

BYLAW 15. PRACTICE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Sec. 1) SPORTSMANSHIP OBLIGATION

- a) It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public.
- b) The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation.
- c) Any violation of this rule in any interscholastic contest shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.
- d) The schedule of contest(s) for a player or coach to be suspended shall be set by the schedule at the time of the ejection and contest(s) may not be added or deleted after the suspension to alter the contests during which the penalty is then served.

Sec. 2) ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT/VIDEOTAPING

- a) It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representative(s) uses or allows the use of illegal equipment which gains a competitive advantage in the contest and which is expressly prohibited by the rules adopted for that sport.
- b) This shall also include the on-site recording of past or future opponents in any electronic form without the expressed consent of all involved teams.
- c) A violation of this provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner's office in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 27.

Sec. 3) REQUIREMENT FOR REINSTATEMENT

- a) Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner or one of the Assistant Commissioners.

Sec. 4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT AND PERMANENT SUSPENSION

- a) The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal of the school that student attends.
- b) When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he or she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his or her representative and to the KHSAA office.
- c) If the Commissioner finds upon investigation that the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender shall be permanently disqualified.

Case BL-15-1- What is the obligation of school officials with regard to sportsmanship?

School officials shall practice the highest principles of sportsmanship, and shall make every effort to teach this type of behavior to their players, members of the student body and fans. Officials shall be protected and scrimmages or contests conducted in an orderly manner. A violation of this rule may be cause for suspension.

Case BL-15-2- Is it permissible for a player ejection by officials in athletic scrimmages or contests to be protested or appealed to the Commissioner or the Board of Control?

No. A judgement call by the official, right or wrong, shall prevail. The Commissioner's office will intercede only when ejected players or coaches have been misidentified, when the situation involves an incident or fight where video is available to ensure accurate punishment per the Board of Control video review policy (including additional identification of incident participants), or when an administrative misapplication of a playing rule has resulted in an erroneous ejection. Misapplication could include applying the penalty of ejection to a foul for which the playing rules preclude such a decision.

Case BL-15-3- Is the Association staff permitted to use videotape to review situations related to fights and other incidents to help determine the proper identify of those involved in unsporting incidents?

Yes. Per published Board of Control policy, such video may be used. Per the NFHS playing rules, the game officials' jurisdiction extends through the lead official's declaration of the end of the contest. The contest officials retain clerical authority over the game through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the game officials had jurisdiction.

Because state associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the game officials' jurisdiction has ended, or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play, the KHSAA has an adopted policy. The KHSAA will use all methods and evidence available to help properly determine the persons involved, and the appropriate course of action.

Case BL-15-4- What is required of contest officials and member schools in the event of an ejection?

The game official(s) shall complete the ejection report via the KHSAA website within twenty-four hours of the ejection.

These reports shall be made promptly since the player or coach is disqualified from further competition at that level until reinstated by a member of the Commission.

An official or school may be fined, suspended or otherwise penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27 for failing to properly and timely report a disqualification or request reinstatement.

Case BL-15-5- What procedure is followed by a member school in the case of an ejection in order to request reinstatement?

The administrators at a member school should receive a report via email regarding the ejection. There will be directions in the email to login to the secure KHSAA online system and request reinstatement.

The member school principal or designated representative of the school with whom the player or coach is affiliated shall complete the required information on the KHSAA website requesting reinstatement.

Case BL-15-6- What is the member school obligation in the case of an unreported disqualification?

KHSAA member school representatives are obligated to impose the minimum suspension penalty for the ejection per these published guidelines, even in those rare cases when an ejection is not reported in a timely manner, including ejections which occur during out-of-state contests or those during school breaks. School administrators should contact the Association office with any questions.

Whether or not a timely report is received, the obligation of the member school administration is to adhere to the penalty provisions.

Case BL-15-7- If a coach or other nonplayer is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension and what may occur during the suspension?

