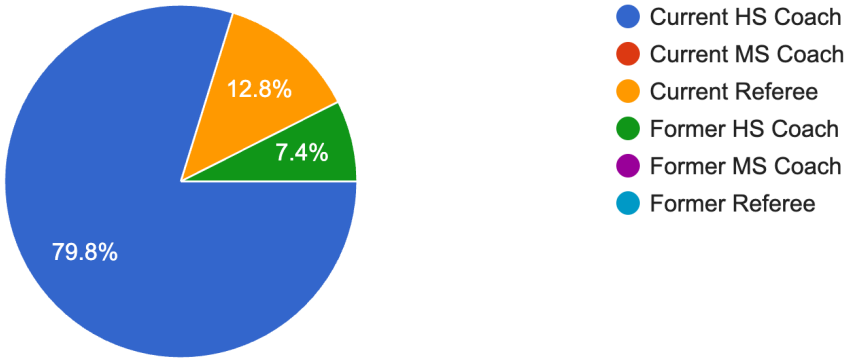
WV HS Soccer Survey

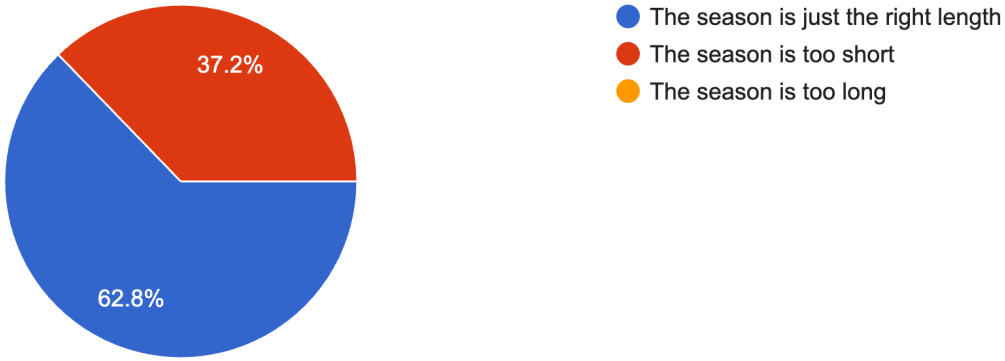
Which of the following best describes your current status with WV HS soccer?

94 responses



How do you feel about the length (calendar) of the season?

94 responses



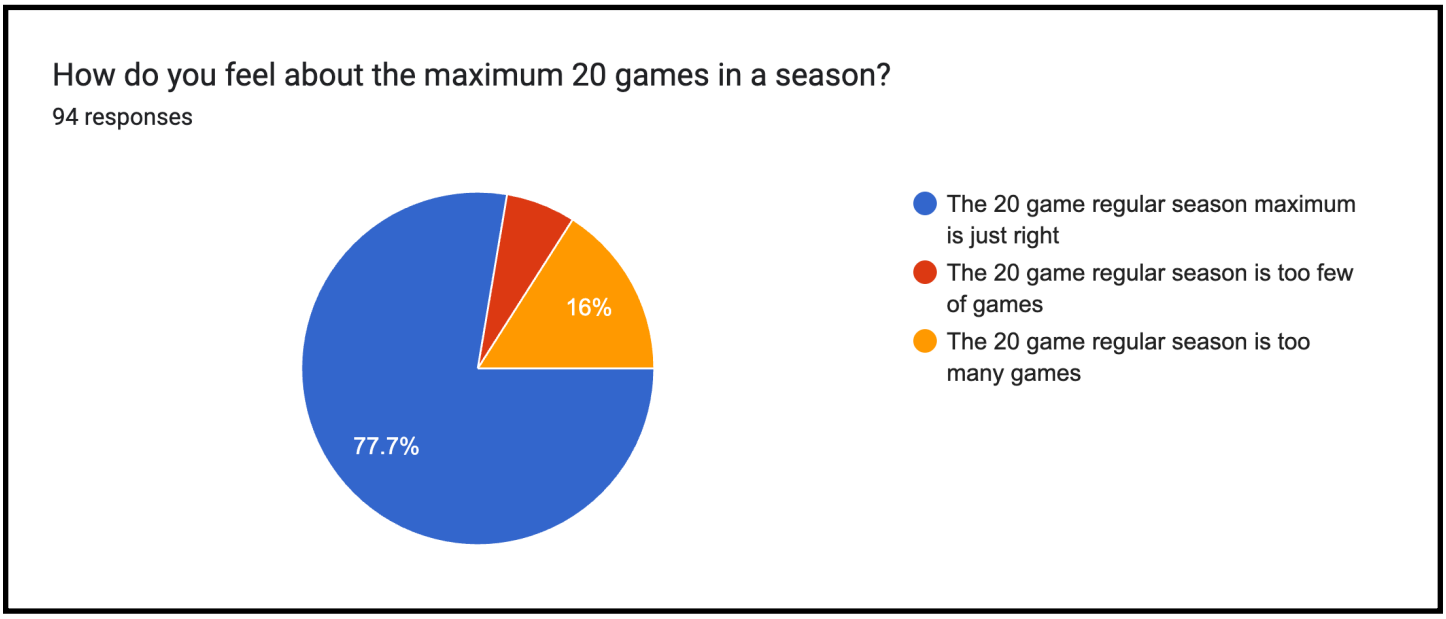
Season Calendar Length Comment
The season should be extended 1 or 2 weeks on either end. It is difficult to fit 20 games into 9 weeks and avoid playing 3 or 4 games in one week. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Too congested. Have to play 3 games a week to get 20 games in. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
A week or two longer would allow teams to play only 2 games per week, get more practices, and keep players better rested. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]

