

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

JUNE/JULY, 2004

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



It's hard to believe the 2003-04 school year has come to a close. KHSAA staff members are busy wrapping up our spring sports events and re-organizing our plans for the coming year.

Special thanks go to 2003-04 President Paul Dotson for his leadership as president of the KHSAA.

Congratulations go to Jim Sexton of Eastern High School who was elected Board of Control president for the upcoming 2004-05 school year, and Jerry Taylor, A.D. at Hart County High School was elected vice-president.

The Board of Control approved a preliminary operating budget of \$2.7 million for the Association for 2004-05. The budget includes the continuation of the catastrophic insurance program for its member school student-athletes during the playing seasons at a cost of nearly \$147,500. This renewal also includes the continuation of the \$0 deductible for KHSAA post-season play. The amount paid for insurance is approximately 50% of the total monies received for membership dues.

The Board approved the staff report that due to sound fiscal control and planning, the KHSAA is on schedule to pay off the Association headquarters office in late 2007. This plan is 2 years ahead of schedule.

Please note that **September 10, 2004** is the date Annual Meeting proposals are due to the KHSAA office.

The Board of Control approved **January 13, 2005** as the date for this year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting for the 2005-06 school year will be scheduled in October. The exact date will be determined later upon confirmation of the site.

As the school year comes to a close, and summer begins, here's hoping you had a great year.

Enjoy the summer!

GAME/CONTEST CONTRACTS

The KHSAA recommends that formal contracts be written in all sports and include all terms and conditions for participation. School personnel are reminded that the KHSAA Constitution Article 8 Section B states:

"The Association will not undertake to enforce oral contracts or oral agreements to changes in written contracts."

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 leaving your school, please take the time to update your information one last time by going through the Members Only Link on the KHSAA web site

(<http://www.khsaa.org/memberschoolpage.html>) and update the information as of now. The deadline for school information to be included in the Handbook is August 6.

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 Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA (mmitchell@khsaa.org).

TITLE IX - PRIME TIME BASKETBALL GAMES

After review of several 2003-04 boys' and girls' basketball schedules, a concern still exists regarding "prime time" playing opportunities for girls' basketball contests.

"Prime time" is defined as contests on Friday night and/or Saturday/Saturday night and relate to home games for the contestants. "Prime time" opportunities for girls' home basketball games should reflect a comparable percentage when compared to the "prime time" opportunities scheduled for boys' home basketball games. "Prime time" basketball games played away from home do not demonstrate any initiative in scheduling or hosting prime time playing opportunities, with regards to providing equitable playing opportunities for the purpose of Title IX compliance.

In addition, for home contests scheduled on Friday and/or Saturday, starting game times should be rotated to achieve equitable scheduling. The KHSAA will be reviewing closely the 2004-05 boys' and girls' basketball schedules to monitor equitable scheduling of prime time games.

NHSCA HALL OF FAME

National High School Coaches Association congratulations go to Bart Rison, Boys Basketball Coach at Montgomery County High School for being selected into the NHSCA Hall of Fame.

SPORTSMANSHIP HONOREES

Ali Isaac-Lowry of Henry Clay and Brad Bell of Wayne County were named statewide scholarship winners at the annual First Corbin Financial Corporation/KHSAA Sportsmanship Recognition Banquet held Sunday, May 16 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. Each receive a \$2,500 scholarship, courtesy of First Corbin Financial Corporation

