

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Commissioner's Notes

Feb. 17, 2000

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COACHES AND ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will coincide with the Boys' & Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. Committee meetings will be held Thursday and Friday, March 16-17, at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. The full Board meeting will be held the following Thursday and Friday, March 23-24, at the Hampton Inn in Richmond. Among agenda items will be the naming of a site for the 2000 State Football Finals. Contact the KHSAA for a meeting agenda.

BA/TN FIRST CONTEST DATES

A misprint in the 1999-2000 KHSAA Memorandum calendar incorrectly lists March 20 as the first date for a tennis match and March 21 as the first date for a baseball contest. The correct date for the first contest in tennis and baseball is Mon., March 27 (along with fast pitch softball, slow pitch softball and track). District Tournaments are correctly listed as May 22-27, 2000, for Baseball and Softball.

BASEBALL BAT RULE APPROVED

The Executive Board of the National Federation has approved a change in the baseball bat rule beginning with the 2001 season. For the complete release from the Federation, log on to the KHSAA website (www.khsaa.org).

COUNT FOR BA/SB TOURNAMENTS

This is a reminder concerning the amendment to Bylaw 25 passed the 1999 Delegate Assembly and was approved by the Board of Control. The increase in the number of baseball/softball tournaments counted in a shortened manner is not in effect for the 1999-2000 (2000 season) school year. The amendment will be in place for the 2000-2001 school year (2001 season). Please make sure your coaches continue to count tournament games using the same procedure as in the past. If you have questions, you may contact Asst. Commissioner Larry Boucher (Softball) or Asst. Commissioner Julian Tackett (Baseball) at the KHSAA (606)299-5472.

BOYS' STATE BK TICKETS MAILED

Boys' State Basketball Tournament ticket orders received prior Feb.1, have been filled and were mailed last week. Tickets ordered after Feb. 1 are now being filled and will be mailed within the next couple of days. Girls' State Basketball Tournament tickets will be mailed by the end of February. All ticket sales through the KHSAA office end next Friday, Feb. 25. After that date, tickets for the Boys' Tournament may be purchased through the Rupp Arena box office and for the Girls' Tournament through the EKU box office.

BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENTS GAME TIMES

Enclosed in this mailing are the brackets for the upcoming Boys' & Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. The Boys' Tournament is scheduled for March 15-18, at Rupp Arena in Lexington. The Girls' Tournament is slated for March 22-25, at Eastern Kentucky University's McBrayer Arena in Richmond.

Please note the time changes for the evening session. Game times will be 7 and 8:30 p.m. (ET), one-half hour earlier than in the past. The change was made due to the lateness of games over the past years. Announcements will be made throughout the tournament regarding the time changes.

DAWAHARES/KHSAA HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Tickets to the annual Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame banquet are now on sale at the KHSAA office. This year's event is scheduled for Tues., March 14, at the Marriott Griffin Gate resort in Lexington.

Fourteen former players, coaches, officials and contributors to high school athletics will be honored. Banquet tickets are \$35 each and may be ordered by contacting Ken Tippet at the KHSAA (606)299-5472. A social hour will be held beginning at 6 p.m. (ET), with the banquet getting underway at 7 p.m.

Following is a listing of this year's inductees: Jim Beshears, James Brock, Mary Taylor Cowles, Travis Ford, Bob Hoggard, Allan Houston, Gary Ingraham, Harry Johnson, Marvin Meredith, Dawson Orman, W.B. Owen, Kaye Beard Potter, John Tong, Jerry Woolum.

NEW SECURITY AT KHSAA

Like many of our member schools, the KHSAA has been forced to address the security of its building. With new neighbors in our complex and our proximity to the interstate, police and security consultants advised that the office was primed for problems. At the request of the Board of Control, all KHSAA doors will be locked 24 hours per day, with entrance to the office only through the front glass doors near the public parking lot. We appreciate your patience while we go through the necessary changes and the new system is put into place.

EXECUTIVE ASST. COMMISSIONER DEVRIES OUT

Executive Assistant Commissioner Brigid DeVries will be out of the KHSAA office for two weeks beginning Tues., Feb. 22. Any calls or correspondence may be addressed to her

assistant, Phyllis Sallee, or to one of the other assistant commissioners.

