

Commissioner's Notes

February/March 2008



Participation Sportsmanship Integrity



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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



February and March are two action packed months with state events in Swimming and Diving, Wrestling and Basketball occurring.

Our Board of Control is busy and we have put together committees to study Association rules and regulations. The eligibility and Due Process Committee will work on regulations prior to the May 1 deadline for submission, along with work on a more streamlined Due Process Procedure. A Current Issues committee and a Budget and Finance committee are the other two committees who are working with staff to ensure that KHSAA regulations and operations are fair and relevant. Items recommended by the Commission on Interscholastic Athletics are a part of this committee work and discussion.

I hope to see many of you during the "March Madness" celebration of basketball which is truly one of the best times of the year in Kentucky!

DAWAHARES/KHSAA HALL OF FAME

The class of 2008 will be inducted in ceremonies scheduled for **Saturday, April 12, 2008** at the Lexington Center.

Twelve former high school coaches, athletes, officials and/or administrators make up the 21th class to be inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. The induction of the 12 will bring the total number of individuals honored to 355.

The 2008 class is as follows: "Copper" John Campbell, Joe Carr Jr., Gloria Compton, Nancy Crutcher Martin, Charles "Doodle" Floyd, Gene Hilen, E.G. Plummer, William Burton Rankin, Ervin Stepp, Grant Talbott, Brad Wilkerson, Rozella Young.

REMINDER OF NATIONAL CITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline to submit an application for a National City Scholarship is Feb. 22, 2008.

National City Bank will award a total of 32 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each, one each to a boy and girl from each of the 16 basketball regions.

The scholarships are open to athletes of all sports. The application form is posted on the KHSAA website under "Hot News". Winners will be recognized at the Championship game of the National City/KHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tournament on March 22.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, feel free to e-mail bcope@khsaa.org or call the KHSAA.

NATIONAL ANTHEM SINGERS

Any student or group of four students or less interested in singing the National Anthem at a session of either the National City/KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen® or Houchens Industries/KHSAA Girls' Sweet Sixteen® Tournament, should submit a CD (a cappella) to Phyllis Sallee at the Association by February 15, 2008. The Association is particularly targeting previously underrepresented populations such as African-Americans.

Those individuals selected will be notified of their assigned session prior to each of the tournaments.

FORCHT GROUP OF KENTUCKY/KHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

Information for the Forcht Group of Kentucky/KHSAA Sportsmanship Program went out to guidance counselors and athletic directors in late January. Individual school winners are due to the KHSAA by March 26, 2008.

One boy and one girl finalist from each region will be invited to attend the Recognition Banquet held April 27, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington.

Each regional finalist receives a \$200 scholarship with the state winner, one boy and one girl, receiving a \$3,000 scholarship, courtesy of Forcht Group of Kentucky.

BASKETBALL PHOTOS AND ROSTERS DUE

Please note basketball team photos & rosters were due February 1. In an effort to help all member schools, we ask that you enter your rosters now.

For photos, please go to the "Members Only" page on the KHSAA website and use the "Upload Photo" feature. If you experience technical problems, you may also e-mail the photo provided it has been scanned at a minimum DPI of 300 and is not bitmapped. The file should be saved with a file extension of .jpg, .gif, or .tif. Faxed copies, copies of photos, newspaper copies, or laser printer printouts ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. Also include the "photo ID", who's who left to right.

Rosters should also be entered on the "Members Only" page using the "Enter Team Rosters" link. The roster will remain open until the first day of play in the district tournament at which time all rosters will be locked, and no additional players may be added.

For assistance with the entry of either item contact Marilyn Mitchell at the Association or mmitchell@khsaa.org

COUNTING BASKETBALL GAMES

It is critically important that no team violate KHSAA Bylaw 25, "Limitation of Seasons". As we get close to the end of the basketball season, we strongly encourage a mutual discussion among teams at the district tournament meeting, as it relates to any possible or potential problems that could conceivably exist. Let's all work together to see that no team plays too many regular season contests and that all student athletes are able to participate in the postseason.

REMINDER ABOUT CHANGE IN BASKETBALL CORRESPONDING DATES

For the last two years, basketball coaches and schools have been reminded about the change in corresponding dates that occurs after the 2007-2008 season. Since many schools are scheduling games for the next two-year contract cycle, coaches and administrators should carefully review the basketball corresponding date chart on page 104 of the Handbook and at <http://www.khsaa.org/handbook/correspondingdates/basketballcorrespondingdates.pdf>.

After the 2007-2008 season, the normal calendar adjustment combined with the contraction of the basketball season by one week will make it important that these dates be reviewed when making two year scheduling commitments and finalizing game contracts.

