

(Excerpts)

A STATISTICAL STUDY

A statistical study of the annual reports on athletes for 1933-34 has unearthed some interesting figures. In the 657 senior high schools which were members of the association during the past school year, 16,107 boys participated in interscholastic athletics. This is an increase of more than 2,500 boys above the number shown by a similar study for the year 1928-29. The number of schools engaged in the various interscholastic sports, as compared with the number five years ago, is shown by the following table:

Sport	No. in 1928-29	No. in 1933-34
Basketball	629	844
Track	431	432
Football	398	372
Baseball	199	319
Tennis	190	236
Golf	20	45
Wrestling	11	18

Group	Total Schools	Total Boys In Athletics	Number of Schools With Average Boys	Number of Boys Over Age Limit	Average No. Overage Boys Per School	Percent of Total Boys in Athletics Who Are Overage
1	31	2359	26	100	3.22	4.24%
2	69	2296	60	119	1.72	5.11%
3	147	4255	89	167	1.13	3.92%
4	410	7197	140	188	.458	2.61%

The table shows that there are more than three boys per school in the group of largest schools which had overage boys, on the basis of a twenty-year age limit, and that the number per school grew gradually less among the smaller schools until there was less than one-half boy per school in Group 4. This method of figuring may not be considered entirely fair since there are many more boys out for athletics in the larger schools, so figures are presented to show the percentage of the all the boys engaged in athletics who were over the age limit. This shows that not only the total number per school, but also the percentage of boys per school who are overage is larger in the larger schools than in the smaller schools. For instance, there has been considerable discussion concerning the advisability of reducing the age limit of athletes to twenty years in order to give the average regular pupil a better opportunity to compete and to better equalize competition by cutting down on the use of pupils who are often older than college freshmen and sophomores. The study shows that if the twenty-year rule had been in effect last year 574 of the 16,107 boys who participated would have become ineligible some time before June 1st, 1934. This is an average of less than one boy per school, but for comparative purposes the schools have been divided into four groups so as to ascertain the percentage of difference between the larger and