Following are regional winners: Region 1 - Seth Thomas, Lone Oak, Lauren Clemson, Murray, Region 2 - Jenna Fultz, Caldwell County, Evan Roberts, Trigg County, Region 3 - Robert Skaggs, Grayson County, Elizabeth Mauzy, Owensboro, Region 4 - Derek Roberts, Logan County, Rosa Groves, Todd County Central, Region 5 - Gilbert Rogers, Hart County, Sarah Sheeran, Meade County, Region 6 - Jaymie Barker, Presentation, Paul Boccheri, Valley, Region 7 - Eric Lindsey, Eastern, Katie Deely, Seneca, Region 8 - Stefanie Brock, Oldham County, Brandon Quinlan, Oldham County, Region 9 - Nicholas Bird, Lloyd Memorial, Holly Hirt, Villa Madonna, Region 10 - Michael Cannon, Bracken County, Emily Wills, George Rogers Clark, Region 11 - Al Isaac-Lowry, Henry Clay, Kyle Littrell, Lexington Christian, Region 12 - Courtney Watts, Mercer County, Bradley Bell, Wayne County, Region 13 - Jeremy Bowling, Clay County, Lauren Clontz, Rockcastle County, Region 14 - Megan Riddell, Hazard, Jon Housley, Hazard, Region 15 - Jessica Isaac, Allen Central, Paul Francis, Allen Central, Region 16 - Meghan Stull, Bath County, Ryan Meenach, Boyd County.

This marks the eighth year of the program. Each KHSAA member school selects one boy and one girl winner at the local school level. Regional winners are then selected by a group of athletic administrators and chosen from the local school winners. The statewide boy and girl winner was chosen from the 32 regional winners (16 boys/16 girls).

2004-05 BOARD OF CONTROL TRANSITION

Arthur "Ozz" Jackson, Athletic Director at Whitesburg, will begin a four-year term of service to the 13th and 14th region schools on July 1. June 30th marks the end of service for long-time Board member Eddie Saylor, Asst. Superintendent at Bell County Schools, who was not eligible to seek another term. L.V. McGinty was recently reappointed to an additional term as an at-large member by the Kentucky Board of Education. Mr. Paul Dotson, Asst. Superintendent in Pike County Schools, and Ms. Donna Wear, Principal at Lone Oak, successfully won elections for additional four-year terms in office.

GOLF COACHES RULES CLINIC REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, ALL golf head coaches are required to attend an annual KHSAA Golf Rules Clinic in order to be eligible to coach in post season play. The 2004 Rules Clinic dates are:

(All times are local and 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise)

6/23	Louisville, Audubon Country Club, 10:30 a.m.
7/13	London, South Laurel HS
7/14	Owensboro, Summit Country Club, 12:30 p.m.
7/29	Florence, Boone Co. HS
8/10	Murray HS
8/11	Bowling Green HS
8/12	Lexington, KHSAA Office
8/16	Paintsville, Johnson Central HS
9/13	Make-Up (\$75 Fine) Lexington, KHSAA Office

REMINDER ABOUT SUMMER START OF PRACTICE AND ELIGIBILITY

School representatives are reminded that athletes must be eligible by all KHSAA Bylaws prior to any PRACTICE OR PLAY, in sports that began official practice July 15.

This includes restrictions on transferring students who are subject to Bylaw 6, as well as all other applicable KHSAA rules concerning age, academics and enrollment. Each summer, the fall sports coaches are often caught in a situation where students appear for practice and the coach's inclination is to immediately allow practice with the squad.

It is imperative that administrators ensure that all eligibility rules are followed, even during the summer months. No local district policy may supersede or overrule this important reminder.

BYLAW 4 REMINDER

A change implemented a couple of years ago should be reiterated to all school personnel at this time of year. 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 9-12) 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.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

With the recent changes to the KHSAA Constitution, member schools are reminded of the lengthy process in place to change Association rules.

