



COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

MAY/JUNE, 2003

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



There are lots of exciting things going on involving the KHSAA community as the school year comes to a close.

Special thanks go to 2002-03 president Eddie Saylor for his leadership as president of the KHSAA.

Congratulations go to Paul Dotson of Belfry who was elected Board of Control president for the upcoming 2003-04 school year, and Jim Sexton, principal of Eastern High School in Louisville was elected vice-president.

The Board approved a \$2.7 million operating budget for the Association for 2003-04 that included the continuation of the catastrophic insurance program for its member school students-athletes during the playing season at a cost of nearly \$140,000.

In addition the BOC again authorized direct payment of trophy expenses for regional competition in golf, cross country, swimming, wrestling, tennis and track for more than \$30,000.

As the school year comes to a close, here's hoping you had a great year.

Enjoy the summer!

SCHOOLS REMINDED OF CRITICAL NEED TO UPDATE INFORMATION

At this time of year, administrators and coaches are changing schools, retiring, moving to other careers, etc. This is a critical time for the KHSAA to keep its information up to date about your school.

If you are leaving your school, please take the time to update your information one last time by going through the Members Only Link on the KHSAA web site (<http://www.khsaa.org/memberschoolpage.html>) and update the information as of now.

Much effort has been expended by staff and the member schools over the last year in making sure of the accuracy of the information, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you need password assistance, contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA (mmitchell@khsaa.org).

KHSAA STATE FOOTBALL FINALS MOVING TO PAPA JOHN'S STADIUM

The Board of Control of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association unanimously voted May 21 to move the 2003 and 2004 State Football Finals from the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center's Cardinal Stadium to the University of Louisville's Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

The move is contingent on U of L completing installation of a new artificial surface. Should the surface not be installed in time, the games would remain at the KFEC.

"Papa John's Cardinal Stadium is a first-class venue and we look forward to continued support from the City of Louisville and the University of Louisville in continuing to make this a great two-day event for everyone," Commissioner DeVries concluded.

The city and the Greater Louisville Sports Commission were awarded the event in 2000 for three years. The 2003 games were to be the final year of a three-year deal with a one-year extension.

"We have enjoyed a great relationship over the years with Harold Workman, Debbie Burda and rest of the staff and the Board of the KFEC. We are eternally grateful for all they have done for all of our student-athletes and fans that have attended the State Football Finals at the KFEC over the years," KHSAA Commissioner Brigid DeVries said. "The KFEC has continued to work with our Association in providing the best environment for our football finals from installation of new artificial turf to the time and hard work by its staff in snow removal prior to this past year's finals.

"It is great to see all three groups (KHSAA, UofL and KFEC) working together and allowing a situation to provide what is best for our Association, added DeVries.

Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, which opened in 1998 at a cost of \$63 million, is a state-of-the art facility with a seating capacity of 42,500. It will be the seventh venue to host a KHSAA State Football Championship game.

Previous State Football Championship games have been played at Manual Stadium (Louisville), WKU Field (Bowling Green), Commonwealth Stadium (Lexington), Stoll Field (Lexington), ECU Hanger Field (Richmond) and KFEC Cardinal Stadium (Louisville).

The Fair & Exposition Center's Cardinal Stadium had been home to the four class championship games since 1979 and for 24 years overall. Since the adoption of a four class system in 1975, all but one (1976 - Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington) of the Class AAAA Championship games have been played in the facility.

REMINDER TO RETIRING/REHIRED COACHES

The KHSAA recently sought additional clarification from the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System and the Kentucky Department of Education regarding coaches who retire from teaching positions but whose schools choose to re-hire them as coaches, and it is important to keep a few details in mind.