(1) The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite when the ejection occurs;

(2) The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day. (i.e., the freshmen coach ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at the field during any subsequent games that day);

(3) The suspended coach or nonplayer may not participate in another contest at any level (freshmen, junior varsity, varsity, etc.) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission;

(4) Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension;

(5) When a coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, the coach is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility. In football and soccer for example, this means leaving the field and stadium area; in basketball, this implies leaving the building altogether (not simply relocating to another room); in other sports, completely leaving the venue;

- (6) An ejected coach may not have any further communication with the game officials following the game;
- (7) During the subsequent suspension period of any nonplayer (coach, administrator, etc.) the coach may not be on school property where the contests are being played and may not be at the venue if contests are played at a nonschool site. The nonplayer may not communicate with the team at any point from the beginning of the contest until the end of the contest;
- (8) Following the date of ejection, there shall be a minimum three additional games/meets/contests suspension for any coach or nonplayer ejected from a scrimmage or contest in every sport or sport-activity except football;
- (9) Following the date of ejection, there shall be a minimum two additional games/meets/contests suspension for any coach or nonplayer ejected from a scrimmage or contest in football;
- (10) For all coaches or nonplayers sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, the penalty shall be for the entire meet schedule, not for a single event;
- (11) If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests;
- (12) If the ejection was for the final game/contest of the season and was a coach or nonplayer, the person ejected shall serve the required suspension in the next varsity level contest at the member school for the suspended individual;
- (13) For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum four-game/contest suspension (three-games for football) and may be cause for additional penalties that may include suspension for the remainder of the season;
- (14) For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season; and
- (15) Any penalty that has not been fully served shall carry forward to the new school for any coach or nonplayer who changes schools.

Case BL-15-8- If a player (participant) is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension?

- (1) The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite when the ejection occurred;
- (2) The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day (i.e., a freshman ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach participant ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at the field during any subsequent games that day);
- (3) The ejected participant may not participate in another contest at that level (freshmen, junior varsity, varsity) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission;
- (4) Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension.
- (5) When a participant is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, the participant is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility unless the specific playing rules of the sport call for a different penalty option or the student would be placed in a position of not being supervised. In those cases, the administration of the player's team is responsible for ensuring that the student participates in no other unsportsmanlike activity or the school itself may face additional penalty under Bylaw 27;
- (6) An ejected participant may not have any further communication with the game officials following the game;
- (7) During the subsequent suspension period, suspended players may attend contest(s), but may not be in the game uniform or other school identifiable clothing and may not participate in any sport-related activity (warm-up activity) prior to or during the game, and will be classified as nonplayer personnel during that contest as it relates to playing rules enforcement. It is a local school determination as to whether or not this student may be in the vicinity of the bench or team area;
- (8) Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum two additional games/meets/contests suspension for any participant ejected from a contest in all sports and sport-

- activities except football;
- (9) Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum one additional contest suspension for any participant ejected from a scrimmage or contest in football;
- (10) For participants sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, this penalty shall be for the entire meet schedule, not for a single event;
- (11) If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests;
- (12) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and the ejected participant is a senior, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next varsity interscholastic contest(s) in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport;
- (13) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a participant, and this was in varsity (first team) competition and the ejected student is not a senior, the full penalty shall carry over to the next varsity season in the sport in which the participant was participating when ejected;
- (14) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and this was NOT a varsity (first team) contest, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next interscholastic varsity level contest(s) in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport;
- (15) For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum three-game/contest suspension (two-games for football) and may be cause for additional penalties that may include suspension for the remainder of the season;
- (16) For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season; and
- (17) Any penalty that has not been fully served shall carry forward to the new school for any player who changes schools.

Case BL-15-9- Has the Board of Control adopted any procedure in conjunction with the Commissioner's office for sports or schools with multiple ejections in the same school year?

Yes. On the third ejection in a single sport during three separate contests by representatives of the same school, such school will be required to have an administrative conference with the Supervisor of Officials and the sport contacts for the specific sport. Based on location, the conference may be held at the KHSAA or via phone/video conference. Such will also be accompanied by an additional penalty within Bylaw 27 against the member school, including fines, reprimands or probation.