2007-08 KHSAA RULES CLINICS

It is an Association requirement that each licensed official and head coach attend a rules interpretation clinic conducted by the KHSAA (ByLaw 26, Sec. 2). Officials who have not met the requirement will not be permitted to officiate any postseason contest. Coaches who have not met the requirement will not be permitted to coach any postseason contest. For 2007-08, approved KHSAA rules clinic sites and dates.

ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL.

BASEBALL

3/26 Lexington, KHSAA Office, Make-Up Clinic (\$75 Fine), 1:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

3/25 Lexington, KHSAA Office, Make-Up Clinic (\$75 Fine), 1:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

(All Times are 7 p.m. local, unless noted otherwise)

2/7 Louisville, Christian Academy-Louisville

2/10 Somerset, Pulaski County HS, 3 p.m.

2/11 Grayson, East Carter HS

2/12 Paris, Bourbon County HS

3/25 Lexington, KHSAA Office, Make-Up Clinic (\$75 Fine)

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS IN SEEDING PROCEDURE

As district basketball tournaments approach, please take a moment to review the procedure for district tournament meetings and tournament bracketing. This section from the KHSAA Handbook, clearly states that for 2007-2008, a seeded district game may not be played after February 17th.

7) If win-loss records are used for seeding, the records used shall be the records as of the date of the pre-tournament meeting as published on the KHSAA memorandum calendar. Teams and school representatives may meet during the regular season to discuss tournament operations (i.e. dates, times, sites, tournament personnel needs, etc.). However if an organizational meeting is held prior to the published date on the calendar, no discussions may be held regarding the bracketing or pairings of specific teams unless all mandated seeded games have been played prior to the meeting. Games played after the published meeting date SHALL NOT factor into the seeded position.

8) Seeded games unable to be played for any reason (with the exception of verified forfeited contests) prior to the published date for the district tournament meetings will be recorded as a win and a loss for both teams in computing seeded position.

SANCTION CLARIFICATION

The following is a reminder on the requirements for sanctioning contests for KHSAA member schools. The KHSAA requires member schools to participate only in sanctioned athletic events. Many are unaware or confused about just what the term *sanctioned* means. The following is an attempt to explain.

Regular season single contests conducted by, and between, local school systems in Kentucky and made within the Constitution and Bylaws of the KHSAA are considered to be sanctioned. The same is true about post season tournaments conducted by the KHSAA for the purpose of awarding a district, region, section, sub section, semi state and/or state championship. In the case of multi-team tournaments or events held during the sports season, the KHSAA is authorized to review the particulars to determine if members are allowed participate. That determination is made upon review of how the tournament/event format relates to the Constitution and Bylaws. Contests that fall within the Constitution Article VIII are to be approved by the KHSAA for participation by member schools. In the case of teams that are invited from several states, it then becomes incumbent on each state to rule on the eligibility of schools from their particular state.

One of the most commonly asked questions about sanctioning is: "Why?" Sanctioning provides an assurance to schools that the students will not be exploited. While the vast majority of tournaments provide wholesome competition in an educational setting, there have been abuses, especially in some of the high profile tournaments. In some of those tournaments, large amounts of money are made due to high school athletes. Many times, these events are wrapped in the cloth of sweet charity, yet promoters pocket large administrative fees. There have also been cases where schools are promised accommodations and meals, only to have them disappear once they arrive on site. This has happened to some teams, while other schools received preferential treatment at the same event.

The role of the KHSAA in this process is not only to handle administrative approval within the Constitution and protect schools from violations, but to protect the very fiber of school based amateur competition. Questions on process and forms should be directed to Marilyn Mitchell, mmitchell@khsaa.org. Bylaw and specific allowances may be directed to the Assistant Commissioner with responsibility over the sport or to Commissioner Brigid DeVries.

REPORTING OF SCORES AND SCHEDULE ENTRY

We ask that member school personnel review your baseball, basketball (boys and girls), and softball schedules to make sure any game updates have been added. Schedules are to be entered on the KHSAA website through the "Member School Only" link.

Please remember to call in the scores of contests to the KHSAA/Riherd's Scoreboard immediately following each contest. The number is **1-800-453-6882** and is toll free.

2007-2008 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Feb. 8-9	Swimming & Diving	U of L Ralph Wright Natatorium
Feb. 14-16	Wrestling	Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort
March 12-15	Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
March 19-22	National City/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
May 22-24	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington
May 30-31	Boys' & Girls' Track	U of L Owsley Frazier Park, Louisville
June 6-7	Fast Pitch Softball	Jack Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 11-14	Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington