



# Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 12, 2011**

### **BELL COUNTY PENALIZED FOR PRACTICE AND PLAY OF INELIGIBLE STUDENT-ATHLETE**

The baseball program at Bell County High School has been forced to forfeit five victories from April 2 to April 25 among other penalties for the practice and participation of an ineligible student-athlete.

In addition to the forfeitures, following penalties have been imposed:

- The baseball program has been fined \$650 (\$50 per game the student-athlete participated). The maximum fine for this violation is \$1,000 per contest.
- The baseball program at Bell County has been placed on probation and will remain so through the conclusion of the 2011 season; and,
- Bell County shall, by July 31, 2011, submit a detailed written listing of changes in athletic policies and procedures to prevent recurrence of incidents such as this including procedures to monitor compliance of the KHSAA Bylaws and the steps it will take to ensure compliance in the future.

The student-athlete in question was ejected from the final contest of the 2010 season and, by rule, was required to serve a one-game suspension at the start of the 2011 season. Even after the coaching staff was made aware of the situation by the student-athlete, the required penalty was not imposed until April 25 vs. Middlesboro.

"It is the responsibility of the member schools to administer all sportsmanship penalties properly and that did not happen in this case," said KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett. "The administration at Bell County has taken steps to rectify the situation."

The victories Bell County must forfeit came against Lee (VA) on April 6, Claiborne (TN) on April 8, Harlan on April 11 and April 13, and Corbin on April 21.

"We take this matter very seriously and have worked closely with the KHSAA and Commissioner Tackett to resolve this issue in a timely manner," said Bell County High School principal Jeff Saylor. "We are currently taking measures to assure that this will not occur again in the future. We take full responsibility for this violation and the school will be imposing additional penalties."

For further comment please contact the administration at Bell County High School.

### **OFFICIALS DIVISION RECOGNITION BANQUET THIS WEEKEND**

A total of 35 officials in 11 sports will be honored on Sunday, May 15, at the KHSAA Officials Division Recognition Awards Banquet in Lexington. Three officials each have been nominated in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, golf, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field/cross country, volleyball and wrestling (four for soccer) for its Outstanding Official Award. In addition to the officials, one supervisor will be honored with the Larry G. Boucher Supervisor of the Year Award.

The 2011 awards mark the 19<sup>th</sup> year the KHSAA has honored outstanding officials and supervisors.

### **SCHOOLS PENALIZED FOR SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS**

Commissioner Julian Tackett has announced the baseball programs of Russell High School and Bath County High School have been penalized for violations of the Association's Sportsmanship Bylaw (Bylaw 11) following an incident during the May 7, 2011, contest at Bath County.

The contest was ruled final in the sixth inning with the score tied at 2-2, after an outbreak of incidents on the field involving players from both schools.

A total of 27 players from both schools will miss a total of 28 games for their roles in the incident. Fourteen Bath County players will sit out a total of 14 games while 13 players from Russell will miss a total of 14 games. Suspended players from both teams must also complete the Star Sportsmanship Program.

The Commissioner issued the ruling following a detailed review of the incident and after communication with administrators and coaches from both schools. The staff and school representatives will continue to review the situation for other possible administrative penalties.

"Practicing good sportsmanship at any contest is an important part of the student-athlete experience. The competitors are not only representing themselves, they are representing their families, their schools and their communities. Both schools have learned a lot from this incident and we're moving forward," said Tackett. "Each school was extremely cooperative throughout this process and are taking steps to ensure something like this does not happen again."

For further comment please contact the administration at Russell or Bath County.

#### **SPRING CREDENTIAL REQUEST FORMS NOW AVAILABLE**

Media credential request forms for the 2011 spring sports championships in tennis, track and field and softball, as well as the Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA State Baseball Tournament, are now available on the KHSAA web site at <http://credentials.khsaa.org>.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

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| May 15    | KHSAA Officials Recognition Awards Banquet, KHSAA Office, Lexington  |
| May 19    | KHSAA Regular Board of Control Meeting, KHSAA Office, Lexington  |
| May 26-28 | Boys' and Girls' State Tennis Championships, Boone/Downing Tennis Center, University of Kentucky and Sayre Athletic Complex, Lexington |
| May 26-28 | Boys' and Girls' State Track and Field Meet, Owsley Frazier Park, Louisville   |

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For more information contact Elden May at 859-215-0959