaware already are full of coaching alliances (across schools) that influence enrollment in certain schools, playing times and creates schools of have and have-not depending how schools participate in the politicking.
I don't believe relaxing out of season coaching regulations would negatively effect the student athlete.
It already exists. Too many schools bend the rules as is. It's like a stop sign, if no one enforces rolling stops, it just gets worse.
Off-season workouts should not influence in-season activities.
No, I think it will create a better opportunity for all involved.
The policy is great as it is. A change will foster more sport specialization.
We will be able to keep up at a pace other states allow.
Not sure
Absolutely
Parents and student-athletes make their own choices regarding the activities they participate in.
Build character work ethic and less injury.
Absolutely !! See previous response. Kids in Pa. are allowed to work with their respective coaches throughout the offseason which does not affect other sports at all and in the case of lacrosse, South Eastern Pennsylvania is considered a " hotbed " for college recruiting for years.
There will always be coaches that abuse the rules. I have no doubt there are now. However, the alternative is to continue to place Delaware athletes at a disadvantage when compared to other nearby states.
No, I think relaxing the out of season coaching regulations will allow coaches to make their own decisions on how to run their programs. There's always coaches illegally coach their teams in the off-season and then there's coaches that follow the rules. Most of the times the coaches that act illegally have better teams since they are playing together all year long which then frustrates those who follow the rules. Relaxing the regulations will equal the playing field.
I believe it would not
There is already a large amount of undue influence. It will not increase with more practice time.
I am strictly answering for myself. I am not sure it won't for some. I think its good for players to receive different coaching, but at the same time if there is an opportunity to coach occasionally I think it should be ok!
At some point coaches must be trusted to be reasonable and not wear their players out

I believe there will be pressure on athletes to compete in only one sport and attend mandatory training sessions during the off season for that sport.
The majority of coaches in the State will use common sense and not overburden kids with too much practice out of their regular season. Most of the coaches have families of their own and will not overuse their influence. Also, many of the kids we have here need the positive structure that these activities provide.
I think it could if the relaxed rules lead to certain schools taking advantage of more coaching schools and other not.
I feel as though it could provide safer and more cost effective opportunities for students to practice with familiar coaches who have been through background checks.
I don't think it would make a difference. I would be most coaches don't take advantage of the rules we have in place now in regards to working on the kids skills from June to Aug 1
I also believe that "relaxing" simply allows for schools with greater coaching resources, more athletes, "gym classes" that can basically be used for training, etc. to focus on year-round training to the detriment of multi-sport participation, academics, etc. and would imbalance the field competitively in-state.
I think it will help the student/athletes get BETTER and it will help the state of Delaware sports and competition get BETTER. Which will give many kids great opportunities for after high school.
Relaxing of any regulation could result in an increase of undue influence. However, I'm not sure if the change would be significant since it already happens at many schools.
I think a lot of coaches already coach out of season. I do not because it is against the rules. I would like to see this rule removed to allow all coaches to coach athletes out of season.
I think relaxing the rules will just clear up some of the confusion that we have now. For instance I have coached another travel softball team for almost 6 years, however a girl joined the team, and she is an 8th grader at XXX. So I was forced to stop coaching this team, so as not to break the rules. She chose to tryout for the team, and made it on her own. I had no influence over it and didn't know her at the time. I think the undue influence is already happening with the rules as they are now, but relaxing them will just allow the coaches that are following the rules to help these kids more. It won't create any new violations.
I think giving coaches the opportunity to coach their athletes within a window of time in the off season it will give athletes a better conditioning and skill advantage that would be focused on during the tryout and preseason time
Coaches will put more pressure on players to participate in their sport. Multi-sport participation will continue to decline and sport specialization will increase. Athletes should not play one sport year around.
Doesn't affect me
I believe it will cause some greater undue influence from people that do not have the best intentions. But unfortunately that is in anything you do. I do believe it however will bring more positive influence into these athletes lives than negative. Better coaching, character building will also occur.
Student Athletes should be able to pursue out of season opportunities (not required). This allows them to develop physically and mentally, which will best prepare them to compete at the next level. This also allows student athletes to maintain positive engagement in school events that will help keep them focused on grades. DIAA academic should be required to participate in off season programs.
I think it will allow student-athletes the opportunity to improve their abilities to further their athletic careers.
I do not want to see the elimination of high school level sports in favor of elite programs for elite athletes and I think relaxing regulations will eventually lead to this.



Could lead to more active "recruiting" by coaches
Players that are informed are going to go try to get the information from someone, and may lead themselves to bad outside sources. Players who are not informed are at a disadvantage and could use guidance.
NO, coach your kids, help them be better students and athletes. If you are afraid of undue influence, than do something about it.
Kids are being influenced by sometimes unscrupulous trainers and tournament coaches who's only goal is to make money. I'd much rather have them influenced by certified school coaches
This new participation must be monitored and supervised. ALL infractions MUST be penalized. Unless we are going to ENFORCE the rules, they are meaningless. We must find a way to keep pace with what surrounding states do.
Being able to give instruction out of season would benefit the player
I think it would depend on the total amount of off season time allowed for coaching.
As long as the regulations are fair and consistent for everyone then there should be no greater undue influence.
Making it public and accountable may be better; however, many teams/coaches simply ignore the DIAA rules already.
As long as this does not lead to recruiting in high school sports. As a public school coach I already lose kids to charter, vo tech, and private for this reason and I cannot afford to lose more
Athletes should be allowed to work with coaches out of season, as long as they are willing and initiate such activities
coaches will start to convince players to play only one sport
Not in favor of out-of-season coaching.
It could if the school or someone does not monitor in some way
At my school, it wouldn't result in greater undue influence. It may at other schools
Undue influence is absolutely a concern and should seek to be controlled. However, I do not think that relaxing the out of season regulations will increase it. Athletes are already being "recruited" or influenced to attend schools because of their athletic program by peer and parent relationships.
Aren't some of the forms of undue influence listed on your site a good thing? If an athlete works extremely hard for me outside of the season, he might get privileges that other players might not get. Maybe I tutor him more. Maybe I give him a sample piece of clothing when order come in. If you are speaking of undue influence in negative terms, then no, I do not think it will increase undue influence. I think that programs that run quality out of season programs may naturally draw athletes, but that is going to increase competition throughout the state. I do not think coaches or schools will resort to bribery.
These undue influences already exist.
This would allow our kids to compete with neighboring states kid whom they compete against during the off season for scholarships. This would also help us retain some of our top level athletes who are leaving DE to play in neighboring states. With losing these type athletes we don't attract top level college coaches which put our kids at a disadvantage.
I don't believe so. We still won't be able to recruit and we would not be giving certain athletes special treatment as the out of season coaching should be open to all athletes interested in the sport.
Yes- from a small school we will not have multi sport athletes

the rule is not enforceable and DIAA does not have the man power to enforce. In my opinion the rules is all ready being violatate by many
I think some coaches will abuse relaxed rules and put undue pressure on their athletes
I don't know that I understand the wording used with this question. I believe it is in our athletes best interest if we relax with the current out of season coaching regulations.
coaches may discourage multi-sporty participation
it will allowed for better develop of athletics for college and career readiness
Overall I say no there might be a bad apple in the bunch but overall I don't believe so.

Q22 Would you be in favor of changing the current coaching out of season rule so that a coach would be permitted to coach student athletes on a non-school based team or program outside of the designated sports season during the school year?

<b>Please explain your response.</b>
There should not be restrictions to coach the athletes if they want to be coached or be in a program where their high school coach coaches.
Again, if it means the players will largely benefit from the extra playing and training opportunities (not to mention the benefits of being part of a team), I am in favor.
Only for consistent coaching throughout the students athletic career
Yes, as long as participation on such teams does not serve as a prerequisite for future, in season participation on teams. I would l8ke to preserve an environment in which students are able and encouraged to be multi sport athletes
Uncertain of the pitfalls with this issue.
Athletes perform better in school during the athletic season.
I would choose in the middle here. Once the coaches are officially coaching the students year round, is the school liable? Is the school involved? Are we now managing all sports year round? It says non-school based but it becomes almost a "club" team, which schools currently have in some areas.
I might give up coaching if required to coach year 'round. The duties of a teacher are steadily increasing and make it more difficult to coach in-season, let alone out of season.
I think it would increase continuity, decrease injuries and increase performances... But it should not deter athletes from doing multiple sports
Part of life experience is learning to work with different dynamic personalities. Allowing our students to experience more opportunity should not be a negative choice. It is up tot eh coaches and the parents to ensure that integrity continues to take place. Trust in the altruism of others. Encourage all to be aware of possible missteps and be willing to be transparent to call them out if necessary. But above all - let's teach that honor matters.
I don't believe I have enough knowledge in this area to give an opinion. I would have preferred a maybe button here.
It's too easy to abuse this and burn kids out. it's one of the reason some turn away from a sport they love in ollege because it becomes a job that lasts year round. I think it's even better for kids to go play on team with different players for the richness of variety and experience.
As long as it is in a clinic or camp format; creating teams solely based on players trying to come to your school or that are at your school can create an a advantage for private schools and a disadvantage to public institutions.



Not only would it help us better prepare our athletes for scholarships, but it would allow a greater connection and facilitate better relationships between the coaches and the athletes, the parents, and allow us the opportunity to help our athletes network with others in the sport and athletic community.

As it is now, all the AAU guys get full access to our players because the rules almost entirely handcuff us from helping our athletes out of season. These AAU guys influence kids to switch schools in order to keep playing with other players. Several coaches / schools use & hide behind these AAU guys to get (recruit) kids to their schools.

Yes, as long as the team or program is not 100% mandatory. The question would then be, is this coach being paid? Would the school be expecting coaches to coach in the summer?

Its about the kids and this will make them better. We already have schools that practice out of season.

Again will only better DE HS sports

This will help the student athletes prepare for upcoming seasons as well as post high school sports. This will allow the underprivileged opportunity to advance their skills as well.

No. For reasons stated above. Additionally, schools with large enrollments can sustain single sport athletes. Small enrollment schools need kids to be multi sport participants or they will not be able to field teams. In DE, the number of kids playing high school sports is not robust. National statistics indicate sport participation declining at the high school level. We have a responsibility to encourage multi sport participation. I also believe it will create undue pressure on kids and force them to "choose" one sport over another. If that is the DIAA philosophy, then you should allow coaches to coach out of season.

Yes, as long as the expectation wasn't to specialize in any one sport and the period of these coaching sessions should not be continuous or long-term. Clinic, camps or special sessions are ideal, but long-term multiple week training session seem to lead athletes to specialize in one sport.