Football goes well past the soccer season. We play too many games in too short a time period. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Limits recovery time for players and contributes to injuries. Suggested extending the season a few weeks on both ends. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The season length forces teams to play almost three games per week. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The schedule is too condensed. Players do not have enough time to recover, prepare, scout opponents, or enter postseason healthy. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Season is too crammed. Same number of games, more time between them. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Most coaches schedule 16-20 games, creating multiple 3-game weeks that are difficult on athletes and increase injuries. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Playing 20 games results in roughly 3 games per week and makes the season feel very short. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Too many games in too short a period. Would rather start earlier and have more breaks and training sessions. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Three games a week cause wear and tear on players and lead to more injuries. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Would prefer a season length more similar to baseball. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Playing 3 games per week to reach 20 increases injuries. Extending the season even one week would help. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Keep the same number of games but lengthen the season. Teams often must play 3-4 games per week. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Not enough recovery time. There is little opportunity for meaningful training between games. Add a few weeks. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Three games per week are too demanding and hurt smaller programs dealing with injuries. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Calendar days are too short to complete 20 games. A 10-week season would be better. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Another week would spread games out and help prevent injuries. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Too many games compressed into a short period of time. Extending the season by two weeks would help. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The season is too short to fit 20 games and creates fatigue and injury concerns. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
One week longer would reduce 3-game weeks and improve athlete recovery. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Players are forced into 3-4 games per week. The season should be extended by two weeks. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The number of games is fine, but adding at least one more week would be very beneficial.

Common Themes

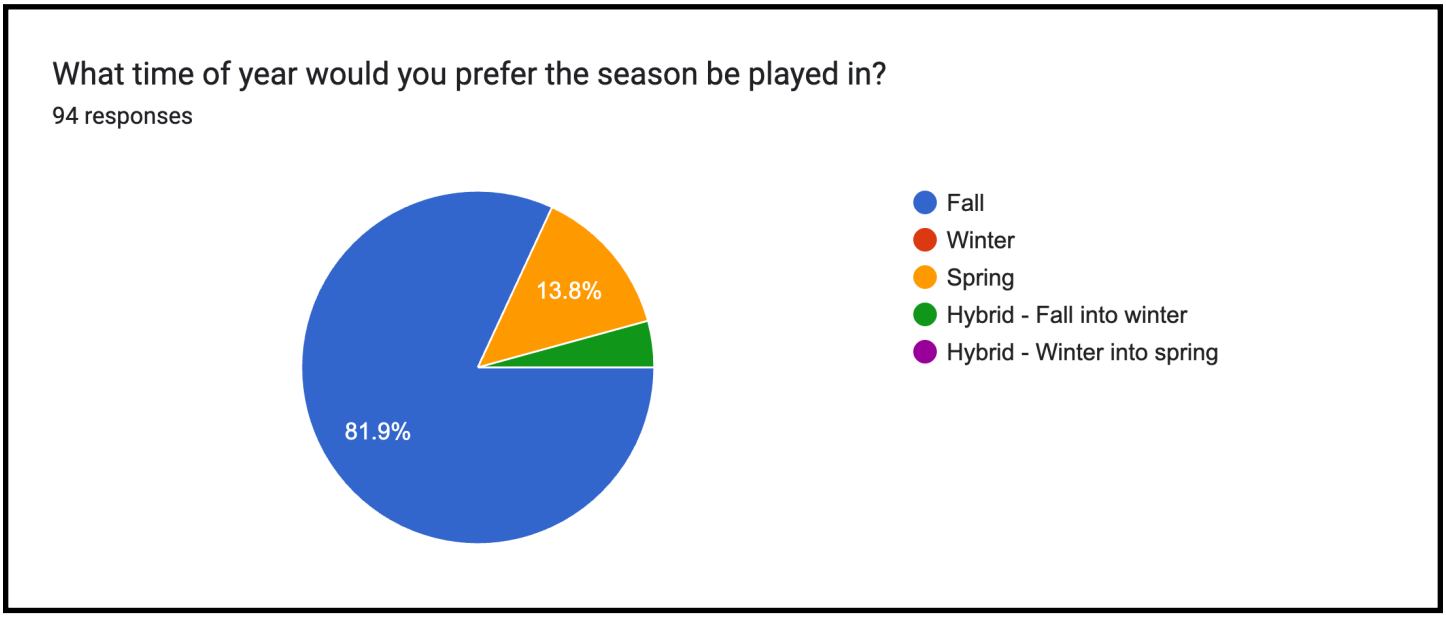
- Extend the season **1-2 weeks**.
- Keep the current number of games but add calendar days.

