

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Commissioner's Notes

June 21, 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

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NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will be July 19-20 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.

THREE-PERSON OFFICIATING FOR BK POSTSEASON

The Board of Control voted at its May meeting to continue the three-person basketball experiment for the 2000-2001 season. Schools are reminded that usage of three-person crews is OPTIONAL during the regular season, but will be utilized exclusively in the post season. A survey as to the feelings concerning the first year of the project as well as ideas for improvement is being distributed to the membership (through the Principal) at this time.

BLUEGRASS STATE GAMES – VB/SO LIMITATIONS

Q/A - Are there any exceptions to the Limitation of Seasons for the Bluegrass State Games?

Yes, the Commissioner and Board of Control have previously ruled that any play by teams in fall sports (volleyball and soccer) is not subject to the scrimmage limitations and coaching restrictions. High school teams together with their coach(es) may participate in the Bluegrass State Games and such play shall not count against the two scrimmage limitation. Volleyball and soccer are the only sports for which this exception has been addressed.

KHSAA TITLE IX AUDIT FORMS

All audit document forms and information are due in to the Association by June 30, 2000. This includes:

1) GE 19 Form (signed by the principal, superintendent, school board chair and others)

2) Student Interest survey results (summary only)

3) KHSAA Audit Document Information (summary forms, team forms, additional documentation when necessary, corrective action plan)

FINAL C-NOTES ISSUE

This will be the final issue of the Commissioner's Notes for the 1999-2000 school year. Publication resume in August for the 2000-20001 school year.

CLARIFICATION ON TIME LIMIT ISSUE

Recently, the KHSAA Board of Control discussed the issue of time limits in spring sports, particularly baseball and softball. Previously this year, all schools were notified that there are to be no time limits for varsity softball and that previous time limit restrictions have now sunset. Following this announcement, the discussion then turned to time limits on non-varsity play.

After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to issue a communication to the local policy boards for dissemination to the schools and officiating organizations within the regions which states – Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for baseball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of fast pitch softball. Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for fast pitch softball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of baseball. In addition, non-varsity pay schedules for comparable levels of baseball and fast pitch softball should be the same.

Please make sure you discuss this information at one or more of your upcoming meetings as you make plans for 2000-2001. It might also interest you to note that for the 2001 playing season, the pay scale for fast pitch umpires will mirror that of baseball umpires as published in the 1999-2000 Handbook.

BYLAW 4 CLARIFICATION – FB/SO/WR

Recently, the Commissioner was asked to issue a ruling concerning students who are enrolled in grades below 9 and their involvement in varsity game activities in football, soccer and wrestling. This has become an insurance issue as well as potentially, an issue regarding the recruitment of student-athletes. Therefore, the following shall be published in the 2000-2001 Handbook as it relates to those students below grade nine.

Q/A – Can a student who is enrolled in a feeder school to a member school dress in the game uniform and / or participate in warm-up activities before and during varsity football, soccer and wrestling contests?

No. Neither students enrolled in feeder schools (under the same local Board of Education) nor enrolled in other schools may wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities prior to, during or after a varsity contest in the sports of football, soccer or wrestling. Only those students duly enrolled in the member school and at the 9th grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area.

BYLAW 4 CLARIFICATION – STUDENTS HOLDING BACK

The Annual Meeting passed a rule change in January 2000 that goes into effect in July 2001. Part of this rule states that the four-year period for eligibility will now begin from the first PROMOTION of the student out of grade eight, rather than the first enrollment in grade nine. Due to this change, school administrators should educate parents and students that holding back following promotion from grade eight after the 2000-2001 school year will force that student to lose one year of eligibility at the high school level. Those decisions regarding holding back students must now be made at a younger age when there is less emphasis on athletics in the decision making process. In addition, schools can use the text of OAG 82-473, an attorney general's opinion that basically states that promotion is a school decision, and not solely to the discretion of the parent.

BYLAW 5 REMINDER – SUMMER SCHOOL

Irrespective of what a student did last semester, last year, etc., the first day of school in 2000-2001 that person must be on target to graduate based on the number of credits earned and years enrolled since grade nine. This table for verification is on page 11 of the 1999-2000 Handbook and is contained in Bylaw 5. The mere fact that a student failed a previous semester, etc. is not relevant to the rule on that day. It should be noted that all summer school and correspondence work shall have been completed (including receipt of the summer school / correspondence grade) by the first day of school for the student body.

It is also important to note that if a student was not passing by virtue of the weekly grade checks (Bylaw 5, Section 2) at the end of the school year, then that student cannot regain eligibility until at least one Friday has passed in the 2000-2001 school year and satisfactory progress is being made in four hours of class (Bylaw 5, Section 2) or until the first day of school if the student is making normal progress (Bylaw 5, Section 1). This could have an impact on fall sports participants for play held before the start of school. This is also critical in light of the next reminder.