I think it would be a great idea.

we are behind the eight ball when it comes to keeping our players competitive.

Volleyball is a good example of that. My daughters play club but their regular coach can't coach them.

Sometimes it is a hardship to find volunteers to coach leagues; it would be easier and more consistent if coaches were able to do this on their own

For the same reason in earlier response. Coaching a student should be seen the same as a student taking additional tutoring in a subject. Especially with individual sports as their are less options for good coaches and limiting a students option limits their improvement and goals

I am concerned as to how this would effect multi sport athletes as well as athletes that are engaged in other non sport extracurricular activities.

They are currently allowed to do so during the summer. The real issue is that there is a lack of qualified coaches for some sports. They should also be allowed to coach during the school year.

AS long as it provides a benefit to the athlete in improving skills and providing opportunity to increase the athlete's chances of potential recruitment.

Evens the playing field

Absolutely not! Student athletes are just that, students. Academics comes first. Allowing coaching outside of sports season during the school year will put an extra burden on the student athletes, especially those who want to be multi sport athletes.

This would allow coaches, parents, students to build a strong relationship and understanding of what and how more athletes perform better in athletics and use this to advance athletes in their education and life skill set.

I feel that student athletes should participate in other sports as well as the one that I coach, and wonder if other coaches would pressure their athletes to make a choice in not playing multiple sports if they were able to coach out of season. If anything, it would be nice to not have to find a "coach" for our XXX indoor winter league and be able to have myself or an assistant coach help during those 6-8 weeks.
DIAA should have no jurisdiction over a coach and his/her actions as a coach during the summer. That said, the team should be sanctioned by another governing body and not be the school team practicing for the summer.
Those that are willing to put in the time and effort will be able to and those that are not will not. At least now it won't be a case of some doing all season coaching in violation of the rules and gaining an advantage while others do not losing their kids athletic advantage but gaining character.
Coaching is teaching. Students are allowed to seek summer school opportunities anytime of the year to improve their academics. Ultimately athletes should have the same opportunities.
I don't want to encourage coaches to organize teams outside the season as this may lead to more specialization which hurts kids and overall athletic participation. I would be in favor of coaches instructing players outside of the season much like teachers do when providing extra help to students who want to improve. Keeping teams together year round is not a good idea, however.
This would allow a select few schools and coaches to have an even bigger advantage in DE.
I believe the more access a coach can have with a team, the strength of the program can be enhanced. That said, students need opportunities to play on other teams without repercussions.
Not informed enough to respond.
Because the School Coaches mostly care about the kids well being on and off the court. We realize that the education is the most important thing.
This will create competition between coaches for athletes. We want to promote multi sport participation.
I think by changing this rule may result in a decline in athletes competing in other sports at their school. Due to club programs, many athletes already play their one sport way too much which can result in injury and/or burnout.
Yes. However I believe coaches should be compensated for their time.
I feel every child/family should be allowed to choose who and where they are getting their education. Hence the reason there is the Choice program in schools now. Education and athletics are an important part of learning to be a productive teammate, classmate, and person. You learn respect for authority, time management, respect for your peers and most of all how to organize your life and set goals.
I don't think a coach should be able to coach their whole team. I think a % of their own players should be allowed.
See above. The pressure to participate and specialize is greater for the athletes.
Maybe it will level the playing field a little for the public schools because at the present kids are only able to work on their skills if they are fortunate enough to afford AAU Teams. We can't recruit like the private can.
Opens students to favoritism by competing on non-school teams coached by school coaches.
I believe this type of change would be a direct attack on the current equity of the sport. In other words, access to the sport may become discriminatory based on financial reasons.
Allows the athletes more prep time for the season
With some limitations on time
It gives Delaware athletes the same advantage as those from other states.

Even though you would have to be aware of recruiting, it would raise the skill level of the sport and help grow its numbers.
I would encourage some restrictions as to number of athletes, for example establish a maximum number of athletes equivalent to 50% of a starting lineup.
It would just be like club ball, extra practice and conditioning, that not all players will have access to
There are coaches who do this anyway. For those who follow the rules, this will make it a more even playing field for the benefit of the players.
with limitations similar to what is currently allowed during the summer
This would lead to recruiting and would also make flexibility to be a multi-sport athlete problematic
we share athletes
I think it happens at other schools already.
I believe coaches should have the ability to use their talents and leadership in all areas of coaching.
Some of us are passionate about our sport. These regulations hamper that passion
I feel that coaches would "recruit" athletes from other schools to the school that they are coaching at.
A good high school coach could then help the student athlete become better at their sport, this development
might allow more students to participate in college athletics
As long as the coach allows the student to participate in other sports, and the in season sport takes precedent.
The relationship we have with our players goes beyond the court. Many of these players need structure and guidance. If a player wants to workout with his teammates and have HS coach supervise and coach outside the season, why is that a bad thing?? This rule seems to be more of a basketball rule versus other sports? Why? Cultural?
As a parent, I want my child to have a coach who is good at coaching, and keeps the best interest of all kids in mind when coaching a sport- if that means that some kids would have their school coaches coach them in a league or club setting, so be it.
Absolutely!
I'm indifferent here. If anything, I'd hate to see more pressure put on coaches, players, programs to get more time in. It certainly won't be compensated time for coaches.
within reason and with regulations
Coaches should be allowed to coach their players and other high school players.
It helps out the student athlete that wants to be coached by their high school coach.
school choice
I feel that this would put undue pressure on a player to play for a team outside of school hours that further takes him/her away from the other aspects of his/her life.
I have concerns about creating more one-sport athletes as a result of this change
This change would only improve sports programs and athletic performance.
Coaches should be allowed to coach their athletes in travel or AAU teams.
Student athletes attempting to get college scholarships are often contacted at tournaments during the school season. It would benefit the school and the athlete to allow the student to choose to play for a coach affiliated with their school program with or without other kids from their school if they choose. This is similar to most other states in the country. This is true for all sports.
I would be in favor of extending the current calendar for coaching out of season with your school team/program. I'm not certain about the non-school based teams/ programs.
isn't this essentially what AAU provides

It would make the athletes better as well as the relationship between the coaches and students.
As principal I think it is my role to establish guardrails for programs. As the rules currently stand, I believe good and conscientious coaches are kept even from reasonable instructional opportunities. The work-arounds programs have to find are ridiculous and minimize the importance of high school sports in favor of club and AAU programs. I like to reward the coaches who work hard, invest time and energy, play by the rules, and encourage reasonable out of season programs and promote the development of well-rounded student athletes.
See my explanations above.
Please see above response.
Out of season coaching would put pressure on athletes to focus on one sport and thus detract from the other season sports. This is detrimental to schools struggling to be competitive in other seasons.
It would allow coaches to teach lesser skilled players so preseason time is utilized more effectively.
Because when students participate in outside sports they excel more because they get a better understanding of the sport
HS teams will have more opportunities to play together without pressure to win. It allows the focus to be on development of skills & tactics. Team chemistry improves even if the events are limited to occasional tournaments and skill sessions.
This will give our athletes the same advantage other States allow their athletes.
Yes I would, Delaware is small and there is not enough teams and coaches to cover all players outside of school programs.
With limitations not year round
Closing the competitive gap with out of season coaching could be significantly important. Teams that spend time together and compete in the off season should be better prepared to play at a higher level of competition. With only 20 regular season games and other states allowing 25+ regular season games is a big difference in opportunities.
Coaches of a sport should be able to coach his her players within reason. For example: If I am a girls varsity basketball coach I should be able to have open gyms with my girls in attendance to work on skills. I should be able to have a weight lifting/condition program in the off season that I could supervise. I should also be able to coach my team in a summer league or underclassmen tournament.
We have athletes that are committed but can afford paying for private leagues , and need follow up to develop a level of skill that will not put them in danger of bullying or rejection from the team members.
To be equal and fair
Students should be allowed to take time off from sports and not feel pressured to play year round.
This is long overdue.
I wouldn't want our athletes to become single sport athletes.
Yes, I have big population of players that would like to play in the off-season and can't afford to play for "club or AAU teams."
Some are doing it to an extent anyway.
Coaches can build better programs and teams as well as safer environments for the athlete when a coach that meets Delaware coaching requirements is coaching in season or out of season
Because not everyone (players or coaches) have the opportunity to do so
As long as the coach does not require his school athletes to be on his out of school team in words or in attitude and practice.
Coaches would exploit kids and parents by requiring them to ply for them and charge for it.

I think as long as it is clearly outlined.
This opens the door for recruiting for your school and we already see this in the private schools.
I am against this because this is a situation of the haves and have nots. The school I coach has a lot of lower income students. The opportunities for them to play at the top clubs in DE are not as easily achieved for them as it is for athletes from other schools. This in turn would give other teams/schools an unfair advantage.
coaches who can coach all year round and have time to give kids should be able to do so. In return they will also help other schools who coaches may not be able to attend
If our current rules put our kids at a disadvantage FIX IT.
It would help in many areas.
There would be specific sports and specific activity descriptions that would have to be put in place. This would probably not go over well from sport to sport.
I coach my sons little league but if one of my HS kids is playing I have to leave.
With some stipulations to negate the possibility of coaches trying to get students to be one-sport athletes.
See my answer to #11
I think there should be a restriction on the number of hours a coach can coach out of season. The NCAA restricts the amount of time athletes can spend training out of season.
I would be in favor of have a limited number of players being coach out of season. 4 for the sport of volleyball would be reasonable.
Allow coaches more time with athletes.
Benefits the athlete and school. Best interest of kid and their health
This would increase the child's performance by allowing the coach to work with the child all year long, rather than just one season.
I think we will get better athletes on a regular basis. Talk to a college coach about Delaware sports and alot think that we are a joke.
Same as prior question
The athletes could be coached by coaches who have more knowledge instead of coaches who might be just giving their time but not really qualified.
Nothing wrong with the way it is.
commitment from athlete and parent and coach speaks volumes for a positive dynamic
It would jeopardize what DIAA stands for. Recruiting would take place...
Even the playing field for all... certain HS programs disregard this rule and do it anyway
There would be too many conflicts and mixed messages would be sent
I would love to work with my athletes to help them get better. That way they will be ready for the regular season and get a better chance of a scholarship.
Absolutely. Unfortunately some of our student/athletes only have their coaches as a positive role model in their lives
I deplore travel teams.
So long as involvement on that team is not a requirement to get onto the HS team.
Leveling the playing fields with other states should be our goal
Yes, although this is non-school based, therefor there would probably be some sort of fee. This would work against the low-income student-athlete.

