



BASS FISHING

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY UK HEALTHCARE INSTRUCTIONS

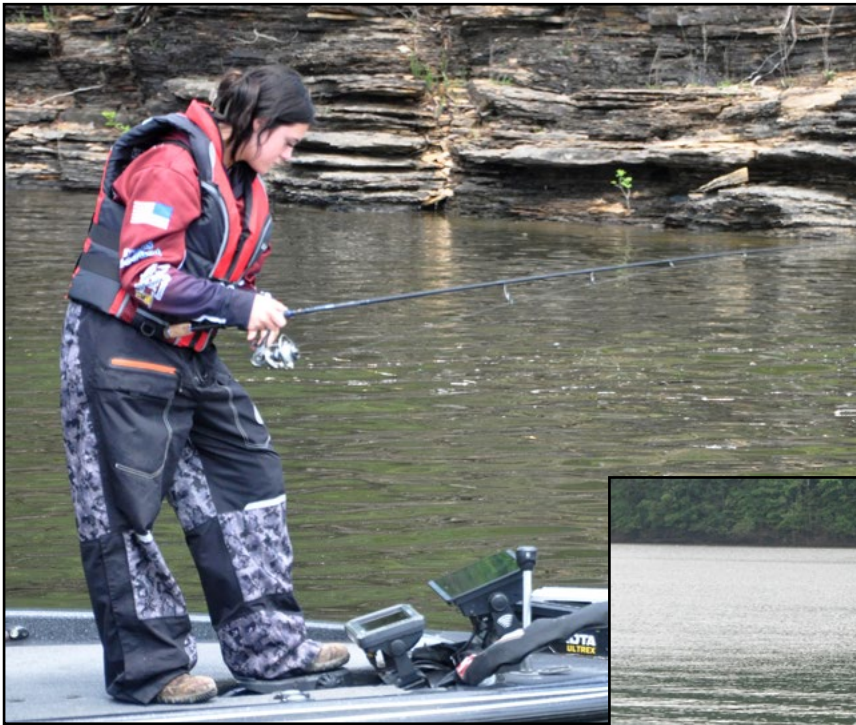




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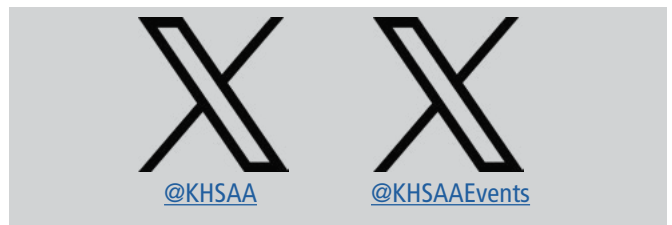
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2280 Executive Drive | Lexington, Ky., 40505 | www.KHSAA.org

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 Sr. Assoc. Commissioner & Chief of Staff Butch Cope
 Associate Commissioner Darren Bilberry
 Assistant Commissioner Sarah Bridenbaugh
 Assistant Commissioner Joe Angolia
 Assistant Commissioner Abby Jackson
 General Counsel & Board Counsel Chad Collins
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[@KHSAA](https://twitter.com/KHSAA)



[@KHSAAEvents](https://twitter.com/KHSAAEvents)



BASS FISHING SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

BRIEF WELCOME

Congratulations on behalf of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control and staff for advancing to the 2026 Bass Fishing State Championships presented by UK HealthCare.

Refer to this manual and the important website links included at the end of the document to guide you through preparation for your participation.

KHSAA CONTACTS

The primary contact for bass fishing is Assistant Commissioner Joe Angolia (jangolia@khsaa.org).

If Mr. Angolia is not available, Associate Commissioner Darren Bilberry (dbilberry@khsaa.org) is the backup contact.

They will both be on site throughout the event to assist you as needed.

Media inquiries should be directed to Communications & Media Relations Director Brian Milam (bmilam@khsaa.org).

Questions may also be directed to the KHSAA offices at (859) 299-5472 and any member of the staff should be able to refer you to the correct party.

Scott Ellison (scott.ellison@majorleaguefishing.com) and Kevin Hunt (kevin.hunt@majorleaguefishing.com) of Major League Fishing (MLF) will serve as the Tournament Directors for the event and can also assist with site or competition questions you may have.

