

# KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## *Commissioner's Notes*

April 24, 2000

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COACHES AND ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

### NEW AREA CODE

Please note that the area code for the Association changed effective April 1. The new area code is 859. Please make the appropriate changes to your files.

Phone: (859)299-5472

Fax: (859)293-5999

### NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will be May 16-17 at the KHSAA Office in Lexington. Contact the KHSAA or check the KHSAA internet site for a meeting agenda.

### 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.**

### 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](http://www.khsaa.org)).

### COUNT FOR BA/SB TOURNAMENTS

This is a reminder concerning the amendment to Bylaw 25 passed by the 1999 Delegate Assembly and 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 (859)299-5472.

### 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.

### ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT IN SOFTBALL

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association has eliminated the requirement to observe the hour and one-half time limit on KHSAA fast pitch softball games and the hour and one-quarter time limit on slow pitch softball games. No regular season varsity game may be terminated because of a time limit imposed on a game.

This policy affects regular season varsity games and is to begin with the 2000 season. This provision does not affect regular season "invitational" type tournaments. It does not affect junior varsity type competition since those games are usually played until it is too dark to continue.

If you have questions regarding the elimination of the time limit, contact Mr. Larry Boucher, Assistant Commissioner, at the KHSAA.

### FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

Beginning May 8, schools will be able to input their 2000 Football schedules through the KHSAA internet site ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)). Administrators will be required to use the password that the Association mailed to them late last year. This process will also allow for schools to make updates to their schedules and input their 2000-2001 basketball schedules at a later date. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Asst. Commissioner Julian Tackett or Butch Cope.

### TEAM PHOTOS

This is a reminder that team photos for slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball and baseball were due to the Association April 17. Many school have yet to submit their team photos. To avoid a possible fine, please make sure the photos are received by the Association by May 5. In addition, please remember that faxed copies or laser printouts of the photos are not accepted.

### SCHEDULES FOR SEEDDED DISTRICTS

Schools are reminded as you make your schedules out for next year in basketball, baseball, softball and soccer that there are scheduling restrictions if you are in a seeded district. In accordance with the tournament rules in each sport, all games which are used in calculating the seed position in a district SHALL be played prior to the district meeting, which cannot be held any later than two weeks prior to the start of postseason play. For example, if you are in a seeded basketball district using won-lost record as a seed criteria, all district games are to be played on or before February 10, 2001. Delays in scheduling these games have led to problems with the KHSAA and

postseason managers and their tournament preparation and it is for that and many other reasons that this rule is in place.

#### **NEW SPONSOR FOR SPORTSMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Association is very pleased to announce that First Southern National Bank has become the sponsor for the Sportsmanship Recognition Scholarships. Mr. Jim Rousey, C.E.O. of First Southern National stated, "We are happy to be part of a program that does the right thing for the right reasons with the right attitude." Through the program, there is a \$2,500 scholarship awarded to one male and one female winner each year.

#### **FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET SET**

This year's fast pitch softball tournament will be held June 9-10 at Skyview Park in Jeffersontown. The draw for the double-elimination tournament was held on April 18. A complete bracket can be found on the KHSAA internet site. Following are the match-ups for the first round of this year's tournament:

*(Bracket Reads Top-To-Bottom - All Times Eastern)*

Fri., June 9

Game 1: Region 1 vs. Region 2 – 9 a.m.

Game 2: Region 15 vs. Region 5 – 9 a.m.

Game 3: Region 6 vs. Region 16 – 9 a.m.

Game 4: Region 3 vs. Region 7 – 11 a.m.

Game 5: Region 4 vs. Region 11 – 11 a.m.

Game 6: Region 14 vs. Region 12 – 11 a.m.

Game 7: Region 9 vs. Region 8 – 1 p.m.

Game 8: Region 10 vs. Region 13 – 1p.m.

#### **STATE BASEBALL FINALS**

The draw for the State Baseball Finals, scheduled for June 15-16, at the University of Kentucky's Cliff Hagan Stadium in Lexington has been held. Following is the bracket for the State Baseball semifinals and final:

*(Bracket Reads Top-To-Bottom - All Times Eastern)*

Thurs., June 15

Semi-State 2 Champion vs. Semi-State 4 Champion, 5 p.m.

Semi-State 3 Champion vs. Semi-State 1 Champion, 7 p.m.

Fri., June 16

State Championship, 6 p.m.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WEB**

This is a reminder that the KHSAA website ([www.khsaa.org](http://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. Also linked to the KHSAA site is the National Federation site which includes rules interpretations for the various sports.

#### **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.

#### **BEECHWOOD PENALIZED FOR ILLEGAL PLAYER**

Beechwood High School has been penalized by the KHSAA for the use of an ineligible player in baseball for violations of the KHSAA pitching limitations. A Beechwood pitcher pitched seven innings on a Saturday, and was allowed to enter the game as a pitcher on the next Tuesday without the required rest. According to KHSAA Asst. Commissioner Julian Tackett, "the pitching rule is fairly straight forward and it specifies the amount of rest required given how much a pitcher throws."

The KHSAA pitching rule is contained on page 55 of the current Handbook, and can be found on the KHSAA web site in the tournament rules under baseball. "Many coaches are under the mistaken impression that the counting resets every Monday, which is not correct. A pitcher must have the mandatory rest in the best interests of the student's health." Schools that are having trouble with an accurate tracking mechanism can download KHSAA Form BA101 from the KHSAA web site, either through the forms page or the baseball page.

Beechwood was fined and ordered to forfeit the game in which the pitcher threw illegally, which in fact was a seeded district game. "Other penalties were possible," Tackett added, "however, Beechwood was quick to self-report the violation, so additional penalties were not considered". All administrators are urged to make certain their coaches comply with these safety provisions.

#### **SPRING SPORT INFORMATION SENT TO MANAGERS**

The KHSAA has sent spring sports championships information to managers, with the last ones being mailed on Monday, April 24. Managers who have not received information should contact the staff member responsible for that sport.

#### **ALIGNMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN MAY**

The Board of Control will consider alignments in track, cross country and football in May. The Track and Cross Country alignment is scheduled for final adoption for the 2000-2001 school year while the Board will be considering preliminary proposals and reports for football at that meeting prior to distribution to the schools.

#### **MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION**

The KHSAA web site includes the 1998 and 1999 attendance listings for the Medical Symposium ([www.khsaa.org](http://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.



### **KHSAA OFFICIAL BALL TO CHANGE TO RAWLINGS**

As was approved at the January Board of Control meeting and announced in January'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 (KYVBI 1000B), Soccer (KYSB905B), Football (ST5KYB), Boys' Basketball (Composite, wide-seam-COMPKYB), Girls' Basketball (Composite, wide-seam-COMPKY285B), Baseball (R200KY/R100KY, the R100KY will be used in state play), and Softball (NFKY 12Y47L).

Please use the above ball numbers when placing your orders. These numbers were provided by Rawlings to assist you in purchasing the correct ball.

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.

### **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**

The KHSAA and its representatives continue to conduct visits to member schools for counsel on adhering to Title IX. 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 KHSAA Title IX manual, contact Phyllis Sallee at the KHSAA (859)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.

### **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.

*Q1A - 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, 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. 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 a// participants and the liability coverages of the school, school system and individual coverages.*

### **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](http://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 contests, 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 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 at the KHSAA. Please remember this is a pre-hire requirement with no provision for waiver.