PROPOSAL 2022-01 – AMEND BYLAW 9 TO REMOVE BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON RESTRICTIONS ON STUDENTS IN GRADE NINE AND ABOVE WHO HAVE ALREADY REPRESENTED A SCHOOL

(AS AMENDED PASSED, FINAL VOTE: 179 YES, 8 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 15 PRESENT)
VOTE TO AMEND PASSED, 181 YES, 3 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 18 PRESENT

Proposed by the KHSAA Board of Control as part of its annual review of the Bylaws of the Association as required by 702 KAR 7:065

Amend Bylaw 9 to remove the restrictions on basketball players who have previously both been in grade 9 and then subsequently entered a contest for a high school.

Rationale: This bylaw and its restrictions date back decades. Originally, it was crafted as a joint effort with parks and recreation officials in an effort to preserve community participation spots in sports where the high school athletes were eliminating those opportunities for the general public. Since that time, with the advent and growth of nonschool basketball, member schools used the rule to protect against outside influences. In addition, this rule reduced while not eliminating, the conflicts within schools where athletes might be forced to choose between an in-season fall sport (i.e. football or soccer) and attendance at these types of events, not to mention injury risks associated with such participation. While there has been much discussion about the provisions and various suggestions from the Commissioner and staff, the Board has been hesitant to approve any proposed change for those reasons and others and did not feel the change was in the best interest of the Association. Recruiting has changed, but the data remains the same regarding the percentage of students who actually advance from high school to college. At its review during 2021-22, the Board felt it important to approve the submission of this proposal and determine the wishes of the schools. There is contemplation of extending these restrictions to other sports but it is worthy to note that the practical impact of the current rule is to isolate basketball with a rules different than any other team sport.

It is also worthy to note the reasons for the bylaw in the first place, as stated in the current Bylaw and interpretations.

Case BL-9-1- Why are there restrictions on basketball and football participants that prevent them from playing in outside competition during the school year, prior to the end of their competitive seasons?

A restriction on nonschool athletic participation in these sports attempts to protect students who choose to participate on their school’s athletic teams from exploitation by those who seek to capitalize on their skill and/or reputation. In addition, the restriction:

1. Avoids inherent risks to participation in nonschool athletic programs that may have inadequate administrative oversight;
2. Discourages outside entities from pressuring student-athletes to miss classes while competing on nonschool teams or in nonschool events;
3. Equalizes competition by reducing any unfair advantage students who participate in nonschool athletics may have over those who do not participate in outside events, and
4. Reduces distractions from academic preparation and other school responsibilities.

5. A nonschool athletic participation restriction in these sports also provides some control over the trend towards year-round competitive sports seasons and operates to reduce, or even eliminate, conflicts which may arise due to: time conflicts of practices, games, playoffs, differing coaching philosophies of the school coaching staff and the nonschool coaching staff, and team loyalty.

Impact: Regulatory

BYLAW 9. BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL CONTESTANT ON OTHER TEAMS, POSTSEASON AND ALL-STAR GAMES

Sec. 1) BASKETBALL

a) Restrictions from first day of school through day before the first permitted day of practice.

(1) For purposes of this bylaw, a contest, activity or play shall be considered organized if:
   a. basketball skills are practiced or refined outside of the high school program and supervised by a third party not affiliated with the student’s enrolled school where collegiate coaches are not permitted to evaluate;
   b. preparatory practice(s) are conducted prior to the event;
   c. teams are assigned in advance of the event and made known to participants or others prior to arrival;
   d. a team or playing unit involves 3 or more members of the same high school team; or
   e. a team is composed of individuals who previously have played or practiced together as a unit

(2) During this period, no student who, after enrolling in grade nine (9) has subsequently been a contestant in basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball, may not participate in organized play as defined in Sec. 1(a)(1) unless the event is sanctioned by the Board of Control.

b) Restrictions from first permitted day of practice through the last scheduled contest, including KHSAA-sanctioned postseason contests

(1) During this period, no student who, after enrolling in grade nine (9) has subsequently been a contestant in basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball, may:
   a. participate in organized play as defined in Sec. 1(a)(1) unless the event is sanctioned by the Board of Control; or
   b. any event where basketball skills are taught, practiced, refined or evaluated outside of the high school program and supervised by a third party not affiliated with the student’s enrolled school even if collegiate coaches are permitted to be present and evaluating.

c) Restrictions following the End of Season

(1) Following the team’s last scheduled game (including postseason), there are no restrictions on play in basketball for the student-athletes except the published restrictions in Bylaw 23.

a) Restrictions from First Day of School through Day Before the First Day of Practice

(1) From the first day of school through the day before the first legal day of practice, no student, who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has subsequently been a contestant in basketball at that school at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball, may not
participate in:
  a. any manner on any nonschool sponsored team in basketball;
  b. any all-star game in basketball;
  c. any type of organized competition in basketball or variation of basketball except competition that meets the camp restrictions as detailed below in subsection (2);
  d. sports-specific instruction by a member of a member school coaching staff or another individual with a direct connection to a member school without the documented authorization of the student’s enrolled school principal or designated representative, or
  e. any other event not sanctioned by the Board of Control.

