

BYLAW 24. SUMMER SPORTS AND SPORT- ACTIVITIES

Sec. 1) SCHOOL TEAM PLAY IN SUMMER (NONDEAD PERIOD)

- a) Member schools may participate in sanctioned play during the summer to complete spring seasons in baseball, softball, tennis and track, and may begin sanctioned regular season play and practice as defined by Bylaw 23 prior to the opening of school in cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer and volleyball.
- b) Only participants eligible during the spring semester may compete on the school teams.
- c) All KHSAA eligibility rules apply, and full control of the summer program shall remain with the participating high school and the principal of that school.

Sec. 2) RESTRICTIONS ON FOOTBALL AND BOYS' BASKETBALL

- a) Students shall not participate in any organized team activity or organized or semi-organized team competition in football in any format between the earlier of the last day of school and June 1, through the day prior to the start of the dead period. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps (with per team limits on participation) and accepted open gym or field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.
- b) Students shall not participate in any organized team activity or organized or semi-organized team competition in boys' basketball between the end of the dead period and July 31. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps (with per team limits on participation) and accepted open gym/field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.

Sec. 3) SUMMER DEAD PERIOD

- a) During the period of June 25 to July 9 (inclusive) each year:
 - (1) Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non salaried) in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport or sport-activity;
 - (2) School facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment may not be used in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport or sport-activity;
 - (3) School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in any KHSAA-sanctioned sport; and
 - (3) Postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year may be held.

Case BL-24-1- What is the purpose of Bylaw 24?

Sec. 1 of Bylaw 24 is critical to clarify the allowances for those sports that begin prior to the beginning of the school year, extend beyond the school year, or start their practice/contests prior to the start of the following school year. This rule empowers the school to begin the season before school starts, or play through postseason elimination in spring sports.

Sec. 2 of Bylaw 24 was passed by the membership as a means of addressing a burgeoning issue in boys' basketball and football, wherein the small population of available male athletes were being forced to make choices due to the wishes of adults, many of whom may not have had the overall best interests of the student-athletes as their number one goal. The rule specifies a period where school based competition (including anything that could remotely be perceived as required or using school facilities) cannot be held in football (June prior to the Dead Period), and cannot be held in basketball (July, after the Dead Period).

Sec. 3 of Bylaw 24, the Dead Period was developed following a nearly year long task force review in the middle-1990s to address a growing issue where year-round athletics was eroding family opportunities for a break from participation, and outside entities were beginning to sponsor a growing amount of school based summer competition. In addition, over the years, many sometimes overzealous coaches required their players to play scores of games throughout the summer, in addition to a year-round workout regimen. While this may seem to be in the best interest of developing sports talent, such is not the purpose of high school athletics.

High school sports are to supplement classroom learning and allow for in-season competitive opportunities, not a year round Olympic or professional development period. Families were complaining that they could not plan vacations and family outings because of coaches' requirements and athletes were complaining of burn out. In addition, schools were increasingly concerned with liability issues related to the summer. In a survey conducted by the KHSAA, 80% of superintendents, principals and athletic directors who returned the survey indicated they supported a "dead period" in the summer. Initial responses were overwhelmingly in support of a four (4) week dead period. The primary intent of the regulation is to eliminate, for an approximately two (2) week period, the leverage a coach has over his/her high school athletes.

Case BL-24-2- Does Bylaw 24 apply to KHSAA Sport-Activities?

Yes. Any sport or sport-activity governed by the KHSAA Limitation of Seasons (Bylaw 23) is restricted by this rule and its interpretations.

Case BL-24-3- How is Bylaw 24, Sec. 1 interpreted for play in the summer held after the end of the school year and prior to the start of the next school year?

The following are the general provisions regarding summer play:

- (1) Any participant is eligible to continue participating in KHSAA sponsored state championship competition in baseball, fastpitch softball, tennis and track and field, even if their spring semester has ended. Only students eligible during the spring semester may practice or compete on any of the teams mentioned;
- (2) Individual athletes and athletic teams representing member schools may participate in nonschool competition following the conclusion of the school year provided that such competition is not in conflict with other KHSAA Bylaws;
- (3) School based play during the summer (other than fall sports after July 15) is governed by the local Board of Education (except for the Dead Period restrictions) and the local Board of Education assumes all responsibility; and
- (4) Students may begin official practice and play for fall KHSAA sports and sport-activities as part of the school team even if the school year has not yet begun.

