

KHSAA COMPETITION RULES

Governing Softball (Fastpitch)

*(Adopted by the Board of Control for all play in this sport)
(Where these rules refer to the Commissioner, they shall refer to the Commissioner of the KHSAA. Sports specific duties may be appropriately delegated to a member of the Commission for the implementation of these rules. See Case Situations for specific rulings and interpretations used to administer these provisions)*

I) ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOLS AND SEEDING

A) Alignment of Teams for Postseason Play

- 1) The Kentucky High School Athletic Association shall sponsor postseason competition in fastpitch softball for girls, provided that there is sufficient interest of the membership and such is approved by the Board of Control.
- 2) The Commissioner shall divide the state into geographic sections with the approval of the Board of Control.
- 3) The alignment shall be reviewed for changes to be effective with the 2017-2018 school year and every four years thereafter.
- 4) In the interim, newly added or deleted programs will be handled on a case by case basis by the Commissioner's office.
- 5) The up to date alignment of schools is maintained on the KHSAA website and is updated as information changes as provided by the membership with regard to participation.

B) District Seeding

- 1) For district tournaments that for whatever reason, fall to where only two teams the following shall govern:
 - a) The head to head results from the regular season shall determine the host team and number 1 seed for postseason play.
 - b) The number 1 seed shall host the district tournament (region if the sport does not have districts) and shall be the designated home team, even if unable to host the game at their home site due to facility requirements in the sport.
- 2) For district tournaments with three teams, the district tournament shall be seeded in accordance with the following three-team seeding rules:
 - a) The competing teams within a district shall, by majority vote, determine if the schools are required to play each other once or twice during the regular season. These games will produce a uniform means of ranking the teams by seed within these districts.
 - b) The team with the highest seed (one seed) receives a bye in the district tournament, and advances to the championship game.
 - c) The remaining two teams would play in the first round of the district tournament with the loser of that game being eliminated.
 - d) In the case of a two-way tie for the district winning position,
 - (1) The tie-breaking mechanisms (in order) shall be:
 - a. In districts that have decided to play each other only once in district play, the winner in the game played between the tied district opponents would have the higher finishing position.
 - b. In districts that have decided to play each other twice in district play, the winner in the second game played between the tied district opponents would have the higher finishing position.
 - e) In the case of a three-way tie for the district winning position, the tie would be resolved in the following manner. If any of the tie-breakers results in one of the teams being ahead of the other two, the tie is broken. If any of the tie-breakers result in two teams remaining ahead of the third, then the two-way tie breaker shall be used to determine the winner between those two.
 - (1) In districts that have decided to play each other only once in district play, the tie shall be broken by blind draw. The team drawn first in the draw shall be considered the highest seed (one seed).
 - (2) In districts that have decided to play each other twice in district play, the tie-breaking mechanisms (in order) shall be:
 - a. If the tie remains between all three teams, the record in the second game played against all district opponents involved in the tie.

- b. If the tie remains between all three teams, the record in the first game played against all district opponents involved in the tie.
 - c. If the tie remains between all three teams, then the total points allowed in all seeded games shall be the next tie-breaker.
 - d. If the tie remains between all three teams, then the total points allowed in the second of each of the seeded games shall be the next tie-breaker.
 - e. If the tie is still unbreakable, then a blind draw among the three teams shall break the tie. In this case, the team drawn first in the draw shall be considered the highest seed (one seed)
 - f. Additional tie-breaking mechanisms could be added, and would be uniform for all three-team districts.
 - f) In the event of game re-scheduling or cancellation, the original game schedule shall determine which game is "second" for tie-breaking purposes.
- 3) For district tournaments with four or more teams, the district tournament brackets may be drawn by random lot or placed into the bracket using a seeding system. A majority vote (recorded in writing) of the Principals, Athletic Directors or Designated Representatives of the schools in the district is required in order to make or change seeding decisions. In the absence of any documentation, minutes or other verification, the districts shall not be seeded. The rules concerning the seeding of a district with four or more teams are as follows:
 - a) The decision to seed and the method used in seeding (including all tie-breakers) shall be determined by majority vote of the participating teams in the district and the manager shall record this vote in writing and submit it to the Association. The representatives making the written declaration shall decide all issues related to seeding.
 - b) Seeding methods shall be determined prior to the start of the regular season, recorded in writing with a copy provided to the KHSAA, and shall remain in place until a majority vote of the participating schools rescinds or changes the seeding decisions. Such changes to the district seeding plan may not be made for the current year once play has begun in the regular season.
 - c) In the event of dispute, the current copy on file with the KHSAA shall prevail in determining resolution.
 - d) Seeding plans may, at the discretion of the majority vote of the schools, stipulate a particular team to a particular seeded position.
 - e) It shall be the district tournament manager's responsibility to update the Association with respect to any changes to the seeding decision or method being used and any relevant tiebreakers. In the absence of this documentation, consultation with, and written verification and documentation from, prior year tournament managers, will be utilized by staff to assist with interpretation and clarification.
 - f) There are no statewide rules on a seeding method once the determination has been made to seed. Some of the more common and recommended means of seeding is the record of games played within a district provided all teams have played all other teams. In that case, each district shall adopt tie-breaking procedures in the event that the primary method of seeding results in a tie or other situations arise which cause an alteration in the scheduled seeding method. Among the more common tie-breaking methods are:
 - (1) seeding by overall win-loss record;
 - (2) seeding by win-loss record in specific contests,
 - (3) seeding by a rating/ranking from a statewide poll,
 - (4) seeding by a majority vote,
 - (5) seeding by a committee,
 - (6) seeding a specific team (s) into a position to avoid scheduling complications and issues, and
 - (7) seeding by a rating turned in by each school.
 - g) If win-loss records are used for seeding, the records used shall be the records as of midnight Wednesday prior to the Monday of the week of the district tournament. Teams and school representatives may meet during the regular season to discuss tournament operations (i.e. dates, times, sites, tournament

personnel needs, etc.). However if an organizational meeting is held prior to the published date on the calendar, no discussions may be held regarding the bracketing or pairings of specific teams unless all mandated seeded games have been played prior to the meeting.

