

Commissioner's Notes

May 2008



Participation Sportsmanship Integrity



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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



The school year is rapidly coming to a close and we are in the final phase of the KHSAA Spring Championship Season. As always it is a very busy time for all of us in the school business with a lot of activity taking place.

The following is a brief re-cap of items approved by the Board of Control at their May 13th Board meeting:

Approved a report from legal counsel wherein the 1971/1987 Federal Court Decree has been amended to allow for staff expansion, and then subsequently approved the hiring of an additional Assistant Commissioner (Job description is listed on the KHSAA Website),

Approved a \$3.7 million draft FY2009 budget for KHSAA operations,

Approved major revisions to the KHSAA Due Process Procedure which, if approved by the Kentucky Board of Education and the legislature, will expedite the student eligibility process,

Modified the football alignment for the 2009 & 10 seasons and approved the mandatory scheduling grid for those seasons,

Approved sending out an RFP for the KHSAA Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl for the 2009 and 10 state football championships,

Reviewed Annual Meeting Proposals including those submitted by the member schools,

Selected the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Class for 2009,

Approved moving forward with the "STAR" sportsmanship program which when finalized will hopefully reduce contest ejections and reinforce the importance of good sportsmanship in our member high schools,

Elected the following new officers for the 2008-09 school year: President- Lonnie Burgett, Mayfield Superintendent and Vice President-Dave Weedman, Principal at Oldham County, and

Clarified Catastrophic Insurance Plan for 2008-09 school year.

I will be attending several important meetings in the near future and look forward to these opportunities. One of

these is the KASS Conference, June 3-5, 2008 at the Radisson in Lexington. I look forward to providing a KHSAA update at this important meeting, as well as presenting some Association information during the new superintendent orientation.

KHSAA staff are finalizing dates for the KHSAA 2008-09 Calendar of events which will be mailed to the schools in early June.

Enjoy the summer!

INSURANCE CLARIFICATIONS

As part of its May, 2008 Board of Control agenda, the Board reviewed its Catastrophic and other insurance coverage for the 2008-2009 school year. In April, the Board of Control confirmed its decision of 2006 to eliminate the exposure of covering sports over which the KHSAA does not have control through a sanctioned championship. The Board also reviewed its options with respect to the coverage for preseason activity in football in light of the membership decision in September, 2007 to revise the provisions of Bylaw 25, Limitation of Seasons, and eliminate the non-contact period. After discussion and action, the following activities fall within the parameters desired by the Board and therefore, are covered by the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance plan.

For the 2008-2009 school year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association will again maintain, at no additional cost to the member schools, catastrophic insurance coverage for all participants in interscholastic athletics while traveling to or from, practicing for, or participating in, an athletic contest sanctioned by the KHSAA.

The policy is carried through Mutual of Omaha and is administered by a Kentucky based broker. The policy is only in effect during the defined Limitation of Seasons (Bylaw 25) and only during permissible activity. The policy carries a \$25,000 deductible for regular season contests, and is considered "excess" insurance, which does not take force until all other existing sources of insurance by the participants' family and school have been exhausted. The policy has a medical maximum payout of \$5,000,000 with a 10-year benefit period.

For 2008-2009, this coverage to cover –

Those students participating in all events for which the KHSAA sponsors a state high school championship, Competitive cheer competitions during which the competition is conducted within the limitations of the National Federation Spirit Guide, and

The preseason activity under the direct supervision of the high school coaches in football on or after July 15, provided that activity is on campus, non-contact, non-interscholastic and no equipment is worn with the exception of a helmet.

This would specify that student-athletes are insured while representing a member school during the prescribed Limitation of Seasons in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track / Decathlon / Heptathlon / Pentathlon/Cross Country, Volleyball, Wrestling and the sport activity of Competitive Cheer.

For those schools sponsoring sports that are not covered by the KHSAA Catastrophe Plan, similar insurance may be available from the KHSAA carrier, Mutual of Omaha, at a significantly reduced rate compared to what is available on the open market. With enough competitors, schools or groups of schools may be able to purchase the Catastrophic Medical plan with the same provisions as the KHSAA plan for as little as \$3.40 per person. For information, contact Bobbi Land at Bob Roberts Insurance, 859-623-7684.

Administrators should also remember that according to Bylaw 2, a school must ensure that all of its student athletes are insured up to the deductible amount of the KHSAA Catastrophe (\$25,000) policy before participation. The Board of Control and staff continue to study alternative methods of reducing insurance costs for the KHSAA and the cost of member schools providing this coverage for students.

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 16. If you need assistance with schedule entry, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA.

ASSOCIATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

By action of the Board of Control at its May meeting, the Commissioner has been authorized to accept applications for an Assistant Commissioner to be employed by the office. This would create a fourth Assistant Commissioner to help manage and liaison the tasks expected to be performed in servicing the membership.

The details on this position are located at <http://www.khsaa.org/khsaa-assistantcommissioneradvertisement2008.pdf>. Applications for this position from individuals not offered employment will be considered for any additional similar positions available prior to December 31, 2008 without additional re-listing or re-advertising.

