
TO: Members of the Education Policy Committee

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 10, 2026

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics (Permission to Adopt)

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Pillar 3: College and Career Readiness

Goal: Every student graduates high school college and career ready.

Outcome: 3.M: Increase the percentage of Maryland students who graduate high school in four years.

Pillar 4: More Resources for Student Success

Goal: Every student is matched with the resources they need to succeed.

Outcome: 4.A: Decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism.

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to request permission to adopt amendments of COMAR 13A.06.03.01-.11, Interscholastic Athletics. The proposed amendments are editorial and substantive as part of a comprehensive review by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA). The proposed amendments have unanimous support of the MPSSAA Board of Control and the Public Schools Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM).

Background

The MPSSAA was established in 1946, with the formal adoption of its Constitution in 1951. Following the enactment of Title IX, portions of the MPSSAA Constitution—such as eligibility, sports seasons, classifications, and operational policies—became official regulations of the State Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 1973. On October 1, 1975, these regulations were codified by the Maryland State Board of Education.

Over the decades, these regulations have remained strong and effective, supported by the MPSSAA's continued partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to promote the physical, mental, and moral well-being of student-athletes and protect them from exploitation. In keeping with this mission, the MPSSAA has conducted a thorough, 18-month, membership-wide review of the interscholastic athletic regulations. The last comprehensive review occurred during the 2012–2013 academic year, resulting in a series of clerical, editorial, and substantive amendments that enhanced participation and improved operations for member schools.

Executive Summary

The purpose of the MPSSAA comprehensive review is to support high school students in extracurricular programming by updating and amending interscholastic athletic regulations to align with Maryland's transformative path forward within the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The amendments support access and opportunity for students within the array of local educational agency delivery models for education and career and college ready students. One public comment was received supporting the regulation, but with concerns on the language related to the scope of practice for Physician's Assistance.

Action

MSDE is requesting permission to adopt the amendments to COMAR 13A.06.03.01-.11 *Interscholastic Athletics*.

Attachments

COMAR 13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics Public Comment Overview.pptx

COMAR 13A.06.03 *Interscholastic Athletics* – Regulation

Public Comment



COMAR 13A.06.03

Interscholastic Athletics

OFFICE OF ATHLETICS

Presented By | R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director of Athletics

September 10, 2026



MSDE Strategic Plan Goals

1

Every child has access to a high-quality early childhood program.

PILLAR 1: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Every student is matched with the resources they need to ensure their success.

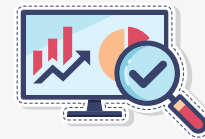
PILLAR 4: MORE RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

4

2

Every school has high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders.

PILLAR 2: HIGH-QUALITY & DIVERSE TEACHERS AND LEADERS



Every school and district receives a rating of ____ or higher.

PILLAR 5: GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5

3

Every student graduates high school college and career ready.

PILLAR 3: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



Visit the Maryland State Department of Education website to learn more about the Strategic Plan!

strategicplan.marylandpublicschools.org



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Every student graduates high school college and career ready.

3.M

Increase the percentage of Maryland students who graduate high school in four years.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Every student is matched with the resources they need to ensure their success.

4.A

Decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism.



Presentation Outline

1. COMAR 13A.06.03 Amendments Review
2. Summary of Public Comment
3. Discussion

COMAR 13A.06.03 Amendments Review

COMAR 13A.06.03 Amendments

- The MPSSAA and LEAs conducted a thorough, 18-month, membership-wide review of the interscholastic athletic regulations. The last comprehensive review occurred during the 2012–2013 academic year, resulting in a series of clerical, editorial, and substantive amendments that enhanced participation and improved operations for member schools.
- The comprehensive review began with a statewide membership survey, which garnered nearly 1,000 responses from coaches, athletic directors, principals, supervisors of athletics, and local superintendents. Task forces composed of these stakeholders examined each section of COMAR individually, collecting data, feedback, and recommendations.