COMPETITION DATES, LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

DATES

The 2026 Bass Fishing State Championships presented by UK HealthCare will be held May 8-9.

SCHEDULE

A timetable for the championships is posted on the Bass Fishing page of the KHSAA website and included as a link at the end of these instructions.

The event consists of two (2) days of fishing for a maximum of eight (8) hours each day, if possible.

VENUE AND ADDRESS

[Kentucky Dam Marina](#)

[466 Marina Drive](#)

[Gilbertsville, KY 42044](#)

QUALIFYING FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION

BOYS/COED DIVISION

In order to be considered for advancement to the state competition, a boat must catch a minimum of one legal fish.

A minimum of 16 boats will advance to the state championships from each regional.

As has been the case in the past, there will be additional at-large qualification above this minimum.

- At-large qualification, to produce a minimum of 72 boats and a maximum of 90 boats, will be initially based on one (1) additional boat will advance from each region for every five (5) boats competing (entering the water and catching a fish) above the minimum number.
- That at-large total will then be prorated among the regions based on the number of boats entered as detailed above to cap the maximum at 90 boats.

Once regional entry into the water is complete on the morning of the regional and the boat numbers have been reported to the KHSAA staff, staff will advise the managers of the number of advancing boats per region so that all competitors are fully aware at the close of the competition.



It may become necessary due to expansion within regions, to revise this advancement formula, including minimums per region, in the future with appropriate notice to the membership.

GIRLS DIVISION

In order to be considered for advancement to the state competition, a boat must catch a minimum of one legal fish.

The number of qualifying boats will advance based on the ratio of female-only boats entering the water at the regional competition to the number of total boats in all of the regions.

If 30 or fewer girls' division boats declare and enter the water at region, all boats catching a minimum of one legal fish shall advance to the state championship.

If more than 30 girls division boats declare and enter the water at region and catch at least one legal fish, the entries per region will be prorated among the regions based on the number of boats entering the water at region to reach the thirty (30) boat limit for 2026.

Once regional entry into the water is complete on the morning of the regional and the boat numbers have been reported to the KHSAA staff, staff will advise the managers of the number of advancing boats per region so that all competitors are fully aware at the close of the competition.

It may become necessary due to expansion within regions, to revise this advancement formula, including minimums per region, in the future with appropriate notice to the membership.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration and regional tournament information are online at the links listed in the Important Links section of these instructions.

To register, you will select the "State" as the type of event, and then select the specific region.

When registering, select the "Division" to indicate whether this boat is female-only or coed. There will be a separate registration form for each division.

The link is the same for registering for each of the four regions.

Register using your HIGH SCHOOL NAME, regardless of whether or not your team goes by a different name at non-KHSAA events.

The registration deadline is 5 p.m. CT. on May 4.

PRE-EVENT LOGISTICS

CONFERENCE CALL

There will be a brief web conference for participating coaches and athletic directors prior to the event.

Additional instructions regarding the call will be sent via email once the field is set.

Participants can set up from any location to join the conference and are encouraged to join by computer to view pertinent information, maps, etc.

PRE-EVENT REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

Registration for the state championship is done online at the link listed at the end of these instructions. The deadline for registration is 5 p.m. CT. Monday, May 4.

When registering, select the "Division" to indicate whether this boat is female-only or coed. There will be a separate registration form for each division.

Register using your high school name, regardless of whether or not your team goes by a different name at non-KHSAA events.

Coaches shall check-in with MLF officials at Kentucky Dam Village on May 7 from 6-7 p.m. CT.

Each team will be supplied with a yellow flag at check-in to designate their boat as a participating member of the state championships.

When checking in, coaches must turn in the completed Release of Liability Form, which is included as a link at the end of these instructions.



PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP, ON-SITE MEETING

There will be a pre-tournament rules meeting immediately following team check-in at 7 p.m. CT.

PRACTICE

Competition waters are open for practice until the start of team check-in at 6 p.m. CT on May 7.

LODGING

The host hotel is the Kentucky Dam Village (113 Administrative Drive, Gilbertsville, KY 42044).

Qualifying teams should make their reservations by calling 270-362-4271 and mentioning they are involved in the KHSAA Bass Fishing State Championships presented by UK HealthCare.

Schools are responsible for all travel expenses, including lodging, for participation in the event.

Have your school's or Board of Education's Sales Tax Exempt Number with you at check-in to avoid sales tax from being added to the hotel bill.