1. A coach moving from a teaching position (who also coached) to coaching-exclusive duties becomes a Level II coach for the purpose of KHSAA Bylaws. This may require (if the coach hasn't already completed this task) the coach to go through the National Federation Coaching Education Program in accordance with Bylaw 27.
2. If the coach continues coaching-exclusive duties, the position may or may not be "vacant" as it relates to the need to advertise the position and allow all interested parties to apply. Local district policies will guide this clarification. If for example, all coaching positions are automatically terminated at the end of a year, then they all may be "vacant" depending upon how the local policy is written. If coaching positions are basically continual unless notice is given otherwise, they the positions probably are not "vacant" and do not need advertising, etc. unless the local policies require such posting. Consult your local school district office for these clarifications.
3. In addition, a coach who has retired from teaching and immediately begins coaching-exclusive duties at the same school is not subject to the mandatory period of dormancy from employment in the same district. This important clarification from KTRS allows districts to continue meeting the needs of its schools without worries about these laws. However, each coach should consult the Retirement System for the best options in that coach's given circumstances.

OWENSBORO TO HOST FAST PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP

The City of Owensboro and Jack Fisher Park were awarded the 2004 and 2005 KHSAA Fast Pitch Softball Championship Tournaments. Owensboro has hosted the event four previous times, twice at Fisher Park and twice at Panther Creek Park.

The first two KHSAA State Fast Pitch Tournaments were played at Jack Fisher Park back in 1995 and 1996.

Hopkinsville, site of this year's KHSAA Fast Pitch Championship Tournament and Jeffersontown, also a previous host, also submitted proposals to host the event.

VOLLEYBALL "RALLY SCORING" APPROVED

For the school year 2003-2004, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association will use "rally scoring" in the sport of Volleyball. The system that will be used for 2003-04 will be best two (2) out of three (3) games to 25 points (win by two points) with a cap at thirty (30) (once tied at 30, the next team that scores wins). The third game, if necessary, will be to fifteen (15) points with no cap (must win by two points).

This format for scoring volleyball must be used at all varsity level contests during the 2003-04 season. If preferred, this procedure for "rally scoring" may be used at the junior varsity and freshman levels. For the 2004-05 season, the KHSAA will adopt all applicable National Federation of High School volleyball rule changes.

All other NFHS rule changes for the 2003-04 season will be explained in detail at the 2003-04 KHSAA Volleyball Rules Clinics. Dates and sites for the 2003-04 KHSAA Rules Clinics may be found on the KHSAA Website (www.khsaa.org). Please make note that all volleyball head coaches and officials must attend one of these KHSAA sponsored rules clinics to be eligible for participation in post season play.

Volleyball Rule Books for the 2003-04 season will be mailed from the KHSAA the first week of July, 2003. Rule books will be sent to all licensed officials and to Athletic Directors at all volleyball playing schools.

REMINDER ABOUT SUMMER START OF PRACTICE AND ELIGIBILITY

School representatives are reminded that prior to any PRACTICE OR PLAY by a student athlete, in the sport that began official practice August 15, that athlete must be eligible at that time.

This includes restrictions on transferring students who are subject to Bylaw 6, as well as all other applicable KHSAA rules concerning age, academics and enrollment. Each summer, the fall sports coaches are often caught in a situation where students "pop up" and the coach's inclination is to immediately allow practice with the squad.

It is imperative that administrators ensure that all eligibility rules are followed, even during the summer months. No local district policy may supersede or overrule this important reminder.

SCHOOLS REMINDED OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

With the recent changes to the KHSAA Constitution, member schools are reminded of the lengthy process to change Association rules.

1. To initiate a change in the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Association, a member school Principal or Designated Representative must submit the proposal in writing by December 1 of each odd numbered year in order for it to be considered at the next Annual Meeting. KHSAA Staff will then consult with the author on final language to ensure consistency with other parts of the Handbook and the final copies are then approved by the author. All proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Control and legal counsel, and unless they are deemed illegal (contrary to statute or contradictory to the Federal Court Order of 1971/1987), are placed on the Annual Meeting Agenda.
2. In addition, the Board of Control is charged via 702 KAR 7:065 with annually reviewing its Constitution and Bylaws and is directed by that regulation to propose any necessary amendments. At the discretion of the Board of Control, issues brought by the membership may become proposals presented as authored by the Board, if the issue is such that the Board, by majority, feels compelled to take ownership and endorse passage.
3. Once approved for placement on the Agenda, the proposals are to be distributed to the membership in time for review prior to the Annual Meeting voting session. Proposals require a 2/3 vote of those answering the roll in order to be approved for passage.
4. After consideration, the Board of Control is required by 702 KAR 7:065 to issue its own opinion and recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education as to whether or not the change should be implement, and such is generally done at a meeting of the Board on the day following voting.