Sections of COMAR for Interscholastic Athletics	
.01 Authorization	.07 State Tournament Policies
.02 Eligibility.	.08 Awards and Recognition
.03 Sport Seasons	.09 Sanction Rules
.04 Operational Guidelines	.10 Amateur Rules
.05 Violations, Penalties, and Appeals	.11 Amendments
.06 Classifications	

COMAR 13A.06.03 Key Action Milestones

- September 4, 2025: MPSSAA Executive Council votes 12–0 in favor of the proposed COMAR amendments.
- September 30, 2025: MPSSAA Equity Committee reviews and votes 9–0 in favor of the amendments.
- November 5, 2025: MPSSAA Constitution Committee reviews and votes 9–0 in favor of the amendments.
- December 10, 2025: MPSSAA Board of Control reviews and votes 58-0 in favor of the amendments.
- January 16, 2026: PSSAM reviews and votes on the amendments and the motion carries with unanimous approval.
- May 14, 2026: Approval of the Maryland State Board of Education - Education Policy Committee to seek permission to publish from the Maryland State Board of Education.
- May 28, 2026: Approval granted by the Maryland State Board of Education for Permission to Publish.
- July 24, 2026: COMAR 13A.06.03 regulations published in the Maryland Register, open for public comment.

Summary of Public Comment

Summary of Public Comment

Regulation in Question

Section .04 – Operational Guidelines

.04D. Policies Pertaining to Wrestling.

(1) Students shall have their minimum weight class in which they can wrestle certified by **[a qualified physician]** *a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner* before the students' first match.

Editorial Amendment – Amendment clarifies who are the specific eligible qualified physicians. The language is identical to those authorized to complete a student physical found in COMAR 13A.06.03.02.

Summary of Public Comment

Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA)

Support of Regulation

MdAPA supports the proposed amendment's recognition that physician assistants (PAs) are qualified to perform this certification.

Concern with Regulation

MdAPA requests removal of “under the supervision of a physician” and replace with language consistent with the collaboration agreement found in the 2024 legislative amendments to PA requirements.

Recommendation Concerning the Regulation

Two sections of COMAR 13A.06.03 reference PA as it relates to health and safety. One of the regulations is not part of the amendment package.

Recommendation is to adopt regulations as proposed, and to collaborate with MdAPA to update both regulations of COMAR 13A.06.03 to align with MD state law.

Discussion

Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

Chapter 03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205 and 2-303(k), Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Authorization.

[text unchanged]

.02 Eligibility.

Student eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics at the high school level shall be based on the following criteria:

A. Students shall be officially registered and attending the [member MPSSAA] school they are authorized to attend under regulations of the local school system *and may represent only:* [1. They may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements.]

(1) The member MPSSAA school at which it is anticipated the student will complete their graduation requirements; or

(2) If the school of anticipated graduation does not offer interscholastic athletics, another member MPSSAA school in the local school system as authorized under regulations of the local school system.

B. [text unchanged]

C. Students who are 19 years old [or older as of] *on or before* August 31 are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

D. [text unchanged]

E. Middle, intermediate, or junior high school students are not eligible to compete or practice with *or against* high school teams. However, ninth grade public school students who reside in the attendance areas of a high school organized grades 10-12 may participate in the interscholastic athletic program of that high school.

F. – K. [text unchanged]

.03 Sports Season.

Member MPSSAA schools shall conduct all interscholastic athletic contests and practice sessions in accordance with the following:

A. The sports seasons shall be defined as follows:

(1) – (5) [text unchanged]

[(6) Required Practice. A member MPSSAA school may not participate in a regularly scheduled game until at least 20 calendar days have elapsed after and including the first day of practice. Golf is the only exception to this regulation.]

[B. Maximum Number of Contests Permitted During a Sports Season.

(1) All school athletic schedules shall be established according to the following instructions:

(a) Badminton:

(i) 15 regular season games;

(ii) Not more than two matches per week; and

(iii) Three matches in one week may be scheduled twice during the season.

(b) Baseball:

(i) 18 regular season games or 20 with designated optional tournament;

(ii) Not more than three games per week;

(iii) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament;

(iv) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 17 regular season games may be scheduled; and

(v) If a team elects to play in the designated optional two or three-game tournament, a fourth game may be played during that week.

