

Middle School Interscholastic Athletics



Presented by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association



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Middle Schools - Why are we here?



- Purpose of the meeting
- History of the regulation
- Emphasis on Liability
- Questions - First option - Slido.com

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Kentucky High School Athletic Association - KHSAA



- The Kentucky Board of Education authorizes the KHSAA to manage athletics for middle and high school.
- KRS 156.070 (2) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to manage and control the common schools, including interscholastic athletics in the schools, and authorizes the KBE to designate an agency to manage athletics.
- The KHSAA is the designated agency of the Kentucky Board of Education as per Kentucky Administrative Regulation 702 KAR 7:065.

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Kentucky High School Athletic Association - KHSAA

- This administrative regulation annually designates an agent for high school athletics; establishes the financial planning and review processes for the agent; and incorporates by reference the bylaws, procedures and rules of the agent.
- Within 702 KAR 7:065, the KBE has also named the KHSAA as the agent to oversee middle school interscholastic competition, but with drastically different parameters

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702 KAR 7:065 - What does it mean?

- Middle school athletics are defined as competition for students grades 5-8 participating in competition for grades 6-8
- Not under KHSAA Board of Control
- KHSAA Bylaws are HS Athletics Bylaws
- KHSAA's role is to distribute these requirements and publish via the KHSAA website
- Minimal statewide rules with continued local decision making on other eligibility issues (i.e. co-op teams permitted at MS level not allowed at HS level)

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702 KAR 7:065 Continued

- Not covered under KHSAA Insurance
- No championships, dues or funding
- NFHS Playing Rules are written for the HS level, modifications for MS play are still a local district decision
- MS policies are state regulation, no independent group/organization decisions, creating SLOW process for change/adoption as must be approved by KBE and General Assembly (Administrative Regulations Review Subcommittee/Interim Education Committee)

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702 KAR 7:065 - Does it apply to us?

- Any of the following would indicate that a team is a representative of a school and is classified as "middle school athletics"
 - The contest, event, or tournament is sponsored by a school or combined group of schools;
 - Competitors wear a school issued uniform;
 - The contest, event, or tournament is sponsored by an outside entity as a school entry event, which is advertised or promoted as a school event, whether or not an entry fee is required;

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702 KAR 7:065 - Does it apply to us?

- A school entity pays an entry fee, for the student or team, including payment by booster organizations;
- A school representative accompanies the student-athlete or transports the student-athlete to the contest, event, or tournament;
- A designated or hired member of a school coaching staff, whether paid or unpaid, is present and offering instruction, advice, evaluation, or refinement of skills or exercising other duties defined as coaching within the sport rules;

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702 KAR 7:065 - Does it apply to us?

- Transportation to or from the contest, event, or tournament utilizes school provided or approved transportation;
- Competitors in the contest, event, or tournament wear apparel identifying them by the name of the school, including the formal name, informal name, or team nickname;
- Competitors in the contest, event, or tournament are provided promotional or other resources by the school including school media recognition, signage, and items clearly indicative of school representation;

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702 KAR 7:065 - Does it apply to us?

- Competition in a contest, event, or tournament has, in any form, jurisdiction of the local school board or school based decision making body, including financial or other approval control; or
- Competition in a contest, event, or tournament is covered by any school or school system provided or procured insurance policy;

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Middle School Advisory Committee

The regulation outlines that the KHSAA must have a permanent Middle School Athletics Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the Commissioner. This committee shall:

- Be autonomous with respect to the Board of Control of the KHSAA;
- Be composed of no less than three (3) middle school representatives from each Supreme Court district as well as no less than three (3) at large representatives from throughout the state;

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Middle School Advisory Committee

- Provide an opportunity for nonprofit athletic groups, parents, and others to participate and provide input on the sport, athletic event, or athletes involved in interscholastic activities through local school districts;

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Middle School Advisory Committee

- Meet not less than twice annually to review current programs and policies, make recommendations for improvements to and participation in middle school interscholastic activities, as well as any changes in statute, administrative regulation, or policy related to middle school interscholastic athletics, and assist in the development of model guidelines for schools, districts, conferences, and associations to be used in implementing a middle school athletic program; and

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Middle School Advisory Committee

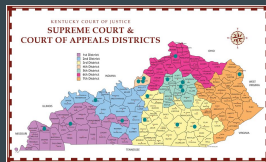
- Report regularly, not less than annually, to the commissioner of the KHSAA and issue, in conjunction with the commissioner, a formal written report annually to the KBE with recommendations for changes in statute, administrative regulation, or policy;

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Middle School Advisory Committee