Following this penalty, any additional ejection in that sport will require a conference and professional development with those individuals at the KHSAA office and additional penalty.

On the fifth ejection in all sports during five separate contests during the school year by representatives of the same school, such school will be required to have an administrative conference with the Supervisor of Officials and the sport contacts for the specific sport. Based on location, the conference may be held at the KHSAA or via phone/video conference. Such will also be accompanied by an additional penalty within Bylaw 27 against the member school, including fines, reprimands or probation.

Following this penalty, any additional ejection in that sport will require a conference and professional development with those individuals at the KHSAA office and additional penalty.

Case BL-15-10- Does an ejection in a scrimmage have the same penalty as a contest?

Yes. The two allowable scrimmages are not an "open opportunity" for unsportsmanlike conduct. Persons ejected from any scrimmage are penalized in the first regular season varsity contest(s) and are not penalized in subsequent scrimmages.

Case BL-15-11- Is it a violation for a coach to remove his team from the floor or field if he believes that such removal is for the safety of his players or for an official to end a game prior to the end of regulation time?

Yes. Removal of a team from the floor or field without the permission of the official(s) is a violation of Bylaw 15, Practice of Sportsmanship. A school or school representative violating this rule will be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27

including fines, suspensions or other possible penalties. If the game is called because of unsporting acts by any player, coach, team representative or other direct representative of a member school, it will be considered a violation of this bylaw. Such shall be reported by the contest official to the KHSAA and reported by the effected schools within 24 hours of the incident.

Officials will be penalized by the Association for terminating a contest before the normal end of regulation play without trying to secure the assistance of game management or security to rectify the problem. Such penalty will be governed by the Officials Division Licensing policies within the Board of Control Policies and Procedures.

Case BL-15-12- Is it a violation for school personnel to criticize game officials through the media (including social media) or vice-versa?

Yes. Many times criticisms are offered with regard to officiating. Done properly, criticism through the proper administrative channels can be used constructively. However, public media comments (including social media) that criticize officials by name, specific position, specific game assignment or by reference as the contest officials are damaging to the recruitment and retention of officials.

Individual incidents of this type will be investigated by the KHSAA and the school or individuals shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27. Coaches and officials will be held to the restrictions and policies concerning the use of social media, which shall be considered media for the purpose of applying these restrictions.

Member schools will be fined for inappropriate comments by coaches through the media (including social media).

Case BL-15-13- What is the Association's position with regards to racial and ethnic slurs and profanity by participants?

The KHSAA recognizes the cultural diversity of its participants, coaches, officials and spectators. The Board of Control encourages each of its member schools to educate its participants and all parties involved in the sports program as to the need for a united approach to solving problems. Prejudice on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or United States military service.

In addition, it is a renewed point of emphasis for all contest officials to enforce sportsmanship rules related to the use of profanity by coaches and participants. Such conduct and language should not be allowed, and should be appropriately punished within the playing rules.

Case BL-15-14- Are there any state laws or regulations applicable to officials and unsportsmanlike conduct against officials, including assault?

Yes. Action taken during the 1998 session of the Kentucky General Assembly (HB 90) enacted KRS 518.090 that now specifically lists the assault of a sports official as a crime. Officials, right or wrong in their judgment and application of the rules, shall be protected and allowed to perform their duties.

A person is guilty of assault of a sports official when he intentionally causes physical injury to a sports official: (a) Who was performing sports official duties at the time the physical injury was perpetrated; or (b) If the physical injury occurs while the sports official is arriving at or departing from the athletic facility at which the athletic event occurred.

For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or in a similar capacity that may be known by another title, and who is duly registered as or is a member of a national, state, regional, or local organization engaged, in part, in providing education and training to sports officials.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant assembles with five (5) or more persons for the purpose of assaulting a sports official, in which case it is a Class D felony.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a