DC EVEREST



JH / MS ATHLETICS

DC EVEREST ATHLETICS

THE WHY

TO PROVIDE QUALITY SCHOOL BASED ATHLETICS SO THAT ATHLETES CAN FIND THEIR PURPOSE AND PASSION AS THEY WORK TO BECOME LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY!

DC EVEREST MS / JH PHILOSOPHY

WE BELIEVE IN:

- PARTICIPATION
- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
- STRONGER CONNECTIONS TO SCHOOL
- DEVELOPING LEADERS AND HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR STRENGTHS

DC EVEREST JH/MS SPORTS

GRADES 6-8 SPORT OFFERINGS:

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
SOCCER - BOYS (7&8)	BASKETBALL - GIRLS	SOFTBALL (8TH)
FOOTBALL (7&8)	BASKETBALL-BOYS	BASEBALL (8TH)
SWIM - GIRLS (6-8)	SWIM - BOYS (6-8)	TRACK & FIELD (6-8)
VOLLEYBALL (7&8)	WRESTLING CO-ED (6-8)	SOCCER - GIRLS (7&8)
DANCE (6-8)	SKI & CURLING (8TH)	15 SPORTS - 34 TEAMS

6-8 PARTICIPATION

SEASON	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
FALL	387 ATHLETES	368 ATHLETES	417 ATHLETES
WINTER	146 ATHLETES	160 ATHLETES	TBD
SPRING	280 ATHLETES	229 ATHLETES	TBD

JUNIOR HIGH / MIDDLE LEVEL CONFERENCE

JH / MS CONFERENCE
(13 SCHOOLS)

WISCONSIN VALLEY SCHOOLS	GREAT NORTHERN SCHOOLS
DC EVEREST	ANTIGO
BEN FRANKLIN	RHINELANDER
PJ JACOBS	TOMAHAWK
JOHN MUIR	MEDFORD
HORACE MANN	MERRILL
MARSHFIELD	MOSINEE
WISCONSIN RAPIDS	

BENEFITS OF CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

- CONSISTENT COMPETITION
  - PROVIDES A STRUCTURED SCHEDULE AGAINST SCHOOLS WITH SIMILAR GRADE LEVELS, ATHLETIC ABILITIES, AND PROGRAM SIZES.
- MEANINGFUL RIVALRIES
  - BUILDS SCHOOL PRIDE, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, AND EXCITEMENT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, FAMILIES, AND FANS.
- CONSISTENT EXPECTATIONS
  - ENCOURAGES COMMON STANDARDS FOR SCHEDULING, SPORTSMANSHIP, ELIGIBILITY, AND ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION AMONG MEMBER SCHOOLS. BASED ON WIAA GUIDELINES
- EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS
  - KEEPS THE FOCUS ON STUDENT DEVELOPMENT, TEAMWORK, CHARACTER, LEADERSHIP, AND REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL.
- FAIRNESS AND COMPETITIVE BALANCE
  - CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS TO COMPETE UNDER A SHARED SET OF EXPECTATIONS AND CONFERENCE GUIDELINES.
- COLLABORATION AMONG ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES
  - PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IDEAS, ADDRESS CONCERNS, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND IMPROVE MIDDLE-LEVEL ATHLETICS TOGETHER IN OUR AREA.

WIAA

AFFILIATION BY CONFERENCE SCHOOLS

WISCONSIN VALLEY SCHOOLS	AFFILIATION / RULES ENFORCED
DC EVEREST	WIAA AFFILIATED
BEN FRANKLIN	WIAA AFFILIATED
PJ JACOBS	WIAA AFFILIATED
JOHN MUIR	FUND 80 FOLLOW WIAA RULES SOCCER EXCEPTION
HORACE MANN	FUND 80 FOLLOW WIAA RULES SOCCER EXCEPTION
MARSHFIELD	FUND 80 FOLLOW ALL WIAA RULES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS	FUND 80 FOLLOW WIAA RULES SOCCER EXCEPTION

GREAT NORTHERN SCHOOLS	AFFILIATION / RULES ENFORCED
ANTIGO	FUND 80 FOLLOW ALL WIAA RULES
RHINELANDER	FUND 80 FOLLOW ALL WIAA RULES
TOMAHAWK	FUND 80 FOLLOW ALL WIAA RULES
MEDFORD	FUND 80 WORKS WITH CLUBS
MERRILL	FUND 80 FOLLOW ALL WIAA RULES
MOSINEE	FUND 80 WIAA RULES EXCEPT NON SCHOOL COMPETITION

DATA WAS TAKEN FROM CONFERENCE MEETING

AD'S REPORTED OUT 8/19/26

WIAA



Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)

Who We Are

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to organizing, developing, and operating interscholastic athletics programs for its member schools. The members are made up of Public High Schools, Nonpublic High Schools, Public Middle Schools and Nonpublic Middle Schools all of whom join the organization voluntarily.

Our Purpose

Promoting Participation and Ideals
We strive to promote the ideals of the membership and maximize opportunities for member schools' participation in interscholastic athletics.

Partnering in Education
The goal is to emphasize athletics as a partner in the total education process, working alongside other school activities to cultivate high ideals of citizenship and sportsmanship.

Ensuring Uniform Standards and Protection
We are committed to promoting uniformity in interscholastic athletic competition standards and preventing exploitation by special interest groups of school programs and individual abilities.

Addressing Misconceptions

The WIAA is a private nonprofit, membership-based organization, not a government entity. Rules, regulations, policies, and other procedures put forth by the WIAA are publicly discussed with the opportunities for students, families, school leaders, and even members of the public to weigh in and offer their thoughts.

WIAA MISSION
"STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE AND CONSISTENT STANDARDS THROUGH EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS."

- TO ORGANIZE AND GUIDE SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN A WAY THAT SUPPORTS MEMBER SCHOOLS' VALUES AND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION
- TO MAKE SCHOOL ATHLETICS PART OF THE OVERALL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WHILE PROMOTING GOOD CITIZENSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND POSITIVE VALUES.
- TO ENSURE CONSISTENT RULES AND FAIR COMPETITION WHILE PROTECTING SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM EXPLOITATION.