The states that surround us already have an edge due to our restrictive rules.
I am in favor of relaxing the rule. But at the same time I am not in favor of a complete relaxation during the school year. There needs to be well thought out guidelines. Academics are the number one priority. Having said that it would be good to be able to help a person/player get where they want to go during the school year.
Absolutely. If coaches are willing to spend the time, allow them to build and continue to develop the skills the athletes have worked on in the season.
I believe any coaching that would take place outside of season should take place under school supervision.
People already coach out of season, this just makes it legal.
I like the way it is set up now. Join a league and coach your team up though that way. Practices are included now which gives us the opportunity to do a little. I feel it works for football.
i see no harm in this
I see no harm.
I am for coaching out of season as long as player attendance is not mandatory.
I believe several coaches bend this rule already. They have family members and close friends coaching their teams in the "off-season".
This is really the only way that public schools can even try to catch up with the way the private schools are allowed to operate due to having students from our school district and other surrounding school districts play against us. Right now it is not a level playing field for everyone.
It allows the players to learn more about how their coach expects them to play
No for the reasons above.
I think there is more undue influence if a coach is allowed to coach a team such as one in AAU. There is already a problem with recruiting and if coaches are allowed to do this, it gives them an unfair advantage by encouraging players from other schools to play with their AAU team.
I think it should be structured to allow small, date specific windows that allow for out of season coaching.
I do not want athletes to focus on one sport, I want them to be multi sport athletes
For all the reasons listed above. It is better for the student, the athlete and the schools.
Too many opportunities for favoritism.
Would help prepare for the college level
I'd prefer to coach students I am involved with
Yes, again for many of the players we are the only coach they know and have. It is important to keep them together as a team not just for improvement in their sport but the huge boost it has on academics and the fact that I can be part of their lives throughout the year.
For me, the coaching out of season issue is an enforcement issue. It happens throughout the state but I am not aware of any individual coming forward with accusations of violating the coaching out of season policy. To do so, you need to provide evidence of the violation and the burden remains too high or people fear retaliation if they do report it.
I am in favor of whatever is in the best interest of the student-athlete.
While I personally do not wish to coach the same group on a team year around, I believe the benefits greatly outweigh the negatives.
For the most part I don't see this as necessary for most of the high school sports. The NFHS and the DIAA encourages student athletics and we should be encouraging the student athletes to participate in different sports throughout the year. I do believe that the rules should be relaxed to allow off

season training and conditioning. For instance, the Spring sport teams' coaches should be allowed to work with student athletes on conditioning, training and limited practices during the Winter months; likewise for the Winter Sport teams during the Fall months and the Fall sport teams during the Summer/Spring.
1-who is DIAA to say where a coach chooses to supplement their income by coaching and.. 2-who is DIAA to say where the student-athlete must play? All sports have evolved to what they are today. Changes need to keep occurring for the betterment of the student-athlete. The right answer isn't always the same old answer.
Baseball only
This is badly needed to give Delaware kids a chance to compete at the college level with student-athletes from other states.
They compete against out of state teams and they should be on level playing fields.0
No, a rule change should not favor kids who have the means and money to pay outside fees. High School coaches should be allow to work with the players that request an opportunity to get better.
only if it was a limited number of players. Not the schools team, in another league, with the school coach or coaching staff coaching the entire team under the guise of "its a league, not the school".
I think to better your team you should have them play all year round.
Exception if your own child is on the team would be acceptable.
In order for our athletes to compete, it should be changed.
It will be a disadvantage to coaches who are not able to put in the time beyond their season and could turn the seasonal job into a full year commitment. And if you don't the parents will complain that you aren't doing enough.
To a reasonable and acceptable standard, ie once a week max
There are many club teams for field hockey & lacrosse which are mostly coached by high school coaches. Those teams are made up of athletes from many schools; if a couple girls on the team are from the same school as the coach it does not give the school team any advantage. Coaches should be allowed to have a club team made up of the best girls, even if it includes girls from the school team. In my experience, club team coaches don't have influence on where athletes attend high school, particularly when it comes to public school.
There are very few club team options in the state and lacrosse is still considered a non traditional sport. Have girls in recruiting ages being coached by volunteer parents give them a huge disadvantage to other states.
Absolutely needs to happen
At least for the fall ball leagues that are in need of a coaching staff
I want to be able to coach my own position group on skill development and technique. Allowing for this could have an impact on overall player safety; especially if players are able to drill fundamentals (blocking, heads-up form tackling) often with limited restrictions.
I don't agree
It creates an issue for schools with low income students who other wise can not afford to play on these teams
I would, but coaches who say they want it so that they can be competitive with other states are not being truthful. They just want their teams to be more competitive within the state.
I'm not sure. It is a tough issue and there is no "right" answer.
yes, as long as they did not coach their whole team.



It's not easy to have a coaching staff, especially with availability all year long. It is also challenging when it comes to funding to pay the coaching staff and the availability in the athletes since the majority are involved in more than one sport.
Yes I would be in support of that change.
With limitations to how many athletes on a team.
Unless a coach is establishing an "all-star" team with athletes specifically from his HS program, I am fine with this.
I do not see an issue if a coach worked with a non-school based team out of season that included 1-3 of the players that are on their school-based team. However, I can see that change of rule being manipulated. I don't think it's fair for a coach to coach a non-school based team that consists entirely of school-based team players.
I think coaches should have the freedom to help student-athletes improve whenever they can. How can we deny individuals the opportunity to work hard and get better especially if coaches are willing to work with them for free and on their own time?
I would be ok with it as long as there are guidelines that disallow coaches from prohibiting student athletes from playing other sports & there out of season team more important than another athletic team that is playing in season.
I believe the integrity of most is to help with the development of young student athletes. We will always have people who try and cheat and manipulate the system but for the greater good of the student athlete, it should be allowed.
During the non-school season I feel bad because I have invested into making the girls at other schools better but have not been able to make those same investments to players from my own program. Not fair to them as student athletes.
But I do believe in fair compensation.
I foresee many conflict between coaches arising from this change.
I believe coaching out of season would help more students stay engaged with school and help players get recruited to college.
I'd rather have the chance to coach my players versus trusting 3-4 travel coaches who may not have the players best interests in mind. Traditionally, we have had way more injuries occur during summer from overuse by travel coaches who are glorified dads coaching. Additionally, if my son plays on a team that I coach he undoubtedly would want to play with his friends. If his friends go to the same school I coach at I wouldn't be able to coach them OR i'd have to give up opportunity to coach my son.
I think it would help some of the lower SES players and for that I am ok with. I don't think it will make the elite players and schools that much better, but might benefit the mid-level players/schools. It is already happening to some extent. This would just legalize. Besides, are there any real sanctions or anybody trying to catch illegal coaching. It might as well be allowed.
Maybe with stringent rules and regulations. For example I would be ok with a baseball pitchers and catchers program, anything with a limitation.
Our student-athletes are competing against all other student-athletes from across the country for scholarships and playing opportunities from colleges and universities. When student-athletes from other states are allowed to attend practices and showcase their abilities to college coaches through participation outside of their designated season, it is a significant advantage for students in other states. Also, in the case of DIAA schools competing against out-of-state opponents, we are at a disadvantage if that state allows out of season coaching and DE does not.
again, too many schools are already doing it



Club programs are here to stay and for many girls the current HS programs are not strong, so a top player should have the chance to improve in her sport out of season with any quality coach, including her own.
Providing the coaching consistency and voice is important to student-athlete development. Self-esteem is improved especially against out-of-state opponents.
I would love to have a community based XC program for my kids.
I will admit that being able to coach my players on outside teams would benefit our program, but I worry about several other factors. The pressure players will feel to play all year around in order to make a team. The forcing of athletes to become specialists instead of playing multiple sports. Not to mention that control a high school coach starts to carry toward one player's career.
the unintended consequences create greater stress on student-athletes and prevent them from having other experiences such as being a multi-sport athlete...or just being a kid. Additionally, some coaches will use their power in ways that will be detrimental to appropriate social and emotional development of young people.
I think it's better for the students, the school, the coach and the sport.
finally we are making some sense here.
I would be in favor of changing the rule. However, there needs to be a limit on how many players per team can be coached.
I would definitely be in favor of allowing qualified school-appointed coaches to work with athletes outside of their seasons. If a district, of which we must assume uses best practices in hiring coaches, trusts the staff to work with the kids during the season why would we regulate that they couldn't work with them out-of-season?
This would provide increase opportunities for our athletes, and the possibility of better coaching.
I would only say that there may need to be SOME limits but overall it should be allowed
This will lead to high school teams being stacked with numerous athletes from the same travel/club season which will then lessen opportunity for those student-athletes who do not play for a specific travel/club team. Allowing high school coaches to coach travel/club teams will also lead to the recruitment of players which then will cause unnecessary pressure to student-athletes at a young age.
I am hesitant to respond yes, however, I feel that this is already happening to some degree. If so, then schools who are following the rules are at a disadvantage to schools and programs who are not following the rules. If the original out of season coaching rule was followed with fidelity I would prefer to continue with the current system.
I think this will create a wider spread of the competitiveness between the current teams. Additionally, I think it may give an unfair advantage to certain teams. Outside programs cost money to compete in, and thus some students may not be able to afford to compete. Additionally, I wouldn't want this to put pressure on the students if for some reason they can't or don't want to play, but feel obligated to they maintain their "spot" on the team. Finally, I think many students play a variety of sports and this could make playing in multiple sports teams more of a challenge. I'm not entirely opposed to relaxing the rules, but I think there are a lot of things to consider, and this may not be the best way.
They do already and don't get caught
great for kids
Liability and also academic eligibility
Provided the Coaches do not limit the athletes to one sport.
I think some coaches would force their athletes to participate

