

BYLAW 20. OFFICIALS DIVISION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Sec. 1) OFFICIALS WHO LICENSE:

- a) Any person who officiates in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball (fast pitch), swimming, volleyball and wrestling in grades 9 through 12 between member schools of the Association shall be licensed by the Commissioner and shall carry an official card indicating that licensing.
- b) All officials in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be required to join a local officials association as described in the KHSAA Officials' Guidebook.

Sec. 2) REQUIREMENT TO USE LICENSED OFFICIALS

- a) Only officials licensed with the Officials Division of the Association shall be assigned or employed to officiate in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, volleyball or wrestling in all competition involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
- b) The Commissioner may approve exceptions to this policy in writing.

Sec. 3) OFFICIAL SCRATCHES

- a) A member school shall have the privilege of scratching a limited number of officials (scratches) that it does not desire to have as contractors on the athletic contests of that school.
- b) The amount of scratches per school/coach is determined by the Regional Policy Board and in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Control.
- c) Scratches properly submitted in a timely fashion shall be honored by the Assigning Secretary and the officials shall not be assigned to a home, away or neutral site contest in the sport during that season.

Sec. 4) RULES CLINICS

Each official licensed with the KHSAA shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic (in person or online) conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which he or she is licensed.

Sec. 5) CANCELLATION OF OFFICIATING LICENSE

The KHSAA may cancel or refuse the license renewal of any official in any sport for cause as detailed in the KHSAA Officials Guidebook and Board of Control Policies.

Sec. 6) ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENTS

- a) An official shall accept assignments in the amount of time and in the manner prescribed by the local officials association to which he or she belongs.
- b) The penalty for an official's failure to work an assigned game, unless providentially prevented from doing so, may be cause for up to a one-year suspension in that sport.

Sec. 7) VIOLATION OF ASSIGNING CONTRACTS

The Board of Control shall protect both the officials and the schools against violations pertaining to assignments.

Sec. 8) LOCAL POLICY BOARDS/COMMITTEES

The Commissioner may establish as many bureaus as deemed necessary in each sport in order to assign officials to games in accordance with the Federal Court Decree of 1971 and policies adopted by the Board of Control.

Sec. 9) GOVERNANCE

The Officials Guidebook and the Board of Control Adopted Policies and Procedures shall govern all officials licensed with the KHSAA.

Sec. 10) COACHES/OTHERS CONNECTED NOT TO OFFICIATE

Coaches or persons connected with the competing schools shall not officiate at contests, unless the written consent of all competing schools is given.

Case BL-20-1- Are there rules, statutes or documents that govern licensed KHSAA officials, assigning secretaries and the KHSAA Officials Division?

Yes. The Officials Division exists because of the 1971 Federal Consent Decree that resulted from a matter initially litigated regarding Officials' Assignments. This decree and relevant policies are found in the KHSAA Policies and Procedures section of the Handbook.

Case BL-20-2- Is it permissible for administrators or other school personnel to officiate in contests involving their team?

No. In the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey,

football, soccer, softball and volleyball, coaches (paid or unpaid) are prohibited from officiating in contests involving their schools, as are principals, superintendents, assigning secretaries and other parties directly affiliated with the competing schools unless approval from all teams is received in writing. For the interpretation of these rules, a contest is defined as a regular season contest, game, tournament, or any postseason game or tournament in which his or her school is participating.

For the purpose of the individual sports of cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track and wrestling, the use of such persons as officials is almost a requirement for a successful meet and to have enough staff to administer all meet functions. Event managers are strongly encouraged to monitor the placement of coaches within events where they might have authority over one of their own athletes, and to make adjustments to the schedule of events or to the assignment of officials in order to prevent conflicts of interest. If a school is notified in advance that a coach will be involved in officiating and chooses to come to that contest, they are considered to have agreed to the use of the coach as an official.

Case BL-20-3- Is a school obligated to use licensed baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling officials?

The use of licensed officials is a requirement in these sports, the penalty for violation being possible suspension of the school, school representatives or the official. If there is any question about an official being licensed, he/she should be asked to show his/her license.

Individuals officiating a high school contest, while not properly licensed with the KHSAA, may be fined as well as the member school being penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27.

Member schools should refer to the KHSAA website for updated officials listings.

The Commissioner's office may also impose a fine on any assigning secretary who assigns an unlicensed official to a contest.

Case BL-20-4- Are licensed officials required to be used for scrimmage contests?

No. However, if anyone other than the participating coaches act in the role of officials at a scrimmage, they must be licensed with the KHSAA. Coaches of the participating schools acting in the role of an official and supervising the play by the student-athletes are not required to be licensed.
