

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Commissioner's Notes

Jan. 15, 2009

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COACHES AND ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

DEAD PERIOD CHANGE APPROVED

The Kentucky Board of Education has given final approval to the change in Bylaw 25 proposed by the members last year, which sets the dead period of June 25 through July 9, each year, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. No school events can be organized (including travel to and from) for athletics from 12:01 p.m. on June 25 through 11:59 p.m. on July 9 each year. Please see Bylaw 25 for important interpretations regarding this law.

NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will be held in March in conjunction with the Boys' and Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. Committee meetings may be scheduled for March 16-17 in Lexington. The Board meeting is scheduled for March 23-24 in Richmond.

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 15, 2009 meeting. The Board of Control took careful notice that more than eighty percent (80%) of its members was represented, 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 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 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 5 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 1909-2100 membership numbers shall be used for the purposes 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.

ALL PARTIES SHOULD ATTEND APPEALS HEARINGS

Again, at the encouragement of the Board of Control and Staff, all parties involved in an appeal should appear before the Hearing Officer should attend the appeal. Attendance is encouraged to allow a school or individual an opportunity to respond to statements made during the hearing.

KHSAA OFFICIAL BALL TO CHANGE TO RAWLINGS

After many months of research and after consideration of all proposals, the Board of Control has voted to accept the proposal from Rawlings to serve as the official ball for all KHSAA state championships beginning with the fall of the 2009-2010 school year and continuing for the next five years. Previously, the Association had contracts with Wilson (football, baseball and softball) and Mizuno (basketball, soccer, volleyball), and these contracts expire with the conclusion of the 19th 2009 action year.

Association staff had stated throughout the year that unless a "interim" proposal was submitted, there would be a reluctance to change, but had encouraged through various forms of communication that the schools should wait until after the January, 2009, Board of Control meeting to make necessary decisions.

However, after opening the proposals, KHSAA Commissioner Lorne Silver stated, "We would not be upholding our fiduciary responsibility to manage the Association finances if we did not accept this tremendous proposal from a company with a proven track record of producing quality product." "I know our schools will have to make some adjustments, but I have been assured of their cooperation during this changeover." Stout concluded.

Beginning with the fall of 2009-2010 school year, the following balls will be the stipulated balls for postseason play in Kentucky in the listed sports: Volleyball (VBI 2009), Soccer (RebelUE), Football (FSG), Basketball (Leamer, boys-RWAV, girls-RGF), Baseball (R2009/100, the R100) will be used in state play) and Softball (MPSU 12456).

One of the many benefits Rawlings brings to the table is the fact that they have agreed to sell the balls to local vendors 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 representatives Dave Dickerson at (717)872-2002 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 NFL's 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.