My athletes play indoor field hockey during the winter and travel to tournaments and have to rely on parents to coach them. They are receiving poor field hockey education 9 months of the year because my coaching staff cannot work with them.
I think the schools should allow this as well.
Yes I am, as long as playing on this non-school team does not effect if a student will make the school based team or not.
I would be in favor of allowing limited, perhaps two practices a week, with school athletes out of season in an effort to keep skills and fitness levels up during the off season.
Same as above Travel coaches will try to influence students were to attend high school or get students to transfer.
I have a mixed feeling about this but yes I think coaches should be able to coach in the off season on a non school base ground. I think head coaches should be assistant coaches in the off season so the athletes can hear from other coaches but giving the coach the right to coach the group of athletes they will be working with, will help the athletes gain scholarships at more prestigious universities.
There is no question that this should be the case. If a person is willing to sacrifice his/her time to make his/her team that much better, they should have the right to do so. It will create better relationships with athletes and parents, and it will allow positive team cultures to form year round.
Current research shows the individuals it the greatest impact on this current generation is the coach. Coaching out of season can help continue the athlete's growth on the field, as well as character, emotional stability, and sense of belonging.
but with limits of number of students per school team allowed on the non school team
As long as it is approved.
Already happening--There is little to no enforcement.
I think that if the rules were changed, that the coach should only be able to coach the kids in school programs. No outside teams.
I see nothing wrong with this practice. I am sure it is already occurring.
This way we could host camps that our athletes could attend at low to no cost, which fits with the student body financial restrictions within my district.
This would enable programs to do teaching in the off season to prepare new and younger for upcoming seasons. This can help in safer and more competitive contests.
This will allow student-athletes to pick the non-school program that best fits their needs and does not limit them if a school coach is on the staff of that program
As long are you are only coaching your kids from your school and not other kids from differing schools.
with restrictions of a limited number of their school team kids on their out of school team - maybe 2 or 3 kids for sports like volleyball or basketball. Increase to 4 or 5 kids for larger field sports like soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, etc.
No because not every coach has access to those teams. I'd prefer just allowing even limited coaching in a school based setting during the off-season. Such as two practices a week with no contact or just drill work etc
I am not sure on this one, i picked yes because maybe wasnt an option. I think it will help but i am also worried that it can negatively affect other sports with coaches getting their players to not play other sports.
In the end, coaching is not a financial decision for most (if not all) coaches. It allows us to give back to a community and offer student athletes properly monitored and coached options to develop as

athletes. Many student athletes are pushed towards travel/aau teams that are primarily focused on exploiting the athlete's for money. If school coaches are allowed to participate and conduct leagues, it would promote skills and development.
Yes but it should have limits of how many students they can coach
Creates pressure on the athlete to pay the team coach out of season.
It helps the players get better.
I feel as though it could raise the level of competition in the sport throughout the state. In our sport, it would also encourage more "qualified" coaches to become high school coaches as well since they could coach a club team in addition to their high school team without penalty. High schools already have choice and charter schools which are effecting where the athletes are heading currently, and this may help to keep more students in their feeder schools if they have a familiar coach with that program.
I think it is perfect the way it is.
This is basically just allowing for "club teams" that would be an extension of the school team. Easily exploitable.
Many community/club sports programs are hurting for coaches, and we are not allowed to coach in these programs if our school athletes participate. We either cannot coach or have to change teams, which disrupts team unity and chemistry.
At the end of the day, this should be about the kids and this is best for the them.
We have some very qualified coaches in our state and the primary goal should be the success of the student-athletes. In some cases, that could mean being coached year round by their current high school coach.
As long as their is no blatant signs of recruiting to the schools from the travel program. What should be done is any scholarships or transfers given to or by student athletes, should be investigated to make sure there is no impropriety. But coaches should be able to coach any athlete throughout the year.
Not the full team and not to interfere with the basketball players that play other sports; those that play alternate sports should not suffer because they don't play basketball during the off-season.
I'm not entirely sure.
Again we are here to help our students and giving them everything we got can only benefit them!

Q42 Do you think DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?

<b>Other Please Specify</b>
I think there shouldn't be open gyms. Kids spend so much time at school when they have to be there, I think they should go home.
If open Gym time is truly unstructured, I am not sure of the abuses within in that gym time? If it is truly open gym then it should be controlled by the individual school's administrators and be their choice and liability.
I think that schools are ultimately responsible for activities that involve students under their care. A question like 26 does not make sense to me. We should never let a non-school approved adult to interact with students. A question like 25 puzzles me. Why should we have a space open when multiple children are allowed to come and we have not organized and set expectations for them. Also, due to space restrictions, a school's availability can influence the open gym question. If schools

have competitive programs that share the facilities, an in season practice will supersede an open gym opportunity.
They should not be done away with but the system needs to be more organized and monitored by both DIAA, School Administration and Athletic Director.
Regulation needs revision
It's just another possible abuse where kids will feel they must go or likely be cut and where it's possibly abused by some coaches who will get information to players on what to do and train.
Unfair
Just have clear guideline that allows for open gym time
I think there should still be rules, just that they need to be updated.
No matter what DIAA stipulates, some coaches will find a way around it.
I don't have strong feelings, personally our gym is so booked that there isn't enough time for open gym until the Spring season
The regulation should be modified and suited for the student's athletic growth.
This should be monitored. Open gyms can be healthy for kids in the off season. You don't want them to become unofficial practices, though.
I don't think it should be eliminated but amended to allow coaches to instruct athletes in fundamentals so as to encourage their participation in that sport (like extra help in academics). I am not suggesting that open gyms be a mechanism to begin team training earlier or to have year round specialization.
Think they should limit the days and put a rule that any student that is playing another sport a that time can not participate in the open gym.
Does this mean allow anything or not allow any open gym?? This question is vague.
I believe a lot of students are hurt by DIAA restrictions.
There should be some type of regulations.
I don't have enough information to make a judgment
Old standard. Need to update regulation. Why have open gym and you can't coach? So if a kid is a shooting a basketball incorrectly, we cannot correct his mechanics. When tryouts start kid is behind others because we made small mechanical issue a bigger problem.
I think it would be beneficial to do away with open gym regulation
It depends on the status and content of the out of season coaching regulation
I believe that it should be better regulated, limited to 1-2 times per month, published and subject to inspection by DIAA. Undue influence is most prevalent in "open gyms" as they currently stand, they are not "Recess" they are considered by all to be a workout, and usually sport specific.
Even without "coaching" there are still advantages in participating in strength training, skill practice and drills etc that not all athletes will be privy to
Supervision is key
Its a great idea if used properly
I understand the purpose of the rules around "open gym" and the desire to protect the student-athletes. The current system only hurts the institutions that follow the rules. Restricting the number of athletes a coach can work with hampers the efficacy of any coaching that takes place. It appears that several schools are not following the current rules, and thus would have no reason to follow a new set of rules.

Having open access to facilities is a great way to get kids in school and off the streets. Using open gym as a guise for out of season coaching should continue to be the focus to ensure everyone has access not just a few.
Again, I am completing this survey b/c it has been requested of me several times. I do not have enough information regarding open gym sessions (my MS does not offer this) to make the most informed decision/response.
I believe the rules and regulations of open gym should be collaborated by coaches, athletes, school officials and the community to determine set principles.
Modify
Open gyms can be unorganized and not productive. Coaches should be allowed to coach and interact with their kids in the setting of their choice. Having multiple sports and genders together in an open gym is not beneficial.
The regulations should be modified.
With some exceptions. Still feel that it should not be a prerequisite and it should be open to anyone.
Maybe. If the regulation becomes too restrictive and counters other changes, then we should remove the open gym regulation.
Not certain.
I frankly can't give an opinion.
I believe that we should revisit the regulation and loosen the restrictions; however, some regulation is necessary.
I would not do away with this entirely, and maintain the spirit of the open gym concept. This should not be a basketball practice, and I believe anyone should be able to attend. But the reality is, the coach is the most likely and qualified person to be in attendance, supervise, and ensure fair and safe play. I would not be opposed to optional drills or technique sessions, within reason. I would rather this than students pay someone not on staff for these services. But I would leave schools the freedom to determine much of this. Good coaches know the kids need breaks out of season. And I make sure all coaches promote multi-sport participation. But many students and parents are looking to specialize and will take their child to these opportunities and away from school- sanctioned events. That is why the current rules are so ineffective. A parent has to coach a fall league basketball game, meanwhile kids are shelling out thousands of dollars for for-profit AAU leagues and club teams.
Open gym is a good concept, but depending on the school, space it doesn't always work out to be "open gym" because of the size or what activities are permitted to occur.
It's way too old times are changing
Limitations matter and school admin/athletic director should be on board. Most schools would want to vet any adult involved.
I think it needs modified to allow more but not done away with completely.
Inter mural activities should be part of the school activities.
Leave it up to the Athletic Director
I believe it has created a means of practice that impacts the multisport athlete with pressure to participate in out of season sports.
We should keep with open gym, but maybe amend some of the policies to make it more "coach-athlete" friendly.
perhaps redefine it to be more specific with other sports as well
Do you mean to not regulate it??? It would make DIAAs job easier but they don't regulate anything now. It's sll self reporting anyway
limit but coach runs open gym

Why does a third party need to be involved? Let the coaches and the Principal figure it out.
doesn't matter to me
I think the rule needs to allow for structured activities.
The whole open gym concept should be thought through again. Too many abuses and individual sport advantages to the concept. For example some sports rely on equipment not used in games for skill development more than others. Not being able to use them hinders that skill development. The concept of open gym needs to have a complete rework.
I think some things should be revised.
notify it
I believe open gyms are beneficial to the coaches and the athletes but they are difficult to police in regards to what goes on in an open gym.
I'm not sure I fully understand the impact
I think that it should be regulated
They shouldn't be so restrictive. Most players (of a specific sport don't pay attention to the rules. People always find a way to do what they want to get the work in.
It is a recruiting period time so I think it should be school organized with the coach.
Not totally...I believe there still should be some guidelines. I would hate to see athletes forced to focus on one sport. I do think there are coaches out there that would want athletes to specialize in a sport. This would be harmful physically to the athlete and to school participation of multi-sport athletes.
I think they should be used for skill development and instruction, not just scrimmages or games
it's the coaches time, who is to say what they can do with their time
Open gym should be allowed, but school approved coaches should be able to have some input to what participants are doing if nothing else for safety sake.
I think it should do away with the ambiguity of who can truly organize an open gym or how it can be conducted. I still think there could/should be limits of frequency, during the school year.
Should be modified
Would allow players to progress and coaches the ability to keep an eye on each player
It allows for more students to participate in a sport, even if they are not going to make the school team or if they are participating in another sport. Example - a school hosts open gym for basketball, and if a talented swimmer likes basketball at least they could participate before the season starts.
Not do away with the regulation, just relax and change it
I think it needs to be modified.
If sports such as football are not able to have open field, then I feel it is unfair that basketball, wrestling, etc... are able to have open gym.
Yes, if out of season coaching is allowed. If not the regulations need to be adjusted.
At some point, through peer pressure or a lack of playing time the open gym will turn into a practice by those who are on the team.
I believe that most "open gyms" are not conducted by the full set of rules. Therefore, do away with it or loosen the rules. There is no way to enforce rules
Rules should be implemented to allow coaches to organize and participate in limited training, conditioning and practices during the off season during and after school hours.
I don't think coaching should happen - sports specific open gyms should be allowed
This is WAY overdue! Quit micro-managing Delaware athletics!
Only if it can be a controlled environment where coaches are not running