WIAA BENEFITS



WIAA MEMBER SCHOOL BENEFITS:

- COMMON RULES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL OUR SCHOOL SPORTS GRADES 6-12
- KEEPS EDUCATION BASED ATHLETICS CONNECTED TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF OUR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
- CLEAR GUIDELINES FOR WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND HOW
- HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES
- RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR COACHES AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

WIAA MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES DC EVEREST WITH AN ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK FOR CONSISTENT RULES, STUDENT SAFETY, AND EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS–HELPING US MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS THAT PUT STUDENTS FIRST.

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION RULE WIAA

"ARTICLE VI – NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION
SECTION 1 – IN-SEASON
A. IT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF THIS ASSOCIATION THAT A STUDENT OWES LOYALTY AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SCHOOL AND TEAM OF WHICH HE/SHE IS A MEMBER DURING THE SEASON OF A GIVEN SPORT. ATHLETES MAY COMPETE IN NOT MORE THAN TWO NONSCHOOL COMPETITIONS WITH SCHOOL APPROVAL DURING EACH REGULAR SPORT SEASON. THE CONTEST(S) WILL NOT COUNT AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL MAXIMUM FOR THE ATHLETE IN THAT SPORT. NONSCHOOL COMPETITION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING THE RESPECTIVE WIAA TOURNAMENT SERIES IN A SPORT. A STUDENT BECOMES INELIGIBLE IN A SPORT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON FOR COMPETING IN MORE THAN TWO NONSCHOOL GAMES, MEETS, OR CONTESTS IN THE SAME SPORT DURING THE SEASON OF PRACTICE AND COMPETITION ESTABLISHED BY THE SCHOOL. THE PENALTY MAY BE REDUCED UPON REQUEST OF A SCHOOL ON THE BASIS OF DOCUMENTED EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES."

"IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN UP TO TWO NONSCHOOL EVENTS WITH SCHOOL APPROVAL. EVENTS IN MS IS DEFINED AS A CONTEST OR TOURNAMENT. "

RELEVANCE OF RULE: (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

- *OVERUSE INJURY PREVENTION*
- *ATHLETE BURN OUT - SPECIALIZATION IN SPORT*
- *THE MAIN RATIONALE FOR THE WIAA MIDDLE LEVEL NONSCHOOL COMPETITION RULE IS TO PROTECT THE SCHOOL TEAM AS THE PRIMARY ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE DURING THE SCHOOL SEASON.*
- *THE PURPOSE ISN'T TO PREVENT KIDS FROM PARTICIPATING IN CLUB SPORTS. THE PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH THAT, DURING A SCHOOL'S SPORT SEASON, THE SCHOOL TEAM IS THE STUDENT'S PRIMARY ATHLETIC COMMITMENT. WIAA ALLOWS LIMITED NONSCHOOL PARTICIPATION SO STUDENTS CAN STILL HAVE OUTSIDE OPPORTUNITIES, BUT THE SCHOOL SEASON CANNOT BECOME SECONDARY TO A CLUB PROGRAM.*

**PAGE 21-23 IN THE MIDDLE LEVEL HANDBOOK HAS THE FULL RULE.*

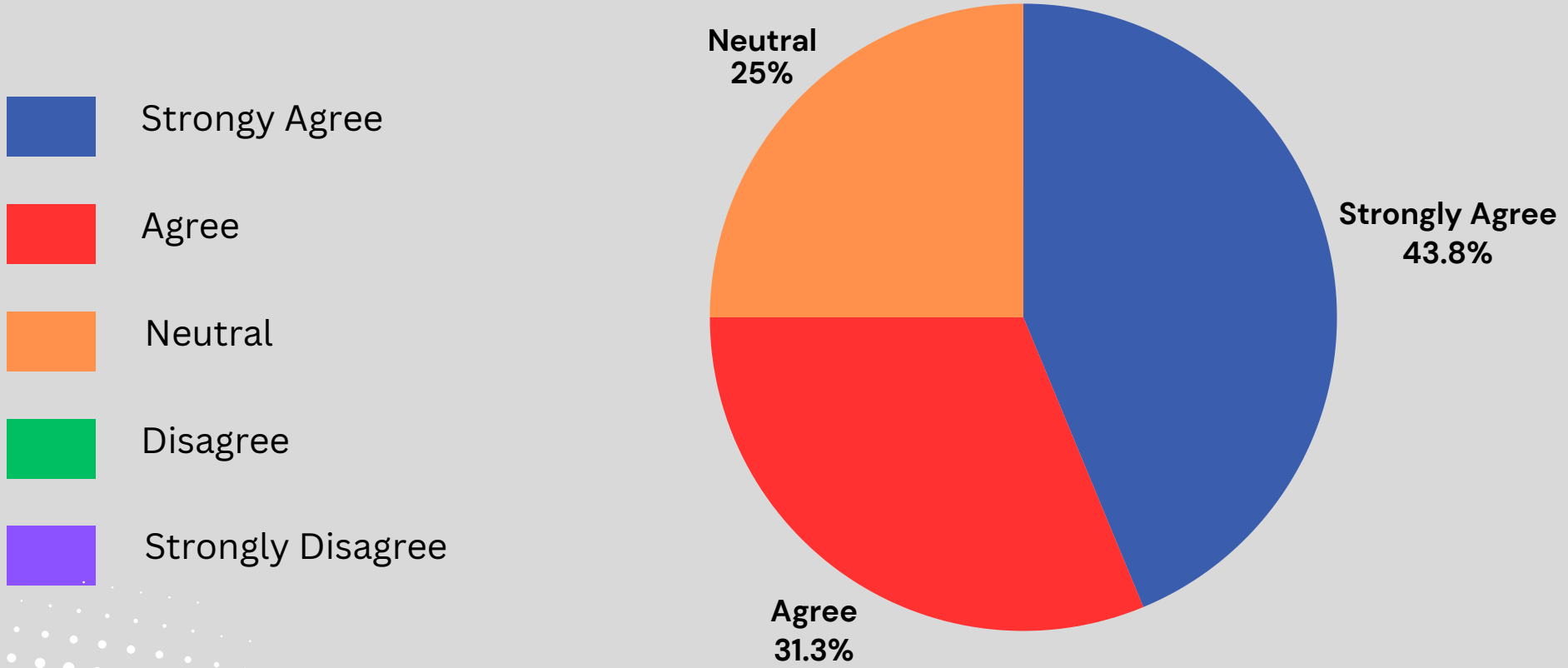
- *2026-27 MIDDLE LEVEL HANDBOOK*

DC EVEREST COACHES SURVEY DATA

- SURVEY PARTICIPANTS
  - HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACHES
  - JH / MS COACHES
- 16 COACHES RETURNED SURVEY

