

# KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Commissioner's Notes

March 29, 2000

**PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COACHES AND ATHLETIC PERSONNEL**

### **NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING**

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will be May 16-17 at the KHSAA Office in Lexington. Contact the KHSAA for a meeting agenda.

### **BASEBALL BAT RULE APPROVED**

The Executive Board of the National Federation has approved a change in the baseball bat rule beginning with the 2001 season. For the complete release from the Federation, log on to the KHSAA website ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)).

### **COUNT FOR BA/SB TOURNAMENTS**

This is a reminder concerning the amendment to Bylaw 25 passed by the 1999 Delegate Assembly and approved by the Board of Control. The increase in the number of baseball/softball tournaments counted in a shortened manner is not in effect for the 1999-2000 (2000 season) school year. The amendment will be in place for the 2000-2001 school year (2001 season). Please make sure your coaches continue to count tournament games using the same procedure as in the past. If you have questions, you may contact Asst. Commissioner Larry Boucher (Softball) or Asst. Commissioner Julian Tackett (Baseball) at the KHSAA (859)299-5472.

### **NEW SECURITY AT KHSAA**

Like many of our member schools, the KHSAA has been forced to address the security of its building. With new neighbors in our complex and our proximity to the interstate, police and security consultants advised that the office was primed for problems. At the request of the Board of Control, all KHSAA doors will be locked 24 hours per day, with entrance to the office only through the front glass doors near the public parking lot. We appreciate your patience while we go through the necessary changes and the new system is put into place.

### **DEAD PERIOD CHANGE APPROVED**

The Kentucky Board of Education has given final approval to the change in Bylaw 26 proposed by the members last year, which sets the dead period at June 25 through July 9 each year, beginning with the 2000 summer dead period. No school funds can be expended (including travel to and from) for athletics from 12:01 a.m. on June 25 through 11:59 p.m. on July 9 each year. Please see Bylaw 26 for important interpretations regarding this rule.

### **ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT IN SOFTBALL**

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association has eliminated the requirement to observe the hour and one-half time limit on KHSAA fast pitch softball games and the

hour and one-quarter time limit on slow pitch softball games. No regular season varsity game may be terminated because of a time limit imposed on a game.

This policy affects regular season varsity games and is to begin with the 2000 season. This provision does not affect regular season "invitational" type tournaments. It does not affect junior varsity type competition since those games are usually played until it is too dark to continue.

If you have questions regarding the elimination of the time limit, contact Mr. Larry Boucher, Assistant Commissioner, at the KHSAA.

### **BOYS' & GIRLS' TOURNAMENTS A SUCCESS**

The KHSAA would like to express thanks to its member schools, volunteers, workers and all of those who attended and help make the 2000 Boys' & Girls' State Basketball Tournaments a great success.

For the first time in its history, the Girls' State Tournament eclipsed the 40,000 mark in total attendance. Total attendance for the Boys' State Tournament was over the 123,000 mark. Final audited figures will be announced when available.

### **TRACK/CROSS COUNTRY ALIGNMENT STATUS**

In continuing its review of the alignment for Track and Cross Country, the Board of Control took further action at its January 13, 2000, meeting. The Board of Control took careful notice that more than eighty percent (80%) of its members who responded, favored the draft alignment system. The Board directed staff to bring back to its March meeting a final recommended alignment for Track and Cross Country based on the following criteria-

1. Track and Cross Country shall be divided into 3 classes for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years, with each having six regions and with each school being in the same alignment position in each sport;
2. Track shall continue to qualify (at a minimum, not including those that may meet qualifying standards) sixteen individuals in each event for the state meet, while the Cross Country qualification formula should not change-
3. The 1999-2000 membership numbers shall be used for the purpose of placing teams into regions;
4. No team would be permitted to change classes during the alignment period once adopted;
5. Staff is to use the boundaries created by the draft alignment to divide the classes.

## **BASEBALL SOFTBALL PICTURES DUE**

This note to Athletic Directors that your team pictures for slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball and baseball are due to the Association by April 17 as listed in the KHSAA memorandum calendar.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WEB**

This is a reminder that the KHSAA website ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)) continues to expand and contains useful information. Open Job/Dates information, coaching education classes and medical symposium schedules are among the information available. Also linked to the KHSAA site is the National Federation site which includes rules interpretations for the various sports.