- h) Seeded games unable to be played for any reason (with the exception of verified forfeited contests) prior to the published deadline for seeded games shall be recorded as a win and a loss for both teams in computing seeded position.
- i) If a change in the alignment of teams moves a single new team into a previously seeded district during the current school year, the previous decision as to seeding shall prevail. If the new team enters the alignment following the completion of all game contracts and the new team is unable to schedule all required opponents, the new team shall be seeded in the last position for the current season, and shall be included in seeded game scheduling for the subsequent seasons. If a single change in the alignment occurs prior to the end of the previous school year, the district teams will conduct a new vote as to seeding.
- j) If a change in the alignment of teams moves more than one team into a seeded district, the district teams shall conduct a new vote as to seeding. A tie vote will result in the seeding decision being not seeded.
- k) If the Board of Control approves a total realignment of teams within a district, the teams in the district shall conduct a new vote as to seeding. A tie vote in this situation shall result in the district being not seeded.
- l) Once a vote has been conducted for the district to be seeded, all required contests shall be considered to be contracted for the seeding requisite number of contests. If school representatives do not notify all schools in the district of their intent NOT to participate by the first day of practice, the contest shall be played or a forfeit declared. Where a fee is not specified, a \$1000 default forfeiture fee will be assessed for non-played contests.

II) DATES AND SITES FOR POSTSEASON COMPETITION

A) Dates for Play

- 1) District tournament play shall begin not later than Monday of the week on the KHSAA Calendar for district tournaments. Permission may be obtained from the KHSAA office to start later than that date only in the event of facility conflicts. Tournaments may begin prior to that Monday if all schools concur and all regular season play is ended.
- 2) Region tournament play shall begin not later than Tuesday of the week on the KHSAA Calendar for region tournaments. Permission may be obtained from the KHSAA office to start later than that date only in the event of facility conflicts.
- 3) All tournaments shall be held on or as near the dates indicated on the Memorandum Calendar as local conditions permit. Any exceptions shall be approved by the Commissioner.

B) Sites for Play

- 1) District tournament sites shall be selected by a site selection plan approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the schools eligible to compete in each district tournament. If a district is unable to resolve conflict over the plan, the Commissioner shall establish a plan.
- 2) Only schools which are members of the Association prior to January 1 of the year in which the tournament is held, and having a schedule of ten (10) or more softball games shall be allowed to vote for the district tournament location or participate in the tournament.
- 3) Criteria to be considered by the schools for the district tournament include but are not limited to:
 - a) satisfactory capacity within the facility to safely accommodate past (five years) and expected attendance numbers;
 - b) an officials dressing room;
 - c) adequate parking for projected attendance; and
 - d) meet the published site selection criteria for softball as posted on the KHSAA website.
- 4) The Commissioner shall determine region tournament sites. Schools interested in hosting a region tournament shall submit their request through a meeting of the Principals or Designated Representatives of all schools in the region and shall supply

information relating to the listed criteria for hosting. The Commissioner's office may use this site selection plan as a guide, but is not bound by this plan in determining the sites.

- 5) A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt any plan for recommending the region tournament sites and voting shall include all schools within a region, not simply the schools playing in a particular year's event.
- 6) Criteria to be considered by the schools for recommending regional tournament sites include but are not limited to:
 - a) satisfactory capacity within the facility to safely accommodate past (five years) and expected attendance numbers;
 - b) an officials dressing room;
 - c) adequate parking for projected attendance; and
 - d) meet the published site selection criteria for softball as posted on the KHSAA website.
- 7) The schools in the district and the region shall agree on the amount of proceeds (if any) that is to be kept by the host school as well as limitations on expenses by the host school; determining the fixed amount or percentages to be given to each school that participates; the fixed amount or percentages to be given to each team in the region not competing in the tournament; and the disbursement of any proceeds from commissions, parking, advertising and any other revenue related to the tournament but not directly related to ticket, program or novelty sales. Resolution as to disputes on any of these issues may be facilitated by the Commissioner's office and if agreement cannot be reached, may be considered by the Board of Control.
- 8) The Board of Control shall determine the site of the state tournament after receiving the Commissioner's recommendation, and shall be guided by necessary hotel facilities, playing facilities, and community/area support.

III) TOURNAMENT MANAGERS, MEETINGS AND PAIRINGS

A) Selection of Tournament Manager

- 1) The principal of the host school shall designate an official of the school to serve as the manager for each district tournament. The Commissioner will appoint a manager for each of the region tournaments.
- 2) It is the duty of each district and region tournament manager to invite representatives of the participating teams in the tournament to a meeting held for the purpose of making tournament plans.
- 3) It is an explicit duty of each tournament manager to inform the association IMMEDIATELY as to the bracket / pairings / entries / results when requested by KHSAA staff and according to the time deadlines provided including the actual site of the tournament if it is not held at the school. In addition, it shall be the duty of the manager of each contest in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball and volleyball to contact the KHSAA Scoreboard with the final results following each contest. This is in addition to fulfilling local media requests. The receipts of a tournament can be assessed a fine (levied against the manager) for failure to comply with these provisions.
- 4) The Commissioner shall serve as the manager for the state tournament and may appoint as many assistant managers as deemed necessary to manage the event. The Commissioner will direct a drawing and all of the business necessary to conduct the state tournament.

