

2000 KHSAA ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

PROPOSAL 1

Proposed by the KHSAA Board of Control - An amendment to the Bylaw 4 of the KHSAA regarding the limitation of eligibility (eight semester /four year rule).

RATIONALE – Much study and debate has gone into this revision for Bylaw 4 as requested by the Board of Control. Over the past few years as the Board has considered appeals, and more recently, hearing officer reports on appeals, the clarity of the line regarding the limitation of semesters has been reduced. In addition, the Due Process Procedure has clearly favored those schools and individuals who were knowledgeable of the appeal process, and with each case being considered on its own merits, it was difficult to develop a consistent enforceable line of thinking. It is the strong feeling of the Board of Control that unless basic education services are not available to the student-athlete due to illness or injury, that each student should be limited to four years of opportunity for participation in high school sports. Without a clearly defined limit, avenues remain open for red-shirting, deception, trickery, legal maneuvering, and other athletics-driven motivations for a student to remain in school rather than proceeding on into college or into the work force thereby denying the participation of a student who is otherwise “next in line” to play.

In addition, contained in this proposal is a revision to the provisions concerning a student-athlete repeating a grade below grade nine and desiring to participate (§ b below). The provision currently in the bylaws was drafted during the Blue Ribbon Commission Study in 1992-93, and was during a time when the KHSAA was slated to begin administering middle school athletics. Since that time, the Kentucky Board of Education has determined that the KHSAA will not have this jurisdiction, therefore the Board of Control requests this change to specify that only in the case when an athlete enrolled below grade nine plays on a grade 9-12 team does the KHSAA have any jurisdiction. Play at levels below grade nine while repeating would be under local jurisdiction. For these reasons, the Board asked approval of this amended bylaw.

Bylaw 4. Enrollment

Sec. 1. Requirement and Deadline for Enrollment (first paragraph moved from Bylaw 5)

On Friday of each grading period, a student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must be enrolled as a full-time student according to regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education in order to be eligible for athletics.

A student must have enrolled as a bona fide undergraduate student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) in the high school he/she represents no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester

Sec. 24. Maximum Number of Semesters/Years

(a) Students promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9) shall have four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first such promotion by the school provided the student is eligible according to all other Association bylaws. Such eligibility shall conclude with the completion of the spring sports season following the fourth year.

The Commissioner or Board of Control through the Due Process Procedure, may grant additional eligibility in the case where it has been documented by the attending physician, Principal and Superintendent that severe illness or injury has prevented the student from receiving necessary educational services and the right to an education is therefore impacted rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege. Such grant of eligibility may only be made in the cases in which the student-athlete would remain eligible by all other Association bylaws. Nothing about this provision shall be implied or shall include additional eligibility strictly for loss of athletic participation due to sports related injuries.

(a) Two semesters shall constitute a grade or school year. Six weeks enrollment in a school shall constitute a semester in the interpretation of this rule, except that if any student participates in a varsity contest in any sport, a semester of enrollment shall be counted against him/her even though he/she may not have been enrolled for a period of six weeks.

(b) No student having been enrolled in the fourth (4th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics representing a KHSAA member school in competition involving students in grades 9-12 for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall be in the first year enrolled in that grade. Students repeating a grade for any reason are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics representing a KHSAA member school in competition involving students in grades 9-12 during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule which occurs below grade nine (9) shall be the loss of eligibility during the school year following the school year in which the violation is detected. If a violation of this rule is detected after initial enrollment in grade nine (9), there shall be no further penalty against the student for playing during the year repeated, but the member school may be subject to penalty for the use of an ineligible participant. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after being promoted from grade nine (9). Policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below grade nine (9) shall be determined by the local board of education.

- ~~(c) Students enrolling in grade nine (9) shall have eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility from the date of first such enrollment provided the student is eligible according to all other bylaws.~~
- ~~(d)(c) Pupils in grades 1-8 may play on the high school team, with the exception of varsity practice or play in football, soccer and wrestling and the time so played shall not be counted on against the eight (8) semester four (4) year limit unless such participation is a violation of part (b) above. EXCEPTION: Students below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football, soccer or wrestling. The provisions of this restriction shall not apply to non-varsity teams participating in these sports.~~
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PROPOSAL 2

Proposed by the KHSAA Board of Control - An amendment to repeal subsection (3) of Bylaw 9 of the KHSAA regarding the general application of eligibility rules to non-participants.

RATIONALE – The decision as to the non-competing members of the squad representing a school should be made at the local level without regard to any state requirement. KHSAA rules govern competitions, and therefore, all support personnel decisions should be made by the local school in accordance with adopted policies. The Board of Control encourages local school districts to make rules and adopt policies addressing those persons not actually competing on the field or court, but feels the schools are placed in a bad position if this rule is strictly interpreted. Taken literally, many of adult trainers and managers who are not enrolled students would not be able to work with the sports teams at our schools. In addition, as more clarity is received as to the fact that at least at this time, cheerleading is not a sponsored sport for the KHSAA (the Association does not sponsor a championship), KHSAA legal counsel and past court rulings and opinions make it advisable for the Association to simply limit the number of competitions and remove all other restrictions on cheerleading. If this is not done, then the applicability of the transfer rule to cheer and many other issues will need to be revisited as it is felt that this double standard will not stand legal challenge.

