

BYLAW 2. AGE

Sec. 1) AGE RESTRICTION

- a) Pursuant to KRS 156.070 (2) (e), a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at a KHSAA member high school.
- b) A student who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

Sec. 2) WAIVER PROVISION

- a) The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner may waive the provisions of this bylaw and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if written documentation is provided to clearly demonstrate that the student:
 - (1) Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual education program developed by an admissions and release committee (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
 - (2) Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC committee recommendation; and
 - (3) Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility following initial promotion into grade nine (9).
- b) The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner shall not adopt administrative procedures that allow for waiver of this rule under any other condition.

Case BL-2-1- Why is there an age restriction?

To ensure equality of competition and opportunity, a standard must be established at some point to determine the cutoff date for age eligibility. Use of a specific cutoff date gives notice to all parties involved in interscholastic athletics and maintains equality of participant eligibility between schools.

An age limitation requirement:

- (1) Provides commonality between student-athletes and schools in interscholastic competition;
- (2) Inhibits "redshirting" or failing to make normal progress through school;
- (3) Allows the participation of younger and less experienced players;
- (4) Enhances the opportunity for more students to participate;
- (5) Promotes quality of competition;
- (6) Avoids over-emphasis on athletics; and
- (7) Helps to diminish the inherent risk of injury associated with participation in athletics.

Case BL-2-2- Are rulings related to Bylaw 2 (Age) appealable through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure other than the published exception stipulated in KRS 156.070?

No. Bylaw 2 as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education expressly prohibits appeals concerning this bylaw. In addition, with the adoption of HB215 from the 1998 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly has placed this provision in KRS 156.070 in the form of state law with the only exception being the provisions passed by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly.

Case BL-2-3- What is the primary school program as used in KRS 156.070 (2) (e) as amended by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly?

KRS 158.031 defines "primary school program" as "that part of the elementary school program which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they are ready to enter the fourth grade" (P-3). Bylaw 2 applies this same definition.
