

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2004

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



One of the basic values that comprise the KHSAA Mission Statement is Good Sportsmanship. We are reminded in the media on a daily basis that this concept is sorely lacking at other levels in sports.

As we continue post season play in boys' and girls' basketball I would like to challenge all participants, coaches, and fans to exhibit the highest standards of sportsmanlike behavior. There is no place in high school athletics for inappropriate sideline behavior by coaches, open criticism of officials or degrading participants verbally or otherwise. Games are comprised of human beings who sometimes make mistakes. Competition is about doing the best we can to win the game but never at the price of displaying or setting a poor example for young athletes who need a positive role model. Sports should be fun and while by their nature competitive, we need to enjoy the game experience and win or lose in a dignified manner. We need to accept defeat as well as victory in a graceful manner.

Administrators can be very helpful in this area by emphasizing to coaches, participants and fans that there is zero tolerance for poor sportsmanship. Your role is powerful in facilitating the development process of nurturing the ideals of good sportsmanship and citizenship in young student athletes.

The KHSAA membership is committed to fostering the ideals of good sportsmanship by including it in KHSAA Bylaw 11 which begins with "it is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public." Sportsmanship is a learned experience and as educational leaders, we must emphasize the importance of setting a good example for our young student athletes.

Good luck to everyone as District Basketball Tournament play begins the road to the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Tournaments!

BYLAW 4 REMINDER

The promotion and retention of students should be reiterated to all school personnel. 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 912) 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.

APRIL 15 TITLE IX DEADLINES

This is a reminder that the following forms relative to Title IX reporting MUST be submitted no later than April 15, 2004.

1. Form GE-19 (KHSAA Annual Verification of Title IX Procedures)
2. Forms T-1 through T-4 (Summary Forms for Determining Student Interests and Abilities)
3. Form T-35 (Budget Information)
4. Form T-36 (Budget Information)
5. Form T-41 (Checklist for the Overall Interscholastic Athletics Program)
6. Form T-60 (Updated Corrective Action Plan)
7. Form T-63 (Summary of the Interscholastic Student Interest Survey)
8. Form T-68 (Five Year Accomplishments)

NOTE: Single-sex schools are not required to submit the forms.

These Title IX forms are currently on the KHSAA website at www.khsaa.org, under the member school link.

STATE SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT DATE CHANGE

The Slow Pitch Softball State Tournament originally scheduled for May 14-15, 2004, has been changed due to conflict with the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) testing window and host facility commitments.

The 2004 KHSAA Slow Pitch Softball State Tournament has been rescheduled for May 21-22 at RiverShore Sports Complex in Hebron, KY.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Many of our school districts have been informed through the process of school district audits that they need to be obtaining and recording the social security numbers of contest officials.

While compliance with the state regulations is critical, it is also important that school personnel take the necessary steps to ensure that this sensitive information is not released to the wrong individuals. For this reason, schools are cautioned against using students or other non-adult representatives to obtain information from the contest officials, and should use standard forms for acquiring this information, as you would with all other independent contractors.

Neither the schools nor the officials need the problems that could be created by the inadvertent release of this extremely private information.

NON-DOMESTIC STUDENT ELIGIBILITY PROCESS UNDER REVIEW

There have been numerous recent changes in the non-domestic student eligibility process. In order for the students to be granted eligibility in a timely fashion, the following information needs to be included on the application for eligibility (KHSAA Form GE07)

- Submission of correct documents (copy of the visa, verification of payment to the foreign exchange agency by the parents)
- Correct signatures on the form (host family, designated school representative, local foreign exchange agency representative and contact information)

The accuracy of the information is essential and necessary follow up may be required by school personnel. The KHSAA reserves the right to eliminate any agency from the CSIET approved list who doesn't comply with the student eligibility process.

PROTECTIVE GYM FLOOR COVERS

Dunlap Industries has protective gym floor covers and football sideline covers available to schools for the cost of the hem on the outer edge. Protective covers are used to prevent scuffing and damage to gym floors and mud buildup of football playing field. All shipping costs are free. For more information call Gene Stephan at (530) 274-0685.

CLARIFICATIONS ON SPRING FOOTBALL

PRACTICE

Case BL-25-20- Has the Board of Control adopted additional recommendations governing spring football practice?

