



# Commissioner's Notes

**Participation ♦ Sportsmanship ♦ Integrity**

**November 2009**

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

## FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



Hello everyone! November is a very busy month for the KHSAA with two state championships in the picture. The State Soccer Tournament was an outstanding event this year and is already a part of high school sports history. The competitive atmosphere at Georgetown College, the host site for this event, was excellent as the final match scores demonstrate.

Assistant Commissioner Darren Bilberry who manages this championship ordered great weather for the entire week which made it fan friendly and a spectators dream.

The State Cross Country Meet is coming up and once again is scheduled at the Kentucky Horse Park, but in a new location of the park. Everyone is really excited about running on the new course which is dedicated for use just for the sport of Cross Country.

To re-cap October, Halloween was the scheduled weekend for the State Volleyball Tournament which was hosted at Northern Kentucky University. The KHSAA staff continued to focus on breast cancer awareness with our Pass-Pink-Cure theme. Assistant Commissioner Butch Cope who manages this event, along with our tournament staff and officials were all dressed in pink attire. Pink shakers were distributed to the fans and one of our participating volleyball coaches, Lynne Givens of Green County HS, was recognized and presented a pink volleyball in support of her own battle with breast cancer.

I presented the final report of the Sports Safety Work Group to the Interim Joint Committee on Education on November 9, 2009. SSWG members Michael Dailey Dr. Pete Bowles, Dr. Ben Kibler and Executive Assistant Julian Tackett were a part of the presentation to this important committee. I am pleased to share with you that the report received a very favorable response by the committee. The other SSWG members who were present received a standing ovation by the committee for their collaborative efforts along with the KHSAA staff, in continuing to improve sports safety for the interscholastic sports community.

As November unfolds we all need to be mindful that we have much to be thankful for. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

## KHSAA CONTEST OPPONENTS, IN AND OUT OF STATE

As events are being scheduled, please note the criteria for out of state teams and tournaments and required sanctions:

### KHSAA MEMBERS VS. IN STATE TEAMS

All regular season games against in-state opponents must be against schools that also belong to the KHSAA. Students from non-member schools in Kentucky may not, under any circumstances, compete against KHSAA member school students in the contests defined within Bylaw 25.

### KHSAA MEMBERS VS. OUT OF STATE TEAMS FROM CONTIGUOUS STATES

All regular season games played against out of state opponents must be played against schools that are members of that state's association in Baseball, Basketball, Fastpitch Softball, Soccer, Football and Volleyball. The KHSAA office can assist in determining the status of those teams.

Though not required by KHSAA sanction paperwork is required for some contests against schools from Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia.

### KHSAA MEMBERS VS. NON CONTIGUOUS OR OTHERS THAT REQUIRE NFHS SANCTION

KHSAA member schools hosting an event are to complete the online NFHS sanction form and include the processing fee if the contests includes any of the following criteria:

The event involves two or more schools and is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a university, theme park, athletic shoe/apparel company);

Non-bordering state events if five or more states are involved;

Non-bordering state events if more that eight schools are involved; or

Any event involving two or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico).

The sanction process is completed online via the NFHS website. The processing fee scale is: 60 days prior to NFHS office, \$200, 15-59 days prior, \$200 + \$100 late fee, \$300, less than 15 days prior \$200 + \$300 late fee + \$100 no list fee, \$600.

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 through the applicable state association and the KHSAA member is responsible for ensuring this process is complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office (859)299-5472 or email [mmitchell@khsaa.org](mailto:mmitchell@khsaa.org).

## REMINDER ABOUT DISQUALIFICATIONS

Member school representatives are reminded about the penalties for ejection from contests. The complete text covering almost every possible scenario is on the KHSAA web site at <http://www.khsaa.org/schools/dqpolicy.pdf>. However in light of many questions, and the turnover in school administration, it is prudent to review the "normal" procedure for ejections. Keep in mind that the above referenced document covers those other special situations (end of season, last game of sport, etc.).

Reinstatement requests will NOT be processed by the KHSAA until the member school has requested the reinstatement. Clicking on the link in the initial notification email, you will be prompted to login, and there will be a box to type in comments. Those comments might be "John Doe will serve his suspension September 25", or "The school will comply with the suspension per Bylaw 16", or something as simple as "The school requests that the athlete be reinstatement following the suspension period". It is free form, but must be completed before reinstatement can be done.

