



# Commissioner's Notes

## May 2012



A monthly newsletter from Commissioner Julian Tackett, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40505 859-299-5472 • www.khsaa.org

I'm not afraid to admit I crave information. Based on the responses I receive from athletic directors, principals and superintendents, many of the people we serve have the same habits. While folks like to say they are suffering from information overload, if such a line exists we have managed not to cross it yet. Notice I use the word 'yet.'

When it comes to the subject of information, it's funny how some of the ideas that are touted as new and unique are in fact a great idea from yesteryear; only now technology makes it possible. It's funny how things sometimes come full circle. For example, take our oldest publication – The Athlete magazine.

It's become almost a running joke around the office by now that it takes a lot to predate my 28 years with the Association but The Athlete has been published since 1938. Not only is it important enough that we are constitutionally bound to produce it but for generations it was the eyes of the KHSAA, the public's look at what was going on. In fact, for years it was called "the Organ of the KHSAA."

I vividly remember our former Office Manager Anne Wesley Mays putting it together each month when I started with the Association as the first Sports Information Director back in 1984. It didn't take long before it was put in my care and it became my monthly responsibility. I loved it. It is hard to describe the feeling of producing something the membership looks to for information and guidance, as well as news about their neighbors. Frankly, I think it played into my craving for information, 1980s style. Long before Twitter, email and the Internet, there was the printed word.

While the printed word can be a blessing, it also became a curse because of the increasing cost to produce it. It was for this exact reason that The Athlete went from being monthly to bi-monthly to the quarterly publication it is today.

The argument rages over whether the printed word is relevant today. No doubt it is still relevant; in fact, now more than ever. The only thing that has changed is the way it is delivered. This has come to great benefit to The Athlete. Today's virtual publication software has taken out the cost of producing magazines and publications. You have already seen it. More of our publications are headed this way, from The Athlete to the Officials Guidebook to the Handbook and likely now the annual calendar, it's a more efficient way to deliver information to you.

So to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Association's most enduring publication, why not bring it full circle? Beginning next month, The Athlete will once again become a monthly publication, packed with features and documents that are the lifeblood of the Association, along with the latest news you have been reading in the Commissioner's Notes.

The Commissioner's Notes have served a valuable purpose



since 1994, bridging the gap and delivering timely updates and policy news, the time has come to merge the two publications so we can have the best of both worlds. Just like in the heyday of the printed word. The Athlete is a classic and we are about to treat it like one, thanks to the same technology advances that put it on life support 10 years ago.

After all, trends might come and go but the classics never go out of style.

### **INTERPRETATION REGARDING USE OF ONLINE COURSES AND CREDIT RECOVERY**

The Commissioner has previously not issued an interpretation regarding the use of online courses and credit recovery to comply with the provisions of Bylaw 5. Situations that have arisen this year illustrate the need for clarity with respect to this issue. Following review and discussion at the last two Board of Control meetings, the Commissioner has concluded the need to issue this interpretation to ensure the academic integrity of the Association. This is especially critical as more and more courses are offered via distance learning. If additional revisions are necessary, the membership will be informed.

What are the options for the use of online courses, credit recovery, or other non-traditional courses to be used to obtain eligibility under Bylaw 5, Sec. 1 (Proper Grade Level), Sec. 2 (One-time reinstatement) or Sec. 3 (Continual Progress)?

Bylaw 5, Sec. 1 is solely determined on the first day of school for the student body by examining the number of credits that have been recorded to the transcript. That number includes any

full credit awarded and recorded in compliance with all applicable state regulations. Therefore, any type of credit, regardless of the method in which it is earned, may be used for this standard, but must be officially recorded on the student's permanent record (transcript) on or before the first day of school for the student body.

Bylaw 5, Sec. 2 is an opportunity to reinstate eligibility on a one-time basis for those students who do not meet the standards of Sec. 1. Any credit or course used to meet this standard must meet the following criteria:

1. Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting;

2. Students may not skip lessons or test out of modules. For example, if a student is permitted to test out of portions of a repeated course, is exempted from certain modules, or is allowed to finish the course in an abbreviated time frame, such a course would not be acceptable for use in the reinstatement determination;

3. The instructor and the student shall have ongoing access to, and regular interaction with, one another for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student throughout the duration of the course;

4. The student's work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) shall be made available for evaluation and validation upon request;

5. Evaluation of the student's work shall be conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies;

6. The course shall include a defined time period for completion and comparable to the same credit taught within the traditional school day;

7. The course must be acceptable for any student and school's policies for such courses must be followed consistently for both student-athletes and non-athletes with no exceptions made for student-athletes;

8. The course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively (e.g., content, textbook, assessments, duration), to the course in the mainstream or regular curriculum; and

9. The course credit must be recorded on the student transcript prior to the day before the defined Sec. 2 period for which reinstatement is desired (subsequent trimester, semester or school year dependent upon school defined curriculum).

Bylaw 5, Sec. 3 is the requirement for measuring continual progress for a student during the school year. Only those courses that are taught with a comparable course length, comprehensive content and rigor when compared to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting may be included in the calculation of the four hour requirement.

#### **NEW UNIFORM REQUIREMENT FOR VOLLEYBALL**

The new volleyball uniform requirements for a solid-colored uniform top and the implementation date of July 1, 2016, are outlined in Rule 4-2-2-NOTE of the 2012-13 NFHS Volleyball Rules Book. There likely are schools that are purchasing uniforms for next season that will still be used in 2016 and, therefore, must meet the new rule. To assist the schools

to purchase legal uniforms, you may go to the following link (<http://www.nfhs.org/Volleyball/>) for detailed information regarding the solid-colored uniform top.