B) Tournament Meeting

- 1) The representatives of the schools participating in each tournament, by majority vote, shall set the dates and times of the games, and make all other arrangements necessary to conduct the tournament.
- 2) The district meetings shall be held in the school designated as the tournament host not later than the Wednesday prior to the week of the tournament as specified on the KHSAA Calendar. These meetings may be held earlier by mutual agreement of all teams.
- 3) The Region meeting shall be held on Sunday afternoon immediately following the district tournaments not prior to 2:00 local time in the school designated as the host. These meetings may be held earlier by mutual agreement of all teams, but not prior to the completion of all district tournament games. The site for future regional tournaments is not an issue for this meeting

unless the Principal or the Designated Representative as listed on the KHSAA website is present for all teams in the region (not limited to the competing teams).

C) Tournament Pairings

- 1) The principal or his/her representative shall conduct the drawing for each school.
- 2) District (non-seeded): The pairings for the district tournament shall be made in accordance with the following procedure, with all byes being arranged to be in the first round:
 - a) The appropriate bracket shall be used for team placement according to the number of teams entering the tournament:
 - (1) For three (3) teams, the bracket is seeded by rule and form BR103 shall be used;
 - (2) For four (4) teams, the unseeded BR104 shall be used;
 - (3) For five (5) teams, the unseeded BR105 shall be used;
 - (4) For six (6) teams, the unseeded BR106 shall be used;
 - (5) For seven (7) teams, the unseeded BR107 shall be used;
 - (6) For eight (8) teams, the unseeded BR108 shall be used;
 - (7) If more than eight (8) teams are in the district bracket, contact the KHSAA offices for assistance in utilizing the unseeded BR116 bracket.
 - b) The participants may determine the order in which the bracket positions will be drawn in any manner agreeable to the majority. This could be alphabetically by school name, alphabetical by some other variable, totally random (a draw to determine the order of draw) or any other method for which agreement is reached. However, such agreement may NOT determine the bracket positions, only the drawing order.
 - c) The participants shall then draw for the non-BYE positions in the bracket. For example, in a five team bracket, the draw shall be for positions 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7.
 - d) The home team shall be determined by the bracket form.
 - e) The games of the tournament shall be played in the order listed on the bracket unless unanimous agreement is reached among the competing teams due to facility logistics concerns.
 - f) The district champion and the runner-up of each single elimination tournament shall advance to the region tournament.
- 3) District (seeded): After seeding positions have been determined, the seeded bracket pairings shall be observed. The teams shall be placed in the proper position of the appropriate single elimination bracket. The brackets (from top down) are as follows:
 - a) 2 Team - The district tournament shall then be a single game, with the winner being advanced to the region tournament as the district winner (regardless of the regular season results).
 - b) 3 Teams (seeded by rule) – Seed 2 plays 3, Seed 1 plays winner of Seed 2 vs. Seed 3 for championship.
 - c) 4 Teams - Seed 1 plays 4, 2 plays 3, winners meet for championship.
 - d) 5 Teams - Seed 5 plays 4, 1 plays winner of 5 vs. 4, 2 plays 3, remaining winners meet for championship.
 - e) 6 Teams - Seed 4 plays 5, 3 plays 6, 1 plays winner of 4 vs. 5, 2 plays winner of 3 vs. 6, remaining winners meet for championship.
 - f) 7 Teams - Seed 4 plays 5, 2 plays 7, 3 plays 6, 1 plays winner of 4 vs. 5, 2 vs. 7 winner plays 3 vs. 6 winner, remaining winners meet for championship.
 - g) 8 Teams - Seed 1 plays 8, 4 plays 5, 2 plays 7, 3 plays 6, 1 vs. 8 winner plays 4 vs. 5 winner, 2 vs. 7 winner plays 3 vs. 6 winner, remaining winners meet for championship.
 - h) The district champion and the runner-up of each single elimination tournament shall advance to the region tournament.
- 4) Region: The pairings for the region tournament shall be made in accordance to the following procedure.
 - a) The participants may determine the order in which the bracket positions will be drawn in any manner agreeable to the majority. This could be alphabetically by school name, alphabetical by some other variable, totally random (a draw to determine the order of draw) or any other method for which agreement is reached. However, such agreement may NOT determine the bracket positions, only the drawing order.
 - b) In a region tournament with participants from four districts, the district winners will draw for positions 1, 3, 5 and 7 in a

standard eight-team bracket. Each corresponding runner-up team will draw for a position in the opposite bracket.

- c) In a region tournament with participants from three districts, the draw shall be conducted as follows. The format will follow a standard eight-team bracket with two byes, those falling into positions 2 and 7. The district winners shall draw for positions 1 and 8 in the bracket. The district winner not drawing a bye shall draw for a position in slots 3 through 6. The district runner-up to the district champion drawing for position in slots 3 through 6 will draw into one of the two remaining slots in the bracket opposite the district winner, and the remaining two runner-up teams will be placed opposite their corresponding district winners in the remaining two slots in the bracket.
 - d) In a region tournament with participants from two districts, the draw shall be conducted as follows. The district winners will draw for positions 1 and 3 in a standard four-team bracket. Each corresponding runner-up team will be placed in the position in the opposite bracket from the district winner.
 - e) In regions where the drawing of district boundaries result in two or three districts, the Board of Control may approve an alternate format in order to allow for a full eight-team bracket in the region tournament.
 - f) The winner of each region tournament shall advance to the state tournament.
- 5) Semi-State.
- a) The state shall be divided into eight semi-state areas for both boys and girls play for the first round of the state tournament.
 - b) Each semi-state game shall be held at a field that meets the site specifications for holding a semi-state game whether or not the host is playing in the contest.
 - c) The winner of each semi-state game advances to the State Tournament.
 - d) Unless further altered by the Board of Control, the semi-state pairings for six-year period are:

SS	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	1 @ 2	4 @ 1	1 @ 3	2 @ 1	1 @ 4	3 @ 1
2	3 @ 4	2 @ 3	4 @ 2	4 @ 3	3 @ 2	2 @ 4
3	5 @ 6	8 @ 5	5 @ 7	6 @ 5	5 @ 8	7 @ 5
4	7 @ 8	6 @ 7	8 @ 6	8 @ 7	7 @ 6	6 @ 8
5	9 @ 10	12 @ 9	9 @ 11	10 @ 9	9 @ 12	11 @ 9
6	11 @ 12	10 @ 11	12 @ 10	12 @ 11	11 @ 10	10 @ 12
7	13 @ 14	16 @ 13	13 @ 15	14 @ 13	13 @ 16	15 @ 13
8	15 @ 16	14 @ 15	16 @ 14	16 @ 15	15 @ 14	14 @ 16

- 6) State. The Commissioner shall conduct a blind draw to determine the pairings for the state tournament. The winner of each of the sixteen (16) region tournaments shall advance to the state tournament.
- 7) Regardless of any vote or consensus of the competing teams, any bracket not drawn in accordance with the above procedures may be directed to be corrected, including the replay of contests, by the Commissioner's office.

IV) ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER TOURNAMENT PLAY AND SUBSTITUTIONS

A) Roster Requirement

- 1) Each school shall enter an unlimited number of contestants on the postseason electronic roster via the KHSAA website and its online participation tracking system by the published deadlines.
- 2) This roster may be revised throughout the regular season and shall serve all roster purposes in these rules.
- 3) On the first day of postseason play, these rosters shall be locked so that no additional players may be added, deleted or revised following this date, thereby creating the final eligibility list for tournament play.
- 4) After this time, the only revision allowed will be to correct a documented clerical error as approved by the Commissioner.

B) Withdrawal after draw

- 1) No school which enters a district, region or state tournament (draws for place) shall withdraw from the tournament or forfeit any of its games, but shall play its entire tournament schedule.
- 2) If a school withdraws from a district, region or state tournament at any time following the draw for district tournament positions

or after the pairings have been determined in a seeded district, that school shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27.

C) Photo Requirement

Each school shall submit a properly identified team photograph in compliance with published deadlines and directives.

D) Per Game Roster/Substitutions

1) A school may enter a team composed of twenty-one (21) players in each postseason tournament game from the roster submitted online.

2) The twenty one (21) players shall be designated each game, and no other players may be in uniform and tournament management may limit the total number of individuals in the dugouts.

E) Minimum Number of Contests

To be eligible to compete in the district, region or state tournament, a member school team shall have competed in at least ten games during the regular season.

V) UMPIRES / OFFICIALS

A) Umpires for all KHSAA sponsored championship competition shall be assigned by the Commission in compliance with the Federal Court Decree of 1971 (1987, 2007).

B) Officials will be assigned shall comply with the published guidelines of the KHSAA Officials Guidebook.

C) The minimum standards for all officials to officiate postseason contests shall be:

1) Attend approved advanced training efforts (camps, clinics, meetings) to include rules and coverage of mechanics once every four years to be eligible for the four years following the training clinic provided such are offered or approved by the KHSAA. Such interval may be revised by the KHSAA staff liaison in a particular sport due to availability. This requirement shall be for state and regional play in the sports in which such training is offered or approved, and may be extended to the district level by the Commission based on the supply of qualified officials.;

2) Take Part 2 exam with passing grade of at least 80 during current year if it is offered. Exceptions may be approved by the Commission;

3) Receive credit for annual KHSAA Rules Clinic or approved makeup clinic;

4) Attend a minimum of four (4) local association meetings in a sport which has local associations. KHSAA Rules Clinics and Part 2 Examination meetings shall not count as one of these four meetings. Local associations may adopt policies addressing excused absences, but may not count non-officiating absences as properly attending;

5) Be in good standing with local association rules as it relates to financial and reporting obligations. The KHSAA may waive this requirement if it is in the best interest of the assignment of officials within a particular sport; and

6) For sports and tournament levels requiring a Level 2 or Level 3 official, those sports officials shall have licensed no later than the published late deadline for licensing year.

D) Postseason softball umpires shall meet the following additional criteria

1) Umpires for all KHSAA sponsored championship competition shall be assigned by the Commission;

2) Only KHSAA Level 2 or Level 3 officials shall be used in the regional or state tournaments. Exceptions may be approved by the Commission;

3) Local associations may submit recommendations for postseason assignments to district, region and state tournament contests through the Assigning Secretary. The final selection shall be made by the Commission;

4) The Assigning Secretary is to have a rankings/ratings system approved by the Regional Policy Board that includes at least two opportunities for coaches to evaluate performance. The recommended intervals are preseason, and mid-to-late season evaluations;

5) The resultant rankings of officials (final ranked list of scores) is public information. The individual ratings by coaches are NOT public and may not be disclosed under any circumstances;

6) A crew of three (3) umpires shall be assigned to all postseason tournament play;

7) Umpires desiring to be assigned to the Region and State

Tournaments shall have, within the preceding four years, attended the Softball Advance Umpires Camp;

8) The Board of Control has established fees for postseason play;

9) Additional postseason allowances for lodging, etc. shall be at the discretion of the tournament manager and shall be approved by the Commissioner;

VI) CHAMPION, TROPHIES AND AWARDS

A) Champion

1) The champion of each district and region tournament will be the team undefeated in a single elimination tournament.

2) The champion of the state tournament will be the winning team in a double elimination tournament.

B) Trophies and Awards

1) Trophies will be given to each district and region tournament winner and runner-up.

2) The trophies at the district and region shall be paid from the gate receipts of that tournament.

3) The state tournament champion, runner-up, and semi-finalists shall receive a trophy and twenty-four (24) individual medals.

4) An All-Tournament team will be selected at the state tournament including a Most Valuable Player.

5) The Association will bear the costs of all trophies at the state tournament.

VII) FINANCES, PASSES

A) District and Region

1) The participating schools may adopt by majority vote, any plan that they desire for the distribution of receipts. All gross receipts prior to any distribution shall include any applicable advance payment made by teams to help offset event costs.