Any time an adult coach or other adult school athletic representative is ejected, that person may not be on school property at any location during the period of time they are serving the required suspension.

Each step during the disqualification process (reporting by official, request for reinstatement by member school, reinstatement by KHSAA), the Principal and Athletic Director will receive an email notice. Each time, you may notice something additional has been done (reinstatement comments from school, reinstatement comments from the KHSAA), so it is important to carefully review the disqualification report using the link in the email.

If the administrators login to the School portion of the web site, you can click on "School link to DQs" in the left column. You can then review the disqualifications that are on file. If you look at the three columns on the right, if there is an "X" under O/R, it means the official has reported. If there is an "X" under S/R, then the school has requested reinstatement. If there is an "X" under C/R, then the Commissioner's office has closed the matter. Clicking on the link under report number will reveal all details about the disqualification.

Lastly, here is a quick summary for the "normal DQs" based on the requirement for Star Sportsmanship for all ejections, and the change in the penalty for adult ejections.

### Competitor Disqualification

- No fine
- Minimum 1 game suspension, possibly more depending upon actions by player. Subsequent suspension in same sport results in additional

game. Third suspension in season, done for year.

- School determines if athlete can be present for suspended game, but cannot be in uniform or equipment.
- Any suspended competitor must take Star Sportsmanship by last day of regular season (at least for this fall). If they don't finish it by then, not eligible for playoffs. No makeups.

### Coach or other Adult Disqualification

- \$50 fine first suspension, doubles on second and doubles on third (along with other penalties).
- Minimum 2 game suspension at level of ejection. Can be more contests dependent upon actions. Subsequent suspension, minimum additional 2 games. Third suspension, suspension for remainder of year year.
- Coach or other suspended adult cannot be on school property during games played under suspension, no exceptions.
- Any coach or other adult suspension, has seven days to complete Star Sportsmanship or additional game is added and suspension continues through completion of course.

## REMAINING KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nov. 14	Boys' & Girls' Cross Country	Ky. Horse Park, Lexington
Dec. 4-5	Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl Football	Houchens LT Smith Stadium, WKU Bowling Green
Feb. 12-13	Pannell Swim Shop/KHSAA Swimming	U of L Ralph Wright Natatorium, Louisville
Feb. 18-20	Wrestling	Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort
March 10-13	Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
March 17-20	PNC/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
May 27-29	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington
June 4-5	Boys' & Girls' Track	U of L Owsley Frazier Park, Louisville
June 11-12	Fast Pitch Softball	Jack Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 14-19	Forcht Bank/KHSAA Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington

## BYLAW 5 REINSTATEMENT REMINDER

Member schools are reminded about the change in Bylaw 5 that allows for reinstatement of academic eligibility at the end of a semester, or trimester, if final credits are recorded at those intervals and not simply a reporting of grades. A student who fell short on the first day of school may be reinstated to eligibility on the first day of the next semester if, during the semester ineligible, they get fifteen (15) percent of their graduation credit requirements during the first semester if the school is on a semester system. A student who fell short on the first day of school may be reinstated to eligibility on the first day of the next trimester if, during the trimester ineligible, they get ten (10) percent of their graduation credit requirements during the first trimester if the school is on a trimester system. Keep in mind that the number of credits required always must be rounded up to the next half credit when making the decision. A complete table is listed on page 22 of the Handbook. This reinstatement can be made effective for the first date of the next semester (or trimester) only if that number of credits is recorded to the transcript.

For example, if a student attends a school where 28 is the graduation requirement, and entering their third year, they had 11 credits to start the year, they would have been ineligible on the first date of school as the required number of credits for that student was 12.6. However, if that student is able to receive 4.2 credits (likely 4.5 since most school systems do not award tenths of units) during the first semester, they could restore eligibility on the first day of the second semester. A majority of the time, this 15% exceeds the number of credits available during a normal semester and can only be obtained by participating in such programs as credit recovery, e-campus and other options. The option is there and the student knows what they need to do to regain eligibility.