I don't believe DIAA should completely do away with the regulation, but it should be relaxed as noted in some of my responses.
I don't have a preference
Perhaps. If the coaching out of season rule changes, then yes.
If out of season coaching is allowed then open gyms are not necessary but a limit to school sponsored gym practices should be limited to maybe one a week in the summer.
I think the DIAA should be less restrictive on the times that student athletes can be around coaches that are making positive impacts on their lives. Including Open Gyms
I believe it should be re-written, but there needs to be a policy
I believe as is the current open gym regulations need to be modified and tweaked, but not completely done away with.
Open gym should be at the discretion of the coaches and players. It should not be done with, it is important that it is a safe environment for players with supervision of an adult.
Open gym does not work for baseball. Players are not able to hit or throw in the gym without proper supervision due to safety. I think sports should be allowed to have more sport specific workouts
If they enforce the rules by checking up on people then keep it. But, if it is going to be left to people having integrity as the only check, then get rid of the regulation
I think that if a specific group of players from a team want to get together to schedule a time to play that sport indoors, as long as its safe and supervised, they should be able to do that with peers and not limit to one sport. Teams scheduling open indoor gym time should be able to do what they like, and ask the adult supervisor for tips or assistance when needed.
modify
Limits on days per week when school is in session. Unlimited for school holiday times.
I think open gym programs are bogus and are always in violation and should not be allowed
Depends on situation
Just it sure exactly how it works
Open gyms are too hard to maintain for athletic directors. Athletic directors are already torn in so many directions and are so busy. Some coaches follow the rules, some do not. What if an open gym takes place off campus? How is an athletic director supposed to mandate that open gym? Only equipment used in a game can be used in an open gym so some sports benefit more than others. Basketball for example can use hoops and balls to do drills/work on plays which leads directly to game performance. Sports like baseball and softball cannot hit in a gym because batting cages and bow-nets are not used in a game situation.
Yes and no. I feel like a coach should be able to go in and suggest some things a kid could work on. I'm not in favor of making open gyms sport specific and controlling everything that goes on during open gym.
There should be some regulations
No, I think open gym should be allowed. In terms of instruction, I think coaches should be able to provide certain conditioning type exercises that may be in certain athletes' best interest. E.G. a volleyball player may want to work on arm muscles to increase power of her serve. I don't think this should be required but I think optional student based learning should be allowed. E.G. if a student wants coach to run a certain drill with them, I think it should be allowed (if initiated by the students, not the coach)
relax the rules about it being student led.
I think for some sports the regulation fit well for others I feel they get no benefit.



I think open gym should also be a time where athletes can be coached
I think DIAA should put some basic open gym guidelines in place, but allow the school to determine the final regulations.
I think it should be changed to allow more coaching and instruction. However, I do think there should be a limit on how many per week so student-athletes are not over burdened with an every day expectation.
However, it should be changed to reflect more reasonable regulations.
It should be modified and lenient but still have regulations
Again, There is no enforcement of this. Open Gym is simply practice out of season. Self-reporting is a joke.
They just need to make sure it is enforced by school athletic director
The regulation should still be utilized to help provide structure for organizational and safety reasons.
I believe it should be regulate but allowed. So many hours a week, certain people (like other sport athletes) allowed and things like that. It shouldnt be free for all but also not banned.
Only if they do not change the out of season coaching rules
I think it depends on if other rules are relaxed. The summer months is when I feel a coach should be able to work with a team, on a voluntary basis, without restrictions. During the school year, to avoid the problem of losing dual-sport athletes, they could get rid of the open gym. So from end of Spring sports season to start of Fall there could be no restrictions on practices/open gym, besides maybe the amount of times per week per athlete. So if you have a soccer/basketball player he can only attend 2 open gym sessions with a coach per week.
I think 2 school days/week and 3 total days/week period would be appropriate. I think it should be with school personnel who have background checks completed and on file.
I think the open gym policy is fine mostly as is. I think coaches should be able to participate in teaching safe and efficient physical training to athletes of all sports, not just their own and in that way should be able to organize things. I do NOT think open gym should be an excuse to practice sport-specific skills.
Either regulate it or do away with
relax them
I think there needs to be a sport specific open gym.

Q43 Why do you think that the DIAA should do away with the open gym regulation?

Check all that apply.

<b>Other Please specify</b>
I think instruction should be available to student athletes any time they want it assuming the coach is willing and available to help them.
Again it is voluntary and if a student wants to practice (like going to the YMCA), why not allow students to do the same at their school if the facility is available. Also why would you limit athletes who just want to put the work in to be successful and want some guidance in doing so. Finally its a good thing for students to stay active and out of trouble. Choose a gym or "hanging" out. The Gym is always a better choice for our young adults.
It's not safe. It makes no sense at all to allow students to participate in any activity that they choose. A coach should be able to announce that their is an open gym for their sport & provide some basic, simple structure to it to help the athletes that are there to get better at that specific sport.



People do not follow the rules at this point anyway.
Athletes are often induced to do "open gym" for a sport not in season instead of playing for those in season at the same time
Seems like an unnecessary intrusion upon the discretion of the individual schools.
Kids are being productive in safe environment.
Kids also need some structure provided by adults
It gives the ownership to the coach and program
Again, why is this a bad thing? If a player wants to work on their game shouldn't we encourage that type of behavior?
Too many Cheaters out there!!
This should be determined locally by the district
Only one gym with 80-100 kids is difficult to manage. Many of the students have no intention in competing as a high school basketball player. They just want to be in the gym and hang out with friends.
Rather have our coaches than AAU coaches working with our student athletes
For schools like ours that don't have their own gym, and have students coming from all over DE its an opportunity for us to get that extra time we need. Especially since we share our gym with college campus students.
It is open to abuse, and there are examples of abuse in the state of Delaware that have been reported with little consequence. Additionally, open gym leaves student-athletes more susceptible to injury without proper structure and supervision. It's an antiquated practice that should be eliminated in favor of out-of-season coaching.
Help Delaware improve at sports.
Instead of people looking for ways to break the rules we could now help the coaches have better quality and safer practices.
If the coaches are willing to volunteer their time to provide a positive atmosphere to better the student athlete, then they should be able to do so.
It is unnecessary. Players play their sport once in open gym.
We want to continue to develop our student athletes not only on the court but off the court. Having year around interaction helps facilitate this mentorship as well as developing there basketball skills to assist in more student athletes from DE obtaining college scholarships. It also improves the level of basketball played in our state.
If gyms are open, it allows the lower income students the ability to be competitive with students who can afford private memberships and training.
There are much larger issues DIAA can work on instead of keeping athletes from working out. Open gym only keeps more kids involved.
athletes are going to put in time on their own any way. Why not have it in a controlled environment with appropriate supervision?
I think athletes should have the option to perfect their craft anytime and not set just to the season their sport is in.
I think if a student wants a place work on their sport the open gym is a better place than some of the kids alternatives.
Several schools offer an "open gym" but it isn't really "open" unless you are a member of that specific team
Students should be given opportunities to increase skill in the off season under the guidance of their coach. A majority of players are already on travels teams and getting out of season opportunities. This

will increase the skill of the number of students who can not or chose not to do travel ball because of playing multiple school sports. Nothing should be mandatory. If a coach makes things mandatory then it should be a fine.
Gives players an opportunity to work on skills without seeking an outside environment. All programs do not abide by rules and rules cannot be enforced.
It will help athletes hone their skills more. It's all about the athletes and helping them be their best selves.
What good does it do the students if they come into a gym and mess round for 2 hours with no direction at all? That is silly - as long as it is open to all members of school community and not just that team - the coach should be able to direct the activities taking place. This is to help them develop!!!!
I believe that structured open gym time would help create better quality basketball during the actual season.
Coaches around the state currently do not abide by the open gym regulation
The open gym policy should be created by each member school. Smaller schools might be opposed to them and that should reflect in their own policy towards open gyms. Bigger schools may favor them to keep as many student-athletes active as much as possible. The member school should have full control over establishing an open gym policy and it will be much easier to monitor and enforce that policy rather than a state agency trying to monitor or enforce such a policy.
There is not much benefit from this time frame other than playing. However, it does help areas that don't have a YMCA or other local facility for students to use.
It's "open gym" so it should be open, not regulated.
Why keep kids from being involved in a positive activity?
Athletes should have unlimited opportunities to improve at the sports they play if they are willing to put the work in. It shouldn't be a mandatory thing that coaches require, but a voluntary option for athletes to participate in.
Because athletes play multiple sports your time is limited with them, so if we are in the gym and they are asking for help in an area of their game I should be allowed to provide that individual instruction. Every minute you have with your athletes is valuable and should not be wasted.
It would allow players and teams to receive proper training
If open gym time is not supposed to be sport specific what is its purpose? Why does it need to be regulated by DIAA? If out-of-season coaching regulations are relaxed, there is no need for an open gym regulation.
I have heard of several HS coaches who are currently violating these rules, it is unfair for schools/coaches who abide by the rules.
Do away with it. You can't enforce it, scheduling needs to be fluid to interact with other activities happening within the school AND to ensure coaches and kids have the flexibility to make it work time-wise
schools should be able to decide their own individual policy.
In our district, volleyball is a fairly new sport. I believe doing away with open gym regulations will allow for the opportunity to encourage more students to participate in sports when its structured and planned. A lot of student athlete parents don't know or understand that DIAA rules, no matter how many times its been explained. This can cause a lot of back lash and negativity. The sport(s) might not be taken as seriously when it comes time for the season to begin.
It should be left to the individual school. Gym spaced supervision is different at each location

Coaching out of season should be permitted and structured workouts would replace the open gym regulation.
Trust the ADs and the coaches to figure out what is best for each school. Open gym is not a "make or break" issue for youth sports.
Because regulation is too difficult to enforce, it is not being enforced already. This doesn't make it right, but if it won't be enforced, it either needs to start being enforced or the rule needs to be changed.
To me in the world we live in any positive impact certified coaches can make with a student is a positive to me and should not be limited
I think there should be regulations but they are going to be hard to follow up with being that people are not honest
Once again, it's about what's best for the kids and the rules as it is written know restricts them way to much

Q44. Do you think DIAA should amend the current Conditioning Programs regulation?