(c) Basketball:

(i) 20 regular season games or 22 with designated optional tournament;

(ii) Not more than two games per week;

(iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;

(iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and

(v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 19 regular season games may be scheduled.

(d) Cross Country:

(i) 10 regular season meets;

(ii) Not more than two meets per week; and

(iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.

- (e) Field Hockey:
 - (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) Not more than two games per week;
 - (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
 - (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and
 - (v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 11 regular season games may be scheduled.
- (f) Football:
 - (i) 10 regular season games; and
 - (ii) Not more than one game per week.
- (g) Golf:
 - (i) 12 regular season matches; and
 - (ii) Not more than three matches per week.
- (h) Gymnastics:
 - (i) 8 regular season meets;
 - (ii) Not more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Meets may not be held on consecutive days.
- (i) Indoor Track:
 - (i) 10 regular season meets;
 - (ii) Not more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.
- (j) Lacrosse:
 - (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) Not more than two games per week;
 - (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season; and
 - (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two-game tournament.
- (k) Outdoor Track:
 - (i) 10 regular season meets;
 - (ii) Not more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Three meets in one week may be scheduled once during the season.
- (l) Soccer:
 - (i) 12 regular season games or 14 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) Not more than two games per week;
 - (iii) Three games in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
 - (iv) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament; and
 - (v) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 11 regular season games may be scheduled.
- (m) Softball:
 - (i) 18 regular season games or 20 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) Not more than three games per week;
 - (iii) A team may elect to play in one designated optional two or three-game tournament;
 - (iv) If a team elects to play in a designated optional three-game tournament, only 17 regular season games may be scheduled; and
 - (v) If a team elects to play in the designated optional two or three-game tournament, a fourth game may be played during that week.
- (n) Swimming:
 - (i) 12 regular season meets;
 - (ii) Not more than two meets per week; and
 - (iii) Three meets in 1 week may be scheduled once during the season.
- (o) Tennis:
 - (i) 18 regular season matches; and
 - (ii) Not more than three matches per week.
- (p) Volleyball:
 - (i) 15 regular season matches or 14 with designated optional tournament;
 - (ii) Not more than two matches per week;
 - (iii) Three matches in one week may be scheduled twice during the season;
 - (iv) A team may elect to play tri-matches provided the total number of opponents does not exceed 15 during the season; and
 - (v) Teams may play 14 matches plus one designated optional multi-team tournament.

- (q) Wrestling:
 - (i) 14 regular season contests including dual meets and a maximum of three tournaments and three tri-meets;
 - (ii) Not more than two contests per week including a maximum of one tournament;
 - (iii) Multi-team events may be used to make up postponed contests between teams originally scheduled;
 - (iv) Three contests may be scheduled one time during the season on a nontournament week;
 - (v) A city/county/conference tournament required to qualify for the state tournament will not be counted as one of the three allowed tournaments; and
 - (vi) Wrestling tournaments and meets are defined by Regulation .04D(3) and (4) of this chapter.
- (2) Conference/League Championships. One additional contest beyond the maximum allowable number may be played to determine a conference/league championship. The results of that contest may not count towards MPSSAA standings.
- (3) Postponed Games. Postponed contests may be rescheduled during the season, provided the number of games does not exceed the maximum number permitted in a week plus one additional contest.]

B. State Level Sport Designation.

- (1) Expansion of any sport to the State level shall be recommended by the MPSSAA Board of Control and approved by the local superintendents of schools.
- (2) Emerging Sports.
 - (a) A member MPSSAA school, school system, or the MPSSAA Executive Council may recommend to the MPSSAA Board of Control a sport for emerging sport designation.
 - (b) The MPSSAA Board of Control in recommending a new sport for emerging sport designation shall require:
 - (i) At least 20 percent of the MPSSAA membership has participated on a varsity level;
 - (ii) Designated seasonal limitations approved by the MPSSAA medical advisory committee and MPSSAA equity committee; and
 - (iii) Designated rules of competition approved by the MPSSAA medical advisory committee.
 - (c) The MPSSAA may operate culminating tournaments for emerging sports.
- (3) Championship Sports.
 - (a) The MPSSAA Board of Control shall approve MPSSAA Championship Tournaments for sports at the State level at their annual meeting.
 - (b) The MPSSAA Board of Control in recommending a new sport for championship sport designation shall require:
 - (i) At least 40 percent of the MPSSAA membership has participated on a varsity level; and
 - (ii) All emerging sport criteria have been met under §B(2) of this regulation.
 - (c) MPSSAA championship sports shall maintain their State level status unless sport participation drops below 20 percent of MPSSAA membership or action of the MPSSAA Board of Control.

