

# KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## *Commissioner's Notes*

May 22, 2000

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COACHES AND ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

### **HOST TICKET PROJECT DELAYED**

Due to a problem with the sponsor (Wendy's), Host USA has informed the KHSAA that it will delay implementation of the ticket project until at least the 2001-2002 school year. The KHSAA has received assurances from the staff at Host that they will issue a full explanation to the membership.

The staff at the Association was not involved in this decision, and we appreciate the cooperation of the member schools in the different surveys of the schools. We have also informed the representatives of Host that this decision and sponsorship will have to be finalized by January, 2001 in time for the Annual Meeting of schools or the KHSAA will not be participating.

We feel that the schools have been more than fair in delaying tickets purchases for next year to allow for this program to be instituted, and deeply regret any inconvenience that may be caused by the Host decision.

### **NEW AREA CODE**

Please note that the area code for the Association changed effective April 1. The new area code is 859. Please make the appropriate changes to your files.

Phone: (859)299-5472

Fax: (859)293-5999

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

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Control meeting will be July 19-20 at the KHSAA Office in Lexington. Contact the KHSAA or check the KHSAA internet site for a meeting agenda.

### **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.**

### **THREE-PERSON OFFICIATING FOR BK POSTSEASON**

The board of Control voted recently to continue the three-person basketball experiment for the 2000-2001 season. Schools are reminded that usage of three-person crews is OPTIONAL during the regular season, but will be utilized exclusively in the post season. A survey as to the feelings concerning the first year of the project as well as ideas for

improvement is being distributed to the membership (through the Principal) at this time.

### **STATE FOOTBALL FINALS TO RETURN TO FAIR & EXPO CARDINAL STADIUM**

The Board of Control of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, at its annual May meeting, unanimously approved the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center's Cardinal Stadium as the site for the 2000 and 2001 State Football Finals. The recommendation of the 2001 award is contingent on satisfactory review of the 2000 State Finals at the site.

The Board of Control had voted in January not to exercise the final year of a three-year contract with the Fair & Expo site. The major concern the Board had with the facility in moving the event was the condition of the artificial playing surface. Appearing before the Executive Committee of the Board of Control, Debbie Burda of the Fair & Expo Center, advised committee members that a new \$1.5 million turf had been approved for installation and would be in place prior to the start of the State Fair Aug. 17.

The State Football Finals have been held at the Fair & Expo Center's Cardinal Stadium for the last 21 years.

### **BARDSTOWN AD BOARD PRESIDENT FOR 2000-2001**

Bardstown Athletic Director Roland Williams was elected president of the Board for the 2000-2001 school year at the May Board of Control meeting in Lexington. Bourbon County Athletic Director Kathy Johnston was elected vice president.

Mr. Williams is the second African-American elected as president of the Board. Alvis Johnson, former Harrodsburg football coach/athletic director and current University of Kentucky Assistant Athletics Director was the first, during the 1991-92 school year. Ms. Johnston is the first female voted to serve as vice president.

### **BOARD APPROVES POSTSEASON VB/GSO FORMATS**

The Board also approved postseason tournament formats in volleyball and girls' soccer. Volleyball district tournaments, added last year, will remain double-elimination. Regional tournaments will go from a double-elimination to a single elimination format. The changes in volleyball reflect an explosive growth in the number of member schools fielding a team. To date, 154 schools have indicated they will field a volleyball team for the 2000 season, up from 140 in 1999, 106 in 1998 and 92 in 1997.

In girls' soccer, postseason tournaments will mirror those of the boys' with district, regional, sub-section and section tournaments prior to the state event.

#### **BOARD APPROVES XC AND DRAFT FB ALIGNMENTS**

The Board of Control considered alignments in track, cross country and football in May. The Track and Cross Country alignment was adopted for the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years. The Board approved a draft football alignment for 2001 and 2002 for distribution to member schools. Schools have until June 30 to request changes or revisions. Copies of the alignments are available on the KHSAA Internet site ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)) and are included in this mailing for your reference.

#### **FOOTBALL SCHEDULES**

Member schools are able to enter their 2000 Football schedules through the KHSAA internet site ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)). Administrators are required to use the password that the Association mailed to them late last year. This process will also allow for schools to make updates to their schedules and input their 2000-2001 basketball schedules at a later date. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Asst. Commissioner Julian Tackett or Butch Cope.