Other, Please Specify
I think the regulations should be written to help the athlete as much as possible. To get better and what they want to get better. But it should be made voluntary and not forced on an athlete.
Skills and drills with sport equipment should be allowed
See question 28
Focus on 6.5.1.4 A coach may not provide instruction in sport specific skills or techniques. Coaches have knowledge and the capacity to prepare athletes. This regulation forces us to get into teams paying for conditioning through other services. This can be beneficial at times, but not always the way we want to go.
A revision of out of season coaching should cause for revision of condition programs to where conditioning programs are sports specific.
Believe coaches should be able to instruct, i do believe should be open to all potential players
I think sport specific equipment and/or instruction should be permitted during these conditioning programs.
Well if coaching out of season gets changed, then changing the conditioning would probably make sense, to allow sport specific training
Coaches should be permitted to instruct skills and techniques.
With schoolmaster approval, Why shouldn't students from different schools be allowed to participate together in a Summer conditioning program?
How? Why?
6.5.1.5 Sport specific equipment is prohibited.
Unsure.
You should be able to include sport specific drills within a conditioning program get rid of it
Conditioning programs have been almost MANDATORY at schools with which I'm familiar. A coach gets after kids who don't show up.
Still believe it should be voluntary, open to anyone, and not a prerequisite.

Restrictions on types of drills and instructions allowed during conditioning sessions seems too limiting.
If a student-athletes wants to condition and bring their own "sport-specific" equipment to incorporate into their workout, I do not see any harm with that whatsoever.
Sport specific equipment should be amended. Student athletes should be allowed to use equipment but can still restrict the use of the equipment. For example in baseball athletes should be able to do things like long toss using a ball and glove. This is a form of strengthening their arms and does not require direct instruction from a coach for skill specific drills.
6513 could be improved as well as 6514
I do not know enough to answer this question.
6.5.1.4 and .5 should be removed
The sport specific skills or techniques is vague and difficult to enforce or follow.
Yes it is important that students be allowed to incorporate conditioning programs that may include sport specific skills.
As with the open gym policy each member school should determine a conditioning program that meets the needs of all of their student-athletes. Hopefully, the athletic director would sit down with their staff of coaches and establish a conditioning program that meets everyone's needs and desires. Again, it is easier for a school to enforce their own rules rather than DIAA. Today, I know some schools violate the DIAA policy without any fear.
I think "mandatory conditioning" should be at the discretion of the school
Conditioning Should be team specific.
Remove the sports specific equipment prohibition.
Yes - sports specific equipment should be allowed, and coaches should have the freedom to provide instruction in sport specific skills or techniques.
Coaches should be able to instruct.
Conditioning programs should be allowed to be sport specific. Football at many schools has run conditioning for years for football players, but many other sports can't.
continue with the current program but allow sports specific training for individual sports.
DIAA should absolutely amend the regulation to allow for sport specific instruction. By not allowing that instruction but allowing out-of-season coaching, student-athletes could possibly spend twice the amount of time working on conditioning plus their sport. Amending the regulation would allow a coach to combine the two thus cutting down on an athlete's time present.
Coaches should run the conditioning
Not sure that i understand it
Conditioning should be done within the mandated dates set by DIAA.
I believe the regulation stating that the conditioning must be open to everyone should be changed. Their are vastly different workouts between members of the football team versus the girls lacrosse team. Having them in the weight room at the same time does not make sense and can create a safety risk.
The regulations should be amended. Some restrictions are useful while others, like prohibiting specific exercises and skills, are deleterious to the athletes progress and potential safety.
not applicable
6.5.1.3 should be changed to allow equipment of a particular sport.
If they are not going to allow for spots specific drills, then this could stay the same.

Q45. Please share any other comments you have below:

<p>Please share any other comments you have below:</p>
<p>Again, I think any activity the students are involved in is positive. Restrictions limit what, where, how and when students are engaged in positive activities. Kids are making poor decisions because they have nothing to do. We can help them if we are allowed to be more involved.</p>
<p>Why not be able to do skill specific exercises and training? Do we want to produce the best skilled athletes that we can or not? As long as participation is voluntary on the part of coaches and players, why not let them have the option to keep getting better?</p>
<p>I feel that every child/parent/family should have the right to choose where and by whom they want coaching their child. If I am the person chosen by one of my student athletes to give them guidance and support of their athletic endeavors, then that should be allowed. Payment isn't always the reason a coach wants to help children, sometimes it's the satisfaction of watching a child grow and flourish in their chosen endeavor.</p>
<p>We are a behind the times with the current restrictions in place. Some of our exposure to what is allowed in PA makes us feel extremely disadvantaged competitively but more importantly within safety of football particularly, we are disadvantaged in teaching proper contact techniques. Most sports have non school based leagues that a participant can choose to play in to hone his or her skills. However within the confines of the current rules an individual that wants to work on football related skills have limited ability to do so.</p>
<p>I believe a coach should be allowed to provide instruction in sport specific skills or techniques. I just don't think helmets or shoulder pads should be allowed. As previously stated I think the August 2nd mandatory time off should be changed to a date earlier in the summer.</p>
<p>Running - is a sport that requires a lot of conditioning and if done improperly causes more damage than good. This is where coaches can be effective. And some seasons do not allow the necessary time to be able to reach certain distances to be able to accomplish certain goals. This again is where conditioning programs and supervised out of season sessions become effective.</p>
<p>I believe in limiting the open gym AND in ensuring that conditioning is truly conditioning and not sport specific then it might help to continue to encourage multi sport participation. I believe that providing additional coaching is a positive thing. I do not believe a coach should monopolize an athletes time for the sport they coach. Growth is gained through life experiences. Let us not limit our youth.</p>
<p>To not have high school athletes at a disadvantage to other sports DIAA could look into how other states have implemented an allotted time out of season during school year and summer for athletes to be trained with designated dead periods throughout the year. This will allow athletes to keep up with athletes from other states. It will improve game play in season as athletes should be more skilled. It will give some athletes an activity outside of their season.</p>
<p>I do not think that they should do away with the programs. I do, however, see how having conditioning programs is decreasing the participation of other sports. I coach XC, indoor track &amp; field, and outdoor track &amp; field, and our conditioning programs at the school take kids away from possibly coming out for our sport. I think summer is an appropriate time to have conditioning programs, but students should be encouraged to try multiple sports at the high school level. The conditioning programs are starting to remind me of a collegiate atmosphere.</p>
<p>I believe sport-specific conditioning should be allowed.</p>
<p>I am in favor of changing rules to coaching out of season as I feel we our behind the rest of the states around us.</p>
<p>Our students and athletes need skills to develop their sport. They also need as much physical activity</p>

as possible. This would be a win win for all.
All these are totally unenforceable and only hurt the schools and athletes playing by the rules, As usual
Everyone knows that working out of season for a particular sport (especially one like wrestling) is the key to improving a team for the next season. Restrictive limits on out-of-season coaching only hinder schools who follow the regulations to the letter of the law because schools with a strong boosters program and community involvement are already benefiting from "open" clubs or gyms where the demand is high. Schools who are attempting to build interest in their program may not have the access to a full-fledged open program or the resources necessary to run such a regulate environment.
Coaches are there to give students as much positive improvements as possible. I know that there are always some bad eggs but limiting a students option only stifles their ability and future desires to improve.
The prohibition of sport related equipment is silly.
As high school coaches, if we want to coach athletes year round maybe we should coach at the college level. As a high school coach you have the opportunity to have another job, have a family and still coach. If rules are opened up to allow out of season coaching the coaches that don't will put their programs at a distinct disadvantage. Not every coach has the opportunity/time to commit to out of season coaching. So the fair playing ground would be taken away and give a HUGE advantage to some teams/programs. The end result, do we compete with teams from other states, do our athletes that have the ability and willingness to play at the next level make it there? The answer is yes to both of these so I think we are doing a great job with our coaching rules and regulations in the state.
Coming from a small school, it is difficult to find other coaches for out of season. I am willing to do it and would love to be able to hold more skill and practices without the restrictions in off season. I do agree with the no contact within a few weeks before fall preseason.
Prior to the start of an athletes sports, it shows great leadership and responsibilities for the athletes that get themselves prepared physically and mentally before the start of a season.
As far as conditioning, I believe that this should be relaxed to enable more involvement by coaches. Everyone will benefit from encouraging our athletes to get in better shape throughout the year. Let the kids and parents decide if it is too much.
Many questions on this survey can be interpreted in a variety of ways. As a result, the conclusion of the survey cannot be valid. A few examples, question 24 asks "organize the activities". What does that mean? Does that mean provide instruction or does that mean send volleyball players to half the gym and basketball to the other? Both are possible interpretations. Because that phrase is open to interpretation, the question is invalid. Question 25 includes "non-school approved adult" -- that that implies the adult is not approved by the school, but I think you meant to say an adult that is approved but not school employee. But, because it is unclear, the question is invalid. Question #11: Many other questions have the same issue.
We are talking about high school sports and keeping youth busy and out of trouble when they are not in school. I believe a kid having year round contact with their coaches and team mates is a positive thing. What is wrong with coaches improving a student athletes performance to meet their goals. I am not to worried about teams winning and losing. The only thing these regulations do is put regulation abiding coaches at disadvantage.
N/A
I believe that provided that coaches should be treated as and considered independent contractors and should they choose to coach a sport outside of the traditional HS season that DIAA shouldn't be placing draconian restrictions on that practice. Especially if they are regulated, monitored and insured through an outside organization. I do not believe that they should be paid by the member school for

coaching outside of the regular season. I also believe that coaches should be responsible for providing/obtaining their own insurance for those outside activities. Any coaching out of season should occur as a member of an outside organization that is registered insured and competing in scheduled events.
Not all athletes have the time or transportation to commit, creating an unfair advantage
Open Gym should be run by a coach
I believe the conditioning program should be strict and precise to prevent any injuries or serious health complications to athletes.
I think sports equipment should be able to be used for conditioning. XC and track get to participate in their sport during preseason but other sports do not because of equipment.
I think that the conditioning program rules are clear.
There should be regulations and monitoring of school conditioning programs so that they are truly voluntary, do not go on all year, and do not take up too much of an athlete's after school day.
Coaches should be able to provide some sport instruction to kids during conditioning.
I am happy that this is being talked about this.
Many of these programs costs a lot of money resulting in families with limited funds not being able to pay. If a school has facilities for athletes to utilize not sure why this is viewed as a negative. This type of program is between the school and AD. Waivers can be signed, school could save money by hiring qualified person to be available help ALL athletes! Current process is costing athletes and families more money versus being a business person and negotiating a fair price for ALL athletes. Appropriate background checks get done, waivers are distributed and make the ADs do more then handling a schedule and actually be a valuable, accountable resource to student athletes.
Modify to allow certain number of days.
Training and conditioning athletes has evolved over time. Each sport requires different things so training a football player the way you would a basketball player is not helping the football player.
N/a
n/a
Most of my responses are due to my belief that sports are a vital part of schooling. I feel it is important to "belong" to your school and for many athletics does that!
Coaches should be able to provide equipment for players who choose to play in the off season.
Some instructions should be allowed
Sport Specific movements/training can effectively almost eliminate sport specific injuries.
It is critical that conditioning programs are voluntary for student athletes, and their involvement or lack thereof is not utilized to influence their participation in a sport.
Students need the conditioning program to help prevent serious injuries
School sponsored conditioning programs should be under same restrictions as school sponsored open gyms
The coaching out of season rule presents issues that are sport specific and is not a "one size fits all" matter. One association is more concerned with non-school teams/programs (volleyball), while other associations are more concerned with providing instruction and coaching for school teams and student athletes during the off-season (basketball). I don't believe that the current regulations are achieving the intended goals or purpose or reducing the use of undue influence, increasing the likelihood of producing more multi-sport athletes etc. I think that the more we can have professional, ethical adults (coaches & teachers) involved with our student-athletes, the better. I think that we should be able to turn to superintendents, principals, athletic directors and parents to make some decisions that we are taking away from them.
Less restricted.