2) If no plan can be agreed upon, the following shall prevail:

a) A mileage fee of \$1.00 per team per mile for each necessary trip should be allowed for travel expense. An allowance for one meal at \$5.00 per team member per trip to the tournament should be allowed.

b) The host school shall be allowed fifteen (15) percent of the gross ticket receipts derived from the district or region tournament for rental of the gymnasium and other services rendered to include setup and clean-up charges and for paying documented incidental bills related to the tournament that are approved by the participating teams.

c) Prior to any additional distribution, the gross receipts, less the host designated share outlined in subsection (2), shall be reduced by team travel expenses and the amounts paid for game officials and trophies.

d) The remainder of the profit shall be divided among the schools participating in the tournament and the non-participating schools in accordance with previously approved plans.

e) The host school should be allowed the profits made on programs, concessions, parking, etc.

B) State

1) The Association will finance the state tournament. The following allowances will apply if the receipts from the tournament make them justifiable, otherwise, the Board of Control will determine the allowance.

2) Expenses will be paid for meals, lodging and travel for each team through breakfast on the day following elimination from the tournament for each team.

3) The state tournament squad for purposes of reimbursement shall be limited to twenty-four (24) persons, including the principal, coaches, team members and other personnel.

4) Schools failing to stay in the motel/hotel assigned by the Association shall forfeit the lodging allowance. Schools within forty (40) one-way miles will not be provided a lodging allowance, but will be considered commuting teams. Commuting teams shall be paid an allowance in accordance with pre-tournament instructions.

5) The rate to be reimbursed for state championship play is \$1 per mile (round trip), \$5 per meal per person, and a maximum of \$13 per person per night for lodging as approved.

6) After all expenses have been paid, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association shall retain profits from each state tournament.

7) The competing teams in the state tournament will be afforded passes to accommodate a traveling party of forty (40), to include

the school principal(s) and other administrators, the coaching staff, the team members in uniform (maximum 21) and the support staff for the team. No additional passes will be issued.

VIII) SPECIAL TOURNAMENT AND REGULAR SEASON RULES

A) Playing Rules

- 1) All games shall be played using the NFHS Softball Rules as published by the NFHS in Indianapolis. Additional rules, governed by State Association adoption provisions in the National Federation Playing Rules or otherwise developed by the Association may be implemented in contests played in Kentucky and will be distributed to the membership when relevant.
- 2) Detailed and binding instructions, both for managers and participating teams, shall be published on the KHSAA website.

B) Specifications for Fields and Game Balls

- 1) The specifications for recommended and required standards for fields to be used in tournament play may be developed by Association staff and Advisory Committees and approved by the Board of Control.
- 2) The twelve (12) inch softball shall be utilized in all regular season and postseason contests.
- 3) The Association may enter into a contract to restrict the use of a ball in tournament play to a specific brand or model.

D) Time Limit

There shall be no time limit on regular or postseason varsity softball contests.

E) Speed-Up Rules

All softball contests shall utilize the optional speed-up rules allowed by the National Federation such as courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher upon reaching base and any other speed-up rules mandated by the National Federation including a "run rule" where run differential determines the end of the contest.

F) Interrupted Games

- 1) If a game is interrupted in tournament play or in regular season play, and is subsequently to be completed, it will be reset at the same point, same inning, same out or outs, same balls and strikes, same batter or number of batter in the batting order.
- 2) If a game is interrupted and cannot be resumed that day, three choices exist for completing the game:
 - a) If agreed by both teams, terminate game with score as it exists if such is allowable by the playing rules of the NFHS, and if such agreement is reached at the site, it shall be considered final;
 - b) If agreed by both teams, resume game at point of interruption at a mutually agreed date and time, provided that the date and time decision is finalized at the site prior to the teams departing, and if such agreement is reached at the site, it shall be considered final; or
 - c) If agreement cannot be reached, resume the game on the next available playing date for both teams that does not conflict with specific local board policies (i.e. Sunday play), does not violate the Bylaw 23 prohibition on playing games on consecutive days (Monday through Thursday) and based on schedules as published as of the interrupted game. If one of the competing teams on the first available date chooses for any reason not to play, that team shall be considered to have forfeited the contest. If both teams choose not to play on the first available date, the contest shall be officially recorded as a double forfeit and if it is a seeded district game, the required procedure utilized to determine counting toward seeding position.
- 3) If a game is interrupted and is to be resumed:
 - a) The same officials are expected to return to complete contest;
 - b) Substitute officials shall be paid the local policy board mileage add-on only;
 - c) Local associations shall develop policy on compensation of substitute officials, such as pooling game fees, etc.;
 - d) Officials have no say in the postponement decisions, except to moderate discussion;
 - e) Officials and coaches should involve not solely coaches, but school administrators in the decision;
 - f) All involved shall remember that this situation is caused by elements such as weather that are uncontrollable by anyone, and keep the discussions in that perspective; and
 - g) There shall be no guarantee that infield will take place prior

to the resumption of the interrupted game.

- 4) If a game is interrupted and unable to be completed, it shall be counted against all applicable game limits, including total number of games and all pitching restrictions.

G) Complete Game and Run Rule

- 1) In regular season and postseason, a complete game of 6 1/2 or 7 innings shall be played unless other rules adopted by the Board of Control apply to the situation.
- 2) For all games, regular season and postseason, a ten (10) run differential between teams after five or more complete innings (including after the top half if the home team is ahead) shall constitute a complete game.
- 3) For all games, regular season and postseason, a fifteen (15) run differential between teams after three or more complete innings (including after the top half if the home team is ahead) shall constitute a complete game.