The following describes the parameters for KHSAA catastrophic insurance coverage for the summer:

- (1) Insurance coverage provided by the Association, including but not limited to the Catastrophic Insurance Plan, does not apply to students participating in such activities as Amateur Athletic Union and other nonschool, or out of season play, in the summer.
- (2) The provisions of the Association insurance plan do not cover students attending individual or team camps during the summer in any sport prior to the first legal day of practice.
- (3) This summer exclusion also applies to members of the cheerleading squad.

Case BL-24-4- What are the restrictions on football practice and the use of equipment from June 1 to June 24 in compliance with Bylaw 24, Sec. 2?

These restrictions are:

- (1) A football player may not be issued any football gear, including the helmet (except for the individual camp exception detailed in Bylaw 23), and no organized activity can be held related to football on school grounds by team members;
- (2) School or booster funds may not be expended during this period;
- (3) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in football. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;
- (4) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no school expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- (5) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;
- (6) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;

- 7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized football competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- 8) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized football competition at which students from the school are participants, and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- 9) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of football activity;
- 10) There can be no organized competition against any other school or any other type of team;
- 11) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents; and
- 12) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.

Case BL-24-5- What are the restrictions on boys' basketball practice and the use of equipment from July 10 to July 31 in compliance with Bylaw 24, Sec. 2?
These restrictions are:

- (1) A basketball player may not be issued any basketball gear and no organized activity can be held related to basketball on school grounds by team members;
- (2) School or booster funds may not be expended during this period;
- (3) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in basketball. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;
- (4) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no school expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- (5) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;
- (6) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;
- (7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized basketball competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- (8) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized basketball competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- (9) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of basketball activity;
- (10) There shall be no organized competition against any other school or nonschool team;
- (11) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents;
- (12) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period; and
- (13) Girls' basketball is not effected by these restrictions.

Case BL-24-6- What restrictions are in place for the member schools during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Sec. 3) including restrictions on facilities?

The following restrictions are in place for member school representatives (including groups of schools and school representatives and booster organizations) during the dead period, and apply to all persons connected with the member school, including coaches:

- (1) School or booster funds may not be expended during this dead period;
- (2) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in any sport during the Dead Period. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;

- (3) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- (4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;
- (5) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;
- (6) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- (7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- (8) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of athletic activity;
- (9) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents; and the students and coaches cannot be together in any of these type of activities;
- (10) There cannot be distribution of equipment, uniforms or other school-owned or playing rules required equipment to student-athletes with eligibility remaining, including but not limited to football or baseball catching gear;
- (11) There cannot be money spent on travel to or from a camp, clinic or other activity during the Dead Period, even if none of the practice, competition or evaluation occurs during the Dead Period as this is an expenditure of school funds or resources in support of athletics;
- (12) There can be no direct communication to any student-athlete by a coach or member of the coaching staff/team regarding activities that are being held either during the dead period, or after. This includes any form of communication, verbal and written, as well as using any medium including social media.

Case BL-24-7- What specific restrictions are in place for coaches (paid or unpaid, at any level grade 9-12) including the sport-activities for the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Sec. 3) if the activity involves a student enrolled at the member school where a coach is employed?