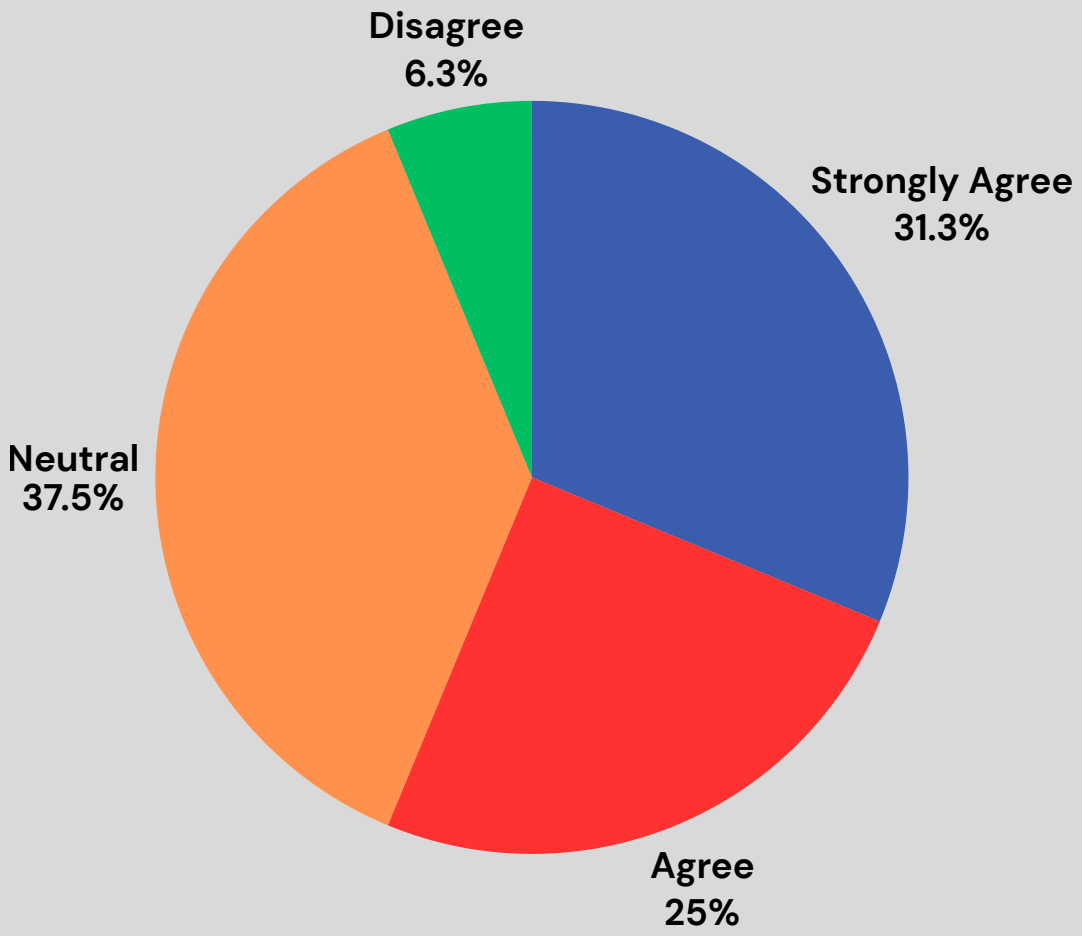
NOTE: SURVEY DID NOT COLLECT NAME OR SPORT IN WHICH PARTICIPANT COACHED.

THE CURRENT WIAA NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION RULE FOR MIDDLE LEVEL PROVIDES A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND NON-SCHOOL ATHLETICS. (2 EVENTS IS CURRENT RULE). NOTE: ONE EVENT CAN BE A WHOLE WEEKEND TOURNAMENT, NOT INDIVIDUAL GAME.

