

Commissioner's Notes

January 2008



Participation Sportsmanship Integrity



♦ PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ♦

FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



Here's hoping your holidays were the very best, and the coming year is productive and enjoyable for you and your family.

In January, the KHSAA Calendar of Events begins to shift into high gear with the start of the spring sports rules clinics in baseball, softball, and track scheduled later in the month. In addition the staff is

making plans for the winter sports championships scheduled in February and March. The KHSAA Board meets on January 9-10 and continues to review the Association regulations and address current issues that impact athletics and education in general.

Change is in the air with the beginning of Governor Steve Beshear's tenure and the start of the 2008 legislative session. The Kentucky Board of Education is back in Frankfort for a meeting on February 6 & 7, 2008 under the leadership of new Secretary of Education, Helen Mountjoy, and the direction of Commissioner Jon Draud.

As always feel free to contact me or any staff member concerning KHSAA sponsored events or for clarification on any KHSAA Bylaws or regulations.

I hope to see you soon!

NATIONAL CITY SCHOLARSHIPS

National City Bank will again be awarding 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". Deadline for applications is Feb. 22, 2008. 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, 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.

BYLAW 25 REMINDER ABOUT GAME COUNTING

Each year, isolated representatives of member schools face issues in potential violation due to correctly counting the contests allowed in Bylaw 25. Subsequently, coaches, athletes or athletic programs are faced with penalty situations. These violations are preventable.

Each coach in all sports should carefully review the Bylaw 25 limitations, including the case situations following the bylaw. For example, baseball and softball coaches need to be aware that all games played in an event (regardless of format) must count as the same level for all teams (varsity, JV, freshman, etc.).

Several sports have variations in tournament counting within their rules (i.e. basketball), and a thorough knowledge of the provisions of Bylaw 25 will keep coaches and other school personnel out of trouble.

The penalty for exceeding these limits is contained in Bylaw 25. The complete text of Sections 1-6 of this Bylaw is included for your review on page 3. If violations are discovered before tournament play begins, then the penalty is the removal of a team from championship play. If detected later, the individual coach of the team and/or the member school may be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33. This includes but is not limited to, coaching suspension from contests, probation of teams and/or member schools and a dramatic reduction in future schedules to atone for the error.

Please be sure all representatives of your sports programs are aware of the contest and scrimmage limitations.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CORNER

On December 17, 2007 the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association honored Phil Rison, CMAA, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky with a Distinguished Service Award.

For the past 22 years, Phil has promoted the benefits of interscholastic athletics and education on the local, state and national levels. He has been a coach, teacher, assistant principal, athletic director and is now Director of Operations for the Montgomery Co. School System.

He has been an integral part of the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association and has played a key role in the Kentucky High School Athletic Association as Policy Board member and chairman. On the national level he has been a workshop facilitator and presenter and is now chair of the Leadership Training Program course 508, Legal Issues II.

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.

BASKETBALL PHOTOS AND ROSTERS DUE

Please note basketball team photos & rosters are due by February 16. 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

BYLAW 11. PRACTICE OF SPORTSMANSHIP (DISQUALIFICATIONS)

It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public. The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation.

What is the responsibility of a coach who has been ejected from a scrimmage or contest or is serving the mandatory suspension for being ejected?

When a coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest or during the time suspended following an ejection, the coach is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility. This is important so as to discourage potential conflict during the remainder of, and following, the game.

If a coach or player is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension?

During the suspension period of any non-player (coach, administrator, etc.) the coach may not be at the game site for the team's contests and may not communicate with the team at any point from the beginning of the contest until the end of the contest. For purposes of definition, to "not be at the game site" is defined as not being on school property or game site property during the entire contest. Suspended players may attend the contest(s), but may not be in the game uniform or other school identifiable clothing and may not participate in any sport-related activity (warm-up activity) prior to or during the game.

Please see further clarifications in Bylaw 11 regarding disqualifications

REMINDER ABOUT THE NEW GAME COUNT FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Starting with this spring season, baseball and softball schedules will consist of a maximum of thirty six games in order to eliminate the confusing prior language regarding double and single elimination tournaments. Please remember that all contests played in any particular event must all count at the same level.