these changes will only benefit the catholic and private schools in many sports
I think some skill development should be permitted along with the conditioning.
Organized conditioning programs are good for student athletes.
Delaware needs to establish our own indoor track arena where the students can compete in their own states. DIAA should also work and removing either countries or XXX from the spring schedule, I also feel that flight XXX shouldn't have to compete at XXX to determine who get awarded at the end of year banquet . Whomever ever wins states should be awarded base on their flight.
We need to make changes yes but not unlimited . My worry is burning out and pressure put on veteran coaches who do not want to work with players year round plus the effect of repetitive use injuries we re seeing more and more of
Every student athlete from all Winter sports are in the same conditioning program which creates a supervisory issue. With all the athletes together it negates sport specific drills.
Skills related to particular sports should be part of conditioning.
Regulations on sports specific instruction should be relaxed so that students can receive more specific training for their sport.
Take the handcuffs off the coaches that are willing to help our players. Punish and enforce rules against coaches that negatively impacting and restricting players to participate in other activities. I highly encourage my athletes to play other supports because of the many benefits. I believe the ability to coach them in "XXX Leagues" and recruiting tournaments will enhance our players ability to be recruited and play at the next level.
In some schools conditioning programs are mandatory. No on knows though because kids are afraid to say anything and getting cut
Coaching all year, with some limitations, will help build relationships to enhance student athletes success
I honestly believe that it is already an uneven playing field for smaller public schools that struggle with enrollment. This in turn means there are fewer players to select from when holding tryouts and fielding a team. Many students in my school do not have the financial resources to play club/AAU or even attend camps to continue to develop themselves as players. I know for a fact that one XXX soccer school has over 90 players tryout for their team every year. Most of these players play at the club level. And they end up only keeping around 50 of those players. Whereas, the school where I coach, we had 40 total players in the program this past season. No one gets cut. The XXX school mentioned cuts more players than we get total for the program. I feel that changing the coaching out of season regulations will tilt the playing field even more to the advantage of schools like this.
I believe if a coach can volunteer his time for the betterment of his kids and team. He/she should be able to help. I feel that he she should also teach other athletes from other schools to even the playing field . Or at least offer it to others schools
I have none
This would help grow the sport and get kids that would be starting during the season a good start and then they would have a better base for the sport. They wouldn't be starting from scratch
I believe relaxing coaching out of season regulations will deter student athletes from playing multiple sports.
What's wrong with a coach providing technique tips for an athlete as they condition? This seems to be smart in a way to prevent injuries, and 2) a bit outdated
they should be able to do sport specific programs
Some sport based instruction should be allowed.
Allow year round conditioning with no regulation.



Conditioning programs should be limited because of the space of facilities and coaches should be able to develop sport specific training programs
Section XXX should be removed.
Functional conditioning would be beneficial
I want Delaware to have the same advantages as other states. Our kids are behind when it comes to other states. Hopefully we can institute the shot clock.
It will help the students grow as athletes
I think that this survey should have included a 'i don't know' or 'undecided' option for most questions
Again Why not keep as many Kids involved. This is only a win for the Students!
None
Modern times shows that other states are doing things different. DIAA must focus more on controllable issues. Having quality refs in all sports, having security enforced at all events, tracking athletes and school attendance. Off season or not people who have the desire to produce quality disciplined athletes should have the ability to do so
If the coach is willing to work with athletes out of season and the athletes want to get better, let them work out. Just deal with those coaches you become aware of that are found to be making the kids do it and not giving it as an option
Conditioning programs should allow sport-specific exercises and drills.
As someone who has played collegiate lacrosse I can tell you that the conditioning program that I participated in was not ambiguous and was very much sport specific, including the use of “specific equipment” if we are aiming as high school coaches to prepare our athletes for the next level it is quite frankly embarrassing that this rule exists in its current form, antiquated comes to mind rather easily here, especially in a day and age where sport specification is becoming more and more prevalent
In general, I would like to see a few changes to the current DIAA regulations. There needs to be guidelines but coaches should be able to work with their students out of season, even if it's only 3 days a week and on weekends for tournaments or outside league play
It's coaching in the off season
The weight room in schools, which is used primarily by the football team, should be a prerequisite for playing that sport. At least 70% attendance rate can be applied because it is imperative that athletes get acclimated to the heat and develop a base conditioning for health and safety reasons.
DIAA should regulate school-sponsored athletics to promote fair play, sportsmanship, multi-sport participation, and education over athletics. Relaxing this rule will only promote single sport competition from a greater number of for-profit, non-education-based entities. Relaxing this rule will undermine education-based athletics and lead us towards a European model where sports are not part of the school experience. Further, it will lead to unfair recruitment from one school to another based on the coach's affiliations with private entities recruiting players to play for their organization with a particular coach who also coaches a dominant program at a DIAA member school!
conditioning is imperative to ANY sport, and if beneficial for their academic performance. In addition to this conditioning the body has multiple health benefits that our students could significantly benefit from
Sports specific training should be allowed.
if you look at what is happening in girls basketball on the public school level, it is taking a big hit. Most of the better players are going to private schools. Interest needs to be generated on the public school level. These changes can help. Help
There are conditioning drills that work for all sports

Students that want to participate in the off season whether it be with their high school program or with some type of club team. Having students participate with their high school team will allow students that do not have the money to receive quality instruction throughout the year like students that do have money to receive such instruction.

Conditioning is great but it's a missed opportunity to give the sport-specific skills that players need and would like to work on. There is plenty of talent and athleticism in our state but it can rarely be developed because of these restrictions. It causes players to not only lack the same competition level of players in other states but causes many to miss out on scholarship opportunities to those same players.

The fact that the athletes can't do any sport specific workouts is ludicrous

The more the coach spends with the kid that more success we can be

Coaches should be allowed to support all interested to our fullest potential

Please make these changes! Especially with the changes in the NCAA with recruiting it is now shifting away from the AAU scene and back towards high schools especially in certain times during the summer. You will be allowing us to develop these student athletes as people and players and helping them reach their potential in recruiting and opportunities to go to college!

Conditioning should be allowed to be restricted to those interested in playing a particular sport whose coach is running the session.

Conditioning and Strength Programs should also be able to include sports specific activities, if we are preparing kids to continue at the next level, simply lifting and running does not do that, there are non contact drills and film study that can be done with a coach to help better prepare them for when pads do come on.

Just that coaching year round will not be an advantage. It will be up to each coaching staff how much effort they want to put forth. It will only help even the playing field between schools that are already way ahead and have many offseason opportunities. By allowing it we are only giving equal opportunity for players to be the best they can be. Next step is for the 8th grade rule to be changed. That is an old rule that is a huge advantage for private and charters allowing students to get a 5th year of competition at the high school level as well as help recruit/convince students to stay at their school if they like the program and coach. It is another rule that is not fair across the board and needs to be addressed. If that rule is to continue, schools who have feeder middle school programs and are currently enrolled in THAT district should be able to play for the high school team that they are currently supposed to go to.

The coaching out of season, open gym, and conditioning policy are not enforceable by DIAA. I would prefer that DIAA offer some guidelines to member schools and then let the schools establish and enforce their own policy. There will be some "undue influence" placed on some student-athletes but each school can monitor their own situation. If a parent complains to an athletic director I would hope that some action would take place. Control over the different athletic policies would rest with the athletic director who is the leader of the school's athletic department. The level of enforcement would now rest with the AD and school rather than DIAA. We have so many different type of schools in DE and they all have a different point of view about how school based athletics fits into their overall curriculum and their extra-curricular schedule. Let each school establish their policies, submit those policies to DIAA, and let each school enforce the rules that they created.

The DIAA must stress the STUDENT in student-athlete and monitor all coaches for undue influence on children regardless of age. I appreciate the opportunity to take this survey and I also appreciate all that the DIAA does for student-athletes in the state of Delaware.

Coaches should be more active during conditioning

I think the "coaching out of season" should begin when school ends and continue through the summer until schools begins. No during school out of season coaching or "open gyms"
Coaches should be allowed to organize and participate in conditioning/training.
Should be able to be limited to a team
XXX had a 2 week dead period in the summer. Prior to dead weeks sports could compete or practice for a certain amount of weeks (there were limits within those weeks). It allowed HS sports to stay more relevant than club / AAU...but it was not overkill to where coaches/ players were taxed.
Conditioning for certain sports MAY require sport specific equipment.
Changes to these regulations is WAY overdue!
We must look at the access to coaches that we allow our students. DIAA stresses the importance of certified and qualified coaches. In addition DIAA stresses that Coaches be certified teachers in order to develop the student athlete. However, DIAA has regulations that push student athletes in to a predatory market environment when students are "out of season." Student athletes without means are left behind or, are faced with the choice of working with people who are only interested in sport specific skill development with little interest in helping the student athlete develop as a human being.
Coaches should be able to run,design, and workout their players to fit their sport. For example I do not want a football player doing the same training as a soccer player. The sports are different so the workouts should be as well.
N/a
It doesn't matter what's on the books . . . there's virtually no enforcement. XXX invites 8th graders to their open gym and conditioning workouts in violation, but nothing happens to them.
Conditioning varies by sport and coaching philosophy as well as based on when that season is occurring next. A one size fits all approach may not meet the needs of students if their sport is two seasons away, one season away, etc.
There are "sport specific" exercises which can help an athlete grow and be physically prepared for the season. Injury prevention is part of the off-season training.
I think the member schools should enforce their own athletic framework. Our kids are getting abused and rundown by club and travel coaches who are only concerned with winning weekend medals. We have a ton of quality coaches here in Delaware that are handicapped by the current provisions.
To build team chemistry it is hard with other teams and students that don't play sports training with you.
They are fair.
There are too many rules.
I am satisfied with what the guidelines permit me to accomplish.
Conditioning programs run by teams that are sport specific exercises are beneficial for the team. A conditioning program for all students in the school even non athletes is too broad.
Each sport should be able to have a closed workout session or time. Trying to have times available for males and females or other teams can cause issues.
Coaches and teams should be free to develop conditioning programs that fit the schedules of their athletes and address the needs of their teams. Putting blanket rules on everyone limits flexibility and in fact makes it more difficult for coaches to accommodate the needs of their players.
If there's no change than we will have no change. It's time to try some different things to help these student athletes become better athletes.
The biggest concern for me is that we prevent student athletes from playing multiple sports. The benefits of playing multiple sports both physically & mentally is of too much value to both the student athlete & the programs that they participate in. I do think it is important that coaches have