KHSAA WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF CONTROL MEMBER



Please get to know Anita Burnette who will be replacing Donna Wear on the KHSAA Board of Control. Mrs. Burnette has been at Owensboro HS since 2000, the first two of those years as assistant principal before taking over the reins as head administrator. She is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and the University of Georgia.

She and her husband Deck have two daughters Adriene and Ashley and a new grandson.

Mrs. Burnette said she "is very interested in serving on the Board of Control to represent my colleagues in Regions 1-8 with the complex issues that exist in athletics across our diverse state."

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

DAWAHARES/KHSAA HALL OF FAME GOLF CLASSIC

The Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Golf Classic is scheduled for Tuesday, **June 17** at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. At the outing the 2009 Hall of Fame induction Class will be introduced.

Anyone interested in participating, please contact Butch Cope or Ken Tippett at the Association office.

SOCCER SHINGUARD REMINDER

This is a reminder that beginning with the 2008-2009 Soccer Season, all shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications. Shinguards shall not be modified from their original manufactured state, shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended, and must be age and size appropriate as stated in the NFHS 2008-2009 Soccer Rules book.

BASKETBALL RULES CHANGE

Schools are alerted to the fact that the National Federation Basketball Rules Committee adopted a rule change that will affect free throw activity. This change, which begins with the 2008-09 basketball season, will require new court markings along the free throw lane. Schools can view the new basketball court diagram by clicking on the NFHS website (www.nfhs.org) or the KHSAA Website (www.khsaa.org) Hot News (left side of website homepage).

The new rule: Beginning next season, all players will move up one lane space during a free-throw attempt. A new mark will be applied to the lane line near the free-throw line to designate the last 3-foot marked lane space."

CLARIFICATION ON PERMISSABLE GEAR REMINDER ABOUT OFF SEASON FOOTBALL PRACTICE AND LEGAL EQUIPMENT

This is a revision to published Case Situation CS BL25-17, necessitated by the passage and implementation of Proposal 7 from the 2007 Annual Meeting. Please ensure that this information is distributed to all members of the football coaching staff. This supercedes all previously issued interpretations related to practice equipment. School representatives should remember that from June 1 to July 14, the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance is not in place. It is not in place between July 15 and the first contact date for interscholastic play, off campus, or for any activity where equipment other than a helmet is worn.

Case BL-25-17- What equipment can be worn, what activities can occur, and what restrictions are in place for football practice during the summer period and once official practice begins for the team.

Definitions

1) "Helmet-Only" activity is a practice period where only a helmet is worn. During this helmet-only period, no full contact drills or other activity can occur which would result in a player completing a tackle, or being blocked or tackled to the ground.

2) "Contact Practice" is practice during the legal period (after the first date of contact as determined in Bylaw 25) when the remainder of the football gear specified in the rule book is worn and activity during the session is not restricted with regard to contact.

The day following the last date of school or June 1, whichever is earlier, through June 24 is a Helmet-Only period.

1) During this period, a football player may wear a helmet during any football specific drill or session that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.

2) Member school coaches and other representatives should note that there are no insurance provisions in place at this time.

From June 25 to July 9, no football gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5 may be issued by a school directly to a player from that school, and the full provisions of the dead period (Bylaw 26) must be observed.

July 10 to the first day of contact is a Helmet-Only period.

1) During this period, a football player may wear a helmet during any football specific drill or session that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.

From the first permissible date of contact practice (the earlier of August 1 or seven week days before the start of school) through the conclusion of the season is a Contact Practice Period.

1) Beginning on the first permissible date, all other pads can be worn as defined in Rule 1-5 and full contact practice may begin for all individuals who have previously had five days of supervised non-contact practice in order to become acclimated to heat.

2) Players coming out late must have five days out of pads to become acclimated to heat.

3) Beginning with the first permissible date of contact practice, teams cannot conduct multiple contact practice sessions on consecutive days. If multiple contact practices (up to a maximum of two) are held on a day, then only one contact practice session can be held on the following day.

4) Once full contact practice has begun, there is not a restriction on the number of non-contact practices conducted on any day.

Reminders

1) With the exception of the Dead Period, nothing about these interpretations prevents a school from allowing equipment to be issued to students to attend individual camps at other sites without members of the coaching staff.

2) Nothing about any of the interpretations prevents individual camp attendance by players using school owned equipment outside of the dead period or team camp attendance within the contact window and subject to the scrimmage limitations.

3) Any activity in the summer prior to the first day of contact practice as well as any activity conducted contrary to the equipment and scrimmage is not covered by the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance Plan.

4) Any activity contradictory to the rules and regulations of the Association (including the interpretations as published), potentially renders all insurance provisions null and void.

PRIME DATE SCHEDULING GIRLS' BASKETBALL

In an effort to provide KHSAA member schools with a more definitive procedure regarding scheduling regular season girls' "prime date" basketball games, the following policy was adopted and approved by the KHSAA Board of Control:

"The KHSAA will audit all girls' regular season basketball schedules (hereinafter "current schedule"). These annual audits will begin with the first legal regular season playing date. Based on that audit, in the case that a school's total home games for girls' do not reflect at least 40% of those girl's home games being played on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday, the following penalty will be in place:

The school's boys' regular season total game schedule for the following school year's basketball season will be reduced by two games in comparison with the current boys' schedule.

