

## BYLAW 4. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Sec. 1) ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION WHILE LEGALLY ENROLLED IN GRADES 9-12

- a) On Friday of each grading period, a student enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be legally enrolled in a member high school as a full-time student in at least four hours of instruction as provided in Kentucky Board of Education regulation 702 KAR 7:125 (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation at the member school he or she desires to represent in order to be eligible for athletics.
- b) A student who is legally enrolled or connected with any other school than the one he or she represents shall not take part in any contest. In the case of an all-boys' high school, girl cheerleaders from an affiliated neighboring all-girls' school may be accepted.
- c) A student is ineligible for the first year following enrollment at a member school if that student leaves the former school with documented obligations (including financial). The student shall remain ineligible until the conclusion of one year from the date of enrollment or documentation that the obligations have been satisfied.

### Sec. 2) ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION WHILE LEGALLY ENROLLED BELOW GRADE 9

- a) A pupil in grades 7-8 in the feeder pattern of a KHSAA member school under the same local Board of Education as the member school may play on the high school team (at any level of play) if that participation is not in conflict with Sec. 3 below, and the time so played shall not be counted on the four (4) year (eight (8) semester) limit.
- b) For a school to be considered a "feeder" school (and therefore "connected"), it must be under the same local board of education as the member school, and enroll students exclusively below grade nine.
- c) A student enrolled at a nonfeeder school shall not be considered to be enrolled at a feeder school irrespective of past enrollment patterns of that nonfeeder school.
- d) School districts with multiple schools may not establish an "open choice" option to serve as a feeder pattern for the purpose of athletics.
- e) Applying for admission to a school does not waive this definition as there is a clear line between applying and actually being enrolled.
- f) School and school districts may choose to define a more restrictive feeder pattern for its middle schools to high schools which if violated, constitute the student not being "connected" and therefore ineligible.
- g) In a school district with multiple high schools, absent a specific otherwise adopted feeder pattern, the residence of the student-athlete within the district student assignment plan shall determine the school at which the student may participate, if such participation is permitted by local policy.
- h) A student is ineligible for the first year to participate for a member school if that student leaves the former school with documented obligations (including financial). The student shall remain ineligible until the conclusion of one year from the date of enrollment or documentation that the obligations have been satisfied.
- i) Students enrolled below grade seven (7) may not play on a high school team at any level.
- j) A student below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football or soccer.
- k) All other participation by legally enrolled students in high school level teams practices, scrimmages or contests by students legally enrolled in grades seven (7) and eight (8) who are eligible by all other bylaw provisions is at the discretion of the school based decision making council or local board of education at the member school.

### Sec. 3) INELIGIBILITY FOR REPEATING STUDENTS

- a) A student having been enrolled in the seventh (7th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level (freshmen, junior varsity or varsity, grades 9 through 12) for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall

begin in the first year enrolled in that grade.

- b) A student repeating a grade for any reason is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after initial entry into grade nine (9).

### Sec. 4) DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT

A student shall have legally enrolled as a bona fide full-time undergraduate student no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester.

#### **Case BL-4-1- Why is there a requirement that a student be enrolled at a member school or feeder school under the same Board of Education?**

A student enrollment requirement in a member school accomplishes the following:

- (1) Promotes loyalty and school spirit which lends itself to cohesion of the student body;
- (2) Helps promote amateurism by drawing athletes only from each school's student population which, in turn, prompts students to maintain the academic standard required for participation and promotes graduation in a common time frame;
- (3) Avoids professionalism and over-emphasis on athletics; and
- (4) Discourages "team-shopping" which wrongfully skews the relationships among student-athletes and coaches.

#### **Case BL-4-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt additional stipulations regarding enrollment and residence that are more stringent than KHSAA rules?**

Yes. While a school or school district cannot establish a standard that is more lenient than the KHSAA requirements, a school or school district may set other enrollment and residence requirements. For those requirements which are more stringent than the KHSAA rules, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.

#### **Case BL-4-3- What type of enrolled students are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a KHSAA member school?**

Only those students enrolled in grades 9-12 as a full-time student at an A1 (Public School), D1 (State Department of Education Operated School), F1 (Federal Dependent School), J1 (Roman Catholic), M1 (Other religion), R1 (Private, nonchurch related) schools or Public Charter School as defined by KRS 160 may participate. Enrollment at an A1 school must be verifiable through the Infinite Campus system. In addition, students below grade nine(9) enrolled at a feeder school as detailed in Section 2.

#### **Case BL-4-4- What is a "full-time student according to regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education" as listed in Sec. 1(a) of Bylaw 4?**

Students are required to be enrolled as full-time students according to the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The KHSAA expects all of its member schools to comply with all applicable rules from KDE, but the KHSAA does not become involved in enforcement of regulations or policies that are not a part of KHSAA regulations. The stipulation requires that students shall be enrolled as a full-time student (in at least four hours of instruction (240 minutes) out of the six hour instruction day) earning credits toward graduation.

#### **Case BL-4-5- For the purposes of Bylaw 4, when is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school and how is enrollment verified for a student?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

In the case of initial enrollment at a member school during periods when classes are not being held (i.e. summer), the student may be considered to be enrolled at the new school when formal application has been made and accepted as verified by the new Principal, is on the student enrollment listing of the new member school, and is officially withdrawn and off the enrollment listing of the former school.

**Case BL-4-6- How does Bylaws 4 relate to schools with nontraditional (block) or other nontraditional schedules?**

A student shall be enrolled as a full-time student (four of six hours) in the member school or defined feeder school within the restrictions of Bylaw 4, and passing in four full credit hours (240 minutes) worth of classes as defined in Bylaw 5. For example, if a student were attempting four full credits of one and one-half hours each, he/she would need to pass three (four and one half hours) worth. As another example, if the periods are 80 minutes, he/she would need to pass three.