(2) Permissible exceptions to Sec. 1(a)(1) above for competition by males during this period shall include:
  a. camps that are held on the campus of an NCAA or NAIA member institution or conducted by a single NCAA or NAIA member institution within a 100-mile radius of the NCAA or NAIA member institution’s campus, when the only available coaches in attendance for evaluation are the employed coaches of that institution; and
  b. attendance at a one-day exposure event during the period beginning with the first date of the NCAA men’s recruiting period (contact and evaluation periods) and through October 14 and only for events solely funded by the student and his family that cannot extend over multiple days.

(3) Permissible exceptions to Sec. 1(a)(1) above for competition by females during this period shall include:
  a. camps that are held on the campus of an NCAA or NAIA member institution or conducted by a single NCAA or NAIA member institution within a 100-mile radius of the NCAA or NAIA member institution’s campus, when the only available coaches in attendance for evaluation are the employed coaches of that institution;
  b. permitted evaluations held at nonscholastic women’s basketball events during contact periods designated for permissible evaluation by NCAA coaches.
  c. attendance at a one-day exposure event during the period beginning with the first date of the NCAA women’s recruiting period (contact and evaluation periods) and through October 14 and only for events solely funded by the student and her family that cannot extend over multiple days.

b) Restrictions from First Day of School through the Last Scheduled Contest

(1) From the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in basketball (including KHSAA-sanctioned postseason contests) by the school, no student who, after enrolling in grade nine (9) has been a contestant in basketball at that school at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball, may participate in any manner on any nonschool sponsored team in basketball; in any all-star game in basketball; or any type of organized competition in basketball or variation of basketball unless it has been sanctioned by the Board of Control.

b) Restrictions following the last postseason contest END OF SEASON

(1) Following the team’s last scheduled game (including postseason), there are no restrictions on play in basketball for the student-athletes except the applicable coaching published restrictions as detailed in Bylaw 23.

PROPOSAL 2022-02 – AMEND BYLAW 22 TO PERMIT KHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONTESTS WITH AND AGAINST NON-MEMBER SCHOOLS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MEMBER SCHOOL AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY

(FAILED, FINAL VOTE: 66 YES, 131 NO, 4 ABSTAIN, 1 PRESENT)

Proposed by the KHSAA Board of Control as part of its annual review of the Bylaws of the Association as required by 702 KAR 7:065

Amend Bylaw 22 to permit KHSAA member schools to play non-member schools located in Kentucky.

Rationale: This provision would allow school discretion on in-state opponents, in much the same way as out of state opponents.

Impact: Regulatory

BYLAW 22. CONTESTS, SANCTIONS, RULES, FORFEITURES, FACULTY TO ACCOMPANY

SEC. 1) CONTESTS AGAINST IN-STATE OPPONENTS

a) KHSAA member schools may only compete in contests in KHSAA-sanctioned sports against:
   (1) Schools located in Kentucky, whether or not that school has joined the KHSAA that are current members of the KHSAA; and
   (2) Students of a non-member at-home private school, or team of students from non-member at-home private schools provided the non-member at-home private schools, and students comply with the following:
      a. A non-member at-home private school’s team and students shall comply with the eligibility rules for student-athletes, including Bylaws 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 12;
      b. A coach of a non-member at-home private school team shall comply with all of the provisions of Bylaw 25;
      c. This provision shall not allow a non-member at-home private school’s team to participate in a sanctioned district, region, section, semi-state or state tournament as sanctioned by the KHSAA; and
      d. This provision does not allow eligibility for a recognition, award, or championship sponsored by the KHSAA.

b) Any KHSAA member school that engages in an athletic contest in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport with a school, not in compliance with Sec. 1(a) above shall be subject to all penalties contained in Bylaw 22. (renumber remaining)

c) Any student not eligible to represent a KHSAA member school at the varsity level shall not participate in any varsity event managed by a KHSAA member school.

d) All contests within Kentucky played by KHSAA member schools in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control. Approval for any exemptions shall come through the Commissioner.

SEC. 2) CONTESTS WITH SCHOOLS FROM OTHER STATES, CANADA AND MEXICO

a) Any student not eligible to represent a KHSAA member school at the varsity level shall not participate in any varsity event managed by a school in another state.

b) Member schools of the KHSAA shall adhere to all restrictions contained in the National Federation of State High School Associations’ sanctioning policy when playing any contest or scrimmage against an out-of-state opponent (including Canada and Mexico) in a KHSAA-
sanctioned sport.
c) All contests within Kentucky in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport against schools from out of state that are played by KHSAA member schools shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control. Approval for any exemptions shall come through the Commissioner.
d) The KHSAA member school is responsible for ensuring the legality of the opponents and that the procedures of the NFHS sanctioning policy are followed.
e) Any KHSAA member school that engages in an athletic contest in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport with a school, not in compliance with Sec. 1 or Sec. 2 above shall be subject to all penalties contained in Bylaw 27.