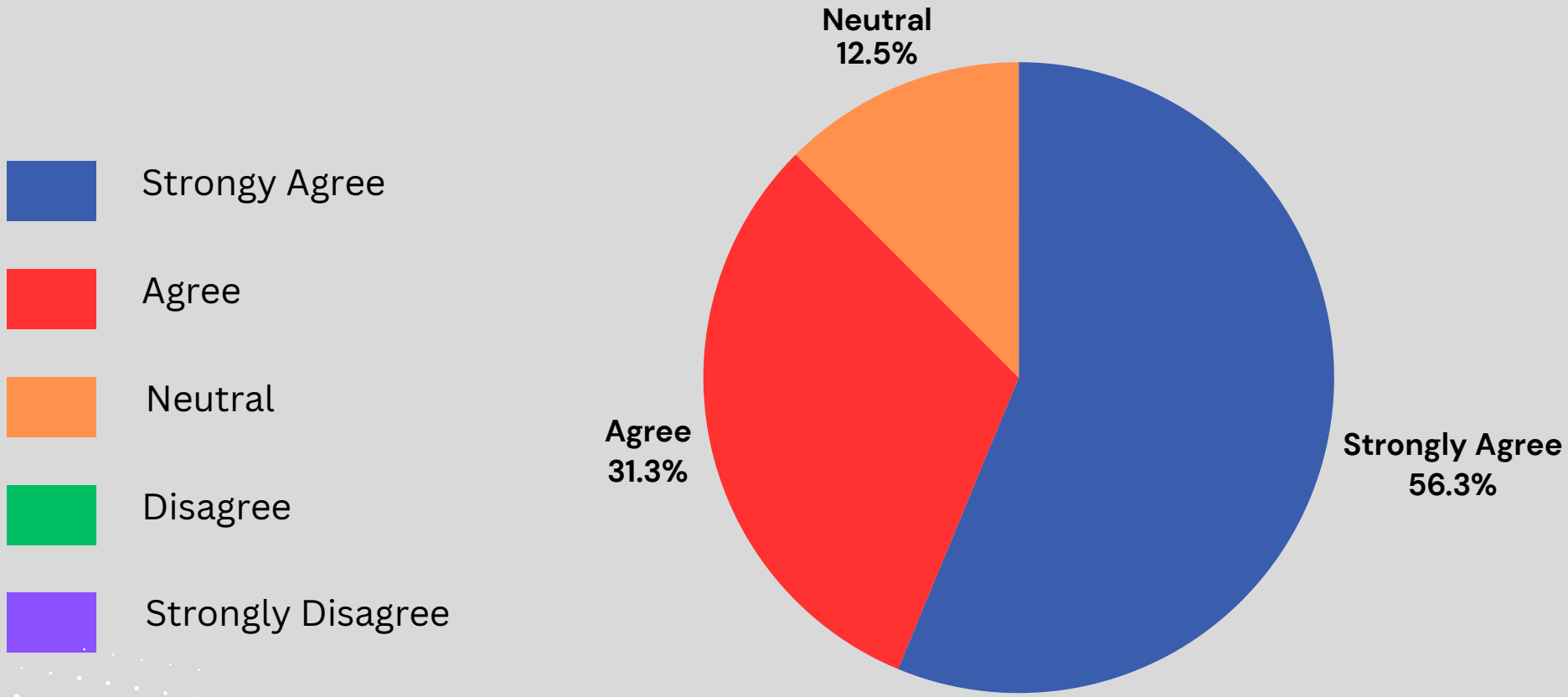


MIDDLE-SCHOOL ATHLETES ARE PARTICIPATING IN TOO MANY ORGANIZED SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD / SEASON.