It is imperative when interpreting this rule that the amount of credits attempted and class length is considered when determining the eligibility of a student-athlete as the student shall pass 240 minutes of class (four full credit hours).

**Case BL-4-7- Is it permissible for a student to participate for a member school while enrolled full-time in another school that does not offer a particular sport?**

No. A student desiring to participate shall be enrolled as a full-time student and receiving credit through the member school at which participation is desired, or be a student at a "feeder" school in the same school district as defined and interpreted under Bylaw 4.

**Case BL-4-8- Are there regulations regarding participation in high school sports and sport-activities by home schooled students?**

No. However, in order to participate for a member school, a student must be enrolled full-time (minimum four hours of instruction) at that local high school or at a "feeder" school under that local Board of Education as defined and interpreted under Bylaw 4.

**Case BL-4-9- Are there regulations regarding a home-bound student participating in interscholastic sports or sport-activities at a KHSAA member school?**

Yes. In order to represent a member school, a student shall be a full-time student at a KHSAA member school or at a feeder school under the same local Board of Education as the member school as defined within Bylaw 4 and its interpretations.

In accordance with 704 KAR 7:120, Sec. 2, part (7), "Eligibility for home/hospital instruction shall cease if the student works or participates in athletic activities."

Schools and school districts are reminded that a student who practices or plays in an athletic scrimmage or contest is no longer able to be in home bound instruction once such participation occurs.

**Case BL-4-10- What interscholastic athletic participation opportunities are available to students desiring to participate in high school level (freshmen, junior varsity or varsity) sport who are enrolled below grade nine (9)?**

Only those students enrolled in a feeder school in grades 7 and 8 are permitted to play in a high school sport or sport-activity (at any level) except for football and soccer.

Students below grade seven (7) may not participate in any activity (practice, scrimmage or game). Students below grade seven (7) may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after a practice, scrimmage or contest.

Only those students enrolled in the member school and in the 7th grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area.

For football and soccer, students enrolled in a feeder school in grades 7-8 may only participate in nonvarsity level practice and play, and only if permitted within local board of Education and school-based policy.

Students in grades 7 and 8 may not participate in any activity designated by either team as "varsity (first team)" in football or soccer. 7th and 8th grade students may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after, a varsity practice, scrimmage or contest in the sports of football

or soccer. 7th and 8th grade students may not participate (practice, scrimmage or contest) on nonvarsity (freshmen, junior varsity, etc.) level teams in football or soccer if any member of the team they are representing or the team they are competing against during any part of that practice, scrimmage or contest is enrolled in any grade above grade ten (10). It is the obligation of the school desiring to allow the seventh or eighth grade student to participate with the nonvarsity team to ensure compliance with this provision.

Students below grade seven (7) may not participate (practice, scrimmage or contest) on any high school level team (freshmen, junior varsity, varsity) in football or soccer.

**Case BL-4-11- Is it permissible for a local school board or school based decision making council to place restrictions and limits on participation in sports for those students in grades seven (7) and eight (8) other than football, soccer and wrestling?**

Yes. While KRS 156.070 (2) bans the KHSAA or Kentucky Board of Education from implementing a statewide prohibition on 7th and 8th graders participating in high school sports, that restriction does not apply to local school boards or school councils. Specifically exempted from this statute are the sports of football and soccer, whose participants may be restricted if they are enrolled below grade nine.

OAG 15-022 as published in December of 2015 set aside prior restrictions and Attorney General opinions regarding participation limits on 7th and 8th grade students as applied to KRS 156.070 (2). This opinion determined that the Local Board of Education or SBDM Council does in fact have authority to make a district or school wide decision at the local level.

The details of the final opinion are located at <http://ag.ky.gov/civil/civil-enviro/opinions/2015/OAG15022.doc>.

**Case BL-4-12- Why is there a requirement that a student be eligible only one year in each grade as detailed in Sec. 3?**

702 KAR 7:065, Sec. 3(19) requires that any student enrolled initially in grade seven (7) through twelve (12) who is repeating a grade for any reason, is to be ineligible during the school year that the grade is repeated, to compete in interscholastic athletics competition at any level.

Holding a student back and allowing the student to participate in contests (redshirting) is prohibited and goes against the basic principles of fair play.

The repeating student at any level is prohibited from practice or play, and beginning with initial entry into grade nine (9), the four-year count of eligibility has begun.

According to OAG82-473 opinion, the promotion and retention of students in all grades are the direct and sole responsibility of the Principal through policy developed by the local board of education.

**Case BL-4-13- Are rulings related to Bylaw 4, Sec. 3 (Repeating Students) appealable through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure other than the published exception stipulated in KRS 156.070?**

No. Bylaw 4 as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education expressly prohibits appeals concerning this bylaw. In addition, this restriction is contained in 702 KAR 7:065 as an explicit requirement for students both above and below the 9th grade.

**Case BL-4-14- What interscholastic athletic participation opportunities at the high school level are available to students who are repeating a grade?**

Student-athletes may not represent a KHSAA member high school as a participant in any sport at any level if they are repeating a grade, whether or not that student played interscholastic sports at any level during the first year in the grade. This requirement is explicitly contained in 702 KAR 7:065, Sec. 3(19) which requires that any student enrolled initially in grade seven (7) through twelve (12) who is repeating a grade for any reason, is to be ineligible during the school year that the grade is repeated, to compete in interscholastic athletics competition at any level.