Yes, there are several additional criteria that must be met in order to conduct the practice sessions.

1) The practice window starts on the Monday following the teams' elimination from basketball postseason play (the last basketball team, boys or girls, representing that school);

2) No student below grade nine may participate;

3) No seniors may participate;

4) Dates must be reported to the KHSAA on supplied forms;

5) Only those students eligible, with insurance coverage and current physical may participate;

6) Intrasquad games may be held but must be counted as one of the ten practice sessions; and

7) There can be no school or coach imposed penalty for any player who chooses not to participate and there may be no required participation by any person on a spring sports eligibility list or any other person not appearing on a spring sports eligibility list;

Case BL-25-21- Are football playing schools required to hold spring football practice?

No, this is strictly an optional practice period.

Case BL-25-22- What is postseason play as defined in spring practice period?

The "elimination from post-season play in basketball" means the elimination of both boys' and girls' teams from post season play in basketball. For example, if a boys' basketball team loses the first game of a district but the girls' remain alive into regional and/or state play, the spring practice period cannot begin until the girls are eliminated.

SPRING SPORTS REMINDER

The first spring sport contest date for tennis, baseball and softball is March 29. The Association will rigidly enforce out-of-season restrictions and penalize detected violations per Bylaw 25.

2003-04 KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR

Date(s)	Sport	Site	City
March 17-20	Boys' BK	Rupp Arena	Lexington
March 24-27	Girls' BK	WKU Diddle Arena	Bowling Green
May 21-22	Slow Pitch	RiverShore	Hebron
May 27-29	B&G TN	UK Boone/Downing Ctr.	Lexington
June 4-5	Track	UK Shively Track	Owensboro
June 16-19	Baseball	Applebee's Park	Lexington

CLARIFICATION ON PERMISSABLE GEAR DURING SUMMER FOOTBALL PRACTICE

Case BL25-18- What equipment can be worn and what restrictions are in place for football practice during the summer.

- From the period that begins the day following the last date of school or June 1, whichever is earlier, through June 24, a football player may wear a helmet during any football specific drill or practice session that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.
- From June 25 to July 9, no gear may be issued by a school directly to a player from that school, and the full provisions of the dead period (Bylaw 26) must be observed.
- From July 10 to July 14, a football player may wear a helmet during any football specific drill or practice session that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.
- Member school players and teams may participate in unlimited non-contact simulations / passing leagues / pass skeleton drills during the period between June 1 and July 14 (exclusive of the dead period as described in Bylaw 26) as play is not regulated in KHSAA sports at this time. However, schools should note that there are no insurance provisions in place at this time.
- From July 15 through the July 31, a player may wear a helmet and shoulder pads during any football specific drill or practice that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.
- In addition, it was specified that it should be recommended that both the helmet and shoulder pads be worn during the July 15 to first date of contact period in order to acclimate the player to the heat and the changes in body temperature brought on by additional pads and equipment.
- Beginning with the first legal date of contact practice, August 1, all other pads can be worn as defined in Rule 1-5.
- With the exception of the Dead Period, nothing about this interpretation prevents a school from allowing equipment to be issued to students for them to attend individual camps at other sites.
- Any activity in the summer prior to July 15 or any activity contradictory to the rules and regulations of the Association (including the interpretations as published), renders all insurance provisions null and void and places the member school, its coach and all of its players at risk for litigation and other problems.
- Nothing about any of the interpretations prevents smaller group learning experiences, individual camp

attendance (outside of the dead period), team camp attendance (within the contact window and subject to the scrimmage limitations).

REMAINING RULES CLINICS 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.

BASEBALL

- 4/7 Make-Up Clinic (\$50 Fine) Lexington,
KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

- 4/14 Make-Up Clinic (\$50 Fine) Lexington,
KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

TRACK

- 4/7 Lexington, Paul Dunbar HS, 7:00 p.m.
4/21 Make-Up Clinic (\$50 Fine) Lexington,
KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

SCHOOL UPDATES

Please remember to keep your school information current on the KHSAA website. To make scheduling, coaching or other administrative changes to your school directory via the KHSAA web site (www.khsaa.org) use the "Member Schools Only" link and your passcode. You can update your school's information at any time.