As another example, that same student attends a school where 28 is the graduation requirement with 11 on the transcript on the first day (missing the 12.6 requirement) and the school is on a trimester system. That person can be restored if they pass 2.8 during the first semester (likely 3.0 due to the tenths of a credit). Again, this may be higher than the normal course load at a school and may required participation in such programs as credit recovery, e-campus or other options.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

## REVISED INTERPRETATION CONCERNING BYLAW 25 ISSUED FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (GOLF, CROSS COUNTRY, SWIMMING, WRESTLING, TENNIS, TRACK AND FIELD)

Bylaw 25, the Limitation of Seasons, clearly defines what is legal during the school year and in some cases, after the school year is complete. The details of what is allowed in the off-season (i.e. in the fall before practice starts in winter or spring sports, in the spring after the end of fall sports,

etc.) have been spelled out by interpretation in the Case Situations and are a result of interpretation by the Commissioner.

These interpretations supersede all previously published interpretations and are in effect as of July 15, 2009. These interpretations DO NOT AFFECT the team sports of volleyball, soccer, football, basketball, baseball or fast pitch softball. School representatives must be very mindful of the provisions in Case Situation BL-25-7 (formerly BL-25-6) to be sure violations do not occur.

### **Case BL-25-5– What are the restrictions for a coach being involved in coaching of his/her own players during the school year before the first legal practice date, after the last date for playing a contest in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball?**

The provisions of that rule imply that during the school year and prior to the first legal practice date, there shall be no practice or participation as a team or individuals under the instruction, direction or teaching of a member of the coaching staff.

Specific practice and participation dates are in place for each sport, and the interpretative season is the academic school year as far as coaching limitations. This limit on coaching involvement BEGINS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND ends on the earlier of the day following the last day of school or May 31 in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. The Limitation of Seasons, Bylaw 25, affects all sports, however the out of season restrictions specifically limit coaches in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. This restricts the coach in any sport from being involved coaching students in another team from that sport from that school. For example, the girls' coach cannot coach the boys' team in outside competition, or vice-versa. In addition, during this restricted period, the high school coach cannot coach athletes in an alternate format of the sport (i.e. 3 on 3 basketball).

The provisions of the rule state that following the team's last regular season contest, there shall be no further practice or play as a team or individuals under the instruction, direction or teaching of a member of the coaching staff for the remainder of the school year or until after May 31, whichever is earlier, with the exception of practice and play for the KHSAA tournament. The published exception to this restriction is that the team and coaches may continue to practice through elimination from KHSAA sanctioned post-season play.

Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. Coincident participation by a coach and an athlete in a sport such as a golf outing, where the coach and athlete(s) are not entered as a entry or group, or in an activity such as distance running with many runners and yet no direct coaching, would not specifically be considered coaching. It would however, be a violation of the

Limitation of Seasons if the coach provided entry information relative to outside competition in which he/she was also a participant, encouraged or required student-athlete participation in these outside events; or if any school funds were expended (i.e. transportation provided, entry fees paid, uniforms worn, etc.) It would also be a violation during this time for the coach to utilize players from his/her team while instructing or evaluating others in camps, clinics, combines or other sport- specific activities in the coach's sport.

Coaches resigning, retiring or being otherwise relieved of coaching following a sports season who then coach competitors from that school in outside preparation or competition in that sport during the school year or dead period would render themselves ineligible to be rehired the following year to coach a team at that school in that sport regardless of a change in employment status. A coach resigning, retiring or being otherwise relieved of coaching following a sports season does not relieve himself/herself of the responsibilities such as medical symposium attendance if in fact that are rehired for the following year.

Coaches may not coach the school participants in organized non-school sports competition in that sport during the school year in that sport. The high school coach or any assistant coach (paid or unpaid) may not coach members of the high school team in a league outside of the school's regular season competition during the school year, regardless of the type of league. It would also be a violation during this time for the coach to utilize players from his/her team while instructing or evaluating others in camps, clinics, combines or other sport- specific activities in the coach's sport.

The following activities are restricted during the school year in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball prior to the first day of practice regardless of the specific situation:

- 1) Except during the particular sports defined season as stipulated in KHSAA Bylaw 25, no coach in a sport may "coach" a student-athlete in any setting within the high school (grades 9-12), if that student-athlete has previously represented the high school (varsity, jv, or freshman) and if sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated.
- 2) This restriction includes all members of the athletic staff, paid or unpaid, but does not restrict supervisory duties assigned by the building Principal during activities governed by local school. assignments This restriction also prohibits the delegation or assignment of activities by any member of the coaching staff to other individuals, including student-athletes who may or may not be participating.
- 3) Supervisory activities outside the local school are not the jurisdiction of the Association, however all coaching restrictions are in effect whether the activity is conducted within, or outside of, the school.