- MS Advisory Committee is composed of ADs, Principals, Administrators, and outside groups
- MS Advisory Committee reports regularly to KHSAA Commissioner
- KHSAA Commissioner makes annual report to Ky. Board of Education on MSAC recommendations



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Middle School Advisory Committee - Current Members



Supreme Court District 1

Brad Meredith, Coach, Edmonson County Middle School
Jeff Riley, Middle School AD, Caldwell County Schools
Eleanor Spry, Middle School AD, St. Mary School

Supreme Court District 2

Elizabeth Miles, Original Task Force Member/PTA, KY PTA,
Mark Woodward, AD, Owensboro Catholic MS
Vacancy

Supreme Court District 3

Tim Deaton, Principal, Green County Middle School,
Jimmy Durham, Assistant Principal/AD, North Laurel
Barry Lee, Director of Spec. Education, Pulaski County

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Middle School Advisory Committee - Current Members



Supreme Court District 4

Monica French, Athletic Director, JCPS – Ramsey Middle
Brad Morgan, AD, Christian Academy
Vacancy

Supreme Court District 5

Rita Muratalla, Dir. of Principal Development & Support, KASA
Vacancy
Vacancy

Supreme Court District 6

Kyle Bennett, Athletic Director, Walton-Verona Schools
Vacancy
Vacancy

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Middle School Advisory Committee - Current Members



Supreme Court District 7

David Trimble, Principal, Russell Area Technology Center
Vacancy
Vacancy

AT-LARGE

Robbie Sayre, AD, Fayette County Schools
Robert Ullery, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Certified, Kentucky
Athletic Trainers Society, UK Sports Medicine
Robert Vinegar, AD, JCPS-Director of Middle School Athletics
Jerry Young, Youth Business Rep, Lexington

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KHSAA Common Calls



- Coach Issues
 - Schools about qualifications
 - Parents about action
- Officials Issues
 - Coaches, how do I protest
 - Parents, Want to complain about them
- Rules Violations
 - No enforcement procedure

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KHSAA Common Calls



- Season Limitations
 - <https://khsaa.org/middle-school-season-limit-chart/> and <https://khsaa.org/middleschool/msseasoncalendar1920.pdf>

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What's in the Regulation (and what's not)?



- Coaching Education
- Student Safety Emphasis
- Repeating Students Participation
- Age limits (Define MS and participation on HS Level) and also contained in other statute and regulations
- Limitations of Seasons (specifics and comparisons)
- Dead Period
- Sport Medicine & Risk Minimization Policies
- Licensed Officials
- Outside Groups/Authority Financial Accountability

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Coaches Education - Paid or Unpaid

- MS Coaches (paid or unpaid) at any interscholastic level
 - Must be 21 per state law
 - Must pass background check per state law
 - Must complete CPR training
 - Must complete KHSAA online sports safety course that HS coaches have to complete
 - KHSAA Sport/Sport-activity rules clinics not required as an example of differences with HS

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Student-Athletes

- Safety
 - Require all student-athletes to adhere to the following regarding Safety, Sports Medicine & Risk Minimization:
 - Medical Examination (Physical Form)
 - Sports Medicine Policies – Heat Index, Wrestling Weight Management, Concussion, Football start dates and acclimation periods, Pitch Count, Softball Face Mask, etc.

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Student-Athletes

- Eligibility (No Due Process, Rulings or Appeals)
 - Repeating Students
 - Require any student enrolled initially in grade five (5) through eight (8) who is repeating a grade for any reason, to be ineligible, during the school year that the grade is repeated, to compete in interscholastic athletics competition at any level;

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Student-Athletes



- Eligibility (No Due Process, Rulings or Appeals) (Continued)
 - Age Limitations:
 - Require that any student who turns:
 - Fifteen (15) years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades eight (8) and below;
 - Fourteen (14) years of age prior to August 1 of the current year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades seven (7) and below; and

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Student-Athletes



- Eligibility (No Due Process, Rulings or Appeals) (Continued)
 - Age Limitations: (continued)
 - Require that any student who turns:
 - Thirteen (13) years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics in Kentucky in competition against students exclusively enrolled in grades six (6) and below

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Limitation of Seasons



- <https://khsaa.org/middleschool/msseasoncalendar1920.pdf>
- <https://khsaa.org/middleschool/msseasoncalendar2021.pdf>
- Middle school season cannot exceed the High school season (practices, scrimmages, games, weeks, etc).
- Regulation specific on football for safety purposes
- Local decision on what season to play except start of FB season

