


Beacon Athletic Department Section 9 Consideration

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Why are we researching this change?

- ***Competitiveness- **main reason for this consideration****
 - Amount of Class A schools in Section 9 compared to Section 1
 - Beacon Athletics Sectional Championship History
 - **COVID-19 travel restrictions** and the need to reduce travel to outside “regions” such as Westchester/ Putnam/ Rockland/ NYC
 - **Aligning** with the majority of Dutchess County/Mid-Hudson Valley School Districts
 - Median Household income comparisons
 - Travel- Lower Westchester traffic compared to 84/Thruway/17
 - Distance advantages
 - **Opportunity for athletes**
 - Merging
 - 2 Sport Athletes
 - **Potential Financial Implications**
 - While minimal, there are still advantages
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Competitiveness & Comparisons between Section 9 & Section 1

Section 9 Opponents compared to Section 1 Opponents

*Estimates that can change by year

Section 9 = Green

Section 1= Red

Wrestling/Track:

15 total Division 1 v 43 total Division 1 (+28)

Soccer/Baseball/Softball/Basketball:

11 total v 30 total (+ 19)

Volleyball:

7 total v 26 total (+19)

Football

8 Total v 27 total (+19)

Girls Lacrosse

5 total v 18 total (+13)

Overall Size Ranking (BEDS #)

Section 9 #5 of 11 Schools

v.

Section 1 #20 of 31 Schools

Other Factors:

- **Travel to opponents**
 - While comparably section 9 schools are a similar distance to those in section 1, many of these schools are not accessible to the Taconic causing us to take alternate routes when traveling.
- **Merge opportunities with smaller Section 9 schools that have already reached out to Beacon**
 - *Crew, Swimming, Wrestling, Football?, Girls Lax?*
- **Athletes authorized to participate in 2 sports in 1 season**
 - *Section 1 does not allow this*

Competitiveness & Comparisons between Section 9 & Section 1 cont.

Beacon Postseason Success:

- Since 1990, **10 Section Championships**
 - Boys Track & Boys Bowling account for **6 of the 10**
- For team sports, there have only been **4 Section Championships** since 1990
- The following sports have **never** won a section championship:
 - **Boys:** *Boys Soccer, Football, Wrestling, Boys Tennis, Boys Swimming,*
 - **Girls:** *Girls Lacrosse, Girls Tennis, Girls Swimming, Girls Golf, Girls Bowling, Girls XC, Girls Volleyball, Girls Basketball*
 - **Thats 54% of our eligible programs**
 - **Thats 66% of our eligible girls programs (2/3)**

Financial Comparisons

Section 1 Membership Fee **\$20,257**
Section 9 Membership Fee **\$22,975**
+ \$2718 increase to section 9

Officials Fee:

Varsity- **\$125** v. ***\$111 avg.** *Save \$28 per contest*
JV- **\$102** v. ***\$84.50 avg.** *Save \$35 per contest*
Modified- **\$94** v. ***\$78 avg.** *Save \$32 per contest*

Section 9 Official Fees vary on sport

Section 9 Avg Total officials Savings:

Varsity Games- \$2344
JV Games- \$2355
Modifies- \$1099
Total Officials Saving: \$5798

In addition:

\$2500 Fee for Section 1 Schools to use the NYC Armory

Conclusion:

Section 9 Base Fee- **\$22,975 total**

Section 1 Membership Fee: **\$20,257**

Section 1 Projected Official Fee: **\$5798**

Section 1 NYS Armory Fee **\$2500**

\$28,555 total

2021 Projected Section 1 Fee: **\$28,555**

2021 Projected Section 9 Fee: **\$22,975**

2021 Projected Savings: **\$5,580**

Median Household Income

Dutchess County Rate: \$81,219

Section 9:

- Orange- **\$79,944 (- \$1,275)**
- Ulster- **\$69,304 (- \$11,915)**
- Sullivan- **\$57,426 (- \$23,793)**

Section 1:

- Rockland- **\$93,024 (+\$11, 805)**
- Westchester- **\$96,610 (+ \$15,391)**
- Putnam- **\$104,486 (+ \$23, 267)**

Benefits of a higher median household income?

- 1. Access to offseason training/private training***
- 2. Access to better facilities (tax dollars)***
- 3. Losing experienced, successful coaches to higher paying jobs***

BCSD Varsity Coaches Reflections

Boys Basketball- Scott Timpano

- We enjoy being in Section 1 due to the nostalgia of it. The league is more competitive, is more well known, we have rivalries that have lasted for decades and it is certainly the premier league in the state.
- We understand that most programs would benefit overall from a move, and are willing to go along with the good of the other programs.

Girls Basketball- Christina Dahl

- In my experience of coaching against both section one and section nine teams, I believe that we are similar in stature to section nine when it comes to demographics, opportunities and overall size.
- The overall physiological frame of mind would be better for our student athletes because they would be given equal opportunity to succeed and know that they could and should compete against the schools of equal size and stature.
- This is not only in the best interest of the program, but also in the best interest of our student athletes who commit and dedicate their time to playing sports. They should be provided with the best opportunity possible to succeed. Success usually breeds success and this change could also spark more interest in students seeking and participating in athletics. This change could help increase the numbers of student participation once students are given an "equal playing field."

Volleyball- Ron Pagliaro

- As far as to joining Section 9 from the information you provided plus my own research, I didn't find any real negatives.