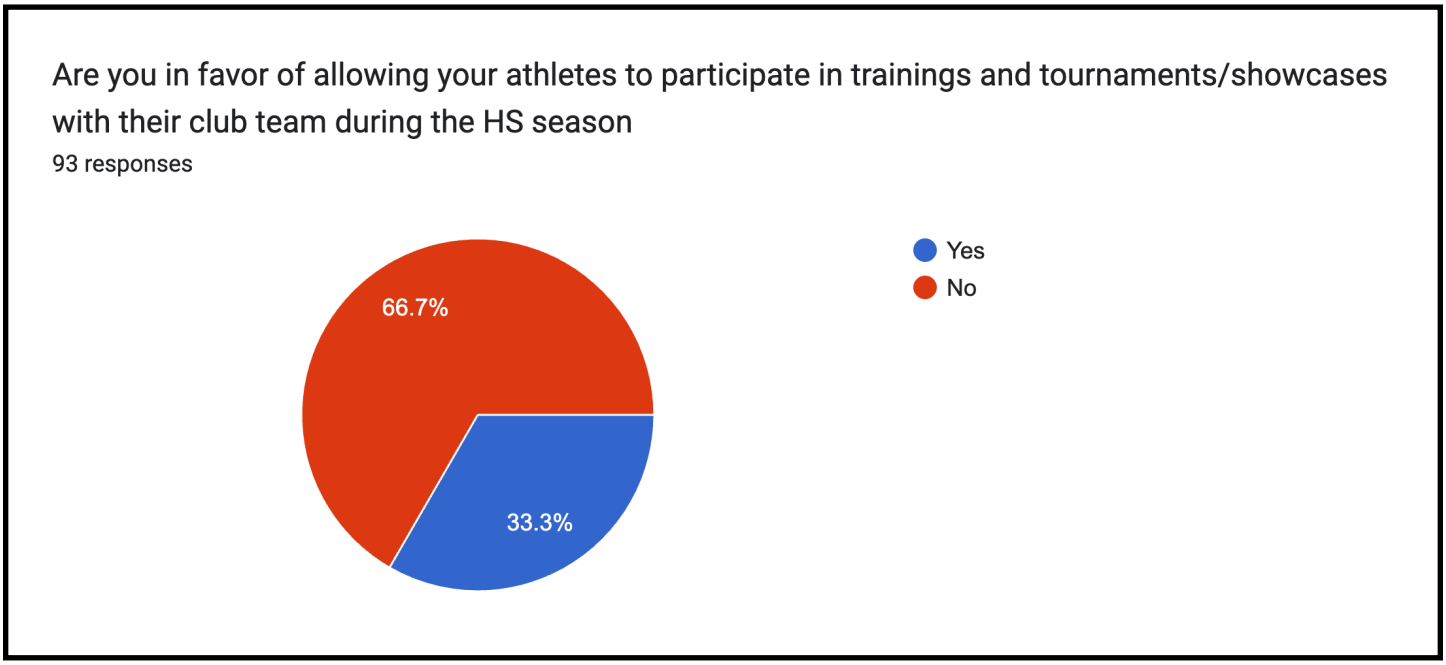
- Reduce **3-game and 4-game weeks**.
- Improve player recovery.
- Reduce injuries and fatigue.
- Allow more training and preparation time between matches.



Comment Regarding Number of Games
The current 20-game limit is appropriate. The issue is not the number of games but the amount of time available to play them. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Keep the 20-game schedule, but provide more calendar days to complete it. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Twenty games is a good number. The season just needs to be spread out more. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Most teams already struggle to fit 20 games into the season. No additional games are needed. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Would like to see 22 games, similar to other high school sports. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Twenty-five games would better match the development needs of soccer athletes. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Reducing the schedule to 18 games could improve player recovery and reduce three-game weeks. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The game limit is fine, but teams need additional recovery time between matches. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
If the season calendar is not extended, the number of games should be reduced. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
The current number of games creates too many compressed weeks when weather postponements occur. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Twenty games provides enough competitive opportunities for athletes and programs. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Maintaining 20 games while adding calendar days would be preferable to reducing the number of contests. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
Some programs schedule fewer than 20 games already, suggesting the current limit is sufficient. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]
More games may increase exposure opportunities for players pursuing college soccer. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx | Excel]

Adding games without extending the season would create additional injury concerns.





Comment
Single A schools and smaller AA schools cant really put a good product on the field for both football and soccer when the sports are played in the same season. I think soccer would grow in the state if it was in the fall. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx ǀ Excel]
Start preseason earlier. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx ǀ Excel]

Same length with less game would be nice. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
I'm coming at this from a schedule stand point. Officials doing multiple levels and organizations have pick and choose which leaves games having to be run by 2 man or rescheduled to match their criteria of game count. If it's moved to another season it may not compete with others or will or hinder club sports or make them choose a singular sport if they are multiple sport athlete. (Just thinking out loud) [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
I believe smaller schools would have more players in the spring when we wouldn't compete with football for players. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
With an exceedingly crowded high school calendar, allowing players to play with their club teams on top of that is just begging for injuries. I'm a huge supporter of club soccer, but their bodies can only take so much before problems start occurring. There's a reason you rarely see a high school girls team without at least one kid wearing a heavy-duty knee brace. The rest is addressed above. There should be a rule of no more than 2 varsity games per week. This isn't peewee soccer. It's a physical game, and 2 games a week is plenty without putting too much undue stress on their bodies. Also, it should be MANDATED by WVSSAC that trainers be present at every game. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
Add a few weeks to the season so that you could play 2 games per week and make it to 20 games. That would give kids time to recover and have actual meaningful practices between games. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
Increasing number of weeks in a season will prevent 3 games in any week which is physically demanding for children. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
I like it. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
High school soccer coaches should be allowed to form and coach club teams during the offseason, especially in rural and economically disadvantaged communities. Many student-athletes face financial barriers and geographic limitations that prevent them from participating in established club programs. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
If we increased games, I would then think we need a longer season. Players should not be playing more than two games a week; however, they often do. We have high schoolers playing more often than professional athletes. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
I am in favor of players being able to go to ID camps and MAYBE some showcase and few road trips before the showcase otherwise no I am not in favor of playing both "full time" simultaneously. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
Yes, a better method of seeding teams for regional play should be discussed as not all coaches vote with integrity or with best knowledge of caliber of teams. Just using MaxPreps misses variables that should be considered. [WV HS Socc...nses).xlsx	Excel]
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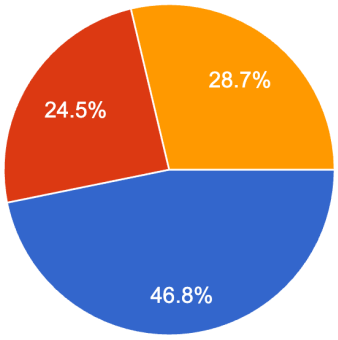
If we had a better playoff format we could shorten the season by two games. Not sure what that would look like though.

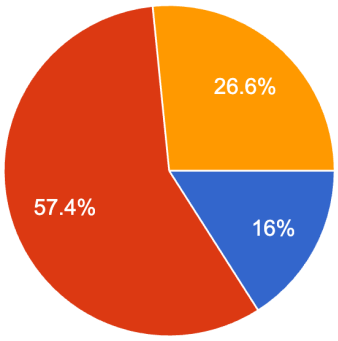
How do you feel about the MaxPreps Rankings?