BYLAW 11 AMENDMENT REMINDER

Bylaw 11 was amended by the 1999 Annual Meeting and its changes go into effect July 15, 2000. One of those changes states

Unless ineligible due to the provisions of Bylaw 11 (Sportsmanship, having been ejected from a contest), any student who is not eligible for competition during a

team's next contest/meet/match/game shall not practice with the team.

This is important to note in light of sports whose practice or play may begin prior to the start of school. Beginning this year, a student ineligible by virtue of the weekly grade check provisions (or for any other reason other than an unsportsmanlike ejection) cannot practice with the team.

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. 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.

“OPEN GYM” CLARIFICATIONS

The Board of Control requested the following clarifications, as printed in the KHSAA Handbook, be reemphasized to the member schools. Please take note and should you have any questions, please contact the KHSAA Office.

Q/A 2 - What is the Association ruling on Out of Season play and practice?

What is an "Open Gym / Field"? "Open Gym / Field" is defined as the school making its gymnasium or athletic field available for free play by any member of the public and/or student body. The availability of the open gym/field must be made public through public address announcements, media advisories, etc. and cannot be restricted to members of a particular team.

What is an organized practice? For interpretation purposes, an organized practice would be a practice of the squad or potential squad members, in the presence of a member of that sport's coaching staff, in which skills are taught, refined, practiced, evaluated or observed. Tryouts are considered to be part of organized practice and must be held during the official practice period spelled out in Bylaw 25.

Can players be assigned to teams in an Open Gym/Field? No, students may not be assigned to teams or groups, and play is to be open to all students and not required of the student-athletes.

Can the coach be present? NO. No coach of any level of a team in that sport within in the school may be in the gym/field during the open gym/field period if any sport specific skill is being taught, refined, developed, evaluated or observed. Under no circumstances may a member of the coaching staff play against or with the students involved in the open gym/field. This does not preclude the supervision of such non sports-specific activities as running and weight lifting.

Can the coach perform any coaching duties during the non-play period (outside of the limitation of seasons as defined

for each sport)? NO, though the coach's presence may not indicate any improper action, it does contribute greatly to the perception of an illegal practice session and an attendance requirement.

How does a school publicize "Open Gym/Field?"
Announcements in the school paper, notices in the local newspapers, public address announcements and posted printed announcements can be utilized to publicize the open gym/field. In each of these mechanisms, it should be clear that the announcement includes the fact that it is voluntary and open to the entire student body.

Can the squad members execute plays, offenses, etc. on their own? If the persons participating in the open gym/field happen to be members of the squad, they are free to play as they wish. They are not to be directed by any member of the coaching staff nor should they be evaluated, praised, or criticized for their efforts by staff members.

What about insurance coverage for Open Field/Gym? The KHSAA catastrophic plan does not cover student athletes participating in open gym/field. All coverage would revert to the school's coverage, or the coverage by the individual student-athletes and his/her family.

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.

IMPORTANT VOLLEYBALL DATES

July 15, 2000 - First day official high school practice
Aug. 14, 2000 - First date of high school competition
Oct. 9-14, 2000 - District Tournaments – Double Elimination
Oct. 16-21, 2000 - Regional Tournaments – Single Elimination
Oct. 27-28, 2000 - State Tournament, Site TBA

UPCOMING CLINIC SCHEDULE

(Through September 7)

FB – August 1 – London, North Laurel HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 2 – Pikeville, HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 3 – Ashland, Boyd County HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 4 – Frankfort, Capitol Plaza Hotel, 6 p.m.

SO – August 5 – Lake Barkley State Park, Convention Center, 11 a.m.

SO – August 6 – Bowling Green, WKU Tate Page Hall Auditorium, 2 p.m.

SO – August 7 – Elizabethtown HS, 7 p.m.

VB – August 8 – Lexington, KHSAA Office, 7 p.m.

FB – August 8 – Madisonville, Madisonville-North Hopkins HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 8 – Erlanger, St. Henry HS, 7 p.m.

VB – August 9 – Louisville, Eastern HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 9 – Mayfield HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 9 – Somerset, Pulaski County, 7 p.m.

VB – August 10 – Fort Thomas, Highlands HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 10 – Bowling Green HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 10 – Louisville, TBA, 7 p.m.

FB – August 13 – Elizabethtown HS, 3 p.m.

VB – August 14 – Owensboro, Daviess County HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 14 – Grayson, East Carter HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 15 – Louisville, Christian Academy HS, 7 p.m.

SO – August 15 – Lexington Catholic HS, 7 p.m.

VB – August 16 – Paintsville HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 16 – Newport HS, 7 p.m.

FB – August 17 – Lexington, Paul Dunbar HS, 7 p.m.

GF – August 23 – Owensboro, Ben Hawes State Park, 6:30 p.m.

GF – August 24 – Northern Kentucky, Alexandria, A.J. Jolly Golf Course, 6:30 p.m.

GF – August 31 – Paducah-Paxton Golf Course, 6:30 p.m.

GF – September 6 – Louisville, Seneca golf Course, 6:30 p.m.

GF – September 7 – Winchester Country Club, 6:30 p.m.