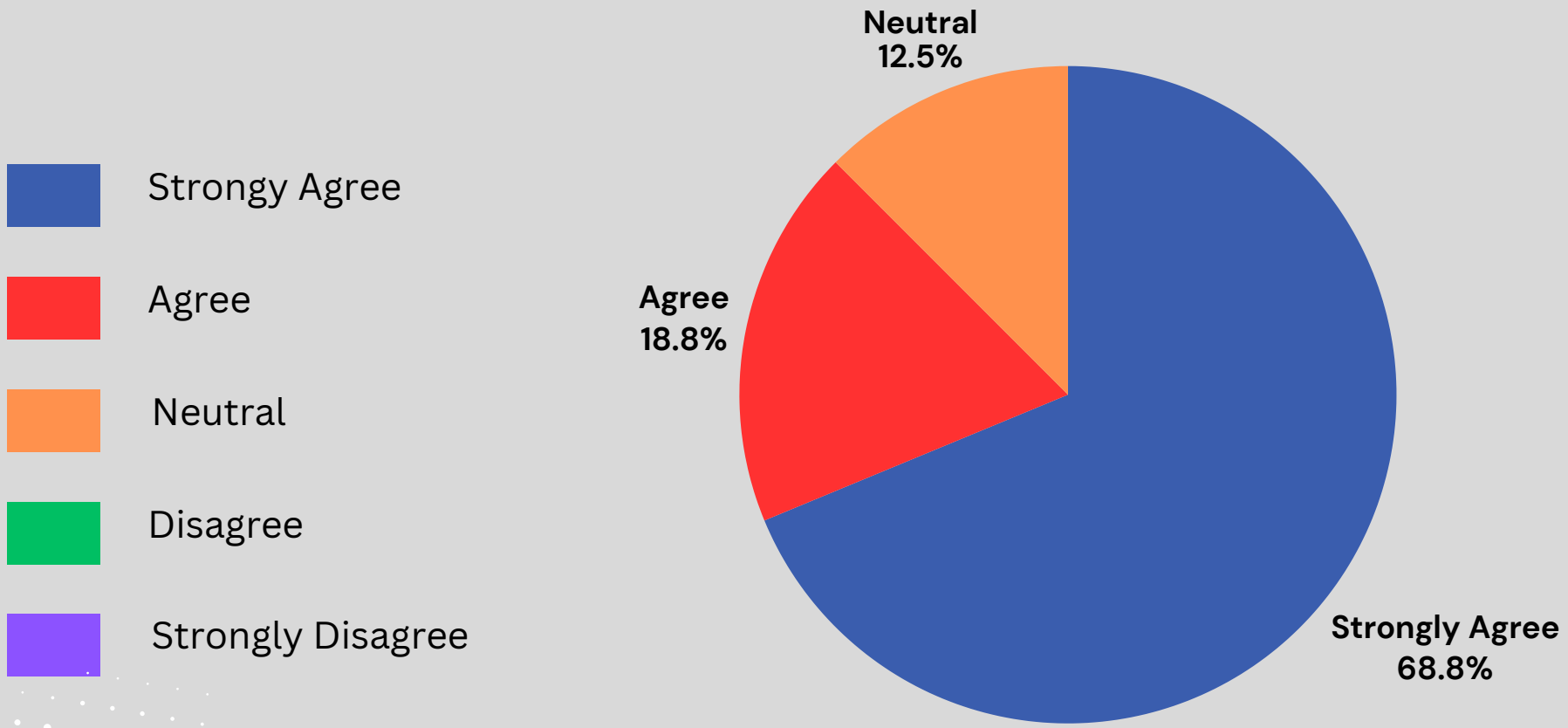




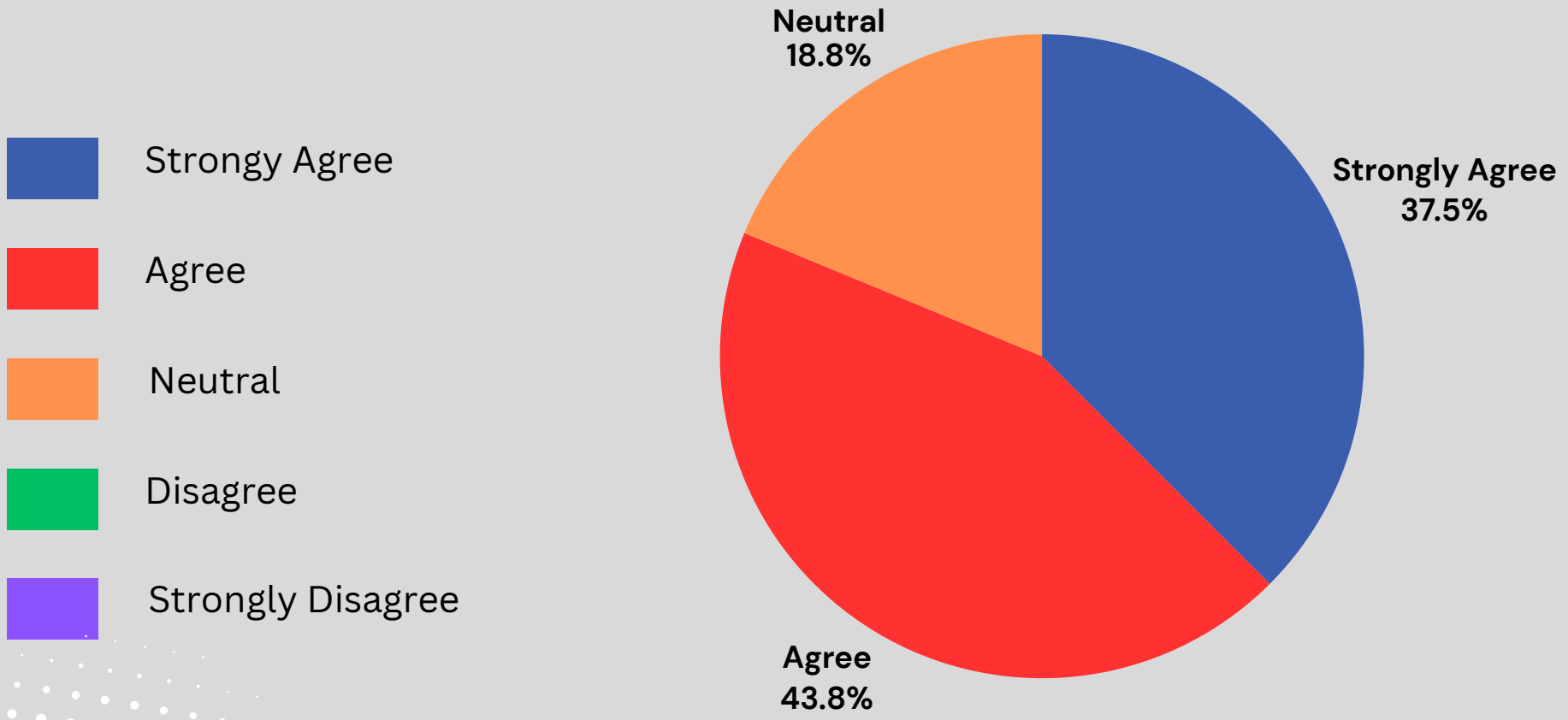
THE AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL AND NON-SCHOOL SPORTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ATHLETE BURNOUT.



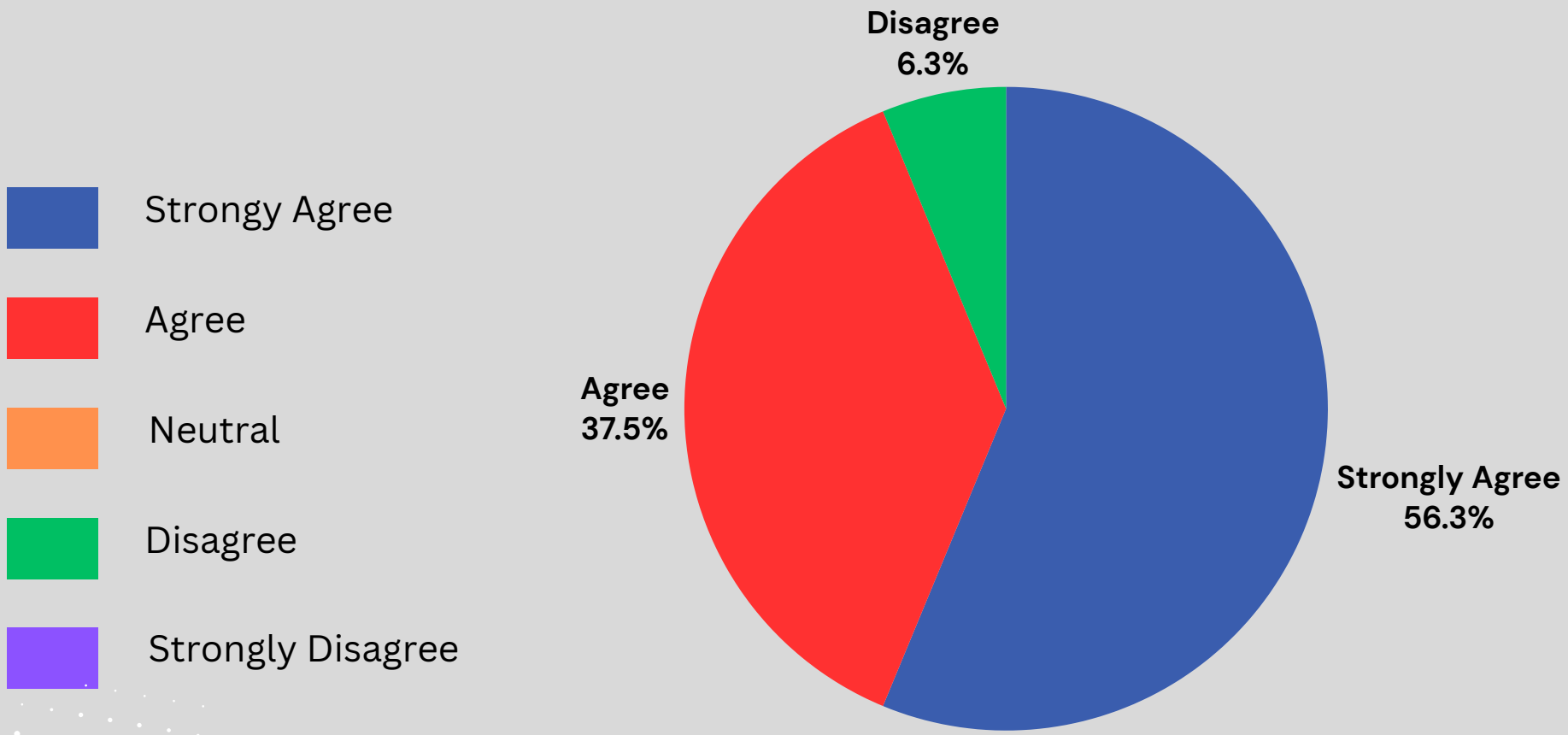
THE AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL AND NON-SCHOOL SPORTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OVERUSE INJURIES.



