



COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

DECEMBER 16, 2002

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



The fall sports season is over concluding in fine fashion with great State Football Championship games. Thanks go to all of the football players, coaches, and officials for making this event one of our best ever. The loyal parents and fans who supported the teams all year are to be commended for their dedication. We are also thankful for the spectator turnout in spite of less than ideal weather conditions.

Appreciation goes to the entire state football playoff staff including many of the Athletic Directors from Louisville who were instrumental in the success of this event.

Have a safe and fun filled holiday season and we will see you next year!

REMINDER ABOUT COACHING EDUCATION

As Spring approaches, the KHSAA would like to take this opportunity to remind the member schools that all Level 1 and Level 2 head and assistant coaches who were not on the faculty at their current school in 1995-96 are required to successfully complete the NFHS Coaching Education Program.

Completion of the course means not only attending the class, but successfully passing both exams. Once the course has been taken and testing has been successfully completed, there are no further requirements for the Coaching Principals Course.

Those individuals that do not meet the requirements of a Level 1 or 2 coach do not have to complete the course, as they are not "coaches", and are not able to be involved with the high school program without the constant supervision and direction of the Level 1 or 2 coach.

BYLAW 25 LIMITATION OF SEASONS (SPRING SPORTS)

Schools are reminded that there is a limitation as to the number of contests that may be played during the regular season. These regular season limits must be observed. Inclusive within these limits are regular season tournaments or competition, both in-state and out-of-state. Schools violating the provisions of these limitations may not be eligible for post season competition or may be otherwise penalized.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT TRANSFERRING STUDENTS AND KHSAA BYLAW 6

School representatives involved in the transfer process should be aware of a couple of important points related to KHSAA Bylaw 6 that continue to potentially cause problems.

Parental involvement in transfer process

Parents and other student representatives should not be involved in the paper work process of filling out and submitting transfers. Reports have been given to the office that the receiving school representatives are completing portions of transfer forms, and then asking the parents to get the information from the sending school, or honoring parental insistence that the parents be allowed to be involved in the process. This is contrary to KHSAA policies, and should not be allowed. This is a simple administrative process that KHSAA Bylaws specify and should be strictly between member school representatives.

Releasing of students

Many of our coaches and school representatives continue to tell students that they will "release" them to play for another school. This is misleading to the students and/or the parents, and undermines the entire transfer process. School representatives should insist to parents that the process is simply administrative in nature, and that school representatives do not have authority to "release" student/athletes once they have played varsity for a member school.

Effective date of transfer information

An important clarification in the transfer rule was codified this year when a change to Bylaw 6 went into full effect. The information relative to a transferring student is the information in place on the date the student enrolls at the new school. This year, many representatives have potentially misinformed parents by telling them they can move after enrollment, custody change, divorce, etc. The effective date of the information is the date of enrollment and factors considered in making a decision are based on the circumstances as of that date.

NHFS POSITION ON SUPPLEMENTS

The KHSAA receives many inquiries through the year regarding food supplements and the ability of our student athletes to use them. Though there is no official separate KHSAA position, the Association has adopted the NFHS position on food and/or nutrition supplements. For the full text of the reiterated NFHS position, see; http://www.nfhs.org/press/supplement_concern.html

CORRESPONDING DATES CHANGE

During the 2001-2002 school year, changes and clarifications were approved to the KHSAA long range scheduling calendar that placed the cross country championship first, followed by soccer, and concluding with volleyball, allowing for three consecutive weekends of competition, in KHSAA fall sports. This change followed a lengthy discussion with various sports committees and related parties, and in particular, followed input from the membership who had students participating in more than one event at the same time. This also helps ensure that each of these sports and its participants, have the "center stage" as the primary event in high school sports in the Commonwealth during their championship event.

Following the distribution of that information, the Association received considerable feedback from the membership. Several issues have surfaced since that time, some of which were neither envisioned nor problematic when the change was first considered. Among those issues are:

- Cross country conducting its championship first creates a situation where the sport with the longest of the three seasons (cross country), would be running its first regular season meet in early August. This issue was exacerbated by the adoption of the KMA Heat Guidelines as a recommendation for all of our schools. These guidelines allow for the removal of equipment at certain heat indices, however, in cross country, this would lead to cancellation of more competitions as there is little or no equipment to remove;
- In addition, evidence from the cross country coaches and schools leads staff to conclude that the weather for the championship meet, once thought to be a major criterion for this decision, is of relatively little importance;
- Volleyball is played indoors and is largely unaffected by the Heat Index recommendations at this time;
- A large number of coaches in programs where students play both volleyball and basketball have replied that some students may be forced into making choices between the sports, rather than competing in both. While the staff contends that similar conflicts have always existed for football and basketball on the boys' side, this argument appears to have validity given the Association's recent emphasis on female opportunities;
- Playing regular season volleyball a couple of weeks earlier could help many districts in the conflict over time schedule and facility problems that exist in the fall, particularly in districts where many teams use the same in-door facility;

