



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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SOCCER POSTSEASON FORMAT UNDERGOES CHANGES

Kentucky's soccer postseason will have a different look beginning with the 2012 season, thanks to changes approved by the KHSAA Board of Control at its regular meeting on Monday.

The state tournament will expand to eight teams for both boys' and girls', while the sectional and sub-sectional rounds will be replaced with a semi-state round. The Board previously approved a measure that creates a 16 region soccer alignment. Winners of each of the 16 regions will advance to a one game semi-state round, which is comprised of semi-state 1 (regions 1-4), semi-state 2 (regions 5-8), semi-state 3 (regions 9-12) and semi-state 4 (12-16). The semi-state pairings will be determined on a six-year rotation. Pairings for the eight teams reaching the state tournament will be determined by a blind draw.

"This is something our soccer coaches and advisory committee had explored for several years – finding a way to make this happen," said KHSAA Assistant Commissioner and soccer contact Michael Barren, "We are pleased with the solution the Board has approved and we will give it a chance to allow soccer to grow."

The expansion of the state soccer tournament is important on multiple fronts, according to KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett.

"Not only does this give more kids the chance to experience a championship atmosphere, but I think it will really help grow the sport on a statewide level. The Board already took a giant step in that direction with their previous alignment approval but with a rotation of opponents at the semi-state level and the blind draw at the state tournament, it will give new areas an opportunity to experience success on a statewide level and build their own traditions."

BOARD ADOPTS RUNNING CLOCK FOR BASKETBALL

In accordance with NFHS playing rules basketball contests at all levels in grades 9-12 will feature a running clock beginning next season once the margin reaches 35 points in the second half. NFHS rules give states flexibility with regard to mercy rules and this change is similar to provisions in football, baseball and softball that terminate contests when the winning team, for all practical purposes, has been determined.

At the point the margin reaches 35, the clock will stop only for charged time outs, an injury/blood or disqualification, and free throw attempts.

"This change helps ensure that the proper level of sportsmanship is emphasized, without having an impact on winning and losing," said Tackett. "There are countless stories detailed about "out of hand" contests and the negative impact on school and working relationships."

Once the official signals for the timer to stop the clock, it will start on the last missed free throw or once the ball is touched inbounds.

DATES APPROVED FOR RUSSELL ATHLETIC/COMMONWEALTH GRIDIRON BOWL CONTESTS

The Board also approved the dates for each of the six championship contests in the 2012 Russell Athletic/KHSAA Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl.

On Friday, November 30, the championships for Classes 1A, 3A and 4A will take place. Classes 2A, 5A and 6A will determine its champions on Saturday, December 1. All games will take place at Houchens-L.T. Smith Stadium on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL DRAW SHOW TO AIR ON FRIDAY

Baseball and softball postseason tournaments may not begin until May 21 but teams will soon find out first round pairings for the state tournament should it advance.

The draws for the 2012 Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA State Baseball Tournament and the Rawlings/KHSAA State Softball Tournament will be conducted on Friday, April 20 at 2 p.m. at the KHSAA Office in Lexington. The draw show will air live on www.khsaa.tv.

Brackets will be posted to the Riherd's/KHSAA Scoreboard and the KHSAA website at the conclusion of the program.

For additional information about the draw show, contact KHSAA Sports Information Director Elden May.

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For more information contact Elden May at 859-299-5472