## **UPCOMING CLINICS SCHEDULE**

(Through April 20)

TR - March 29 - Lexington, KHSAA Office, 7 p.m.  
GF - April 11 - Somerset Country Club, 6:30 p.m.  
TR - April 19 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - KHSAA Office, 7 p.m.  
GF - April 20 - Morehead, Eagle Trace Golf Course, 6:30 p.m.  
SB - April 20 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.  
BA - April 20 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - KHSAA Office, 3 p.m.

## **FOOTBALL CAMP NOTICE**

This is a reminder to football schools that the camp exception, Q&A in Bylaw 25, has been eliminated, returning the rule to its 1997 and before form. Now, like all other KHSAA sports, any scrimmaging/drill work/practice after the start of practice, against other team representatives, shall count as a scrimmage against the limit of two.

## **KHSAA OFFICIAL BALL TO CHANGE TO RAWLINGS**

As was approved at the January Board of Control meeting and announced in January's Commissioner's Notes, Rawlings will become the official ball of the KHSAA in all sports beginning with the 2000-2001 school year.

**Beginning with the fall of 2000-2001 school year, the following balls will be the adopted balls for postseason play in Kentucky in the listed sports** - Volleyball (VBI 1000), Soccer (RebelDE), Football (ST5), Basketball (Leather, boys-edge+, girls-edge+ 28.5), Baseball (R200/R100, the R100 will be used in state play), and Softball (NFHS 12Y47L). **The basketballs reflect a change from what was announced in the January Commissioner's Notes.**

One of the many benefits Rawlings brings to the table is the fact that they have agreed to sell the balls to local dealers at a standard cost, eliminating the need for a lot of "shopping around" by the schools. Dealers desiring information and availability should contact Kentucky sales representative Dave Dickerson at (317)272-2052 or email him at [ddickerson@rawlings.com](mailto:ddickerson@rawlings.com).

Schools are reminded that the old balls will be legal for regular season play (as long as they have the NFHS

authenticating mark) as the Board of Control does not mandate a specific ball for regular season play, and that surplus equipment can also be used at the non-varsity levels.

## **MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION**

The KHSAA web site includes the 1998 and 1999 attendance listings for the Medical Symposium ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org), then click Medical Symposium Information). Each head coach in all KHSAA sports/activities (including cheer), in order to be eligible to coach in post season, must attend one of these meetings once every two years. New coaches hired after the last day of school for the 1998-99 school year can wait until the summer of 2000 to attend. This rule is strictly enforced through self-enforcement by member schools. After checking your roster of coaches, those deficient in this requirement should be self reported to the Association and appropriate penalty action will be taken.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE GRADE CHECK REMINDER**

This clarification involves student-athlete eligibility regarding Bylaw 5 - Minimum Academic Requirement (Page 10, 1999-2000 KHSAA Handbook). Grade checks should reflect the cumulative grade earned by the student at that particular point (each Friday) in the semester or officially recorded grading period. It is not the student-athlete's grade for each particular week. If a student-athlete is ineligible at the end of the grading period (each Friday), the athlete is ineligible until the next grading period when school is in session.

*Q&A - May a student-athlete that was originally ineligible at the grade check period count intersession work to obtain eligible status?* No. Not if school is not in full session. The student-athlete shall remain ineligible until the next grade check when school is in full session.

## **KHSAA AND TITLE IX**

The KHSAA and its representatives continue to conduct visits to member schools for counsel on adhering to Title IX. By now each member school/district should have formed a gender equity review committee as was requested during the 1998-99 school year to work with the schools regarding equity within interscholastic athletic programs.

KHSAA representation is visiting member schools to assist and counsel school administrators and personnel on their compliance with Title IX.

The visits are a series in which 20% of the membership will be visited each year over the next five years. At each visit, a public meeting is also held to answer general questions, of school officials regarding their athletics program. KHSAA staff will also be present to answer questions on Title IX compliance.

One issue schools need to address and begin to change is the scheduling of "prime time" games for girls, especially in the sport of basketball.

Should anyone wish to purchase additional copies of the KHSAA Title IX manual, contact Phyllis Sallee at the KHSAA (859)299-5472. Three-ring binder manuals are \$25 each or the insert is available for \$15.