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Limitation of Seasons

- If not covered within regulation:
 - The local school, school district, conference, or association of schools shall develop written policies which shall include
 - defined age limits
 - participation of students below grade 6
 - limit on practice time, limit on scrimmages, maximum number of contests (cannot exceed HS)

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Dead Period

June 25 to July 9 - applies to Middle and High School

- Students shall not receive coaching or training from school personnel, whether salaried or non-salaried;
- School facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation, or equipment shall not be used;
- School funds shall not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics;
- HS and MS Coaches may not use school facilities (HS or MS) for athletic activities regardless of age

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Football Drill Work Definitions (USA Football)

- "Level 0" or "air" means that players run a drill unopposed and without contact;
- "Level 1" or "bags" means that a drill is run against a bag or another soft contact surface;
- "Level 2" or "control" means that a drill is run at the assigned speed until the moment of contact; one (1) player is predetermined the winner by the coach; contact remains above the waist, and players stay on their feet

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Football Drill Work Definitions (USA Football)

- "Level 3" or "thud" means that a drill is run at the assigned speed through the moment of contact; there is not a predetermined winner; contact remains above the waist; players stay on their feet, and a quick whistle ends the drill; and
- "Level 4" or "live action" means that a drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground;

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Football

Football drill work and practice activities will be conducted as follows:

- A drill conducted in helmets-only shall be a Level 0 air, or Level 1 bags;
- A drill conducted in shells (shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets) shall be a non-contact drill (Level-0 air, Level-1 bags or Level-2 control);
- A contact drill is Level-3 Thud or Level-4 Live action; and
- A contact drill shall be conducted in full equipment;

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Football

Middle school football shall practice a minimum of eleven (11) days before engaging another group or opponent in full contact, using the following minimum schedule:

- Five (5) days in helmets;
- Followed by three (3) days in helmets and shoulder pads; and
- Concluding with three (3) days in full equipment practice;

Contact drills shall not be conducted more than twenty-one (21) days before the first regular season contest.

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Football Important Dates

- No equipment of any kind from end of season through end of Dead Period (unless school approved use of helmet if no other school present)
- July 10 (helmet only to begin acclimation and acclimatization days)
- July 25 (full gear following three helmet and shoulder pad acclimation and acclimatization days)"
- MS Football cannot have first game until Saturday prior to high school season start (August 15 for 2020)
- Medical Authorities have recommended quarter limit similar to high schools, will be considered by committee this year.

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Softball

Face Protection for Softball

- Students seeking to play or practice, including scrimmages, regular season and postseason games, in the sport of fastpitch softball, shall be required to wear face protection, commercially manufactured for softball facial protection and worn as intended by the manufacturer, when playing the positions of first base, third base, and pitcher;

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Baseball

The following baseball pitching limitations shall apply to all interscholastic play at the middle school level including scrimmages, regular season, and post season games:

- The pitch count shall be based on pitches thrown for strikes (including foul balls), balls, balls in play, and outs;
- Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning, warm-up pitches allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay, and plays attempted against the batter-runner or any runner at first, second, or third base shall not count against this limit;

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Baseball

- A pitcher at any level who reaches the pitch count limit in the middle of an at-bat shall be allowed to finish that hitter;
- The required calendar rest shall begin on the day following the date on which the game began or a resumed game began regardless of the conclusion time of the game:

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Baseball Pitch Count

Baseball Pitch Count Requirements

- Maximum Pitches – 85
- 56 pitches or more – Three (3) calendar days of rest
- 36-55 – Two (2) calendar days of rest
- 20-35 – One (1) calendar day of rest
- 1-19 – No mandated rest

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KHSAA Licensed Officials

- Assigning Secretaries not required to be used
- Teams participating in middle school athletics as defined by subsection (1) of 702 KAR 7:065 shall use KHSAA licensed officials in the sports of:
 - Baseball, Basketball, Field hockey, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball

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Additional Information

- If no statewide policy, make sure local groups (conferences or leagues) have established policies in place
- Advisory Committee sole authority to make recommend of changes to policy and regulation
- Ky. Board of Education reviews changes approved as recommended by the Commissioner to them; reviewed by Administrative Regulatory Review Subcommittee; Interim Joint Education Committee

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Additional Information

- Outside organizations conducting school-based events at MS level submit financial reports, tax documents, IRS 990
- KHSAA offices can assist with interpretations, however enforcement is local
- KHSAA invites Middle Schools to Title IX workshops

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Challenges

- Communication due to no membership requirement
- All districts are not set up alike, can't always use top down
- Next steps: what do you need?
- Other Slido questions

THANK YOU!

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