PARKING

Parking at Kentucky Dam Marina is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

LOST OR STOLEN FLAGS

A lost or stolen flag will not be replaced by KHSAA or MLF officials. Instead, the member school will be invoiced \$30 for each replacement flag.

Teams or anglers wishing to buy a souvenir flag may do so at the TeamIP booth near the weigh-in stage.

TeamIP is the KHSAA's exclusive vendor of championship apparel.

ADMISSION INTO VENUE

PARTICIPANT ENTRY

Prior to 5 p.m. CT Monday, May 4, all qualified teams must have registered online at HighSchoolFishing.org.

No other registration is necessary for entry.

TEAM PARTY ENTRY/NON-PARTICIPANTS

Coaches must be listed on the KHSAA/Arbiter 360 page and have completed all of the Bylaw 25 coaching requirements and will check-in with MLF officials on Thursday.

Boat captains are to have been included when registering for the event with MLF.

No further on-site registration will be needed for the captains.

CONDUCTING THE EVENT

DRAW

A random draw for boat take-off times will be performed ahead of the event and posted on the KHSAA website.

The order will be reversed on the second day of the competition.

BOYS/COED DIVISION

Qualifying teams in the coed division can be all male, all female, or a combination of both genders, including all substitutions.

All boats that have qualified in the Boys/Coed division are not eligible for the female-only (Girls') division.

GIRLS DIVISION

All anglers assigned to boats qualifying in the female division, including substitutes, must be female as defined in KRS 156.070 (2)(g)(2)).

All boats that have qualified in the female-only division are not eligible for the coed division.



ENTRIES/SUBSTITUTIONS/LIMITATIONS (BOTH DIVISIONS)

Each boat may have up to four (4) contestants from the regional entry designated as members of that boat entry, of which only two (2) may be in the boat at one time.

The four-angler list for the region cannot change from the original submission.

An angler may be substituted on a team for only the boat for which they have been designated.

Potential substitutes cannot be assigned to boats in both the boys'/coed and girls' divisions.

RULES POINTS OF EMPHASIS/CLARIFICATIONS

WEIGH-INS

The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that competition.

Individual weight will also be recorded for the top fish designated by each boat.

The minimum length limit for bass is 12 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 12 inches, in which case, the state or lake limit prevails.

There will be a five (5) fish limit per boat. No more than five (5) fish may be in the live well at any time.

Fish may be culled if a participant(s) has five (5) fish in the live well.

All fish that are put in the live well must be kept alive.

Any transfer of fish from one live well to another boat's due to malfunction must be made in the presence of the local manager or his/her designee.

All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in.

WEIGH-IN PENALTIES

There will be a one (1) pound deduction for every minute a participant is late getting back for weigh-ins up to 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed for that day.

It is the participant's responsibility to notify the Tournament Manager in advance of any problems that may have occurred preventing a timely return.

Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each short bass presented.

Dead fish will have a half pound deduction and cannot count as the large fish for that boat. Dead fish may not be culled.

SCORING AND TIES

Each boat is limited to bringing in its best five (5) fish, whose one-day total weight will determine the team tournament results.

Ties at state will be broken:

- First by total number of live bass and then by total number of bass.
- If a tie remains, the big bass will then be used to break the tie.

Individual weight will be recorded for the top fish designated by each boat.

STATE EVENT OFFICIALS

The Tournament Directors, Scott Ellison and Kevin Hunt, will settle any disputes about rules and scoring procedures and will be available during the conference call to address any questions about rules.

The MLF staff of officials will be on-site to assist the KHSAA with the Bass Fishing aspects of the event.

POST EVENT

RESULTS

Results will be announced at the competition site and posted on the KHSAA website.



TROPHIES AND AWARDS

The KHSAA will present awards for the following:

- Trophies and individual medals will be presented to the teams finishing first, second, third and fourth in both divisions.
- A medal will be awarded to the angler who catches the biggest bass on either day of the tournament in both divisions.

FINANCES AND EXPENSES

There is no school reimbursement for this event.

Member schools are responsible for all expenses incurred for participation.