H) International Tie-Breaker (Regular)

- 1) The international tie-breaker (ITB) system shall be used in all regular season games if the game is still tied after nine complete innings.
- 2) By mutual agreement of the two competing coaches, the ITB may be used in the 8th and 9th innings if the score is tied after seven complete innings.
- 2) The provisions of the ITB are:
 - a) At the start of each half-inning beginning in the top of the 10th (or 8th and 9th by mutual agreement), the offensive team will begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on second base. If the Pitcher or Catcher is that ninth batter, then a courtesy runner may be used. A substitute may also be legally inserted for the runner.
 - 2) The ITB shall not be utilized in postseason play.

I) Double First Base

- 1) The double first base provisions of the NFHS playing rules shall be utilized in all regular season games hosted by KHSAA member schools at school owned facilities.
- 2) The double first base provisions of the NFHS playing rules shall be utilized in all rounds of KHSAA championship play.

J) Pitcher Warm-up Area

- 1) If the pitcher's warm-up area is in live ball territory, only those individuals specified by NFHS playing rules (pitcher - catcher - personal protector) may be in the live ball area during any warm-up period.
- 2) Only members of the team and adult coaches may serve as personal protector, and all persons serving in that role shall wear a properly fitted helmet.

K) Heat Index

All play shall adhere to the KHSAA Heat Index Program. For postseason play, it is the responsibility of the host site manager to ensure and track the heat index and report it accordingly to the KHSAA.

L) Deadline to Start Contest

No contest shall be started in a postseason contest after 11:00 p.m. local time at any contest site.

CASE SITUATIONS RELATED TO THE COMPETITION RULES of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Specific case situations are contained in this section of the KHSAA Handbook which are interpretations and rulings which have been made by the Commissioner in accordance with applicable provisions of the KHSAA Constitution. These interpretations supplement the printed rules but do not in any manner substitute for the actual rule. Many of these rulings have established precedent for the interpretation or enforcement of these provisions, and remain in place until further altered, re-interpreted, or otherwise set aside. Specific inquiries not addressed by published interpretations should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Interpretive questions or eligibility rulings shall be requested and issued in writing.

Case CR-1- What is the purpose of the Competition Rules of the KHSAA?

In many sports and sports activities, there are decisions that have to be made to establish a framework for competition. These rules (different than the Playing Rules) establish alignments, bracketing provisions and championship arrangements. In all cases, the Board of Control has final jurisdiction over the Competition Rules.

Case CR-2- What are the current championships of the KHSAA?

The KHSAA sponsors (sanctions) sports championship events in the fall, winter and spring seasons. Fall championships are considered to be cross country (boys and girls), field hockey, golf (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), volleyball (girls), and football (combined); winter championships are basketball (boys and girls), wrestling (combined) and swimming and diving (boys and girls); spring championships are baseball (boys), softball (fastpitch for girls), tennis (boys and girls) and track and field (boys and girls)

In addition, the KHSAA sponsors (sanctions) a state championship in the Sport Activities of Archery (combined), Bass Fishing (combined), Bowling (Boys and Girls) and Cheer (All Girl and Coed divisions).

Case CR-3- What sports and sport activities are insured by the KHSAA?

The KHSAA Board of Control will purchase Catastrophe Insurance, using the member dues and tournament receipts, to insure the student-athletes who compete in the sanctioned sports and sport activities of the KHSAA. In addition, students serving in a support capacity at those sponsored events (managers, trainers, sideline cheerleaders (providing they comply with the NFHS rules restrictions).

Such insurance coverage shall be in force from the first day of the Bylaw 23, Limitation of Seasons in a sponsored sport or sport activity, through the last day, provided such competition complies with all parts of the Bylaw and its individual competitors comply with all applicable KHSAA bylaws. The deductible for this policy shall be published in a timely manner to ensure that the school and student-athletes have adequate opportunity to comply with Bylaw 12.

The KHSAA Board of Control will purchase General Liability Insurance, using the member dues and tournament receipts, to provide for General Liability coverage for the Association and its agents and assignees, in all KHSAA sponsored competition in all sports (postseason) for which the Association sponsors a championship. The Commissioner shall ensure through all forms of due diligence, that all levels of these sponsored championships are conducted in accordance with applicable KHSAA Competition Rules in order to maintain the integrity of the policy.

Case CR-4- How many schools are required to agree to participate in KHSAA sponsored postseason competition in order for the Association to hold a championship in that sport or sport-activity?

Fifty (50) member schools located in at least three (3) different basketball regions shall agree to field a team in order that

the Association consider sponsoring a championship. The achievement of this percentage is no guarantee of the development of a championship as the Board of Control must consider fiscal and legal consequences such as the Association budget, the budget of the member schools and the impact on such things as Title IX.

Twenty-five member schools located in at least three (3) different basketball regions shall participate each year in order that the Association maintains a championship.

These criteria may be waived by the Board of Control in order to sponsor a championship in any sport that does not conflict with state or federal law and which provides additional participation opportunities exclusively for females.

The Association shall survey the membership every three years to determine interest in new offerings.

Case CR-5- Who is in control of the media and press at KHSAA sponsored competition?

1) The intellectual property, corporate, broadcasting and media rights to the State championship rounds of the KHSAA postseason championships belong exclusively to the KHSAA, including titling agreements and sponsorships. No member school may approve or sign an agreement that includes rights to state contests (delayed or live).

2) The intellectual property, corporate, broadcasting and media rights to the postseason rounds prior to the state finals belong exclusively to the KHSAA, including titling agreements and sponsorships. No member school can sign an exclusive agreement for a postseason round (District, Region, semi-state) without agreement between the schools and approval of the KHSAA Office.

3) The intellectual property, corporate, broadcasting and media rights to the postseason rounds prior to the state finals belong exclusively to the KHSAA, but are assigned to the Principal of each institution for management and control. No member school shall sign an exclusive regular season agreement that would "Shut out" its opponent from any audio, video streaming or having the opportunity to do so.