The overall two contest reduction must be achieved by reducing boys' home games.

In the case that a school does not have any home games, the two game penalty will be applied to away games.

In the unfortunate event that this penalty is imposed, the offending school shall consider the game a forfeit with respect to KHSAA Bylaws and must comply with the provisions of Bylaw 24 as it relates to forfeit fees and other penalties, but the game may not be replaced on the offending team's schedule.

Schools may not schedule or enter additional tournaments from the benchmark year as a means of circumventing the penalties within this policy.

The school will be notified of this reduction in their total number of allowable boys' 2009-10 games by December 31, 2008.

NOTE: It is important that schedules be posted on the KHSAA website accurately and on time. Equally important is the accurate designation and entry of which games are involved in tournaments, classics, festivals and other multi-game events.

Once the first legal playing date audit begins (December 1, 2008 for the 2008-09 season), appeals will not be allowed based on improperly submitted scheduling information and/or untimely posting of schedules.

For Example:

On Monday, December 1, 2008 (first legal playing date for the 2008-09 season) Jones High School's regular season girls' basketball schedule reflects they are not playing 40% of their girls' total number of home games on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday.

During that same 2007-08 season, the boys' total number of all regular season games played is 23 as defined by Bylaw 25. Within this 23 count, there are 21 single games being played and two tournaments counted in a reduced fashion per the rule. The boys' team played six regular season home single games.

Due to non-compliance with the 40% requirement for girls', Jones High School's total number of allowable boys' regular season single games (not including or involving the allowable two tournaments that may be counted in a reduced fashion) for the 2009-10 regular season will be reduced to 19. The total allowable number of 2009-10 regular season home games may not exceed four.

Scheduled boy/girl double-headers, at any time during the season, should reflect starting game times, for the girls' games as follows:

- One Double-Header (Optional As To Which Team Plays Second)
- Two Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Once)
- Three Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Once)
- Four Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Twice)
- Five Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Twice)
- Six Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Three Times)
- Seven Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Three Times)
- Eight Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Four Times)
- Nine Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Four Times)
- Ten Double-Headers (Girls Game Must Be Played Second At Least Five Times)

FUTURE BOYS' AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT DATES

As schools plan for the 2009 school calendars, we have received a great many inquiries from school and school systems regarding the scheduling of the state basketball tournaments during the next few years. In May (2005), the Board of Control approved the advance schedule of dates and it was distributed to the membership.

Advance Dates for National City/KHSAA Boys' Sweet Sixteen® (site contracted through 2014 to be held at Rupp Arena in Lexington). (Parenthetic number refers to NFHS Standard Calendar Week Number)

2009 3/18-3/21 (37)

2010 3/17-3/20 (37)

2011 3/16-3/19 (37)

Advance Dates for Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Sweet Sixteen® (site contracted through 2011 to be held at Diddle Arena in Bowling Green) (Parenthetic number refers to NFHS Standard Calendar Week Number)

2009 3/11-3/14 (36)

2010 3/10-3/13 (36)

2011 3/9-3/12 (36)

FEE REVISION IN SOCCER AND FOOTBALL

At its September, 2007 regular meeting, the KHSAA Board of Control voted to increase the standard fee paid to soccer and football officials. This change was made as part of the Board's stated pattern of reviewing the fees in every sport on a four-year basis. These fees are the standard fees, and no school may pay less for a varsity contest.

If a crew of officials works more than one contest at the same site, on the same day, the home school is not obligated to pay above the state standard fee for the second or subsequent contest(s). Regional Policy Boards desiring to pay an additional allowance due to concerns about travel by officials may do so, and must notify the KHSAA of such fees.

For 2008, the standard varsity fee in football shall be \$55.00 per contest per official for a five person crew. All football officials will work outside of local association for playoffs. For 2008 season, the local mileage/travel allowance may not be reduced from 2007 level.

For 2008, the standard varsity fee in soccer shall be \$50 per contest per official - two (2)-person crew; \$45 per contest per official - three (3)-person crew. For 2008 season, the local mileage/travel allowance may not be reduced from 2007 level.

The Board will continue annually to review officials' pay on an annual basis with the fees in Volleyball, Cross Country, Track and Swimming slated for consideration in September, 2008.

REMINDER ABOUT CHANGE IN BASKETBALL CORRESPONDING DATES

For the last two years, coaches and schools have been reminded about the change in corresponding dates that occurs after the 2007-2008 season. Since many schools are scheduling games for the next two-year contract cycle, coaches and administrators should carefully review the basketball corresponding date chart on page 104 of the Handbook and at <http://www.khsaa.org/handbook/correspondingdates/basketballcorrespondingdates.pdf>. After the 2007-2008 season, the normal calendar adjustment combined with the contraction of the basketball season by one week will make it important that these dates be reviewed when making two year scheduling commitments and finalizing game contracts.

2007-2008 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

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	Forcht Bank/KHSAA Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington