



**KHSAA TITLE IX RE-VISIT
FIELD VISIT REPORT**

*KHSAA Form T76
Rev..11/16*

School:	Owen County High School
Prepared By:	Kathy Johnston
Date of Re-Visit:	January 25, 2024
Staff Reviewed By:	Darren Bilberry, Asst. Commissioner
School Year:	2023-2024

ACCOMMODATIONS OF INTEREST AND ABILITIES REVIEW:

OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW (FROM PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL REPORT)	Completed
Test One – Substantial Proportionality	
Test Two – History of Continuing Practice of Program Expansion	
Test Three – Full and Effective Accommodation of Interest and Abilities	Satisfactory
Analysis Form Review	X

ACCOMMODATIONS OF INTEREST AND ABILITIES NOTES: The most recent Student Interest Survey was conducted during the 2021-2022 school year. Students in grades 8-11 were surveyed with a return rate 64.9%. Submitted documentation showed that the most recent varsity sport and/or sport activities added are archery, Esports, and fishing. The non-varsity level of sports that have been added include those for girls' basketball, volleyball, and boys' golf. Owen County High School currently offers eleven varsity sport and/or sport activities for males and ten for females. Reported documentation showed that there are a total of sixteen sport level opportunities provided for both males and females. School administration were reminded of the importance for accurate team and roster submission so that recorded data may provide a complete school analysis for the area of Opportunities.

BENEFITS REVIEW

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Uniform review / replacement plan	X	
Status of uniforms and equipment	X	
Equity of spending	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: There was written evidence of an equitable uniform review and/or replacement plan for all teams. Written documentation showed that the sports and/or sport activities of track, cross country, football, and archery are reviewed each year with replacements and/or purchase made on an equitable basis. The uniforms for golf are purchased yearly and retained by the student. Interviews with coaches and student athletes indicated knowledge of the uniform purchase plan and review. Written documentation indicated that during each rotation cycle, the school provided an allotment of \$2000.00 to each team for the purchase of uniforms. Interviews with administration indicated that all uniform purchase and/or replacements require prior approval by the Athletic Director. A two-year review of spending, for this category, showed that approximately \$232.00 was spent per male athlete and approximately \$181.00 spent per female athlete. This falls within the acceptable range of spending for equipment and supplies.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
SCHEDULING OF GAMES AND PRACTICE TIMES	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Like sports scheduling	X	
Scheduling of shared practice facilities	X	
Optimal playing times	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- SCHEDULING OF GAMES AND PRACTICE TIMES: There was viewed evidence of all team schedules in the school Title IX file. Current and past viewed schedules showed overall equivalence and parity regarding the number of competitive event opportunities provided for the like sports. There was written evidence showing the equitable scheduling for the shared facilities of the gymnasium and indoor hitting facility. Interviews with administration indicated that all facility schedules, for practice and competitions, are displayed thru an Event link computer application which is available and accessible to all student-athletes. Administrative oversight is provided for the scheduling of all facilities involving practices and competitions.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
TRAVEL AND PER DIEM	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Mode of transportation	X	
Provision for meals and housing	X	
Equity of spending	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- TRAVEL AND PER DIEM: There was written evidence of a travel guideline that included the mode of transportation and rules of transport for all teams. The modes of transport included school bus and/or school van usage for travel to competitive events. There was also written provision for meals and housing for overnight trips. Spending for meals included a monetary breakdown for breakfast, lunch, dinner with a designated limit of \$51.00 per day. The provision for housing indicated a per room cost with four (4) student athletes assigned per room. Upon receipt of this report, school administration should consider expansion of the housing guideline to include the parameters of inside corridors, free breakfast, free WiFi, etc.