DEAD PERIOD CHANGE APPROVED

The Kentucky Board of Education has given final approval to the change in Bylaw 26 proposed by the members last year, which sets the dead period at June 25 through July 9 each year, beginning with the 2000 summer dead period. No school funds can be expended (including travel to and from) for athletics from 12:01 a.m. on June 25 through 11:59 p.m. on July 9 each year. Please see Bylaw 26 for important interpretations regarding this rule.

TRACK/CROSS COUNTRY ALIGNMENT STATUS

In continuing its review of the alignment for Track and Cross Country, the Board of Control took further action at its January 13, 2000, meeting. The Board of Control took careful notice that more than eighty percent (80%) of its members who responded, favored the draft alignment system. The Board directed staff to bring back to its March meeting a final recommended alignment for Track and Cross Country based on the following criteria-

1. Track and Cross Country shall be divided into 3 classes for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years, with each having six regions and with each school being in the same alignment position in each sport;
2. Track shall continue to qualify (at a minimum, not including those that may meet qualifying standards) sixteen individuals in each event for the state meet, while the Cross Country qualification formula should not change;
3. The 1999-2000 membership numbers shall be used for the purpose of placing teams into regions;
4. No team would be permitted to change classes during the alignment period once adopted;
5. Staff is to use the boundaries created by the draft alignment to divide the classes.

FOOTBALL CAMP NOTICE

This is a reminder to football schools that the camp exception, Q&A in Bylaw 25, has been eliminated, returning the rule to its 1997 and before form. Now, like all other KHSAA sports, any scrimmaging/drill work/practice after the start of practice, against other team representatives, shall count as a scrimmage against the limit of two.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WEB

This is a reminder that the KHSAA website (www.khsaa.org) continues to expand and contains useful information. Open Job/Dates information, coaching education classes and medical symposium schedules are among the information available.

UPCOMING CLINICS SCHEDULE

SB – Feb. 16 – Barbourville HS, 6 p.m.
BA – Feb. 16 – Barbourville HS, 7:30 p.m.
SB – March 9 – Make-Up (\$50 Fine) – Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.
BA – March 9 – Make-Up (\$50 Fine) – Lexington, KHSAA Office, 3 p.m.
TR – March 29 – Lexington, KHSAA Office, 7 p.m.

KHSAA OFFICIAL BALL TO CHANGE TO RAWLINGS

As was approved at the January Board of Control meeting and announced in last month's Commissioner's Notes, Rawlings will become the official ball of the KHSAA in all sports beginning with the 2000-2001 school year.

Beginning with the fall of 2000-2001 school year, the following balls will be the adopted balls for postseason play in Kentucky in the listed sports - Volleyball (VBI 1000), Soccer (RebelDE), Football (ST5), Basketball (Leather, boys-edge+, girls-edge+ 28.5), Baseball (R200/R100, the R100 will be used in state play), and Softball (NFHS 12Y47L). The basketballs reflect a change from what was announced in the January Commissioner's Notes.

One of the many benefits Rawlings brings to the table is the fact that they have agreed to sell the balls to local dealers at a standard cost, eliminating the need for a lot of "shopping around" by the schools. Dealers desiring information and availability should contact Kentucky sales representative Dave Dickerson at (317)272-2052 or email him at ddickerson@rawlings.com.

Schools are reminded that the old balls will be legal for regular season play (as long as they have the NFHS authenticating mark) as the Board of Control does not mandate a specific ball for regular season play, and that surplus equipment can also be used at the non-varsity levels.

MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

The KHSAA web site includes the 1998 and 1999 attendance listings for the Medical Symposium (www.khsaa.org, then click Medical Symposium Information).

Each head coach in all KHSAA sports/activities (including cheer), in order to be eligible to coach in post season, must attend one of these meetings once every two years. New coaches hired after the last day of school for the 1998-99 school year can wait until the summer of 2000 to attend. This rule is strictly enforced through self-enforcement by member schools. After checking your roster of coaches, those deficient in this requirement should be self reported to the Association and appropriate penalty action will be taken.

STUDENT-ATHLETE GRADE CHECK REMINDER

This clarification involves student-athlete eligibility regarding Bylaw 5 - Minimum Academic Requirement (Page 10, 1999-2000 KHSAA Handbook). Grade checks should reflect the cumulative grade earned by the student at that particular point (each Friday) in the semester or officially recorded grading period. It is not the student-athlete's grade for each particular week. If a student-athlete is ineligible at the end of the grading period (each Friday), the athlete is ineligible until the next grading period when school is in session.