The KHSAA underwrites the expenses of facility rental, security, first aid, judges and event workers. The Association does not charge an entry fee for teams to compete in the event.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE LINKS

- [KHSAA Bass Fishing Website](#)
- [HighSchoolFishing.org website for registration](#)
- [Release of Liability Form](#)
- [KHSAA Media Policies](#)
- [Media Rights Fees Payment](#)
- [KHSAA/NFHS Network Required Postseason Rights Fee Schedule](#)
- [Current Alignment](#)
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GENERAL SPRING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL SPORTS AND SPORT-ACTIVITIES

SUPERSEDURE NOTE

The information in these instructions supersedes any information previously distributed.

In many cases, these rules have been revised over the last couple of years through the pandemic to the point where time has not permitted complete overhaul and revision of the competition rules.

All involved should review items such as tiebreakers and procedures for competition and consider this document authoritative.

Contact the primary event contact with any additional questions.

WATER

Coaches and athletes are reminded to bring their own water bottles as no community dispensers can be used.

VENUE SAFETY

Persons who attend KHSAA events may be injured as a result of the risks inherent in being a spectator at such events.

Please advise KHSAA or venue personnel of any situation you encounter which you or a fellow spectator feels should be addressed to minimize risk to all involved.

Any crowd control problems or acts of violence should be brought to the attention of the event staff, which will contact the appropriate authorities.

Attendance at events is a vital family and community based activity which is encouraged.

SIGNAGE, NOISEMAKERS, BALLOONS AND MUSIC

Signs/banners are permitted at the facility but must be of good taste and sportsmanship.

The signs/banners must be handheld or attached in a manner not to damage the existing structure.

The signs/banner shall not cover any corporate signage or obstruct the view of patrons.

Amplified noisemakers or items that replicate competition management cues are not permitted to include, but not be limited to:

- Indoor
 - o Air horns
 - o Electronic amplifiers
 - o Portable sound systems
 - o Whistles
 - o Game clock horns simulator
- Outdoor
 - o Air horns
 - o Whistles
 - o Game clock horns simulator

Managers should confiscate items if used with the managers determining if they are returned post championship.

Balloons, which can block the view of other patrons, are NOT PERMITTED at the event. They should be popped or returned to a vehicle, not allowed into the venue.

Only venue provided amplified music is permissible, but only during pre-event, natural and planned breaks/timeouts.

ENTRY OF SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals are important and valued professionals that serve the needs of owners and must be present at all times.

Because service animals are essential for specific individuals, we wanted to make all attendees aware of the definitions and guidelines in place to make certain service animals present as well as to ensure the well-being of all individuals in attendance at KHSAA championship events.



Service animals are the only animals the general public may bring into the indoor and outdoor facilities of a KHSAA championship.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as a dog who has been trained to perform a task directly related to an individual's disability.

Upon entry to a championship, owners of service dogs may be asked questions as recommended by the ADA to ensure the owner access to their service animal.

The training a service animal receives distinguishes it from other animals and there may be questions about the training provided to the animal and service for which it provides.

Emotional support animals, therapy animals, and other pets are not considered service animals and will not be granted entry to KHSAA events.

In Kentucky, misrepresentation of an assistance animal is a violation with a fine up to \$1,000.

The owner will be responsible at all times for the conduct of the service animal.

Thank you for respecting the training and necessity of service dogs and helping us keep all guests safe when visiting a KHSAA championship event.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The KHSAA requires officials to enforce sportsmanship rules.

High school athletics emphasize positive values and all parties have worked hard to create a sense of teamwork, respect, responsibility and perspective.

We remind you that officials expect good behavior and will quickly penalize misconduct.

We encourage and appreciate your help in letting this competition reflect mutual respect among all participants and officials.

ROSTERS

POSTSEASON ROSTER

Postseason participants must be designated from the freshmen, junior varsity or varsity rosters, which are maintained through the KHSAA/Arbiter 360 page throughout the regular season.

Roster revisions must be made before the first date of the postseason when online rosters are closed and considered final.

No additional players may be added to the roster following that deadline, including those teams that advance to the state tournament.

The online, postseason roster may be printed from the KHSAA website as the valid listing of available participants.

This roster information is also used for advance preparations for state qualifying teams or individuals.

BYLAW 22 REMINDER

REQUIREMENT TO ACCOMPANY TEAM MEMBERS

You are reminded that KHSAA Bylaw 22 requires a principal, coach or another approved individual of the school to be present along with any student-athlete who is representing a member school.