Bylaw 9. Other Eligibility Requirements and Regulations

~~Sec. 3. Eligibility Rules for Non-Competitors~~

~~A cheerleader, student manager, or any other student having an official connection with the athletic program of a member school shall be enrolled and in attendance at the school which they represent and shall adhere to all other eligibility regulations.~~

PROPOSAL 3

Proposed by the KHSAA Board of Control - An amendment to standardize the start of the winter sports seasons for all schools.

RATIONALE – Many years ago, the number of basketball games for football and non-football schools were different, and those schools who did not play football need additional time to play a complete schedule of games. This is no longer necessary, and non-football and football schools should need the same practice and season time. This proposal would modify the start of practice for basketball and swimming to allow for the start of practice in all winter sports to be at the same time, and would also amend the starting play date for basketball to the Monday after Thanksgiving for all schools. This could also serve as a catalyst for schools to offer additional activities in the fall for students who desire to participate in such sports as cross country, golf, soccer and volleyball.

Bylaw 25. Limitation of Seasons

Sec. 7. Sports Specific Limitations - Basketball - Boys and Girls

- (1) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized basketball practice prior to October 15 ~~for football playing schools, and October 1 for non-football playing schools.~~
- (3) The first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday following Thanksgiving ~~for football playing schools and November 15 for non-football playing schools.~~

Sec. 14. Sports Specific Limitations - Swimming - Boys and Girls

- (1) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 4-15.
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PROPOSAL 4

Proposed by the Tom Hamilton, Bardstown High School- An amendment to amend Bylaw 25 as it relates to two days during the basketball season and thereby eliminate the only remaining conflict between the fall and winter seasons.

RATIONALE – Representatives of many constituent groups to the KHSAA such as Athletic Directors, Principals and others have continually asked for clarity in the start and end of the season so that there is a clear beginning and ending and so that there is not overlap between football and basketball season. This proposal would allow for the current length of the basketball season, but would exempt two days from school play, those being the days of the football championships. No longer do these games affect only the eight competing teams, as many times, neighboring communities to the competing teams and other participants from other schools who simply desire to see the best eight teams in the state compete are forced to make a choice that should not be required to be made. These events should be scheduled, as are the other championships of the association, so that little overlap and conflict exists and all athletes have the opportunity to perform in the championship games in all sports in front of all who desire to see the contests.

Bylaw 25. Limitation of Seasons

Sec. 7. Sports Specific Limitations - **Basketball - Boys and Girls**

- (3) The first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday following Thanksgiving for football playing schools and November 15 for non-football playing schools. No grade 9-12 contest shall be scheduled on the two days of the KHSAA varsity football championships.
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PROPOSAL 5

Proposed by Kenneth Frick, Butler and Mike Duncan, Hopkins County Central - An amendment to allow the local schools to modify the spring practice dates in football.

RATIONALE –This rule was modified a few years ago to allow for spring football practice with as little intrusion as possible on the spring sports and school calendar. However, this has not been the case. Many of the schools with alternative calendars or newly adopted calendars have not been able to utilize this practice period while others have gotten an advantage by being able to wait until the weather was more predictable. The decision as to these dates should be made at the local level without regard to any state requirement therefore minimizing the impact on the school calendar. As long as the schools intentions were clearly reported to the Association in advance, the dates could be monitored and enforced.

Bylaw 25. Limitation of Seasons

Sec. 9. Sports Specific Limitations - **Football - Boys**

- (8) Each football school may conduct ten (10) practice periods of not more than two (2) hours in length and not more than one practice per day over ten (10) days during the three calendar school weeks ~~following the school's elimination from post-season play in basketball~~ designated by the member school which must be between the school's elimination from post-season play in basketball and the Saturday prior to the start of the baseball district tournament. The dates for which an individual school shall hold spring practice shall be submitted by January 15 or the school may not conduct spring practice that year. All equipment authorized by the football playing rules may be used during this period. There can be no inter-school competition during this period, and all participants must be eligible according to all KHSAA eligibility rules.
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PROPOSAL 6

Proposed by Jim Perrin, Christian County and Jim Price, Muhlenberg North - An amendment to modify the dead period dates and provisions.

RATIONALE –The primary motivation for the dead period was the proliferation of summer basketball when the proposal was first introduced several years ago. Yet this rule as adopted has impacted many other sports while having little if any impact on basketball. This proposal would specify that the dead period applies only to basketball and also specifies that the dates would change to July 15 to the first day of school. In this way, fall sports could begin in schools without interference from additional camps, clinics and tournaments.

Bylaw 26. Summer Sports and Sports/Activities

Sec. 2. Summer Dead Period

Beginning June 1, ~~2000~~2001, students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year ~~in any KHSAA sanctioned sport in basketball~~ during the period beginning with ~~June 25, and going through July 9~~ July 15 and going through the first day of school. School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in ~~any KHSAA sanctioned sport basketball~~ during this period.