Q&A - May a student-athlete that was originally ineligible at the grade check period count intersession work to obtain

eligible status? No. Not if school is not in full session. The student-athlete shall remain ineligible until the next grade check when school is in full session.

KHSAA AND TITLE IX

Title IX manuals were given to each delegate in attendance at the KHSAA Annual Meeting in January. A copy was also given to the delegate for the school principal and Title IX coordinators in attendance received a copy of the instrument. Superintendents were mailed copies late January.

The KHSAA is in the process of contracting and training additional assistants to help in conducting the audits for Title IX compliance. By now each member school/district should have formed a gender equity review committee as was requested during the 1998-99 school year to work with the schools regarding equity within interscholastic athletic programs.

KHSAA representation is visiting member schools to assist and counsel school administrators and personnel on their compliance with Title IX.

The visits are a series in which 20% of the membership will be visited each year over the next five years. At each visit, a public meeting is also held to answer general questions, of school officials regarding their athletics program. KHSAA staff will also be present to answer questions on Title IX compliance.

One issue schools need to address and begin to change is the scheduling of "prime time" games for girls, especially in the sport of basketball.

Should anyone wish to purchase additional copies of the manual, contact Phyllis Sallee at the KHSAA (606)299-5472. Three-ring binder manuals are \$25 each or the insert is available for \$15.

NATIONAL FEDERATION SANCTIONING

This is a reminder that beginning with this school year (1999-2000) there are new procedures adopted by the National Federation for sanctioning out-of-state contests. Schools hosting are to complete the new sanctioning form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$50. The fee should be made payable to the National Federation and sent to the KHSAA. The KHSAA is responsible for forwarding the form and fee to the National Office. It is the responsibility of the host school to complete a sanction form and pay the processing fee when hosting out-of-state schools. Individual schools competing out-of-state are not responsible for the form. Please call the KHSAA with any questions.

ALL PARTIES SHOULD ATTEND APPEALS HEARINGS

Again, at the continued encouragement of the Board of Control and Staff, all parties involved in an appearance before the Hearing Officer should attend the appeal.

Attendance is encouraged to allow a school or individual(s) an opportunity to respond to statements made during the hearing.

COACHING EDUCATION ATTENDANCE INFORMATION AND CLASS SCHEDULE

On the KHSAA web site is the current list (through September) of those coaches who have completed all requirements for the coaching education program (www.khsaa.org, then click Coaching Education Information). Districts and schools are reminded that this is a pre-hire requirement, and prior to coaching in the first contest, all coaches must have attended. There is a period of time determined by the testing service to complete both exams. All coaches in a school (Level I or II) and all Level III non faculty assistants, with the exception of those teaching coaches (Level I) who have been on the school system faculty since 1995-96, must attend the course. This particular certification is permanent, so once the requirement has been completed, it is not necessary to be repeated if a coach changes districts.

In analyzing our first four years of this requirement, many coaches have taken the course, and yet failed to complete BOTH of the required examinations. These exams scores can also be checked on the KHSAA web site by using the same coaching education link. If a coach has passed the NFICEP test, but failed to complete the bylaws test, the coach may contact Julian Tackett or Vicky Fields at the KHSAA office for permission to re-take the bylaws test, however there will be a \$20 processing fee which is paid to the NFICEP office. If a coach has failed to pass the NFICEP test within the required time, the course must be taken again, with full payment of the fee required.

The most current information about upcoming course dates is always located on the KHSAA web site (same as above). If you have questions about the testing or past attendance of one or more of your coaches, contact Julian Tackett or Vicky Fields at the KHSAA. Please remember this is a pre-hire requirement with no provision for waiver.

NO PRACTICE/PLAY PRIOR TO BEING RULED ELIGIBLE

According to Bylaw 6, Sec. 3 – Period of Ineligibility, Students who are ineligible may not practice or play until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

Q/A - May a student who has transferred practice or play with the team prior to being ruled eligible? No. If a participant has transferred, and represented a member or non member school at the varsity level after enrolling in grade nine (9) thereby being subject to the rule, he/she is ineligible under the provisions of Bylaw 6 until the proper administrative channels have been completed including the KHSAA Form 6 being signed by the Commissioner. He/she may not try-out, practice, or participate in games or scrimmages until being ruled eligible, and minimum practice periods (i.e. ten days for football) do not begin accumulating until the ruling is complete. Ineligible persons practicing with the team jeopardize the insurance coverage of all participants and the liability coverages of the school, school system and individual coverages.