C. Sport Season Limitations.

- (1) Required Practice. Except for in the sport of golf, a member MPSSAA school may not participate in a regularly scheduled game until at least 20 calendar days have elapsed after and including the first day of practice.
- (2) Maximum Number of Contests Permitted During a Sport Season.
 - (a) A sport season limitation policy shall be recommended by the MPSSAA Board of Control and approved by the local superintendents of schools.
 - (b) The sport season limitation policy shall include weekly and seasonal contest limitations for each MPSSAA administered sport.
 - (c) All member MPSSAA schools shall adhere to the weekly and seasonal contest limitations established for each MPSSAA administered sport in which they participate.
 - (d) A member MPSSAA school, sport committee, or the MPSSAA Executive Council may propose modifications to the sport season limitation policy in writing to the MPSSAA Executive Director.
 - (e) Upon receipt, the MPSSAA Executive Director shall refer proposed modifications to the MPSSAA sports medicine advisory committee and MPSSAA equity committee for review and recommendation.
 - (f) Any updates to the sport season limitation policy shall take effect at the beginning of the academic year following their adoption.
- (3) Conference or League Championships. One additional contest beyond the maximum allowable number may be played to determine a conference or league championship. The results of that contest may not count towards MPSSAA standings.
- (4) Postponed Games. Postponed contests may be rescheduled during the season, provided the number of games does not exceed the maximum number permitted in a week plus one additional contest.

.04 Operational Guidelines.

The regulations given below are established for all MPSSAA interscholastic sports:

A. [text unchanged]

B. MPSSAA Coaching Eligibility.

- (1) [text unchanged]
- (2) If no acceptable and qualified coaches are available from the teachers or certifiable professional educators employed by the local board of education, a temporary emergency coach may be employed if the following procedures are followed:

- (a) The person shall be officially appointed by the local superintendent of schools on a one-season basis for a specific coaching assignment;
- (b) The coaching salary of the appointed coach shall be paid exclusively by the local school system;
- (c) After July 1, 2010, an emergency coach is required to possess an MPSSAA/MSDE coach certification prior to the start of this or her fourth year as an emergency coach; *and*
- [(d) Teams having more than one coach, emergency coaches may not comprise more than 50 percent of that sport staff;*
- (e)] (d)* The emergency coach shall be at least 21 years old and possess a high school diploma *or equivalent.*
- (3) [text unchanged]
- (4) [text unchanged]
- C. [text unchanged]
- D. Policies Pertaining to Wrestling.
 - (1) Students shall have their minimum weight class in which they can wrestle certified by *[a qualified physician] a licensed physician, certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician, or certified nurse practitioner* before the students' first match.
- E. – H. [text unchanged]

.05 Violations, Penalties, and Appeals.