94 responses



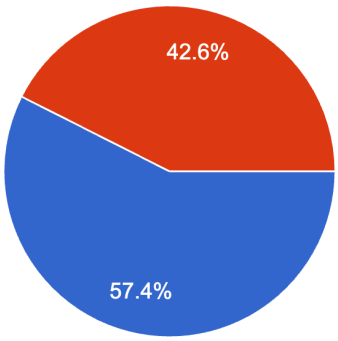
How do you feel about coaches voting for tournament seeding?

94 responses



MaxPreps vs Coach's vote?

94 responses



Which of the following best describes your opinion of the current structure of the post-season tournament?

94 responses

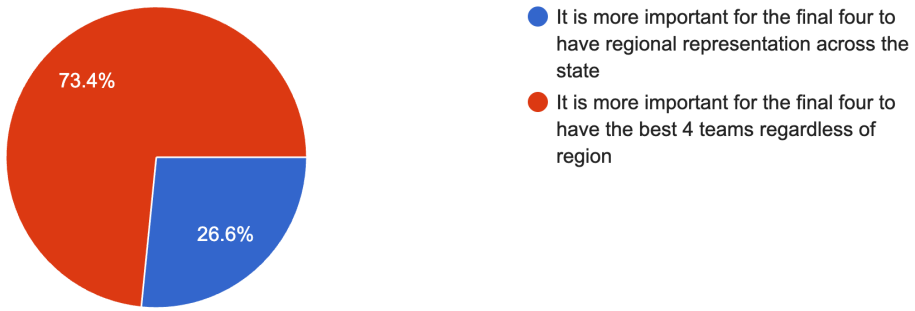


COMMENTS
I would prefer going back to having sectional championships
I think the current region structure is sufficient overall. I do believe the regions themselves need adjusted. I believe a region setup of North, South, East and West (East and West would split central WV) would be best. Currently teams in a given region are from all across the state. Due to that the teams play in conference or locally are likely not in your region.
Teams must play every team in there region. Then we use a point system for W/L/T to get our seeding
I miss the original format with sectional winners and 4 regions
At least sees the top 8 in the state, if not the entire state.
final 8 teams (2 from each region) make it and play out states like basketball
Cup championship format, open draw, no seedings. Round of 32, 16, 8, 4, 2. Give us some excitement, like the third round of the FA Cup in England... some games will have giants vs potential giant killers, other pairings will be just good fair match-ups...
Use the rankings to pick the top 16 in each division, seed them, then play that round and the quarterfinals at the higher seeded team's home field. That way making the playoffs is a reward in and of itself, and it gets rid of the bias against stronger regions.
Seed the teams. Top 16 in each class make the playoffs
This is more of a question. Does the ranking coming from a neutral site (maxpreps) or a locally run website, could it capture the essence of strength of schedule and or win ratio/percentage, and would that make it fair across the state? Does coach voting become political?
I did not select I have another idea but I think the 8 team seeding is a good idea and can use a combined Max Preps and coaches voting

I just don't think letting coaches vote is a good idea. We were in the south region of Quad AAAA this year, we played Cabell Midland at home and won, yet these other coaches voted us below them. Head to head should count, and on Max Preps we were appropriately ranked higher, but coaches don't pay attention to these type of games. It should never be in the hands of coaches, especially since there is favoritism if you are buddy buddy with another coach.
I just don't think letting coaches vote is a good idea. We were in the south region of Quad AAAA this year, we played Cabell Midland at home and won, yet these other coaches voted us below them. Head to head should count, and on Max Preps we were appropriately ranked higher, but coaches don't pay attention to these type of games. It should never be in the hands of coaches, especially since there is favoritism if you are buddy buddy with another coach.
I think both Regional Finalists should make the state tournament. 8 total teams, 2 from each region.
AA-A Girls use AAAA north south model
It is too difficult to explain in a text, maybe similar to what was listed and I think it may vary due to class
Maxpreps and voting are rigged. Players that lead for years and don't get voted in for player of the year or any other state accolades are ridiculous. Player coaches bully or secretly make dirty deals on votes is obvious and wrong for the players. i.e. Nitro
I think the best way is to keep the two region structure. Get both regions down to the final 4. Reseed and play quarterfinal Saturday then final 4 head to states.

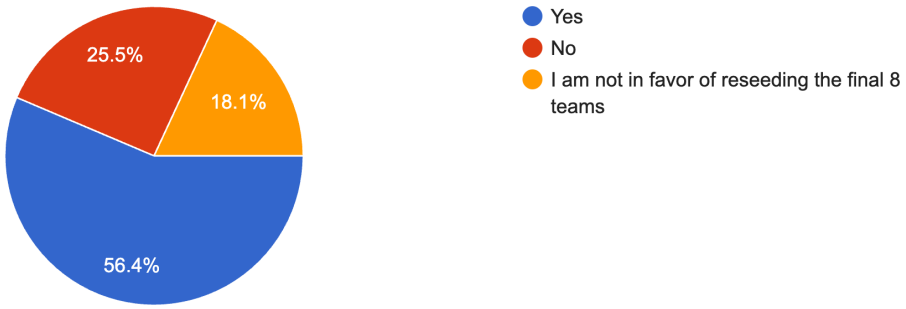
Which of the following is most important for you?

94 responses



If you are in favor of reseeding the final 8 teams, would you be willing to lose a week off of the regular season in order to fit a quarter final Saturday into the schedule?