The guideline also included the equitable benefit provided to teams and/or individuals that make a post season state tournament or the All A Classic tournament. It was also indicated that all overnight travel requires prior approval by school administration and the district Board of Education. A two-year review of spending, for this category, showed that approximately \$102.00 was spent per male athlete and approximately \$248.00 spent per female athlete.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
COACHING	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Compensation	X	
Accessibility	X	
Competence	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- COACHING: There was viewed evidence of a school approved salary schedule which showed overall equivalence in coaching stipend amounts and parity for the number of coaching positions provided for the like sports. The salary document also showed an equitable increase with coaching stipends based on years of coaching experience. Years of experience were broken down in five-year increments up to twenty (20) years. Reported documentation showed that the athlete to coach ratio, with regard to accessibility, is 8:1 for males and 6:1 for females. Interviews with administration indicated that end-of-season appraisals for all head coaches are conducted by the athletic director. A written document is used for this process as it may aid in the growth and development of all coaches.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
LOCKER ROOMS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITIVE FACILITIES		X
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Competition and practice venues		X
Dressing areas		X
Equipment storage areas	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- LOCKER ROOMS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITIVE FACILITIES: The viewed practice and competition venues on the main school campus area included those for football, soccer, track, baseball, softball, cross country, volleyball, and basketball. The golf teams practice and compete at the Fairway Golf Course. The indoor competition venues are excellent, very well maintained, and provide great benefit to the student athletes. Interviews with administration indicated that the outdoor competitive venues for softball, baseball, and soccer currently do not provide the necessary amenities and/or field regulations to meet the KHSAA guidelines to host post season play. Interviews with student athletes indicated insufficient field quality at softball with several rain-outs that occur during the season which prevent playing, a one lane gravel drive to the softball field limits access for all (including disabled), no paved parking area, and no permanent restroom access. A combination of all these prohibits the softball team from hosting post season play. The baseball field is located on a higher elevated field above the location of the softball field and closer to the athletic field house. It does provide the amenities for some paved parking, restrooms, but is not eligible to host post season as its field does not meet the necessary KHSAA field of play requirements. The soccer field is an exclusive field for boys and girls but is also not eligible for post season play as it also does not meet the necessary KHSAA requirements to host. It does not provide restroom access, adequate seating and field dimension. There were viewed and designated locker room assignment for all teams, however, the assignments made for softball and girls track do not meet the guidelines for an appropriate and secure locker room space. Interviews with student athletes indicated dressing in cars or restrooms. To ensure safety and privacy, a locker rooms must provide a safe and secure place to dress. The softball team locker room was in a designated space with the press box area and the girls track team was in a designated area that was not secure and openly accessible to the location of the weight room. There was written designation for storage for all teams. The combination of an adequate girls' locker room for softball and track, quality of the softball field, and the addressed lack of amenities of the softball field area makes this area currently deficient. Upon receipt of this report the safe and secure designation of a locker room space for softball and girls track should be provided for the upcoming 2024 season. Owen County High School has made many improvements since the previous audit that have provided great benefit to their student-athletes. A plan for development and improvement of the designated outdoor facilities would align with the improvements that have been viewed of the indoor facilities.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
MEDICAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES AND SERVICES	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Weight room location and access	X	
Weight room usage schedule	X	
Appropriate equipment for female use	X	
Athletic Training services	X	
Physical Exams	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- MEDICAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES AND SERVICES: There is one (1) weight room that is located in the athletic field-house. The athletic field-house is a separate building, adjacent to the high school, and on the main school campus. It provides equitable access, is very spacious, well equipped, well organized, and provides appropriate equipment for female use. There was a schedule showing the equitable usage and access as viewed on the event link computer site. Interviews with coaches and student athletes indicated equitable usage and access to the weight room. Interviews with school administration indicated that athletic training services are provided thru a contract with the University of Kentucky (UK). The athletic trainer is available on a daily basis and at all home contests, away football games, and all post season events. The main athletic training room is located off the gymnasium which provides equitable access for all student athletes. There is also a training table space set up in an area at the athletic field-house which provides equitable access to those athletes of outdoor teams. Interviews with administration also indicated that athletic physicals are provided thru a partnership with a local doctor's clinic. Free athletic physicals are provided for two (2) days prior to July 15 of each school year.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
PUBLICITY	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Support group assignments	X	
Written regulation for recognition	X	
Equity of spending	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- PUBLICITY: There was written evidence of an awards/recognition guideline that included the provisions for end-of season banquets, awards, banner display, picture display, and hall of fame selection. There were cost provisions and administrative oversight for senior award and individual award presentations. The provision for banner display included those for team and individual accomplishments on the regional and state level. Team picture display of post season accomplishments hang in one of the lobby areas in the main school building. There were specific guidelines for Hall of Fame recognition which showed to be equitable in the recognition of male and female athletes on an annual basis. The display of those recognized are seen the lobby area close to the gymnasium. Interviews with administration also indicated the equitable scheduling and oversight of cheer and band as support groups for football, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball. A two-year review of spending, for this category, showed that approximately \$20.00 was spent per male athlete and approximately \$30.00 spent per female athlete.