1. To initiate a change in the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Association, a member school Principal or Designated Representative must submit a proposal in writing by **September 10** in order for it to be considered at the next Annual Meeting. KHSAA Staff will then consult with the author on final language to ensure consistency with other parts of the Handbook with final wording approved by the author. All proposals will be reviewed by the Board of Control and KHSAA legal counsel. Unless they are illegal and (contrary to statute or contradictory to the Federal Court Order of 1971/1987), they will be placed on the Annual Meeting Agenda.
2. In addition, the Board of Control is charged via 702 KAR 7:065 with annually reviewing its Constitution and Bylaws and is directed by regulation to propose any necessary amendments. At the discretion of the Board of Control, issues submitted by the membership may be presented and authored by the Board, if the issue is such that the Board.
3. Once proposals are approved for placement on the Annual Meeting Agenda, the proposals are to be distributed to the membership in time for review prior to the Annual Meeting voting session. Proposals require a 2/3 vote of those answering the roll in order to be approved for passage.
4. After consideration, the Board of Control is required by 702 KAR 7:065 to issue its own opinion and recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education as to whether or not the change should be implemented. Consideration of proposals is generally done at a meeting of the Board on the day following voting or at its next regular meeting.

In addition, the KHSAA must annually be designated by the Kentucky Board of Education as the entity to manage interscholastic athletics. This designation is a multi-tiered process, which usually begins at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the membership (normally January).

1. The Kentucky Board of Education considers a regulatory amendment at that time which not only designates the Association as the entity to manage, but adopts its rules and regulations as part of 702 KAR 7:065, giving them the force of law and allowing them to be defended in court. The first step, is an intent to amend and adopt, then it must be considered at a second meeting of the Kentucky

Board of Education for final approval (generally, two months later).

2. Following that approval and the inevitable final refinements of the regulatory language, the regulation is submitted to the Legislative Research Commission, whose timetable must then be followed for adoption. Part of that timetable involves the opportunity for public input, and two meetings spaced approximately six to eight weeks apart for their approval.

For these reasons, and given this timetable, proposals considered in January do not normally have time to be stepped through the legislative process and implemented by the start of the next school year, hence the Constitution provision which states that the rules are implemented at the pleasure of the Kentucky Board of Education and its approval timeline. While this long, cumbersome process seems slow, it is absolutely imperative that the process be properly adhered to if the Association is to enforce and defend the very rules the members pass. It also is seen as a deterrent to quick, reactionary proposals which may need careful and arduous consideration prior to voting.

KHSAA rules can also be amended via referendum (written vote) of the membership. A member school can request a referendum on an issue or issues by writing the proposal in the manner described above. The Board of Control then considers the referendum issue. By Constitution, only the Board of Control can issue a referendum, and unless the issue is approved by the Board as its own endorsed proposal, such referendum is not distributed, but rather, deferred for consideration at the next annual meeting of the membership. If a referendum is approved for distribution, it becomes authored by the Board of Control, and requires a two-thirds vote of those submitting ballots, for passage.

The Tournament Rules of the Association (alignments, tournament formats, miscellaneous tournament rules), are the complete jurisdiction of the Board of Control and suggestions or requests for amendments are considered only by the Board of Control in regular session.

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

At the request of the prior attendees, the Athletic Administrators Workshop has been scheduled slightly earlier in the summer in order to better prepare the administrators for the coming year. This year's workshop is scheduled on Friday, August 13, 2004 in Lexington at the KHSAA office. Registration information will be emailed to the Principals, Athletic Directors and Superintendents in July with registration details.

CHEER WORKSHOP

The KHSAA has scheduled The Annual Cheerleading Workshop on Saturday, August 21, 2004 at the KHSAA office in Lexington. Details will be available on the KHSAA website by July 15, 2004.

SANCTIONS

This is in regard to the policy of the National Federation for sanctioning out-of-state contests. KHSAA member schools hosting an event are to complete the sanction form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$75.00. The fee should be made payable to the National Federation and sent to the KHSAA. The KHSAA is responsible for forwarding the form and fee to the National Federation Office. When Kentucky member schools are participating in out-of-state contests, the host school from out-of-state is responsible for completing the sanction form. A sanction form is not required if all participating schools are from bordering states of Kentucky. Please note, however, that Tennessee and West Virginia require a sanction form for every out-of-state event. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office (859)299-5472 or email mmitchell@khsaa.org.