94 responses

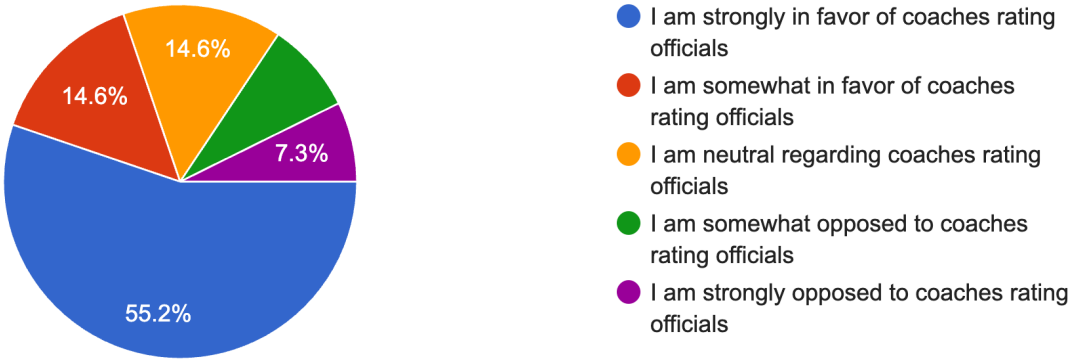


COMMENTS
While not in control of WVSSAC, I would love to see a rotating schedule of tournament location. Beckley, then central WV (Shawnee complex?), north WV (I believe Bridgeport is building a complex).
To help with numbers in girls soccer you need to be more accommodating with club teams and have representation in each region to draw attention and desire to play.
Shortening regular season by one week would be unnecessary as the final 8 teams being seeded would just take place of regional finals. Only need to consider shortening regular season if there would actually be an added game played during playoffs.
Coaches seeding is too easy manipulated. Examples; Summit Christian was voted 5th in their region despite being listed 2nd in the state in class all season. They were voted 5th by one team and listed behind two teams that they beat 10-0 in the regular season. St Joes was voted 2nd in their region despite being the best team in class and one of the best teams in the state all year. Coaches are voting out of ignorance, spite, or to meet their own agenda. All of those things shouldn't determine the seeding. MaxPreps takes into account win loss, strength of schedule, strength of opponents and their wins to produce ratings. If MaxPreps isn't the answer then a ranking system that takes those things into account should be used. Wins out of class are important.
For regional seedings, make all teams play each other and keep a simple standings to determine the seedings for the region. 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, goal differential, etc.
Using MaxPreps would be a useful tool as a more formal system if it was kept up-to-date by all teams. Then using a combination of MaxPreps and coaches voting for postseason. Not all teams play a consistent schedule, even in your own region which makes coaches' voting not always an accurate determining factors for postseason seeding
I think there is time to make states like basketball without losing any regular season or other playoff games
First, losing a week off the regular season is a ridiculous suggestion when it would only potentially benefit a very small handful of teams. Secondly, there is inherently a bias in the regional system that makes it much easier for some teams than others to make it to Beckley. Seeding the top 16 and playing it out regardless of location gives EVERY team an equal chance of making that trip to the state championships.
I believe this option would be best, with second preference being the top 8 reseeded
Reseeding the final 8 shouldn't compromise the season length. The season needs to extended an additional two weeks. That should be the goal but could compromise to make it work logistically
If you are shortening the regular season just to allow playoff games to fit into a new format, you are hurting the majority of kids that enjoy the sport. Anything you do shouldn't negatively impact the regular season.
An extra week of play should not be a deal breaker for getting the seeding/format more equitable. Currently the two soccer regions in AAAA are not balanced. South region is deeper in more powerful teams than the north. So the Final four is not represented of the four best 'State' teams.
More than 4 team at the state
We need to consider a promotion and relegation system to help smooth out the imbalance between teams across the state.
I feel the best way for seeding regionals is to have each team play each other once and use a points systems (like all other soccer leagues in the world) to determine seed. Put emphasis on playing regional opponents before conferences/areas.
I really think in the end the current system has generally done a pretty good job of getting the four best teams to the tournament, Some years that is not so but that could be because of an upset at the regional level or because a certain region has 3 very good teams. I do not know of the answer is to scrap the current system though I do like the idea of taking the two regional finalists (8 teams) and ranking them and then playing at the home field of the higher ranked team to pick the four going to states … I think that may in fact be the best most equitable argument. The issue is do you use Max Preps or Coach's votes … maybe it could be Both 50/50 or weigh one 60 %and the other 40%
I think it's important to keep regional representation. Until the state is on an equal playing field with structure and scheduling within the state, you have to treat regions uniquely. EPAC plays 10 conference matches, playing each other twice. These matches are between 6 AAAA schools 15 miles apart from each other. Now we add University, Morgantown and Wheeling Park annually. Matches are always highly contested regardless of records. No one else does this or understands this.
I think the more teams that go to states, the better. It feels better all around as a coach, and as a player whenever you make it to states; even if you don't win it. Just the experience is what makes it so awesome.

MaxPrep rankings are very poor. The strength of schedule portion is inaccurate
Keep coaches out of voting for most every thing. A lot of coaches choose what's best for them instead of what is the right thing to do.
We need to go to MaxPreps ranks. Then you get away from conferences sticking together to put their teams in a better position in regionals, or coaches egos get bruised and they vote strictly because their feelings got hurt.
The best method for tournament seeding is the old formula we used before. Head to head, strength of schedule and overall record.
Coaches are too bias with each other and play favorites, they typically are unfair in any type of voting
I think all private schools should compete with AAAA.
Yes. The current districting/regions get gerrymandered every couple/four years, and there have been times where a region is not a geographic region but instead has a team stuck out away from everyone else like West Berlin, and the explanation I have been provided is that it is an effort to get the best four to the state. To me, team makeup changes every year and overturns completely every few years so that is not valid. I think it should either be two regions north and south that do not change (because the geography does not change) with seeding based on MaxPreps or one overall state seeding based on MaxPreps. I prefer MaxPreps because there is a lot of weird stuff that happens when you have people essentially voting for who they are going to play whereas MaxPreps is objective and based rankings on various factors instead of personal interest
would be for either quarterfinal set up. ultimately feel like soccer needs to go to an 8 team state tournament like other sports have.
If the current system stays…we should invite the final 8 teams like most every other sport.