In addition, the KHSAA must annually be designated by the Kentucky Board of Education as the entity to manage interscholastic athletics. This designation is a multi-tiered process, which usually begins at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the membership (normally January).

1. The Kentucky Board of Education considers a regulatory amendment at that time which not only designates the Association as the entity to manage, but adopts its rules and regulations as part

of 702 KAR 7:065, giving them the force of law and allowing them to be defended in court. The first step, is an intent to amend and adopt, then it must be considered at a second meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education for final approval (generally, two months later).

2. Following that approval and the inevitable final refinements of the regulatory language, the regulation is submitted to the Legislative Research Commission, whose timetable must then be followed for adoption. Part of that timetable involves the opportunity for public input, and two meetings spaced approximately six to eight weeks apart for their approval.

For these reasons, and given this timetable, proposals considered in January do not have time to be stepped through the legislative process and implemented by the start of the next school year, hence the Constitution provision which states that the rules are implemented the second year after passage. While this long, cumbersome process seems slow, it is absolutely imperative that the process be properly adhered to if the Association is to enforce and defend the very rules the members pass. It also is seen as a deterrent to quick, reactionary proposals which may need careful and arduous consideration prior to voting.

KHSAA rules can also be amended via referendum (written vote) of the membership. A member school can request a referendum on an issue or issues by writing the proposal in the manner described above. The Board of Control then considers the referendum issue. By Constitution, only the Board of Control can issue a referendum, and unless the issue is approved by the Board as its own endorsed proposal, such referendum is not distributed, but rather, deferred for consideration at the next annual meeting of the membership. If a referendum is approved for distribution, it becomes authored by the Board of Control, and requires a two-thirds vote of those submitting ballots, for passage.

The Tournament Rules of the Association (alignments, tournament formats, miscellaneous tournament rules), are the complete jurisdiction of the Board of Control and suggestions or requests for amendments are considered only by the Board of Control in regular session.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

At the request of the prior attendees, the New Administrators Workshop has been scheduled slightly earlier in the summer in order to better prepare the administrators for the coming year. This year's workshop will be Friday, August 8 in Lexington at the Association offices. Registration information will be emailed to the Principals, Athletic Directors and Superintendents in July with registration details.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUND RAISER

On October 25, 2003 Millions of high school students across the nation will have the opportunity to participate in *Make the Point!* for Special Olympics, a basketball fund-raiser to benefit participating schools and Special Olympics.

The alliance between the NFHS and Special Olympics brings together two organizations dedicated to empowering individuals to be respected, contributing members of society through their involvement in sports. The *Make the Point!* event will conclude the 24th annual celebration of NHFS Activities Week (October 19-25), which was created by the NFHS to increase the public's awareness of the values of and need for interscholastic activity programs.

Special Olympics and the NFHS are challenging students across America to solicit donations from friends and family, based on the number of free throws they believe they can attempt in a given time period.

For information on how to participate in this program contact Roland Williams at the Association office.

BYLAW 4 REMINDER

A change implemented a couple of years ago should be reiterated to all school personnel at this time of year. Once a student is promoted from grade eight to grade nine by the school, the student's four year (eight semester) limit begins to toll.

Students who are "held back" after being promoted are not only ineligible for high school sports (grade 9-12) at any level during the year they repeat, but lose the "senior" year as well as the four year count would be exhausted. School personnel should be mindful of this fact when parents request such action.

State regulations clearly call for the school to have the final say in promotion and retention decisions, and once the student has been promoted from grade eight, the four year count has begun.