HEALTH INFORMATION

PHYSICAL EXAM FORM

Schools are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring parental permission to seek medical treatment is authorized for each participant.

The Principal, Athletic Director or Head Coach can use a copy of KHSAA Form GE04 (Physical Exam Form) for this purpose.

The form contains appropriate emergency treatment permission and should be brought for each athlete at the competition.



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

UK HealthCare Sports Medicine is the official Sports Medicine Partner for the KHSAA State Championships.

KHSAA staff will, in consultation with UK HealthCare Sports Medicine and venue personnel, develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for this event.

The on-site training staff will be responsible for any necessary monitoring of the wet bulb globe temperature and notification to KHSAA staff and the contest officials for determinations of any necessary adjustment to activity.

If an athlete or other team member is in need of emergency medical attention, contact the nearest KHSAA staff member, official, trainer or venue staff so emergency medical services can be immediately contacted.

An AED (and in many events, multiple AEDs) will be on site for use in the event of an emergency.

A text notification will be sent each morning to coaches, athletic directors, KHSAA staff, UK HealthCare trainers and workers of the event detailing the location of all AEDs.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

For KHSAA state opening round events, host sites will be responsible for providing athletic trainers.

The Association will use the services of UK HealthCare to provide trainers for the KHSAA state final sites, and in the event of disagreement, this group shall serve as the primary determinant of medical next steps.

Athletic Training Staff will be available beginning one (1) hour prior to the event and remain available throughout the day.

For team sports - basketball, baseball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball - individual school Athletic Trainers should be included in the distribution of Team Party passes.

For other sport and sport activities, see the sport-specific section of these instructions for bringing a team trainer.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In the event of inclement weather, it is the duty of the KHSAA, in consultation with the host facility, to make decisions regarding postponement, rescheduling or cancelation, including getting proper notification to all teams, media outlets and schools.

Staff will utilize the KHSAA website and Twitter to provide updates as well as an emergency text notification system.

KHSAA officials will make every effort to learn the weather forecast prior to the start of competition as the safety of the public and participants will be the most important factor in any decision.

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION

It is the responsibility of UK HealthCare on-site training staff to monitor the wet bulb globe temperature and notify on-site staff and contest officials for determinations of any necessary adjustment to activity.

The manager should be aware of the policies and work in conjunction with the licensed or certified athletic trainer hired to work the event in monitoring the Heat Illness prevention program.

The detailed medical policies are online and a link at the end of this general section.

LIGHTNING/THUNDER POLICY

Tournament staff of any outdoor sports or activities, or indoor sports with non-grounded pools, working with the certified athletic trainer and facility staff, shall monitor and adhere to the KHSAA Board adopted policy in regard to lightning and thunder.

All competitions shall be suspended at the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning and shall be suspended a minimum of 30 minutes following any subsequent sound/sighting.

If it is anticipated that the storm will pass, competition may resume following a 15-minute warm-up period.

The detailed medical policies are online and a link at the end of this general section.

STOPPAGE/POSTPONEMENT

It's the duty of the tournament staff, in consultation with the officials and certified trainers, to make decisions regarding resumption or re-scheduling.

In the event of stoppage or postponement, all parties must work together to ensure that all teams, media outlets and schools are properly notified.



While it's imperative to adhere to the scheduled postseason dates, the safety of all parties involved is always the top priority.

VIDEOTAPING, MEDIA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

GENERAL MEDIA RIGHTS

At all levels of competition during postseason play, control of media access and location at those contests is with the KHSAA, and as such, there are necessary policies and restrictions concerning this event and these provisions will be vigorously enforced.

The intellectual property, corporate, broadcasting and media rights to all postseason rounds belong exclusively to the KHSAA, including titling agreements and sponsorships.

Control of media access and location at all levels of postseason play is with the KHSAA.

At all levels of KHSAA sponsored postseason events, including district, regional, first round, second round, quarterfinal and state competition, allowances shall be made for television media to record video of the contests, without play-by-play, at no charge as long as the sole purpose is for newscast highlights.

At all levels of KHSAA sponsored postseason events, including district, regional, first round, second round, quarterfinal and state competition, allowances shall be made for other media outlets to be admitted to the contests as long as the sole purpose is for reporting of the actions taking place at the contest and promoting the event.