How would you feel about coaches having the opportunity to rate officials?

96 responses



COMMENTS

Sometimes we get officials who simply do not do a good job or are not consistent and someone needs to know about those so it can be addressed and corrected.
I believe it would cause more problems than it solves. I do believe their should be oversight however. Perhaps the coaches could submit film to the referee association for review (good and bad) to allow them to improve themselves.
There's no accountability for terrible officiating. We have so many that don't understand basic rules, can't call offsides, or in one case can't tell like everyone else on the property that the ball went out and through a hole in the side of the net and was not goal
Officials not having a rating has made them worse. For lower question, you shouldn't have to choose between high quality officials and home field advantage. It should be doable for both to exist at the same time.

Officials send good and bad game reports about teams. There needs to be a system to keep them in check as well.
We did this before and it had some accountability for the officials.
Refs need to have more accountability, coaches need to be realistic in reporting too it goes both ways. It's best for the sport if both are improving, being factual and learning and growing…. Keep the emotions out of it… but I feel the quality has dropped since we stopped rating
I think they need to be held accountable as we are as coaches
To possibly see their side of things! Maybe more of an understating in the drastic difference in between different ref crews!
Can coaches be unbiased and not a popularity contest
Officials should rate officials
I believe there should be a feedback system that allows coaches to provide feedback to referees but not a rating system. The state also needs to provide financing to pay referee mentors for WVSSAC games.
Officials have zero accountability for calls or lack of calls during games.
I believe officials should be rated. I believe coaches would rate them based on emotion instead of being rationale about it. This could cause less referees to be willing to referee and we are already at a shortage.
There is a place to assess officials. Unfortunately to much blame is given to officials when a team gets beat and the assessment loses its effectiveness.
I spent 20 years as a high school soccer official and used the coaches response as a tool to improve. I didn't solely relay on what was stated. At times, emotions can come into play with this system but it gives coaches the ability to express their input. A problem could be that not coaches know all the nuances of the rules. Both coaches and officials need to get better to improve the game in WV.
I agree we should be able to rate refs, but I could see that opening the door for chaos. Especially if the refs can see ratings by coaches. I think it would help progress the best refs to playoff games.
System works now
Rating officials would help them grow and be better as an official
Most of the time, our officials do an outstanding job. I've had very few complaints over the last few years about anything that has happened in games. HOWEVER..."very few" doesn't mean "none". When an official is consistently poor, it would be nice if we had SOME kind of feedback mechanism so that, if nothing else, those in charge of the officials know that there is some kind of a problem there, potentially. As it is, it's as if they couldn't care less what coaches think about the job officials do.
We have had some officials that absolutely needed ratings. One this season jumped in the middle of two students and the player on our team was pushed by an actual official. I feel like the quality of officiating has declined since coaches stopped doing ratings.
Unfortunately without coaches ratings officials, poor officials end up as center officials in win or go home matches
I feel that since we lost this, refs seem to be less receptive to discussion and act infallible.
As long as coaches rate officials with integrity on their application of the laws of the game and consistency of calls v. just venting because they didn't like a call (refs will make mistakes) - coaches should be allowed to rate refs to help keep refs accountable
Rating officials should be mandatory. If the only time they get rated is by losing coaches complaing about calls officials will not take it serious. Every coach should have to rate every official after every game.

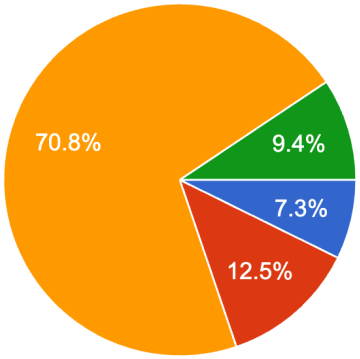
Rating the official should be purposeful and not simply just another pointless task for coaches. If coaches are going to take the time to rate the officials, then there should be a realistic action in regards to consistently poor performing officials. Develop a scorecard. This could be in the form of re-education, counseling, etc. This should not be a process that coaches could abuse. This needs to be constructive to improve the overall quality of refereeing within our state.
I believe it is good feedback for positive and negative performance and would hopefully be utilized as a training tool and to get the best officials doing the postseason games.
It's a pain in the ass to do. Any concerns I have had since we stopped eating officials have been addressed by Dennis Brumfield when I have sent them in
It would be beneficial, in theory, for referees to be rated by coaches. However, the possibility that a losing coach would rate an official lower is present and therefore discourages me from fully supporting this idea.
Officials take a test before the season. My idea would be rate by class 1, 2 or 3 and by grade A, B, C, D. (Ie: Class 2.A or Class 3.C or Class 1.C) BUT coaches also take the same test and are graded similarly. (A, B, C, of D)
Statistics have always shown losing coach rating officials worse. You would then cause officials having to play politics and giving possibly favorable calls to help their appearance. Leave officials the ability of neutrality.
If it is a close game, the losing team's coach is going to rate the official poorly. This has been seen consistently across all levels of soccer, even when the officials do everything correctly.
You get who you get not enough refs
If the officials do a good job there is no need to rate them but we should have a way to voice poorly officiated games
Some officials are too old or not equipped to handle certain match levels. There needs to be evaluations as a counter balance to their random assignments.
I think this could be a great idea, but with the referee shortages we already experience, I worry it could discourage even more officials. Unfortunately, we see inconsistent calls at every level, from regular season games all the way through the state tournament. However, a rating system would at least give coaches a fairer opportunity to have input on which referees they feel have performed the best, especially when it comes to postseason assignments
With play occurring all over the state coaches see different officials and I believe a ratting system would help make calls more consistent.
When I coached boys , we did it but some coaches were afraid to be honest for fear of retribution. Also some coaches thought their team never fouled etc. perhaps some way of anonymously rating Refs could help
Hard enough to find officials and for the most part they do a good job.
I believe we should rate them there are too many times where I've been told because of something else that's the ref isn't happy and you could tell by the calls that weren't made
The reffing has gotten worse over these past years, it would be nice to have a say in if this ref should be available to ref again. We had a game on the girls side this year that got so out of hand because of the refs that it had to get suspended. Those types of refs should not be allowed to center games, or be at games. Coaches should have a say in refs who do good, and refs who do bad.
Feedback given on refs can be used to help officials learn and become better. Also, if the same official continues to get very positive or very negative feedback across schools, it is very valuable in selection for playoffs and rivalry games to get the best officials in those important games.
There needs to be something to rate these officials. Don't do ratings after a game. Sometimes tensions are still high from a high. Maybe end of the season ratings on all games played.
Since we stop rating officials their performances have dropped over all on the field of play.
Referees can punish coaches and teams for the smallest things. We cannot even respond to them without facing a card. I'd like to be able to rate and give a brief description of all officials after games