- A. Failure to comply with these regulations shall constitute a violation which will result in the following penalties against the member MPSSAA *[school and either the student or the coach, or both.] school. The student, coach, or both shall receive penalties as justified by the nature of the violation.* Depending upon the severity of the violation, more than one penalty may be imposed against the member MPSSAA school, student, or coach, or all of the above. Penalties shall be imposed in the order listed below.
 - (1) Against a member MPSSAA school:
 - (a) First — Declare forfeit of all games in which the violation occurred.
 - (b) Second — Declare the member MPSSAA school ineligible for championship honors for the current school year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 - (c) Third — Declare the member MPSSAA school on probation for one school year which shall render the school ineligible to compete in any approved State meet or tournament for that year.
 - (d) Fourth — Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.
 - (2) Against a student:
 - (a) First — Declare the student to be ineligible for the next *[60] 30* school days following the date the student was found to be in violation. These *[60] 30* school days will carry over into the next school year if the violation occurs during the second semester.
 - (b) Second — Declare the student to be ineligible to compete in the sport in which the violation occurred during the subsequent season.
 - (c) Third — Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.
 - (3) Against a coach:
 - (a) First — *[Censure.] Suspension from coaching for a minimum of one contest.*
 - (b) Second — Declare the coach ineligible to coach a team for the current school year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 - (c) Third — Declare the coach ineligible to coach a team in any sport for the current year.
 - (d) Fourth — Impose additional penalties as may seem justified in the particular case considered.
- B. Procedure.
 - (1) First — Any member MPSSAA school, student, or coach shall notify the local supervisor of interscholastic athletics and the MPSSAA Executive Director of the alleged violation.
 - (2) Second — The superintendent or the superintendent's designee of the local school system in which the school allegedly in violation is located shall convene a hearing within *[5] 10* school days.
 - (3) Third — If the superintendent or the superintendent's designee of the local school system in which the school allegedly in violation is located concludes that a violation has occurred, a penalty shall be imposed in accordance with this regulation.
 - (4) Fourth — A report of the hearing and decision in the local school system shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of the MPSSAA.
 - (5) Fifth — The MPSSAA Executive Director *[, in consultation with the appropriate committees, or the Executive Council of the MPSSAA, shall review the report of the local hearing and decision in the local school system. The MPSSAA Executive Director shall either accept the penalty imposed or modify the penalty in accordance with this regulation.] shall review the report of the hearing and decision in the local school system and take one of the following actions:*
 - (a) Accept the penalty imposed;*
 - (b) Modify the penalty in accordance with the regulation;*
 - (c) Remand to the local school system for further proceedings; or*
 - (d) Reject the decision of the local school system and refer the matter to a five-member panel of the MPSSAA Executive Council for a final decision.*
- C. – D. [text unchanged]

.06 Classification.

A. For the purpose of parity in competition in meets and tournaments administered by the MPSSAA, member schools shall be divided into classifications based on **[enrollment.] member MPSSAA school data.** **[If, in this calculation, two or more schools with equal enrollments fall between two classifications, they shall be placed in the lower classification.]**

B. A classification procedure shall be recommended by the MPSSAA Board of Control and approved by the local superintendents of schools. Updates to the procedure shall take effect at the beginning of the academic year following adoption.

[B.] C. The local superintendent of schools shall submit to the MPSSAA Executive Director a report [on the actual school enrollment of students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 in] of member MPSSAA school data as required by the MPSSAA Board of Control procedure for each of the member MPSSAA schools as of September 30, in each even-numbered year. **[The MPSSAA Executive Director and Classification Committee shall present a recommendation for classification of member schools for each MPSSAA-administered sport to the MPSSAA Board of Control for adoption. Classification shall be determined every 2 years based on the September 30 enrollment of the previous year.]**

D. The MPSSAA Executive Director and Classification Committee shall present a recommendation for classification of member schools for each MPSSAA-administered sport to the MPSSAA Board of Control for adoption. Classification shall be determined every 2 years.

[C.] E. When the MPSSAA Board of Control adopts classifications for member schools, the classifications shall remain in effect for the next 2 school years consistent with the MPSSAA Board of Control classification procedure.

[D. A new member MPSSAA school that opens or a member school whose enrollment is significantly changed by growth or consolidation during the two-year period shall be placed in the proper classification by the Classification Committee.

“Significantly changed” means a decrease or an increase in enrollment of more than 25 percent. This new placement shall affect only the involved school and may not affect the classification of other member schools.

E. When a member MPSSAA school does not have all three grades included in the enrollment figures upon which the classification is based in the even-numbered year, but will have all three grades in the following odd-numbered year when classification becomes effective, the enrollment figure shall include the existing grades and average of the current class sizes applied to each projected grade.]

.07 State Tournament Policies.