Even with the proposed change, original staff objectives can be met. As a refresher, those objectives were;

- Eliminate the conflict between state events being held at the same time in different parts of the state;
- Protect the scheduling of the KHSAA soccer tournament, a long standing schedule of playing the finals

during the first Saturday in November;

- Maintain the current sports season for all three sports, in terms of length of season and number of contests;

In addition, the wrestling schools and committee recommend the movement of the wrestling season one week later, with no change in length of number of matches, for the following reasons:

- Recent National Federation Rule Changes mandating strict weight control have placed Kentucky's wrestling program in a problematic situation due to the large number of football competitors who also compete in wrestling;
- The movement of the State Tournament would allow the same length season, with the same number of matches, without regard to this move;
- The movement of the championship, based on historical data, would minimize if not eliminate the conflict between the swimming and wrestling championships, placing the wrestling meet into its own time slot, immediately prior to the District basketball tournaments.

The complete listing was sent electronically to all affected principals, athletic directors and coaches on Wed. Nov. 20, and is currently posted on the KHSAA website.

REMAINING 2002-2003 KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT DATES & SITES

Feb. 20-22	Wrestling	Convention Complex, Frankfort
Feb. 21-22	Swimming	UK Lancaster Aquatic Center
March 19-22	Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
March 26-29	Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
May 9-10	Slow Pitch Softball	TBA
May 29-31	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/Downing Lexington
May 30-31	Boys' & Girls' Track	UK Shively Track, Lexington
June 13-14	Fast Pitch Softball	Tie-Breaker Park, Hopkinsville
June 18-21	Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington

SCHOOL UPDATES

Please remember to keep your school information current on the KHSAA website. To make changes to your school directory via the KHSAA web site (www.khsaa.org) use the "Member Schools Only" link and your passcode.

DELEGATE MEETING CHANGES

This is a reminder regarding the Jan. 8, 2003 Annual Delegate Meeting.

Due to the time necessary for approval of proposed changes at the KHSAA Delegate Meeting, voting will not be conducted at this year's meeting. This is in accordance with Constitution changes approved by the membership.

Voting will now be conducted at the Annual Meeting every-other year. Voting on rules changes will next be conducted at the January, 2004 meeting, unless the Board of Control approves the submission of a referendum. In essence, the deadline for any changes to be voted on would be December 1, 2003. Proposals received prior to that time, will be considered during the January, 2004 Annual Meeting for consideration.

The current approval process begins with voting at the Delegate meeting. Once approved by the member school delegates, changes are sent on to the Board of Control and the Kentucky Department of Education for approval and submitted to the Legislative Research Commission for final acceptance and implementation in to the KHSAA Handbook.

The KDE process requires two readings at separate meetings for review by the Kentucky Board of Education, as does the LRC process. This total timeline sometimes takes as much as 18 months due to the meetings, creating a situation where member schools could be proposing potential changes to rules that have yet to be accepted by the KDE and placed in the KHSAA Handbook.

The KHSAA staff and Board of Control have been working diligently to formulate an Annual Meeting that will continue to be professional development for our delegates. This will entail breakout sessions in the morning as well as workshops. This is the tentative format for the 2003 meeting, which has received EILA numbers and approval.

The 2003 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 8, 2003 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington. The KHSAA Student Leadership Conference will be held Wed., Jan. 15, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington.

REMAINING RULES CLINIC SCHEDULES

Following is a listing of remaining in-season rules clinics. To view a full listing of clinics in all sports, go to the KHSAA website at www.khsaa.org.

TRACK

(All start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

1/13	Covington Catholic HS
1/14	London, South Laurel HS
1/27	Cecilia, Central Hardin HS
2/3	Ashland, Boyd Co. HS
2/10	Bowling Green HS
4/2	Lexington, KHSAA Office
4/21	Make-Up (\$50 Fine), Lexington, KHSAA Office

BASEBALL

(All start at listed time)

1/25	Louisville, Executive Inn Hotel (w/ Coaches Conference), TBA
1/26	London, North Laurel HS, 4:30 p.m.
2/2	Bowling Green HS, 4:30 p.m.
2/3	Cadiz, Trigg Co. HS, 7:30 p.m.
2/12	Florence, Boone Co. HS, 7:30 p.m.
2/15	Paintsville, Johnson Central HS, 9 a.m.
2/16	Elizabethtown HS, 3 p.m.
2/26	Lexington, Henry Clay HS, 7:30 p.m.
4/16	Make-Up (\$50 Fine) Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

(All start at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

1/26	London, North Laurel HS, 3 p.m.
2/2	Bowling Green HS, 3 p.m.
2/3	Cadiz, Trigg Co. HS
2/5	Louisville, Christian Academy HS
2/12	Florence, Boone Co. HS
2/15	Paintsville, Johnson Central HS, 10:30 a.m.
2/19	Bardstown, Nelson Co. HS
2/26	Lexington, Henry Clay HS
4/9	Make-Up (\$50 Fine) Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.