The following restrictions are in place for all coaches, paid or unpaid, head or assistant:

- (1) No coach may coach a student-athlete in any setting if that student-athlete has previously represented the high school (varsity, junior varsity or freshmen) and if sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated;
- (2) No coach in a sport at a school may coach other individuals who are enrolled in grades 9-12 but may not have yet played for the school;
- (3) A coach may not pay the entry fee for a team into a league, camp or tournament;
- (4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid by the coach;
- (5) A coach may not provide transportation or funding for transportation for team members to go to games, camps, tournaments or any other type of play;
- (6) No member of the coaching staff may assist in making game-like preparations for the school facility including but not limited to, baseline marking, outfield line marking, batter's box marking, maintenance of the mound and base cut-outs; or the use of school facilities or equipment for such setup. This does not preclude the coaching staff or others participating in nonsports specific off-season turf or other facility maintenance;
- (7) No fund raising activity may be held during the period which would require the student-athlete and the coach to be present. These activities are inherently or specifically mandatory for the student-athletes and may not be held during the dead period. Simply stating that something is not mandatory does not in and of itself make the activity legal. Even if an activity

is totally optional, it is not permitted for the coach(es) and student-athletes to be together during this period;

- (8) There can be no coaching of athletes in a particular sport by coaches from the same school who coach in another sport. Coaching, for the purposes of the Dead Period, is defined as any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, practiced or evaluated. Attendance at a scrimmage or contest is included in the definition of coaching. This coaching restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid. This restriction prohibits the delegation or assignment of activities by any member of the coaching staff to other individuals, including student-athletes who may or may not be participating. All coaching restrictions are in place whether the activity is conducted within, or outside of the school. The coaching prohibition is on the institution, not the individual;
- (9) There can be no observation of student-athletes who are enrolled at the coach's high school, even if such observation is in conjunction with outside employment such as camps, leagues or clinics. The only exception is detailed in the allowable activities concerning the observation (including transportation) of the coach's children (blood or by marriage) who are on the playing roster and actively participating on the regular high school team at a member school; and
- (10) There may be no formal or informal communication between a coach and any member of the team during this period, including telephone, email, other electronic means or in person contact if the communication relates in any way to participation. This restriction includes upcoming meetings, plans, motivational contact or any other contact during this period.

Case BL-24-8- What specific restrictions are in place for student athletes in KHSAA Sports and Sport-Activities (Bylaw 24, Sec. 3)?

The following restrictions are in place for student-athletes during the dead period:

- (1) A student-athlete may not wear school issued or school identifying apparel, including sleeves, jerseys, pants, catching gear or hats during games, camps or tournaments; and
- (2) The school nickname or school name may not be used on nonschool issued apparel during this time.

Case BL-24-9- What activities are permitted during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Sec. 3)?

The following activities are permitted by member school representatives (including booster organizations) during the dead period:

- (1) School facilities may be used for nonhigh school aged summer leagues, tournaments and camps provided 1) a documented market value lease agreement exists; 2) players from that school are not involved in any manner if a high school coach is involved; and 3) coaches from that high school are not involved in any manner if a player is involved;
- (2) A school may hold a celebratory activity or activities commemorating participation in the KHSAA State Tennis, Track, Softball or Baseball State Championships (Final state events, not qualifying rounds). The events shall be celebratory in nature, featuring recognitions of the athletes and squad members. No practice, play or future season planning or activities may occur;
- (3) A school may conduct its annual mass physical exams during this period provided there is no contact with any member of the coaching staff for any reason and this is not the sole opportunity provided to the students at that member school;
- (4) Coaches who have a son or daughter (blood or by marriage) participating may attend contests. Even with attendance allowed, this person cannot be involved in coaching the team;
- (5) Coaches may be involved with outside activities and leagues as long as there is no contact with members of his/her high school team and as long as the coach is not in attendance when any of his/her players are participating. Coaches should be cautioned against using this type of activity in violation of Bylaw 16, Recruitment;
- (6) Member schools may allow camps to be conducted for

nonhigh school students on school athletic property by high school coaches during this period provided there is no contact with any athlete who had participated at any level within the school athletic program, regardless of the grade or age of the student. The members of the high school team may only work at such a camp if the high school coaching staff is not present;

- (7) Coaches may serve as a paid contest official;
- (8) Students who are members of the same high school team may participate together in outside competition as long as a member of the high school coaching staff does not coach them or attend the contests; and
- (9) A participant (or participants) on a school team in a KHSAA Sport-Activity may compete in a final competition of a progressive event if the preliminary competition involved KHSAA sanctioned and sponsored competition.