

Athletic Management



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Homeschooler Stats

February 13, 2017

In April 2016, new Alabama legislation authorized that home-schoolers, virtual school students, and charter school students would be allowed to participate in public school sports. According to [al.com](#), it has resulted in 90 home schoolers joining sports this year, a number that is smaller than some people expected.

“We didn’t know what to expect as far as numbers,” Steve Savarese, executive director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA), said, “but I am very grateful to our schools for their cooperation with all the unknowns during this initial year of eligibility.”

Of the 90 participants, 13 of them are playing football. The most are running cross country, at 15 participants. Swimming has 12 and basketball has 10. In volleyball, two of the six home schoolers earned spots on the all-state team.

Among the state’s regions, the largest number of home schooled student-athletes are playing in District Eight (37 percent). This area includes Morgan, Madison, Limestone, Cullman, Blount, Marshall, Jackson, and DeKalb counties.

Debbie Landry, a member of the Christian Home Fellowship of Alabama’s home-school group’s board, said most parents who home-schooled their children were in support of changing the rules.

“I have not heard any negative feedback at all,” Landry said. “Generally, it has been a positive response. I think they’ve enjoyed it overall.”

Savarese said that coaches were similarly receptive to the idea of including home-school students.

“The reaction from coaches that I have spoken to has been positive,” Savarese said. “Our coaches, teachers, and administrators are dedicated to the educational process



whether in the classroom or through sport, regardless of who they teach or coach. I've heard some wonderful stories regarding our coaches making a difference in the lives of homeschooled students."

Landry said that while she had anticipated more home-schoolers who lived in rural areas would take advantage of the opportunity, she believes that will change in the future.

"As both sides become more comfortable with it, I think the numbers will grow," Landry said.

From New World Of Coaching

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In order to get athletes to compete with greater concentration, composure, and confidence, mental skills are essential. Here are three easy drills to implement during scrimmage situations.

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