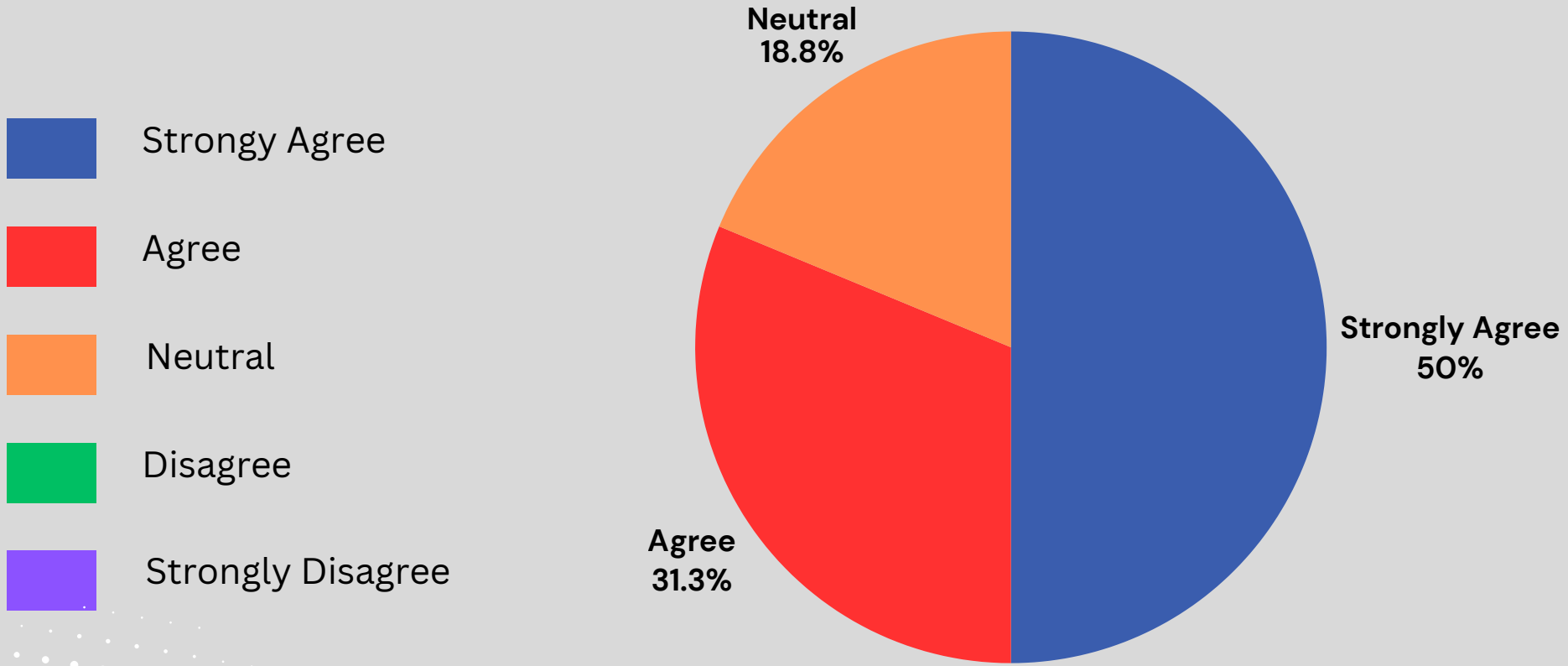
MIDDLE-SCHOOL ATHLETES NEED MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REST AND RECOVERY DURING SPORT SEASONS.



CONFLICTS BETWEEN SCHOOL TEAMS AND NON-SCHOOL/CLUB TEAMS CAN CREATE CHALLENGES FOR OUR JH COACHES IF KIDS MISS SCHOOL SPONSORED PRACTICES AND GAMES FOR NON-SCHOOL / CLUB TEAMS.

