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And DGWS SURVEY - 1967-1968

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS FOR GIRLS IN MARYLAND

This Fall, The Maryland State Division for Girls' and Women's Sports Committee conducted a survey of interscholastic sports in the junior and senior high schools throughout the state. The purpose was to ascertain the present status of competition, and disseminate the information to all Maryland schools. No attempt was made to encourage or discourage interscholastic sports on any level. A questionnaire was completed by 159 of the 300 schools surveyed. This represented 19 of Maryland's 23 counties. The schools reporting included 72 junior high schools, 53 senior high schools, and 34 combination junior-senior high schools.

Interscholastic competition is defined as athletic competition between schools in the form of games and sports days. The numbers of contests are found to cluster at grades 10, 11, and 12, in Baltimore County, and at grades 9 through 12 in most other counties. Carroll, Montgomery, and Talbot Counties conduct most of the interscholastic competition at grades 7 and 8.

Three general questions asked were: "Does your school have a Girls' Athletic Association? Does your school have an interscholastic program? If you do not have ~~have~~ an interscholastic program would you like to have one?" Figure 1 reports the responses by county and grade level. An itemized account of county, sport, grade level, and number of interscholastic contests, may be obtained by writing to Miss Jennie Ashderian, 651 Falls Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Schools with no interscholastic program for girls were asked why no program existed. The following list represents the answers.

noted.	RESPONSES	NUMBER
	1. Philosophy	
	a. School	19
	b. County	13
	2. Time	17
	3. Staff	12
	4. No interest	0
	5. Administration	
	a. Transportation	28
	b. Finances	22
	c. Facilities	25
	d. Other:	
	Physical Exam	1
	Pay for Coaching	1

Many interesting personal comments regarding the status were noted. Among them were: "Need more willing, trained personnel...", "Lack of teams in area to compete with.", "... don't have time, space, and facilities.", "County regulations.", "... transportation causes problems.", "... girls become too emotional over wins and losses...", "We have a very strong intramural program in our school and see no purpose for an interscholastic program on the junior high level.", "I believe that the interscholastic program is a big addition to our junior high program.", "... INTRAMURAL program is COMPETITIVE enough at the junior high level.", "... girls who are interested in interscholastic activity at the junior high level should have the opportunity to participate."

Results of the survey seem to indicate that schools which have personnel and administrations favoring interscholastic competition find ways and means of overcoming physical handicaps and instrument successful programs. Comments from the schools and counties with the opposing philosophy indicate a turning inward to meet student needs

for competition with well developed intramural programs. As noted in the DGWS Statement on Competition for Girls and Women,

"The nature and growth of girls interscholastic programs will vary. In many schools lack of the recommended basic requirements and/or lack of interest on the part of the girls may delay the development of an interscholastic program. In other situations an interscholastic program may be started in one sport only, with other sports added as seems desirable."

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1. "DGWS Statement on Competition for Girls and Women. Guidelines for High School Programs." , Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Vol. 36, Number 7, September, 1965, p. 31.