A. – B. [text unchanged]

C. Although certain aspects of a tournament may vary from year to year, the following basic policies shall be observed by all tournament committees:

- (1) The tournament may not interfere with local board policy.
- (2) A member MPSSAA school or local school system may decide whether or not to participate in the tournament.
- (3) A member MPSSAA school shall compete in its classification when the tournament is so structured.
- (4) Certified and approved officials’ organizations shall be assigned games in a fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory manner.
- (5) All awards and recognition shall conform to Regulation .08 of this chapter.
- (6) MPSSAA tournament committees shall make every effort to establish game sites to avoid extensive travel for participating teams.
- (7) All policy and procedure changes for State tournaments shall be subject to the approval of the MPSSAA Executive Council with the Association Tournament Committee serving in an advisory capacity. Emergency decisions on tournament policies and procedures may be made by the MPSSAA Executive Director.
- (8) When a student is found ineligible during the progress of a tournament, the contest last played shall be forfeited, and the team which was defeated shall take its place.
- (9) “All-star teams” or best “individual athlete” awards may not be selected from approved tournaments.
- (10) Sports at the State tournament level shall be governed by approved game rules.

[(11) If a team or any students participating in a State tournament contest leaves the field of competition before completion of a contest, or fails to continue play when eligible to do so, or is guilty of misconduct detrimental to the tournament, then the team, coach, or students may be suspended from further participation in the current tournament, and from the same tournament in the succeeding year, upon the determination of the tournament committee and the Executive Director.]

[(11) Misconduct Detrimental to the Tournament.

(a) A member MPSSAA school is guilty of misconduct detrimental to the tournament if:

- (i) Any team, student, or coach fails to continue participating when eligible to do so;**
- (ii) Any team, student, or coach leaves the field of competition before completion of a contest;**
- (iii) Any team, student, or coach is ejected by a tournament official; or**
- (iv) Any team, student, coach, administrator, school personnel, or school supporter fails to follow State tournament policies, including engaging in disruptive actions.**

(b) Local school systems shall apply the following penalties for misconduct detrimental to the tournament.

- (i) If the team has remaining eligibility in the tournament, the team, student, or coach shall be disqualified from participation for a minimum of one contest in the tournament. Disqualification from additional contests shall be imposed depending on the severity of the misconduct.**

(ii) If the team has exhausted its eligibility in the tournament, the team, student, or coach shall be disqualified from participation in future sport seasons or State tournaments as determined by the local school system and reported to the MPSSAA Executive Director in accordance with §C(11)(c) of this regulation.

(c) The MPSSAA Executive Director shall review the report of the decision in the local school system and take one of the following actions:

(i) Accept the penalty imposed;

(ii) Modify the penalty in accordance with the regulation;

(iii) Remand to the local school system for further proceedings; or

(iv) Reject the decision of the local school system and refer the matter to a five-member panel of the MPSSAA Executive Council for a final decision.

(d) Emergency decisions on misconduct detrimental to the tournament may be made by the MPSSAA Executive Director.

(e) At the request of the local superintendent of schools or their designee, the MPSSAA Executive Director may verify if a player other than the one identified in the ejection report was actually ejected so that disqualification penalties are applied to the correct player.

(12) The rules of the MPSSAA do not provide authority to order games replayed. Protests arising from decisions and interpretations by officials during the game will not be considered. Officials' decisions and interpretations are final.

[D. Expansion of any sport to the State level shall be recommended by the State Board of Control of the MPSSAA and approved by the State Superintendent of Schools after consultation with local superintendents of schools.

E.] D. Tournament rules and procedures established by the MPSSAA may be appealed on behalf of a student, coach, or school by a local superintendent of schools to the State Superintendent of Schools. The appeal shall be adjudicated by a committee of three local superintendents of schools appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools. The decision of the committee shall be final.

.08 Awards and Recognition.

[text unchanged]

.09 Sanction Rules.

A. – B. [text unchanged]

C. Sanctioning Guidelines.

(1) Sanctioning for Interstate Competition.