4) At all levels of competition during postseason play, control of media access and location at those contests is with the KHSAA.

5) At all levels of competition, including district, region, sectional, and state competition in KHSAA sponsored tournaments and meets, managers are to make allowances for members of the media to tape portions of the contests at no charge to the media outlet, as long as the taping is for the sole purpose of news highlights.

6) Contact the KHSAA Communications Director with questions.

Case CR-6- Who is empowered to make decisions at KHSAA tournaments when inclement weather forces postponement of contests or events?

While it would be ideal if all parties could meet and agree on any re-scheduling of games necessitated by inclement weather or other natural events, this may not be practical. It is the duty of the tournament manager to make decisions with regards to re-scheduling in the event of postponement and ensure that all teams, media outlets and schools are properly notified.

Case CR-7- Is it possible for a winner and corresponding runner-up in baseball, basketball, field hockey, soccer, softball or volleyball district tournament to meet before the final region game?

No, because they are to be placed in opposite brackets.

Case CR-8- Is there a mandatory brand of game ball to be used in postseason play in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball?

Yes, the Association has a long-term agreements with multiple sponsors. Staff at KHSAA can assist with specific model numbers, although use of specific numbers is not mandated.

In all postseason contests in baseball, softball, football and basketball, a Rawlings brand ball (or Worth brand in softball) with the proper NFHS authenticating mark shall be used for There is no requirement that a KHSAA logo appear on the ball, or that a specific ball number be used.

In all postseason contests in soccer, a SELECT Sports brand ball with the proper NFHS authenticating mark shall be used. There

is no requirement that a KHSAA logo appear on the ball, or that a specific ball number be used.

In all postseason contests in volleyball, a Baden brand ball with the proper NFHS authenticating mark shall be used. There is no requirement that a KHSAA logo appear on the ball, or that a specific ball number be used.

Case CR-9- Are there any restrictions on the scheduling and playing of games in a “seeded district” in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, or volleyball?

Yes. Principals, Athletic Directors and Coaches should consult the Competition Rules related to each of these sports for more specific dates for tournament meetings and allowances for scheduling of these meetings. All games involved in the calculation of a seed position SHALL be played on or before the Wednesday prior to the start of postseason play. Games played after that time SHALL NOT factor into the seeded position.

Case CR-10- How are the tournament sites selected for district tournament sites for baseball, basketball, soccer, softball in the event that agreement cannot be reached on a site selection plan?

If a site selection plan cannot be reached on first round (normally district) tournaments, the Commissioner will intervene and establish a rotation plan subject to appeal to the Board of Control. The site selection plan shall be confirmed by annual balloting during the season and reported to the Association along with seeding decisions. Rotating the tournament sites does not necessarily mean that each school shall host the tournament at that school's home site, but that each school, with available proper and adequate facilities, shall have the opportunity to host the tournament, even if an alternative site is required due to site requirements within a given sport.

Case CR-11- Is there a deadline for a district host school in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball or volleyball to select a playing site if the school home site doesn't meet the requirements for holding the tournament?

Yes. Through various rules and rulings in past years, every school in a specific district alignment shall have an opportunity to serve as the host for the tournament. Each school may, of course, decline that opportunity. However, this requirement ensures that on a periodic basis, all schools get to share in the concession and parking proceeds, host share of the ticket receipts and other benefits that come from serving as the host. It is recognized that all schools in a given alignment grouping will not meet the tournament specifications.

For this reason, the following steps shall be taken by the schools in the district-

- 1) The schools shall meet and decide what facilities can hold the attendance of the last five years of the tournament based on the fan followings of the schools, and satisfy other logistical needs such as accessibility, parking, etc. (agreed sites). In addition, all sites must meet any adopted site criteria for the sport that has been approved by the Board of Control. If there is a disagreement, the Board of Control can serve as the final resolution and KHSAA staff shall assist in that determination.
- 2) The discussion on site applicability is separate from the ability to “host”, that is being the tournament manager, operating concessions, etc. as all schools shall be given that opportunity to host, just not necessarily at a site that cannot accommodate the event.
- 3) From that list of agreed sites, the rotation of sites is to be considered, factoring in of course, that all schools shall be given a chance (if they want) to host, even if it isn't played at the host school's home playing facility.
- 4) In a year when the designated host's home facility does not meet the specifications for holding the tournament, the final selection as to the playing site rests with the designated host school. That school has sole discretion to make that decision, but is compelled to choose only from the list of agreed facilities as mentioned in (1) above.
- 5) In a year when the designated host school's home facility does not meet the specifications for holding the tournament, the designation shall be made by September 20 in volleyball and soccer; January 1 in basketball; and April 15 for baseball and

softball.

Case CR-12- How are the contest sites selected for region tournaments/meets/contests?

The Commissioner establishes all regional sites. The Commissioner shall be generally guided by a site selection plan approved by a 2/3 vote of the member schools in the region, but is not compelled to assign the event to that site specified in the plan, and shall only assign to the sites meeting specified sports specific criteria.

Changes to a requested site selection plan shall be confirmed by balloting of the Principals or Designated Representatives of the member schools.

Case CR-13- May a name be added to the roster or entry form after the first day of postseason competition?

No, changes cannot be made unless otherwise provided in the competition rules for a specific sport. The principal shall check the online roster in all sports and sport-activities to ensure that all players are on the list as the rosters are locked after postseason play begins. For individual sports using the published entry list and/or forms, the specific sport tournament rules will address any options for substitution or correction, if such options exist.

Case CR-14- How is it determined that a meet counts against the four meet minimum in Track and Field or Cross Country?