BYLAW 25. LIMITATION OF SEASONS

Sec. 1) General Provisions Concerning All Sports

1) Loss of School Time

No school time may be lost for travel to or from, or participation in, any regular season interscholastic athletic contest.

2) Schedule of Contests on Consecutive Days

Contests shall be scheduled so that there are not four consecutive days of competition on any Monday through Thursday period while school is in session.

3) Specific Definitions for Ending of School

For all interpretations and regulations concerning the ending of the school year, including restrictions on coaching involvement, the end of the school year shall be defined as the earlier of the last day of school or May 31.

4) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Contests

Any school violating provisions of this Bylaw by playing too many contests may not be eligible for state championship competition or may be otherwise penalized. For the determination to be made that the limit has been exceeded, it shall be reported in writing and received by the KHSAA prior to 12:01 a.m. (midnight) ET on the first day of the postseason tournament series as established by the KHSAA Memorandum Calendar. If detected and verified, the team exceeding the limit shall be ineligible for postseason play and may be further penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33. If the report is made after that point, the team shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33 but shall remain eligible for tournament play during the current season.

5) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Scrimmages

Any school violating scrimmage limitations may be placed on probation, prohibited from participating in preseason scrimmages in that sport for two (2) seasons, and may be prohibited from taking part in KHSAA state championship competition or other penalties in accordance with Bylaw 33. The second violation will result in automatic suspension.

6) Involvement of Members of the Coaching Staff Out of Season

Members of the high school coaching staff (paid or unpaid) shall not be prohibited from sport specific observation and evaluation (but not coaching) of any player who has played for a grade nine (9) through grade twelve (12) team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity) from the first day of school through the last day of school provided such play is under the direct control of the same local board of education as the coach is employed and provided such play is not in conflict with other KHSAA bylaws.

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

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

- 1/23 Somerset, Pulaski County HS
- 1/24 Whitesburg, Letcher Co. Central HS
- 1/26 Princeton, Caldwell County HS, 11 a.m.
- 1/27 Bowling Green, Bowling Green HS, 3 p.m.
- 1/28 Louisville, Christian Academy-Louisville HS
- 1/29 Independence, Simon Kenton HS
- 1/30 Paris, Bourbon County HS
- 2/2 Grayson, East Carter HS, 9 a.m.
- 3/25 Lexington, KHSAA Office, Make-Up Clinic (\$75 Fine), 1:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

(All Times are 6:30 p.m. local, unless noted otherwise)

- 1/23 Whitesburg, Letcher Co. Central HS
- 1/24 Somerset, Pulaski County HS
- 1/26 Princeton, Caldwell County HS, 9:00 a.m.
- 1/26 Danville, Centre College (w/KSCA Conference) 1:30 p.m.
- 1/27 Bowling Green, Bowling Green HS, 5:00 p.m.
- 1/28 Hebron, Conner HS
- 1/29 Shepherdsville, Bullitt Central HS
- 1/31 Paris, Bourbon County HS
- 2/2 Grayson, East Carter HS, 11:00 a.m.
- 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)

- 1/26 Princeton, Caldwell County HS, 1 p.m.
- 1/27 Bowling Green, Bowling Green HS
- 2/4 Whitesburg, Letcher Co. Central HS
- 2/6 Independence, Simon Kenton HS
- 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)

KENTUCKY TRACK OFFICIALS SELECTED TO WORK ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Congratulations are in order for several KHSAA licensed Track & Field Officials who have been selected to officiate at Track & Field meets on the national level.

The following individuals have been selected for the 2008 Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon: Gordon Bocock, Ken Gibson, James McKee, Kenny Morton, Bill Nault, Doug Allen, Frank Newton

Junior National's in Columbus, Ohio will involve the following people: Gordon Bocock, Ken Gibson, James McKee, Dave Clark, Bob Stacey, Mike Crowhurst, Linda Sarrett, Kenny Morton, Doug Allen, Frank Newton

Kathy Johnston has been selected to work the USATF Indoor Nationals in Boston, Massachusetts.

We are proud of our Kentucky High School Track & Field Officials!

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