#### **NATIONAL FEDERATION SANCTIONING**

This is a reminder that beginning with this school year (1999-2000) there are new procedures adopted by the National Federation for sanctioning out-of-state contests. Schools hosting are to complete the new sanctioning form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$50. The fee should be made payable to the National Federation and sent to the KHSAA. The KHSAA is responsible for forwarding the form and fee to the National Office. It is the responsibility of the host school to complete a sanction form and pay the processing fee when hosting out-of-state schools. Individual schools competing out-of-state are not responsible for the form. Please call the KHSAA with any questions.

#### **ALL PARTIES SHOULD ATTEND APPEALS HEARINGS**

Again, at the continued encouragement of the Board of Control and Staff, all parties involved in an appearance before the Hearing Officer should attend the appeal. Attendance is encouraged to allow a school or individual(s) an opportunity to respond to statements made during the hearing.

#### **COACHING EDUCATION ATTENDANCE INFORMATION AND CLASS SCHEDULE**

On the KHSAA web site is the current list (through September) of those coaches who have completed all requirements for the coaching education program ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org), then click Coaching Education Information). Districts and schools are reminded that this is a pre-hire requirement, and prior to coaching in the first contests, all coaches must have attended. There is a period of time determined by the testing service to complete both exams. All coaches in a school (Level I or II) and all Level III non-faculty assistants, with the exception of those teaching coaches (Level I) who have been on the school system faculty since 1995-96, must attend the course. This particular certification is permanent, so once the requirement has been completed, it is not necessary to be repeated if a coach changes districts.

In analyzing our first four years of this requirement, many coaches have taken the course, and yet failed to complete BOTH of the required examinations. These exams scores can also be checked on the KHSAA web site by using the same coaching education link. If a coach has passed the NFICEP test, but failed to complete the bylaws test, the coach may contact Julian Tackett at the KHSAA office for permission to re-take the bylaws test, however there will be a \$20 processing fee which is paid to the NFICEP office. If a coach has failed to pass the NFICEP test within the required time, the course must be taken again, with full payment of the fee required.

The most current information about upcoming course dates is always located on the KHSAA web site (same as above). If you have questions about the testing or past attendance of one or more of your coaches, contact Julian Tackett at the KHSAA. Please remember this is a pre-hire requirement with no provision for waiver.

#### **NO PRACTICE/PLAY PRIOR TO BEING RULED ELIGIBLE**

According to Bylaw 6, Sec. 3 - Period of Ineligibility, Students who are ineligible may not practice or play until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

*Q1A - May a student who has transferred practice or play with the team prior to being ruled eligible? No. If a participant has transferred, and represented a member or non member school at the varsity level after enrolling in grade nine (9) thereby being subject to the rule, helshe is ineligible under the provisions of Bylaw 6 until the proper administrative channels have been completed including the KHSAA Form 6 being signed by the Commissioner. Helshe may not try-out, practice, or participate in games or scrimmages until being ruled eligible, and minimum practice periods (i.e. ten days for football) do not begin accumulating until the ruling is complete. Ineligible persons practicing with the team jeopardize the insurance coverage of all participants and the liability coverages of the school, school system and individual coverages.*

#### **DONNELLY AWARDS**

The Billie Jean King Foundation, in cooperation with the American Diabetes Association, has applications available for the 2000 Donnelly Awards. The awards honor the achievements and determination of Diane Donnelly Stone and Tracey Donnelly Maltby, two sisters with Type 1 diabetes who work for World Team Tennis. This program awards a \$5,000 scholarship to two scholar athletes, ages 14-21, who play interscholastic, intercollegiate or intramural tennis and live with Type 1 diabetes. Personal character also plays a big part in the selection process, as award candidates must show strong values, commitment, sportsmanship and community involvement. One of last year's recipients was Carrie Goldhahn, a senior member of the varsity tennis team at Fort Benton High School in Fort Benton, Montana.

All interested candidates for the 2000 Donnelly Awards must submit an official application along with two recommendations and a short essay regarding the significance of living with diabetes. The application deadline is May 15, 2000.

For complete guidelines and an application form, contact: Donnelly Awards Attn: Diane or Tracey 445 N. Wells, Suite 404 Chicago, IL 60610 (312)245-5300 [www.worldteamtennis.com](http://www.worldteamtennis.com).

This is a unique scholarship opportunity for a special group of female athletes.