

BYLAW 19. COMPARABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Sec. 1) REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS TO SPONSOR

- a) If a member school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity that is similar to a sport for which NCAA members offer an athletic scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which the scholarships are offered.
- b) The athletic activities that are similar to sports for which NCAA members offer scholarships are: Girls' fastpitch softball as compared to slow pitch.

Sec. 2) REQUIREMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE ATTEMPTS TO SPONSOR:

- a) To qualify as having "sponsored" a sport, a school shall be able to demonstrate the following:
 - (1) If similar versions of a particular sport exist and there are differences in the scholarship opportunities at the NCAA level in that sport, a survey shall be taken of the student population at reasonable times and places to determine the level of interest in the sport(s); and
 - (2) If that survey reveals sufficient interest to field the normal squad required for play in the particular sport, and if any version of the sport is to be played, the school shall make facilities, staff and other allowances to properly field a team in the version of the sport for which the NCAA members offer scholarships.

Case BL-19-1- Are schools required to sponsor fastpitch softball if that school offers softball?

The provisions of HB490 which amended KRS 156.070 and have been incorporated into KHSAA Bylaw 19, require that if a school offers a sport comparable to one for which NCAA schools offer scholarships, it shall offer the version of the sport in which scholarships are offered.

Case BL-19-2- Are schools required to have a girls' basketball team if that school fields a boys' team?

Yes. KRS 157.350 makes no reference to "sponsoring" and states under subsection (5) KRS 157.350 (5) Any secondary school which maintains a basketball team for boys for other than intramural purposes, shall maintain the same program for girls. Though this statute in particular addresses those schools accepting SEEK funding, all members of the KHSAA, irrespective of the state funding issue, are compelled to comply with this requirement.