In order to count as a meet for the four meet minimum a meet shall be a meet which rises to the standard of counting as a meet towards the interpretations of Bylaw 23. In addition, in Cross Country, the distance would be a minimum of 2500 meters and a maximum of 5000 meters and involved entries from two or more schools. To count towards the minimums, the meets may be at the varsity or nonvarsity level in terms of meet structure. It shall be counted in the same manner for all competitors (varsity, JV or freshman). The school approved or provided uniform shall be worn in this competition. In accordance with Bylaw 22, a school representative shall accompany the team.

Case CR-15- If a Cross Country Meet is interrupted by weather, can other races be run that day?

Yes. The particular interrupted race is considered complete and counts both towards meet limits and participation minimums. If other competition can resume after required delays, that is permissible. Only races actually started can count towards meet limits or participation minimums.

Case CR-16 - Are there policies on participation by boys on girls' teams and vice-versa?

Yes. See the Board of Control policies for complete details.

Case CR-17 - Are there policy statements or recommendations from the Commissioner's office on postgame activity by teams and individuals?

Yes. Several sports have “traditions” regarding postgame handshakes, etc. by team members (both en masse and as individuals), but none of them have such action dictated by playing rules. While it is an obvious sign of sportsmanship and civility, many incidents have occurred both in Kentucky (more than two dozen in the last three years in Kentucky alone) and throughout the country, where fights and physical conflicts have broken out during these postgame handshakes. And this is not restricted to specific sports.

Unfortunately, the adrenaline and effort required to participate in the sport sometimes seems to deplete the supply of judgement available to participants. And this can be particularly problematic when there is a lack of an appropriate level of adult supervision, or counterproductive actions by the adults involved with the team.

During 2013-14, the following directors were issued by the Commissioner to the membership for all of the schools and officials regarding post game in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling:

Following the contests, officials are to quickly and efficiently leave the playing facility following all rules mandated duties and ensure that the rules book mandated jurisdiction ends

promptly. There is no need for officials to secure the game balls, shake hands with the coaches or players, or stick around the playing area for any other reason.

Officials have no role in what goes on in postgame, including handshakes, etc. after jurisdiction has ended. Officials also have NO role in administering this time period. Officials choosing to involve themselves in postgame activities will be penalized appropriately;

Game management and the administration of the participating team(s) are solely responsible for what happens after the contest is concluded.

Certain interaction is required by the NFHS playing rules (i.e. the awarding of a bout winner in wrestling). Other postgame rituals such as handshakes, etc. must be closely monitored by school officials and are not a part of the game regulated by game officials. However, any unsportsmanlike conduct occurring during this time will subject the coach/player to penalties and discipline; and

The coaches and administration of the teams are always responsible for the individual conduct of the members of the team following the contest and shall be held accountable for such.

Henceforth, any incidents by an individual squad member (including coaches) or group of squad members that results in unsporting acts immediately following the contest will result in a penalty against the member school athletic program, and additional penalties against the individuals or schools as deemed appropriate following investigation.

Case CR-18 - Who pays for the trophies for KHSAA postseason Competition?

In all sports and sport-activities, the host of the event is responsible for the payment of trophies and is permitted to take that amount for the standard trophies ordered by the Association from gate receipts or other agreed fees. Those not charging a fee for admission are permitted to assess each member school for entry into the event to help cover these and other costs, but such assessment shall be included in any financial settlement published for the event.

Case CR-19 - Are financial reconciliation reports required to be submitted to the KHSAA after KHSAA postseason events?

Yes. All levels of KHSAA postseason event require a financial reconciliation.

Case CR-20 - Has the Board of Control adopted a position statement or policy on the realignment / alignment of teams?

Yes. On a perpetual basis, the Commissioner shall ensure that staff maintains a current alignment of teams in each sport with the following review points considered:

If a single school adds a team (or individuals) or deletes a team (or all individuals), the alignment may be revised on an ongoing basis by the Commissioner;

The Board of Control may, at its own discretion, choose to realign all teams participation in a sport or sport activity based on input from the Commissioner;

A realignment may also be caused by a previously adopted alignment having an expiration of its valid period. This is especially important in the enrollment based sports (classified sports). Cross Country/Track and Field and Football are aligned on a four-year alignment period;

Cross Country and Track and Field shall have the same alignment;

Football shall be aligned based on the average four-year enrollment of boys in the school, including the year in which the realignment project is completed, and the final alignment shall attempt to result in a final product being adopted at least twelve (12) months notice to the member schools for scheduling;

Cross Country/Track and Field shall be aligned on a not less than every four year basis, using the average four-year enrollment of total students in the school, including the year in which the realignment project is completed; and Specific parameters about each sport alignment shall be

contained in the Competition rules for the Sport or Sport Activity.

Whenever a sport or sport activity is to be realigned, the Board shall direct the Commissioner to produce the necessary information as to seed discussion by the Board of Control. The criteria and factors to be used in developing a draft alignment shall adhere to the following steps:

Identification as to whether or not enrollment classifications will be used;

Plot/Diagram the location of all competing schools; Begin by looking at geographic clusters of schools. Geography (including specific travel route information) is an important criteria for placement in groups (regions, districts, etc.), but is not the sole determinant for placement;

Travel routes must be reviewed as a potential factor, as well as the identification of the existence of multiple travel routes;

In the non-classified team sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball), the basketball alignment should be an initial framework, specifically the region boundaries;

If possible in the non-classified team sports, the district boundaries should be important element, but the level of participation of the schools in the district must be factor;

The unique factors of each sport, particularly the individual sports, must be reviewed including facilities; and

The participation and alignment history, both individual and teams, is a factor in consideration, but not the final determinant;

When reviewing alternative suggestions for alignments, the Board shall prioritize the requests from the membership that effect the requesting school over those suggestions that result from suggestions about other schools without effecting the suggesting school.

The following factors are NOT to be considered:

Past success or failure;

Enrollment (in a non-classified sport);

Socio-economic status and student body composition;

Type of school (A1, D1, F1, J1, M1, R1); and

Specific desires of coaches (input must be from administrative level).