(a) Member MPSSAA schools may not compete in any of the following contests unless the contest has been sanctioned by each of the interested state authorities through the NFHS:

(i) Any interstate meet in which four or more schools participate;

(ii) Any competition involving schools from three or more state athletic associations;

(iii) Any interstate two-school contest which is not sponsored by a NFHS state association or a state member school;

(iv) Any interstate two-school contest which involves travel outside the United States of America; or

(v) Any interstate two-school contest (regardless of distance to be traveled) which is sponsored by an individual or an organization other than a member MPSSAA high school.

(b) A school or school system that wishes to serve as a host for an interstate contest shall file the appropriate sanction request form [prior to the first play date and at least 15 days prior to the event for events within the first two weeks of the season.] with the MPSSAA Executive Director at least 7 days prior to the event.

(c) Schools participating in interstate contests shall use the National Federation contract form furnished by the MPSSAA Executive Director.

(d) In all interstate contests, each participating school shall follow the rules of the host state athletic authority.

(2) Sanctioning for Intrastate Competition.

(a) Member MPSSAA schools may only compete against other member MPSSAA schools or schools approved through the Standards of Competition.

(b) Approval of the MPSSAA Executive Director is required for any intercounty contest involving more than three teams and sponsored by a non-member educational institution.

(c) The host school shall file the appropriate sanction request form with the MPSSAA Executive Director [prior to the first play date and at least 15 days prior to the event for events within the first two weeks of the season.] at least 7 days prior to the event.

(3) MPSSAA Sanction Guidelines. The following criteria shall be met for sanction approval by the MPSSAA:

[(a) The competition may not determine a regional or national championship;

(b)] (a) The competition is not preliminary to a college or professional game;

[(c)] (b) The competition is sponsored by an educational institution or similar nonprofit organization;

[(d)] (c) Participation in the event is within the United States of America [, does not involve loss of instructional time,] and complies with the local school system policies and procedures for school-sponsored travel; and

[(e)] (d) All awards shall comply with Regulations .08 of this chapter.

.10 Amateur Rules.
[text unchanged]

.11 Amendments.
[text unchanged]

DRAFT



To: R. Andrew Warner, Maryland Department of Education, Director of Athletics

From: Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants

Date: August 21, 2026

Re: Proposed Regulations 13A.06.03.04D.(1) Interscholastic Athletics in the State

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) respectfully submits this comment letter regarding the proposed amendment to COMAR 13A.06.03.04(D)(1), concerning certification of the minimum weight class at which a student may wrestle by certain healthcare practitioners. MdAPA supports the proposed amendment's recognition that physician assistants (PAs) are qualified to perform this certification. However, we are concerned that the proposed language requiring a "certified physician assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician" does not accurately reflect Maryland's current statutory framework governing a PA's scope of practice.

Maryland substantially modernized a PA's scope of practice through House Bill 806 (CH 920) / Senate Bill 167 (CH 919) during the 2024 legislative session through amendments to Title 15 of the Health Occupations Article. Under current § 15-302, PAs practice pursuant to collaboration agreements with patient-care-team physicians. The current statutory framework does not establish physician "supervision" as the general basis for PA practice. Instead, current law recognizes PAs as licensed medical professionals whose practice is governed by their education, training, experience, and collaboration agreement.

The proposed language therefore risks using terminology from Maryland's former PA practice model into a regulation that should reflect current law. Requiring a PA to perform this certification "under the supervision" of a physician creates an additional condition that is not consistent with the current collaboration framework.

Maryland's existing scope of practice framework already provides the appropriate standard, that a PA should perform a medical service when it is within the PA's education, training, experience, and collaboration agreement. That framework provides meaningful patient protections without imposing an unnecessary physician-supervision requirement.

MdAPA therefore respectfully requests that MSDE revise the proposed language to accurately reflect Maryland's current PA practice model. **Specifically, MdAPA recommends removing the phrase “under the supervision of a licensed physician” and replacing it with language consistent with Maryland's current collaboration agreement framework.** Persistent regulatory barriers and lack of statutory harmonization impact access to care and may delay necessary screening for sports participation. Updating the regulation in this manner would improve statutory consistency, eliminate outdated terminology, and appropriately recognize the role of Maryland's physician assistants in the care of student-athletes while maintaining appropriate professional safeguards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.