BENEFIT	Satisfactory	Deficient
SUPPORT SERVICES	X	
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS	Acceptable	Needs Improvement
Office access	X	
Booster Support	X	
Overall spending for athletic support	X	

BENEFITS REVIEW- SUPPORT SERVICES: The availability and assignment of office access and space for all coaches appears to be equitable. All viewed offices provided computer, phone access, as well as a space for team meetings and/or conferences to be held. Interviews with administration indicated that there is one external booster account for the team of football. There was evidence of a signed booster agreement in the school Title IX file which included the specific regulations relative to the club operations and the reporting of receipts and expenditures to the school district. Interviews with coaches indicated that all fundraisers require prior approval by the school district and school administration. Interviews with coaches indicated knowledge of the process for school approval to purchase items. A two-year review of overall spending showed that approximately 47% of total dollars was spent on female athletes which made up approximately 39% of the total athletic participants. It also showed that approximately \$622.00 was spent per male athlete and approximately \$860.00 was spent per female athlete. Based on the reported documentation, it appears that Owen County High School is meeting the overall spending parameters, both on a percentage and per athlete basis.

CURRENT DEFICIENCIES

Observed Deficiencies in Overall Girls and Boys Athletics Programs	Recommended Actions in relation to current deficiencies	Date for Verification of Action to address deficiency
Locker Rooms, Practice, and Competitive Facilities	Develop a plan and/or accommodation of locker room designation for softball and girls track for future assignment. Review the outdoor competitive facilities of softball, baseball, and soccer and develop a plan for improvement that would ensure the equitable amenities for all facilities and field of play requirements, as established by the KHSAA for post season play.	Please submit on or before May 1, 2024 . Please send to kjohnston@khsaa.org

RECURRING DEFICIENCIES

Observed Deficiencies in Overall Girls and Boys Athletics Programs	Recommended Actions in relation to recurring deficiencies	Date for Verification of Action to address deficiency
N/A		

OTHER ACTIONS NECESSITATED BY THIS VISIT

Action	Due Date
N/A	

PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE AT FIELD VISIT MEETING

Name	Title
Ann Carter	Volleyball Coach
Amy Wesselman	Girls Basketball Coach
Malachi Mefford	Student Athlete – golf, boys’ basketball
Maison Hedger	Student Athlete - softball
Brody Hearn	Student Athlete - baseball
Kylee Steffen	Student Athlete – girls’ basketball
Renee Boots	Principal
Reggie Taylor	Superintendent
Grant Miller	DPP, Title IX Coordinator
T.J. Wesselman	Athletic Director, Title IX School Coord.
Megan Hearn	Athletic Director
Shelli Hedger	Softball Parent
Kathy Johnston	KHSAA – kjohnston@khsaa.org

OTHER GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

School administration were efficient and well prepared for the visit. The school Title IX file was well organized and complete. Owen County High School does an outstanding job displaying and recognizing the successes of their athletes. There was also viewed a District level Coaches Handbook which is a great benefit to coaches in ensuring equitable opportunities and benefits for the student athletes. The public forum scheduled for 3:00 pm was held in the school auditorium. With no one in attendance, the auditor left the building at approximately 3:20 pm.

There was viewed evidence of written Emergency Action Plans for all on and off campus sport venues, There is the existence and display of seven (7) AED units. Two of these are located in the main school building; lobby area outside of the gym and the upstairs front balcony. Others are located in baseball press box, soccer facility building (seasonal), softball concession stand, football concession stand, and field-house (weight room). A portable AED unit is with the athletic trainer at all times.