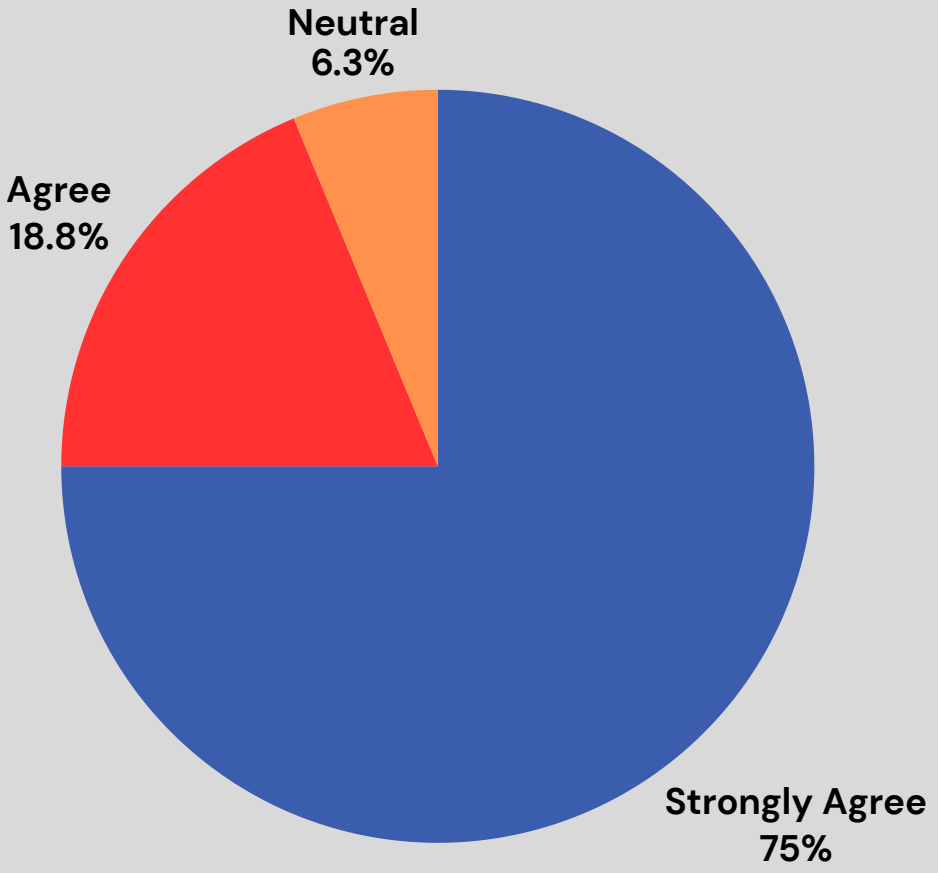


CONFLICTS BETWEEN SCHOOL TEAMS AND NON-SCHOOL/CLUB TEAMS CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE.

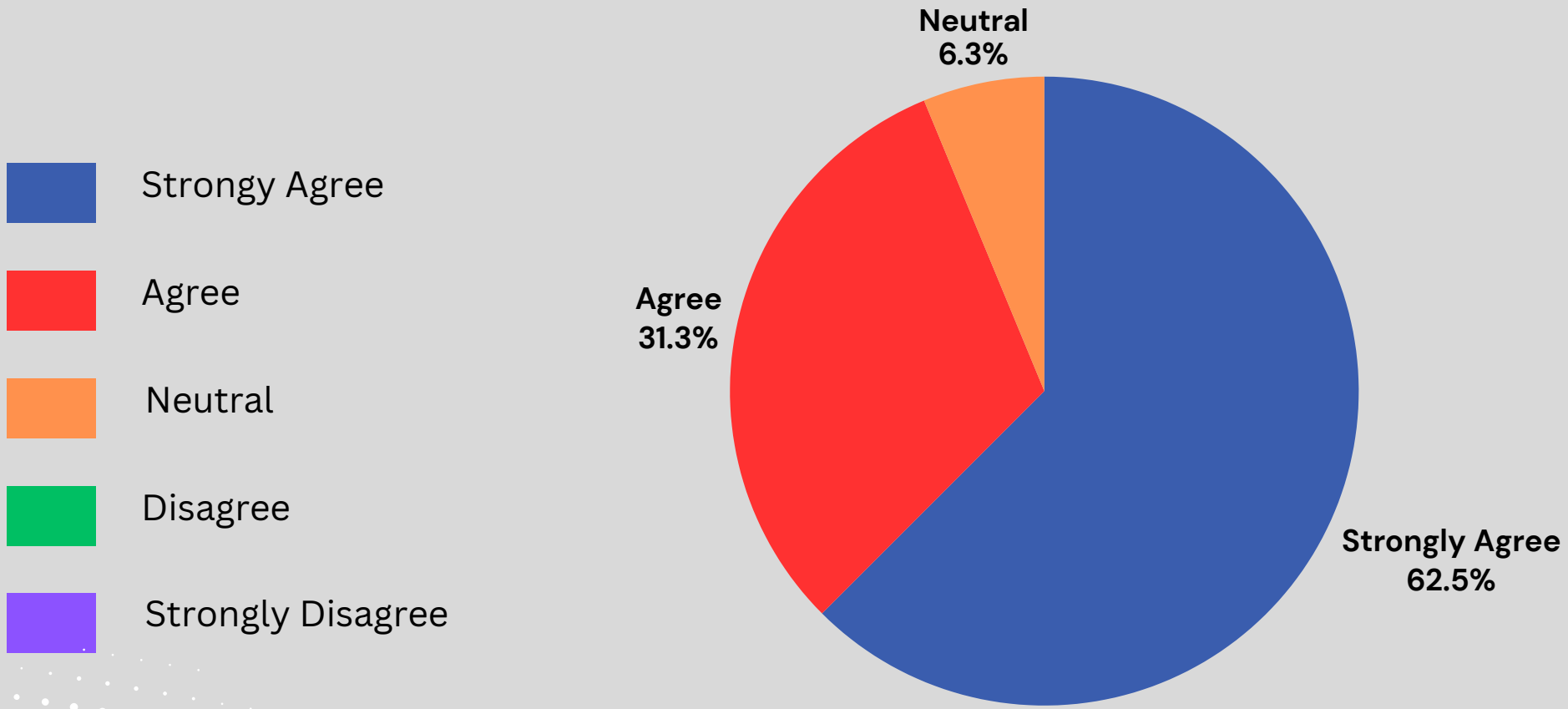


HAVING CONSISTENT WIAA GUIDELINES HELPS PROTECT THE EDUCATIONAL AND TEAM-BASED NATURE OF MIDDLE-SCHOOL ATHLETICS.





I BELIEVE WIAA MEMBERSHIP AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL PROVIDES VALUE TO OUR MIDDLE-LEVEL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS GIVING US CLEAR, CONCISE RULES AND POLICY.



- That safety it provides coaches, students, and athletic directors with a clear set of rules and guidelines to adhere to. Which then aligns with their future experiences in 9th-12th grade.