4) From the first day of school through the first legal practice (for winter and spring sports) and from the day following the elimination of a team from KHSAA sanctioned postseason play through the end of the school year, no coach in a sport may "coach" a student-athlete in any setting within the high school (grades 9-12), or outside the school, if that student-athlete has previously represented the high school at any level in that sport and if sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated.

5) There is no insurance coverage (catastrophic medical or other) expressed or implied by the KHSAA for any athletic session in any sport outside of the practice and play periods as defined by Bylaw 25.

6) No activity during the school year, outside of the defined sports season, may be required for the student-athlete in that particular sport. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for non-participation during that period by a student-athlete.

7) There may be no organized activity (where sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated) that is restricted solely to the members or prospective members of any sports team. It is a violation during this time for the coach to utilize players from his/her team while instructing or evaluating others in camps, clinics, combines or other sport- specific activities in the coach's sport.

8) All other restrictions related to the scheduling, composition, pool of available personnel, and other logistical arrangements are the jurisdiction of the building Principal for any activity held within that local school facility, in compliance with Bylaw 1 of the Association.

9) No activity outside the defined Limitation of Seasons for a specific sport may be mandatory for student-athletes.

**Case BL-25-6 (NEW)– What are the restrictions for a coach being involved in coaching of his/her own players during the school year before the first legal practice date, after the last date for playing a contest in the sports of Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis and Track?**

Specific practice and participation dates are in place for each sport, and the interpretative season is the academic school year as far as coaching limitations. This limit on coaching involvement BEGINS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND ends on the earlier of the day following the last day of school or May 31. However, it is recognized that the very nature of the "individual sports" (i.e. Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis and Track and Field) is such that participation by individuals may continue during the year and have minimal impact on participation in other sports. Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. In the "individual sports" as detailed above, coaching is permitted in the non-season period provided the following provisions are met:

- 1) Participation may not be required of any student-athlete in any sport specific event outside the limitation of seasons during

the school year. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for non-participation during that period by a student-athlete.;

2) School funds may not be expended (i.e. transportation provided, entry fees paid, uniforms worn, etc.);

3) Coaches must ensure that all representatives of the student-athletes, including parents, are aware that this outside season participation is optional and therefore, the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance plan is not in effect.

4) All other restrictions related to the scheduling, composition, pool of available personnel, and other logistical arrangements are the jurisdiction of the building Principal for any activity held at a particular local school facility, in compliance with Bylaw 1 of the Association.

**Case BL-25-7 (formerly CS BL-25-6)- Are there restrictions on activities by a team or team members during the school year outside of the defined Limitation of Seasons based on the number participating together in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball?**

Yes, the following activities are also restricted during the school year prior to the first day of practice if the activities are sport specific and a majority of the participants on a team or squad are from the same high school (one half of the normal playing unit):

1) A school, group of school representatives, and/or school or team-related booster group may not pay the entry fee for a team into a league or tournament;

2) A school, group of school representatives, and/or school or team-related booster group may not pay other necessary fees including umpire payment and game or facility management;

3) A school, group of school representatives, and/or school or team-related booster group may not provide or fund transportation for team members to go to games, or tournaments;

4) School issued or school identifying apparel, including sleeves, jerseys, pants, catching gear or hats may not be worn by players who have represented the school at any time at any level;

5) The school facility may not be used for organized competition in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball at which the school's students are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;

6) The school facility may not be used for organized competition in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball at which the school's students are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching, facility management and preparation, or umpiring/officiating;

7) The school nickname or school name may not be used on school issued or non-school issued apparel;

8) The coaching staff may not be involved in making game-like preparations for the school facility in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball including but not limited to, baseline marking, outfield line marking, batter's box marking, maintenance of the mound and base cut-outs; or use of school facilities and/or equipment for such setup. This does not preclude the coaching staff or others participating in non-sports specific off-season turf and facility maintenance.