BCSD Varsity Coaches Reflections

Track & Field & Cross Country- Jim Henry

- Indoor track competes at West Point as a "home court" which is considerably closer than travelling to NYC Armory.
- OCIAA has a strong modified tradition in Cross Country (racing at Thomas Bull Memorial Park - Rt. 416) and strong Varsity programs throughout the county and Section.
 - Focus on younger students
- Qualifying for State Championships would be moderately easier from Section 9 as there are about 20 fewer teams to compete against for the same number of available spots in both Cross Country and Track+Field

Wrestling- Ron Tompkins

- I think participating in Section 9 would be a positive for all the reasons mentioned. A few years back there was talk of moving to Section 9 and a few people back then were against it. I think merging will be a necessity, especially for wrestling and some of the other sports. The combined teams I think should help with the budget.

Softball- Mike Carofano

- I believe that not only our program, but other programs, will be much more competitive in Section IX. We will be playing schools who are more like us (size wise, diversity wise) instead of playing schools who are very different than us in Westchester/Putnam. Being more competitive and being successful will thus generate even more enthusiasm towards athletics and get more students involved.

BCSD Varsity Coaches Reflections

Girls Soccer- Hugo Alzate

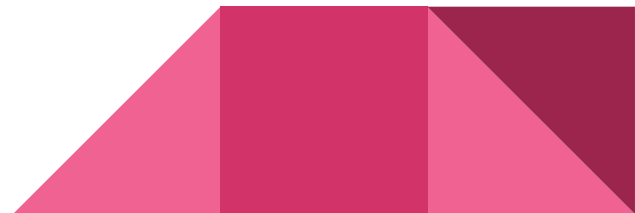
- Every one of my soccer players either currently plays for or did play for a travel team in the East Hudson soccer club that is majorly made of of players from Orange, Dutchess & Ulster counties. Most of the coaches there are also from Section 9.
- Since our move to Class A in 2005, our team has never made past the first round of 16 teams.

Boys Soccer- Craig Seaman

- Section 9 has considerably less A teams overall and nowhere near the quality of Section 1
- Boys soccer is very much dependent on athletes who play high level club outside of school. High level club is generally a pay to play model which which puts wealthier communities at an inherent advantage

Boys & Girls Bowling- Brian Mahon

- I have always been in favor of moving to section 9 for all sports.



BCSD Varsity Coaches Reflections

Baseball- Bobby Atwell

- We have always been at a distinct disadvantage with the number of our athletes who are able to afford the rising costs of pay to play travel. Given the fact that we are grouped with Putnam, Westchester and Rockland counties which are three of the more affluent counties in our state.
- In the history of our athletic program, we have won 25 team sectional titles in over 60 years.
- I would be hard pressed to think that we could not compete better against 10 schools as opposed to 31. The overall positive impact going to section finals and then even regionals and states would have on our teams, schools, and community is not hard to fathom.
- In Section 1 tournaments in general many of our teams would have to win 5 games as opposed to two or three in Section 9.

Girls Lacrosse- Brian Lange

- The level of competition in many of these section 1 games is nonexistent. Traveling long distances to play in contests that are lost from the start is demoralizing for the players and does little to support the confidence of the athletes and the growth of the program.
- With our program still being relatively new, and the youth programs being sparse in the area, we would benefit from a more competitive schedule with schools that are closer in proximity, as well as size and demographic.

League & Travel Comparison (By Minute-m)

Section 1 Current League alignment for Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball

Poughkeepsie (33m) Peekskill (34m)

OLL (29m) Hen Hud (34m)

Ex. of Section 1 schools we regularly compete against:

AA- JJEF (17m) AA- Ketcham (18m) AA- Arlington (27m)

AA- Carmel (31m) Brewster (32m) AA- Mahopac (35m)

Panas (37m) Put Valley (37m) Pawling (38m)

Lakeland (41m) Fox Lane (44m) Somers (46m)

Nanuet (49m) JJCR (46m) Tappan Zee (48m)

Byram Hills (50m) Nyack (54m) Pearl River (54m)

Sleepy Hollow (54m) Harrison (58m) Rye (63m)

Eastchester (65m) Yonkers (65) Pelham (68m)

*40m plus travel

Section 9 Example League Alignment for Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball

Washingtonville (27m) Minisink (38m)

Cornwall (25m) Goshen (35)

Monticello (56m) Port Jervis (48m)

Ex. of potential Section 9 Schools we could compete against:

AA- Newburgh (13m) Marlboro (21m) Valley Central (24m)

Wallkill (26m) AA- Monroe Woodbury (28m)

Burke (31m) Highland (32m) James I O'neill (32m)

AA-Middletown (32m) AA-Pine Bush (37m) AA-Kingston (45m)

FDR- (45m) AA-Warwick (52m) Red Hook (54m)

Saugerties (52m)

*40m plus travel

Concerns

Boys & Girls Tennis- Dave Ryley

- Different format than section 9 that allows 1 less athlete to compete in competition.
- Relationships that have been created with other coaches in Section 1 over the years will be lost.
 - *However, our coach agrees that Section 9 would make us a more competitive program and give us a better chance to compete in the postseason.*

Boys Soccer- Craig Seaman

- Boys Soccer is a high level program within Section 1 and has no problem completing at an extremely high level. Connections already made with Section 1 coaches.
 - *That being said, our coach also agrees that the move to Section 9 would almost certainly make us a more competitive athletic program as a whole.*

Boys Basketball- Scott Timpano

- Losing rivalries & the nostalgia of Section 1.
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Conclusions

1. Moving to section 9 would statistically increase our chances of competing in post-season play.
2. Moving to section 9 would make us the county with the highest Median Household Income within the section.
3. Moving to section 9 would save us money.
4. Moving to section 9 would keep our travel primarily based in Dutchess, Orange & Ulster County.
5. **Every** varsity coach in Beacon agrees that moving to Section 9 would make us **more competitive** and would **increase our opportunity for post season play**.

It is my conclusion as the Director of Athletics that moving to Section 9 would be more beneficial for the student athletes of Beacon.