The biggest benefit of WIAA membership at the middle school level is having a consistent framework for providing meaningful athletic opportunities for students. WIAA membership gives schools common standards and expectations around eligibility, sportsmanship, safety, and competition, while allowing students to participate, represent their school, build relationships, and learn valuable lessons through athletics. At the middle school level especially, it helps keep the focus on development, participation, and positive experiences rather than simply winning.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST BENEFIT YOU SEE FROM WIAA MEMBERSHIP AT THE MIDDLE LEVEL?

Consistency

Clear rules

All schools are following (or should follow some did not) the same rules

All member schools are "on the same page" and have clear guidelines.Consistent approach and policy, smooth transition into high school level expectations and experiences

Creates an opportunity for all students to compete against other schools in a meaningful setting. Creates an opportunity for our students to work /compete together as a team. Also it brings a sense of belonging and pride in our school, creating and showing the student athlete the ins/outs of a well run program. Where practicing everyday is an expectation.

WIAA membership provides a common and consistent structure for schools that can help make decisions about everything from participation, competitions, and athlete development. It gives the school, athletic director, and coaches clear standards and guidelines for how to lead an athletic department and the different programs within it. It is huge for accountability. With out the clear standards many issues will arise when picking what to follow and what not, and when trying to uphold the standards we choose without the backing of the WIAA membership.

- **Clear guidelines and rules, but we have them at the school level as well.**

Consistent policy across all district

Standard set of rules

Clear concise rules and expectations as well as the health and safety standards.

Consistent approach and policy, smooth transition into high school level expectations and experiences

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CONCERN OR POTENTIAL DRAWBACK YOU SEE BEING A WIAA MEMBER SCHOOL?

That athletes can play club and school sports - which from what I have seen is a lot for some athletes and their grades suffer, they are tired and not very motivated in school because of long weekend tournaments.

- we have to enforce all rules, not just pick and choose. But it seems like it is by design there.

There is not one that I can think of. We have been a member as long as I can remember...why are we now looking to make a change? We need to protect our school sports from club influences.

- Don't see any

I don't know.

N/A

None. WIAA middle school programs are short enough that a club team can find a 3rd or 4th tournament outside of the WIAA MS season.

None

none

Zero concerns, we need a governing body to be associated with and to help us guide future rules and regulations as well.

I see no drawbacks in being WIAA affiliated.

We miss out on certain athletes competing with DCE at the Jh level. We preach it's the start of the whole program. From 7/8 level through senior year

Stricter rules than non WIAA affiliated programs and parents compare what we do to those non WIAA schools and don't understand why we can't have the same rules as the majority of other schools

The benefits FAR outweigh any potential drawback.

The limits on Middle School athletes.

Restrictions and lack of flexibility

I feel that sports are good for students to teach discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship etc. however I also feel that there are a few middle school students that do not even get a week break between seasons; football ends and wrestling open mats start. This is not a required event but it is because coaches want to see who shows up and who has commitment and serious about the sport. I feel that students need a break to relax and at least catch up on homework for a week or so.

As for soccer, I don't believe it is a major liability or issue with our club players playing school soccer. Participating in two tournaments vs three tournaments is not enough to say an athlete is doing too much...I don't think it will lead to burnout or overuse injuries. I don't see it affecting my school practices or games. At least with soccer I don't think it is necessary to be with WIAA to "protect" athletes from injuries. The only benefit from having WIAA membership at the 6-8 level is the rules/guidelines they provide. However, we have these already at the school level already.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) cited that 46% - 50% of sport injuries were due to overuse. The AAP's parent resource reports that nearly 70% of children across the US drop their favorite sport before the age of 13. This could be attributed to burnout.

The purpose of rules & guidelines is to create a level playing field for all, whether it's access to high quality sports kids can't pay to play or rules that protect kids & coaches from parents or other athletes. It's already hard enough to be a coach. Removing these guidelines will create chaos for people who are just trying to help kids have fun and learn some great life lessons.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER?

- Not at the moment

N/A

n/a

None

Middle school should be a time for kids to develop, explore and enjoy physical activity, not feel like they have to specialize or play year-round. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that nearly 70% of kids drop out of organized sports by age 13, and early specialization and intensive training are associated with increased risk of overuse injuries, overtraining and burnout. We also need to remember that more organized sport isn't always better. The AAP recommends that young athletes have at least 1–2 days off each week from competition and sport-specific training, and notes that young athletes playing more hours of organized sport than their age in years may have greater risk of serious overuse injury.

Not being part of the WIAA would be an extremely poor decision. They have rules in place that protect schools, coaches, and officials. Do we really want to promote the wild-wild west in athletics where there are no rules to follow. If that's the case, I would have never coached(going on year 35). Things such as requiring kids to have physicals, requiring coaches to carry multiple certifications, rules to follow concerning transgender participation. Licensed officials for all contests.

Is this in the best interest of all of our programs at DC Everest? Or is this to benefit one program

Finding coaches who actually want to coach is hard enough already, so putting student athletes in a position to have to choose whether they support their school or club is simply not fair at the age of 11-13. It most likely means the family is choosing for them as parents are paying to play.

The limits on Middle School athletes.

Kids should be active and involved in lots of sports, especially in the MS/JH ages but there very much is a balance that is needed where kids need a chance to be kids. Sports should be fun and a lot of the club scene is just pressure of be the best and put in every second of your free time or you are a failure and might as well quit the sport and it is frustrating to see as a school coach

no

WHY WIAA MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Student Protection
Established eligibility, safety, and participation standards.

Consistent Rules
A common framework for participating schools.

Educational Purpose
Keeps school-sponsored athletics aligned with our educational values.

Shared Accountability
Provides common expectations for our schools, coaches, and athletes.



PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Clearly defined, consistent enforcement of expectations for all our students involved in athletics. Grades 6-12

The non-school competition rule is not an issue across our sports programs as a whole.

Athletic Director / School Administration has sound WIAA policy to guide decision making.

DC Everest JH / MS Athletics







































To provide quality school based athletics so that athletes can find their purpose and passion as they work to become leaders in our community!