Not so much as criticism, but more of a way to help with improvement. I would be a big fan of allowing coaches to submit questionable calls/plays via video. I think referees could learn from seeing areas where they possibly made a mistake.
It would get the best officials at the State Tournament. Also maybe help some of the younger officials learn.
Our location does not always get the more experienced refs for stronger games that have weight
There needs to be some accountability and there needs to be a rating system to determine post season officials.
They currently have no accountability.
Feedback allows growth, high performance can be rewarded, while under performance provided an opportunity for training.
Officials need to be held accountable. I can look past a missed call but unprofessionalism towards teenagers should be cautioned
It would give coaches a chance to give officials some feedback in a better way than arguing or yelling at them.
For accountability
Coaches rating the officials is needed but the coaches ratings with name not given to the referee due to retaliation if the referee gets another game for that school at any time after receiving the rating
Since the WVSSAC took away the rating of officials after every game, the officiating has went down hill. Also, many officials now act like they are untouchable. They will not communicate with coaches or players & are quick to issue a yellow card even for a respectful question.
Officials should be held accountable for poor performance or actions. And this would also determine who is capable of officiating a regional game.
This would be huge positive option because home field advantages are real and the refs are usually bad at numerous locations: such as GE, Elkins, Point Pleasant
There is zero accountability for referees.
If people are getting paid for a position, there needs to be some sort of accountability. If we don't have accountability we cannot improve and become better
There is no accountability for refs. It is a hard job, but if it was me I would want to know how I could continue to improve.
We've done this in the past and they are ignored
I am currently an official and feel neutral about rating of officials.
Some coaches do not fully understand the laws of the game, As a result, they do not understand seeing the game through the eyes of a referee
Only if referees get to rate coaches again.
There is very little accuracy in coaches rating officials. It is never a fair rating. A win/loss factors into the ratings of officials. It costs us officials when a coach rates an official and is not even close to being accurate. Case in point, I was rated a 1 by the coach who won and a 4 by the coach who lost. Soccer in WV has a terrible culture towards officials. Any unfairness costs us officials and there will be a time where no one will sign up. However, there are Boards who are willing to accept feedback, only if, it is a fair and unbiased assessment.
I feel like personal feelings come into play with that too much. However there are definitely some way better than others. I think maybe a different way to go about it than previously done may work.
Coaches always have a dog in the fight and therefore may not be completely objective. However, they are the ones most able to provide feedback as opposed to fans or players
Officials should be held accountable when they are poor and make mistakes and should also be used to determine who is fit to officiate post season games.

I feel most officials do a great job. I do feel there is a difference when we okay more southern teams to northern teams in relations to focus of the games. I just want officials to be more consistent in calls at all locations. Bc officials work in the areas they are local to the develop relationships with long term coaches at times this can seem follow to the field. If my opinions and honest ratings would help I am happy to give it. When we rated in the past I felt it was a waste of time.

If coaches were given the ability to rate officials how do you believe the ratings should be used.

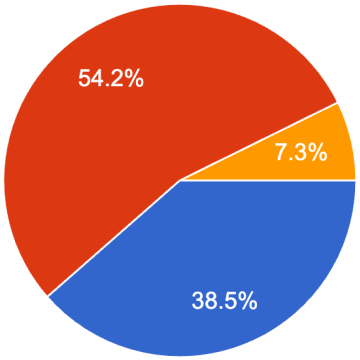
96 responses



- The ratings should be used to help select officials for tournament games.
- The ratings should be used to help educate/train officials to better meet the expectations of coaches.
- Both of the above
- I am against coaches rating officials

Which best describes your thoughts regarding home field advantage vs assigning high quality officials for tournament games.

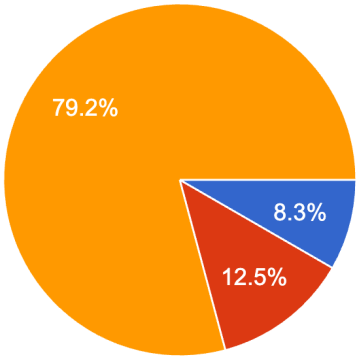
96 responses



- I would prefer to have home field advantage in the tournament and leave who officiates up to the officials board.
- I prefer to know I have competent officials for a tournament game over home field advantage
- I have no opinion