<p>opportunity to work with their student athletes throughout the year but only on a modified basis time wise.</p>
<p>I coach cross country and "running" is always seen as sport specific. So I watch soccer and football programs allowed to have summer conditioning programs, cross country is unfairly left out!</p>
<p>Some skill specific activities should be allowed. Contact sports should be limited to the amount of contact athletes should have.</p>
<p>It should allow for sport specific training.</p>
<p>sports specific equipment should be allowed</p>
<p>Let's be honest - out of season coaching happens. I have seen it with my own eyes. MOST Kids today are very active in multiple sports - however some are not. I have a girl who's parents (for financial reasons) told her one sport only. She picked field hockey. I think it would be great if I could run small non mandatory practices so kids could get better. Not everyone has the time or money to do club. Out of season play builds championships. Period. Look at the state champions for the last decade. They play all year together. Not everyone can afford that.</p>
<p>Policies should be re-written to accomplish 2 key objectives; 1. Allow schools to develop programs that are on equal competitive footing with their opponents, and 2. Allow schools to develop programs that address the needs of the serious athletes, that is, encourage them to develop as athletes in order to compete at the next level. Currently at my school, there's no overarching program to encourage this and the DIAA policies currently in place act as a deterrent should our school try to implement such a program.</p>
<p>DIAA should allow sport-specific conditioning programs to run at any given time</p>
<p>Making any of these changes will have very little effect on the players. It will help club and/or school programs because it will be easier to find coaches. These changes are for the adults, not the kids.</p>
<p>It would be nice to allow student athletes the ability to practice their sport anytime they want during off season, and with the guidance of a coach or adult if they so choose. Anytime a student athlete wants to improve herself or himself in their sport support should be given by the schools or coaching staff when possible.</p>
<p>Relaxing the rules and regulations on out of season coaching will foster a culture of sport specialization that all data points towards being hurtful to student-athletes.</p>
<p>Question 13. Do you think coaches should be able to be compensated for their coaching services during the school year? What type of question is this? Do you mean in season or out-of-season? It is up to each district whether or not they want to compensate for coaching - not DIAA. I do not appreciate how question 9 makes it appear as though coaches can already coach their athletes in 'informal' sessions during the summer (after last spring contest and 8/1) when that regulation was just changed this fall. That question is completely misleading since the regulation does not go into affect until June 2019 and that part of the regulation was cut off of the survey.</p>
<p>Coming from coaching at the college level it's a bit of a challenging to schools with plays who are just starting to play sports as well as discouraging to them when they play against teams who have better conditioning and better facilities which give them more time to become better.</p>
<p>Do away with "no sports instruction" during conditioning programs- it would reduce the total amount of time the athlete must put in if they can do both of these ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY things during one time slot</p>
<p>limiting a student athlete's ability to get extra training from approved qualified coaches is ridiculous. because of these rules they have to look for training outside the school. these coaches may or may not have the necessary credentials or background checks that are required for school coaches.</p>
<p>I believe DIAA should be approving Club teams that have DE. students on them to be assured that they comply with rules of membership. Membership rules would be based on a percent of players</p>

<p>from any 1 HS. Any club team must maintain a percent of less than 50%, 35% ??? from any one school on that team. Club teams with more than 50%, 35% ??? from only 1 HS would be found ineligible and fined or penalized. This would allow for outside coaching and competition and not give an advantage to clubs that are only from 1 HS team.</p>
<p>Coaches (Coaching) should be allowed run conditioning programs for their sport. The training of athletes is essential to prevent injuries and to progress athletically. Also the coaches are responsible for trying to prepare those students whose are interested in college athletics.</p>
<p>XC cannot have conditioning programs so this rule needs to be amended to include all sports</p>
<p>There isn't enough time between practice sessions and first game day.</p>
<p>Sport specific training is largely popular in our state currently. There are many basketball-related conditioning skills that can be taught, but are still applicable to other sports.</p>
<p>It's time for DIAA to get on board with the rest of the country. Our athletes are at a complete disadvantage. Coming from these crazy rules of DIAA, college sports was a whole new world and after hearing what other states do to support their student athletes and make sure they are in the best situation to succeed, I was truly disappointed at the lack of opportunity due to an attitude of no change without good reason. Stop wasting athletes and coaches time and let's get with the program.</p>
<p>I think sport specific conditioning should be allowed at the request of the student athlete. I also believe the conditioning sessions should be led/supervised by the school's athletic trainer or a qualified designate, not necessarily a coach.</p>
<p>It is important that student-athletes are active all year long simply for their own health and well-being. Many student-athletes are multi-sport athletes so they are getting exercise throughout multiple seasons. Those who are not multi-sport athletes may not be exercising on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Relax the rules on being non sport specific and allow coaches to train their athletes for their specific sport</p>
<p>They should amend everything in which the coaches are allow to do anything.</p>
<p>It's bad enough that in tennis some schools use more than one coach during matches. Some have mandatory sports for credits to graduate. With the shortage of qualified tennis coaches many school hires outside of the system. Allowing out of season coaching / training puts a school at a disadvantage. Lastly since Head coaches are paid. Why would anyone expect them to COACH out of season. Volunteer coaching out of season for free undermines the system of payment.</p>
<p>Sport specific instruction should be allowed, if initiated by the student. Coaches tend to know from experience what the best drills/techniques are for specific sports. If student inquires, coach should be allowed to assist and instruct.</p>
<p>I think overall compared to other states our rules are behind and I believe we need to update our rules to be more inline with surrounding states. I believe sports are moving in a larger direction and I believe we need to catch up. I also the believe the current way the rules are set up it allows for so called trainers to make hundreds if not thousands of dollars "training" kids and they might not know what they are doing. If certified coaches were allowed to work the students more often I believe it would cut back on the outside influence of others who may not have any knowledge at all.</p>
<p>N/a</p>
<p>If the the program's workouts are scheduled and run by the students, without the attendance or direct instruction of the coach, I see no issue with them performing sport-specific drills.</p>
<p>Conditioning should be able to be sport specific and include equipment.</p>
<p>Think sport specific conditioning should be allowed</p>
<p>Thank you for sending out this survey I think a rule change is very much needed.</p>
<p>As previously stated, volleyball is a fairly new program in our district. If we were able to teach specific techniques or skills that are needed to be successful in that sport it would make the season a lot</p>

smoother. During season its difficult to work one-on-one with athletes especially when everyone's skill level is different. Having planned conditioning programs and being able to teach the skills needed could increase success in the program and decrease parent complaints.
I have been coaching swimming at the high school level for 30 years and have never violated the rules set by DIAA.
Again space and availability vary from school to school.
None
I like the idea of coaching out of season, but think it should be limited to prevent students getting burned out.
Sports are very unique and require athletes to be in a different shape based on the sport. Conditioning programs should be allowed to tailor sport-specific workouts to allow the athlete to be in optimal shape for their chosen sport.
Our rules need to change so that our kids are able to compete with kids from neighboring states for scholarships
Programs should be allowed to use sport specific equipment during conditioning periods.
Thank you.
The regulations about conditioning programs make sense if there is a change to the current coaching sport-specific skills out of season.
I am a big fan of the NCAA model but using a two week period that coaches can work with out of season kids, but can't interfere with kids playing sports in that season.
Make more reasonable for all i.e. 6.5.1.4 & 6.5.1.6
The biggest factors involved in amending these Regulations is their enforcement, and structuring them to allow Delaware schools to be competitive with surrounding states.
I believe a coach should be able to assist a player anytime during the year bc it's really about helping a player become better
During a conditioning a coach should have an opportunity to coach as long as the coaching can assist in the conditioning drill and the athletes are still given a chance to learn.
My Proposal would be the following using Basketball as an example: May, June and July: Summer League and Team Practices. 3 total sessions per week (summer league games count as one session). 120 minutes per each session. Sessions can be any combination of strength training, team practice, and skill development. August: Non-Contact Period September and October: Skills and Strength Training. 2 sessions per week, 120 minutes per session. Sessions can be open to all students.
Thank you.
Our offseason conditioning program has been successfull working within DIAA regs so I don't see a need to change it
Let us Coach! Look into year round coaching with No Contact times throughout the offseason. Teams that run practices in offseason do it anyway. Changes like this just help those of us that follow the rules keep up with the competition.
Whatever the rules become, they should be more clearly defined. There are a lot of different interpretations that I believe take place and that could lead to unintentional breaking of rules. I feel the summer period (end of June-first week of August) should allow for coaches to work with their teams in sport specific practices. Limit to 2-3 hrs per practice and two times per week. You could limit each individual athlete to 2-3 practices per week, if they are a duel sport athlete. During the actual sport seasons themselves, out-of-season coaches should not be able to do sport specific drills with their teams, only what is currently defined under the conditions programs.
sports coaching and technique specific drills and programs should be allowed

Strength and conditioning programs have become sport specific as athletes attempt to become better in their particular sports, so these programs should be able to be geared towards those goals.

Coaches should be allowed to have students participate in sport specific drills and exercises. This allows novice players an opportunity to learn and receive closer attention than during the season (sort of like seeking a tutor for an academic subject).

I believe coaches can and should help all interested athletes in training without being involved in sport specific skills. The policy is good but needs to be monitored.

I believe that true conditioning done the right way has to have some sports specific training and equipment because each sport works different muscles and some conditioning can be counter productive.

I think the rules we have in place are perfect. We have a period in the summer where we get to work with our kids individual skills. There shouldn't be organized team practices in the summer. It leads to specialization. I wouldn't mind having two practices for organizational purposes before summer league starts, but that's it...two practices. I like the rules for the most part the way they are currently set up.

Incorporating the sport into conditioning is how things are done now. This is an antiquated regulation.

I believe that the restrictions that they put on coaching is detrimental to the student athletes that want to get better in their designated sports. I believe it hurts the progress of the athlete

N/A