Participating teams in KHSAA events shall be allowed to record the contest, for coaching purposes only, if space is available with such availability at the discretion of the KHSAA and may be required to sign a waiver indicating that the KHSAA shall be held blameless for any and all liability to those parties involved in the video recording.

Any video recording must not violate existing, acknowledged, written copyright protection or intellectual property agreements and cannot be broadcast in any form, including internet and social media.

If space is deemed available, the KHSAA has the right to designate a specific area for video recording and no video recording will be allowed outside of that area.

The determination of space availability is solely with the KHSAA and shall be equitable for all teams.

A freelance/commercial photographer is any person, including a school employee, not representing an established media outlet or a person who will capture images from the event.

SCHOOL MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Each school is permitted one (1) school media pass at KHSAA State Championship events, valid only for a student or full-time school employee, for the sole purpose of reporting the events for school internal publications.

Space permitting, school media may be granted floor photography access consistent with traditional media access.

Outside entities such as professional photographers, videographers or parents may not utilize the school media pass.

The school media pass may not be used for taking pictures that will later be sold as these individuals need to apply for a freelance/commercial photographer pass and pay the requisite fee.

This pass must be requested in advance of the start of the event through the online credentialing system linked at the end of these instructions.

TRADITIONAL MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Traditional media members (print, TV, radio, online) interested in covering KHSAA State Championship events should apply for credentials through the KHSAA's online system. A link to the credential application is included at the end of these instructions.

The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. the day before competition begins.

Applications must be submitted by the editor or director at each organization.

Complete information should be submitted for all attendees (including unique email addresses and cell phone numbers), as the KHSAA will use these methods to communicate information surrounding the event.

Media outlets may be limited during this event.

Freelance/commercial photographers, as defined herein, will not be granted access to KHSAA events unless the requisite media rights fee is paid.



KHSAA Media policies are outlined online at - credentials.khsaa.org

MEDIA RIGHTS FEE

Freelance/commercial photographers as defined in these instructions and radio stations interested in originating a broadcast of a KHSAA State Championship event are subject to a media rights fee.

Information regarding the fee for each event is available through the online credentialing system.

TELECAST/WEBCAST INCLUDING NFHS NETWORK RESTRICTIONS AND FEES

The KHSAA is a full member of the NFHS Network and as such, restrictions exist on all postseason levels.

A telecast, as used in these instructions, is a video, live or delayed account, including play-by-play, of any contest over the air.

A webcast, as used in these instructions, is a video, live or delayed account, including play-by-play, of any contest distributed using the internet.

The KHSAA is the only entity permitted to produce live or delayed video from state championship events including first round, second round, quarterfinal and state rounds, and is the sole authority for approval of any other.

No entity, unless given prior approval by the KHSAA shall be permitted to produce video telecasts or broadcasts, with the exception of approved media outlets solely recording highlights for news use.

No entity, including media members, may stream live video content during postseason events including the use of social media products such as Facebook® Live.

The mandated minimum fee schedule will be published annually by the Commissioner's office on the KHSAA website.

For all postseason play, all questions regarding live or delayed broadcast or telecast policies, including requests for approval shall be referred to the Media Relations and Publications Director for approval by the Commissioner.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT

KHSAA schools are reminded to adhere to all music copyright laws.

FILMING

External power sources may not be used by patrons.

Spectators may film with a hand-held camera from the spectator area, but may not in any manner transmit live video through any resource, including personal social media accounts.

Violators are subject to removal.

EVENT MERCHANDISE

KHSAA State Championship apparel will be available for sale at the event and online post event - khsaa.teamip.com.

TeamIP is the exclusive vendor of championship apparel, please look for their tent at the championship event to purchase memorabilia.

No outside merchandise representative of the event may be produced by any other entity and sold or distributed inside the playing facility.

OFFICIAL KHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS

The KHSAA pays for professional photography coverage of the event.

Official championship photos will be available for purchase through the KHSAA's online photo gallery within 72 hours of the completion of the event, khsaaphotos.org.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE LINKS

- Athletic Participation Form, [GEO4](#), English
- Athletic Participation Form, [GEO4](#), Spanish
- [Media Credential Request and Guidelines](#)
- [GoFan Ticket Training](#)



**2026 Spring State Championships
presented by UK HealthCare**

- [Sports Medicine Policies from KHSAA Board Policies](#)
- [NFHS Network Mandatory Minimum Fees for Webstreaming](#)



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