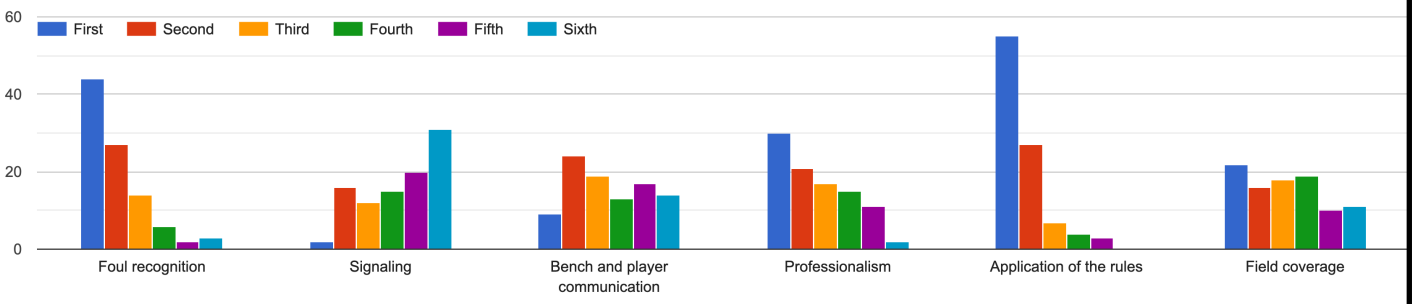
Were you aware, that coaches are allowed to create a list of acceptable tournament officials through the regional championships?

96 responses



- I was aware and our region does this regularly
- I was aware but in our region we let the board assignor take care of selecting officials
- I was not aware

Rank the following officiating skills in terms of importance for you when judging an official.



COMMENTS

They should be fit enough to keep up with the ball and be in position to make the right call and don't make tight calls they aren't in a position to see. Especially when there's only 2 officials, which should never happen
It would be nice to have more consistent game called no matter where your playing in the state. For example our home games this year there was an average of 35+ fouls called per game. When on the road in Huntington, Charleston and elsewhere total number of fouls called drops to 10-15. That is a staggering difference and hard to get kids to play differently depending on the location
Not sure if this is the place but they got to do something to stop flopping, this year was atrocious and now that most games are filmed we are now starting to really see how bad these calls are influencing outcomes of matches
We need to encourage and protect young officials, so we have a future supply.
I would prefer home field advantage and high quality ref, not one or the other. The rating is difficult, because all of those are highly valuable characteristics refs should have across the board.

Not a fan of how that last question is phrased, because ALL of those things are important, so ranking any of them 5th or 6th seems wrong. That said, most of our officials do an excellent job. But there are definitely some that should not be refereeing at the high school level (either "anymore" or "yet", depending on the issue). With no mechanism for feedback, however, there is no way for coaches to have any input into which is which.
Quality officials in win or go home matches for children is important
Refs need to be unbiased no matter who or where they referee games and be consistent with calls - have witnessed and heard numerous complaints of "home cooking" in games
I think in addition to referee ratings there needs to be some sort of program from the referees for coaches. Too often there are coachss who don't actually know the rules.
Official needs to be consistent in their application of the rules. The inconsistency in application is the biggest issue for referees especially those that didn't have playing experience. Coaches are not able to teach their players how to play as it varies depending upon the officiating crew. Some officials are also easily influenced and don't understand how to recognize how and when little incidents can cause the game to spiral out of control. Last point of concern is a two man crew on boys varsity games. This should never happen as the game moves too fast for a two man crew and too many things go unoticed or the official is not in position to make a call with any type of certainty. This only breeds frustration from all other parties involved and we've seen how that tends to result.
If you let the state start assigning sectional and regional games, you won't always get the best officials on those games. The local assignor will know those refs better than the state will. A lot of younger guys are phenomenal officials that the coaches in the area trust and know do a great job. Those younger guys won't get a chance if the state assigns them.
Soccer officials seem unlike any other sport. All I'd like to see, and the officials I prefer, are fair, consistent, and concise with communication. Our officials tend to not enjoy the communication aspect as much as they should. I'd like a good relationship with referees, but too often there's a barrier. Overhead an older referee tell a younger ref at the rules meeting that this job would be great if we didn't have coaches. There's a bad attitude towards coaches right from the start.
This may be crazy, but it would be great to get to a point where we can review calls. If there was an offsides call that coaches don't believe was offsides. To have some cameras set up to review would be nice. I don't think we will ever get to that point, but there were some clear things missed this year, that if we had some sort of review, we could change that.
Along with giving feedback on officials, coaches should be able to submit film/ pictures to show egregious calls (or missed calls) for training purposes on field positioning. Also, officials should be encouraged to communicate with coaches. We all want the best competitive environment for the students, and coaches can help officials manage that part of the game. Coaches who can't do so respectfully can be dealt with, but lack of communication causes many more problems.
We need more of them.
The inconsistency of referees in games is alarming
We need to stop placing a warm body in a game to officiate, over player safety and professionalism. Coaches are held to standards, players are held to standards, officials should be held to certain standards as well.
Officials should be graded harder & more frequently! Assignors & other higher ranking officials need oversee more games & help in educating officials that are deficient. There should also be a physical requirement for officials. We have 1 in NCWV that is blind in 1 eye & deaf in 1 ear that is assigned to center high level games. Also, there are many refs that call the entire game from the center circle because they are physically able to run the field for the game.
Some are interchangeable and not much difference 1 and 6. i put professionalism 5th because if they are doing everything else to standard i can tolerate a jerk. Field coverage is 6th here because in theory in a 3 man system field coverage isn't as huge of a worry. But would possibly be higher if we are talking about a 2 man system. But regardless application of rules and communication are at the fore front

Bring it back-bad officiating is happening way to much
I think there should be a review board for referees and they should at least review the big matches such as states, regionals, or highly ranked team season matches
It is a hard job and refs are hard to come by, but that should not be an excuse for having a high standard for referees.
These response will be biased between coaches and officials. There are two opposing views and you will more than likely see the bias in the data.
If possible I think playoff officials should be assigned from another region, at least in the later games
Some of these go hand in hand and list could be altered easily. But i feel like field coverage is irrelevant in most 3 mans thus last, and application of rules is easily #1.