

## *Game and Practice Times and Scheduling Game and Practice Times and Scheduling*

### ➤ ***s. Regular season competitions***

The number of regular season competitions is significant since the number of times student-athletes may compete is a major benefit. In general, the more competitions, the greater the benefit. Acceptable reasons for differences in the number of competitions include lack of competition, a coach's reasonable professional decision, and the preferences of the student-athletes. However, each of these justifications must be carefully examined.

1. Make every effort to schedule the maximum number of competitions for all varsity sports teams. Examine competitions schedule and evaluate possible opportunities to allow teams to compete when spectators are more likely to attend. Again, moving football practices to the school campus would greatly increase the ability to schedule field space equitably among other teams.
2. Reevaluate the methodology of assigning practice times to ensure equitable opportunities.

### ➤ ***t. Non traditional seasons***

The issue of sports being played in non-traditional seasons is a serious concern. It is not justifiable for schools to argue that increased costs, scheduling difficulties, lack of gym time or lack of coaches prevent schools from complying with the law. If these factors result in a need for sports being played in "non-traditional" seasons, then both boy's and girl's sports would have to be similarly disadvantaged. Requiring female student-athletes to participate in sports during seasons which are different than traditional seasons discriminates against these female athletes and takes away from their athletic opportunities and experiences. Because the middle school girl's basketball teams play in the fall rather than the winter forces girls to choose between other fall sports such as field hockey, cross country, volleyball and soccer and in essence effects their sense of pride and self worth because they realize that boys receive the preferred season and advantage of not having to choose. All female student-athletes have the right to participate in their sports during the sport's traditional season. Forcing them to do otherwise is discriminatory and unlawful.

1. Take into serious account the issue of middle school girl's basketball playing in a non-traditional season and remedy to correct.
2. Move middle school girl's soccer to the spring season and back to the fall as a girl's team in 2012.