#### **PARTICIPATION LIST REMINDER**

This reminder that your Annual Participation List is a required submission, and can only be done electronically. Instructions were detailed in an email sent to the membership on May 7, and the report is due by May 30. Complete details and a repeat of the email details are at <http://khsaaadhelp.blogspot.com/>

#### **FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES DUE**

This is a reminder to all schools that Fall Sports Schedules (Volleyball, Boys' & Girls' Soccer and Football) are due to be entered through the KHSAA website by May 30. If you have not done so, please log on and enter your schedules immediately. If you need assistance with schedule entry, please contact Elden May at [emay@khsaa.org](mailto:emay@khsaa.org) or Rob Catron ([rcatron@khsaa.org](mailto:rcatron@khsaa.org)).

#### **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 an administrator leaving your school, please take the time to update your information one last time by going through the Members Login on the KHSAA web site to 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 Rob Catron at the KHSAA ([rcatron@khsaa.org](mailto:rcatron@khsaa.org)).

#### **DAWAHARES/KHSAA HALL OF FAME GOLF CLASSIC**

The Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Golf Classic is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19 at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. At the outing, the 2013 Hall of Fame induction Class will be introduced.

Anyone interested in participating, may contact Butch Cope ([bcope@khsaa.org](mailto:bcope@khsaa.org)).

#### **REMINDER ABOUT SCRIMMAGE LIMITS AND PRACTICE REGULATIONS**

Recently, we have received several inquiries from schools about using males in practice for girls sports against members of the girls' sports team. If this occurs, the members of the squad are practicing against students (regardless of the grade level) who are not eligible to be on the eligibility list for the girls team.

Each time this is done, the school has conducted an illegal practice by the use of ineligible students, and the school has utilized one of its allowable two scrimmages (if the first regular season game has not been played) or a contest against the contest limit (albeit against an illegal team) if the regular

season has begun.

There are a myriad of reasons why this practice is not permitted, not the least of which is the fact that Bylaw 25 precludes the activity. Schools should also be mindful that using outside members in a situation like this could certainly be viewed as depriving females at the younger or less talented levels of participation opportunities, which is not in the best interest of the students.

Please contact the office should you have any questions.

### **SPORT UPDATES**

#### *Basketball*

The Board of Control has approved a running clock provision to begin 2012-2013 season. Check out the KHSAA Basketball Blog at <http://khsaabasketball.blogspot.com/> for more details.

#### *Bowling*

We are happy to announce that the Ebonite/KHSAA State Bowling Championships dates for next season have been determined. We will return to the the Executive Strike and Spare in Louisville with singles competition on Feb. 7 and team competition on Feb. 8, 2013.

#### *Football*

Football coaches are reminded of two important changes beginning this summer that were detailed at the Kentucky Football Coaches Conference.

1) The last THREE (3) days before you can legally put on full gear, you may practice in helmets and shoulder pads. These drills may NOT involve contact or taking a man to the ground, but are for the express purpose of phasing in the equipment to the players. This does NOT count as the start of practice in pads that would end your ability to play in 7 on 7 competition.

2) Secondly, note that once your full practice starts, you will have to take a complete THREE (3) hour break after each padded session in which no football gear (including the helmet) can be worn. This is part of the heat acclimation procedure to ensure that the body has time to cool down before beginning additional workout. This three-hour period should not involve any activities conducted outside in the sunshine, and should ensure that the cool down is a priority.

#### *Soccer*

Beginning with the 2012 Season the final eight teams will come to Lexington on the 27th of October to play in the quarter final round of the State Tournament. We plan to play the four Girls games at one site, with the four Boys being played at another.

#### *Tennis*

The KHSAA State Tennis Championships were held on May 17-19 at the University of Kentucky's Boone/Downing Tennis Complex as well as Shillito Park. Reviews from fans regarding the move to Shillito Park were overwhelmingly positive. Lone Oak's girls and St. Xavier's boys won the team championships. for a Full listing and recap of the tournament check out the tennis link on the website at <http://www.khsaa.org/tennis/2012/index.html>.

#### *Track and Field*

The 2012 KHSAA State Track and Field Championships were held at Owsley Frazier Cardinal Park on the campus of the University of Louisville on May 17-19. Several state marks were shattered over the course of the three-day meet, including Butler's Tretetz Kinnaird, who broke the existing mark in the boys' 800 meters by nearly three seconds. To view results from all three class meets please check the website at <http://www.khsaa.org/track/2012/index.html>.

#### *Volleyball*

Dates for Volleyball competition in the Bluegrass State Games have been announced. Play will be July 27-29 in Lexington. A reminder that participation in the Games does not count toward your two scrimmage limit within Bylaw 25. More details are posted at [www.bgsg.org/volleyball](http://www.bgsg.org/volleyball).

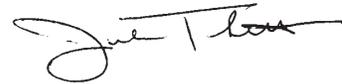
#### REMAINING 2011-12 KHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

June 7-9	Rawlings/KHSAA Softball	Jack C. Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 4-9	Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA Baseball	Whitaker Bank Ballpark, Lexington

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Golf Outing, Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington

Thanks for all of your continued support!



Julian Tackett