#### **FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET SET**

This year's fast pitch softball tournament will be held June 9-10 at Skyview Park in Jeffersontown. The draw for the double-elimination tournament was held on April 18. A complete bracket can be found on the KHSAA internet site. Following are the match-ups for the first round of this year's tournament:

*(Bracket Reads Top-To-Bottom - All Times Eastern)*

Fri., June 9

Game 1: Region 1 vs. Region 2 – 9 a.m.

Game 2: Region 15 vs. Region 5 – 9 a.m.

Game 3: Region 6 vs. Region 16 – 9 a.m.

Game 4: Region 3 vs. Region 7 – 11 a.m.

Game 5: Region 4 vs. Region 11 – 11 a.m.

Game 6: Region 14 vs. Region 12 – 11 a.m.

Game 7: Region 9 vs. Region 8 – 1 p.m.

Game 8: Region 10 vs. Region 13 – 1p.m.

#### **STATE BASEBALL FINALS**

The draw for the State Baseball Finals, scheduled for June 15-16, at the University of Kentucky's Cliff Hagan Stadium in Lexington has been held. Following is the bracket for the State Baseball semifinals and final:

*(Bracket Reads Top-To-Bottom - All Times Eastern)*

Thurs., June 15

Semi-State 2 Champion vs. Semi-State 4 Champion, 5 p.m.

Semi-State 3 Champion vs. Semi-State 1 Champion, 7 p.m.

Fri., June 16

State Championship, 6 p.m.

#### **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.

#### **"OPEN GYM" CLARIFICATIONS**

The Board of Control requested the following clarifications, as printed in the KHSAA Handbook, be reemphasized to the member schools. Please take note and should you have any questions, please contact the KHSAA Office.

*Q/A 2 - What is the Association ruling on Out of Season play and practice?*

*What is an "Open Gym / Field"?* "Open Gym / Field" is defined as the school making its gymnasium or athletic field available for free play by any member of the public and/or student body. The availability of the open gym/field must be made public through public address announcements, media advisories, etc. and cannot be restricted to members of a particular team.

*What is an organized practice?* For interpretation purposes, an organized practice would be a practice of the squad or potential squad members, in the presence of a member of that sport's coaching staff, in which skills are taught, refined, practiced, evaluated or observed. Tryouts are considered to be part of organized practice and must be held during the official practice period spelled out in Bylaw 25.

*Can players be assigned to teams in an Open Gym/Field?*

No, students may not be assigned to teams or groups, and play is to be open to all students and not required of the student-athletes.

*Can the coach be present?* NO. No coach of any level of a team in that sport within in the school may be in the gym/field during the open gym/field period if any sport specific skill is being taught, refined, developed, evaluated or observed. Under no circumstances may a member of the coaching staff play against or with the students involved in the open gym/field. This does not preclude the supervision of such non sports-specific activities as running and weight lifting.

*Can the coach perform any coaching duties during the non-play period (outside of the limitation of seasons as defined for each sport)?* NO, though the coach's presence may not indicate any improper action, it does contribute greatly to the perception of an illegal practice session and an attendance requirement.

*How does a school publicize "Open Gym/Field"?* Announcements in the school paper, notices in the local newspapers, public address announcements and posted printed announcements can be utilized to publicize the open gym/field. In each of these mechanisms, it should be clear that the announcement includes the fact that it is voluntary and open to the entire student body.

*Can the squad members execute plays, offenses, etc. on their own?* If the persons participating in the open gym/field happen to be members of the squad, they are free to play as they wish. They are not to be directed by any member of the coaching staff nor should they be evaluated, praised, or criticized for their efforts by staff members.

*What about insurance coverage for Open Field/Gym?* The KHSAA catastrophic plan does not cover student athletes participating in open gym/field. All coverage would revert

to the school's coverage, or the coverage by the individual student-athletes and his/her family.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **IMPORTANT VOLLEYBALL DATES**

July 15, 2000 - First day official high school practice  
Aug. 14, 2000 - First date of high school competition  
Oct. 9-14, 2000 - District Tournaments – Double Elimination  
Oct. 16-21, 2000 - Regional Tournaments – Single Elimination  
Oct. 27-28, 2000 - State Tournament, Site TBA

#### **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.

**NOTE: All audit document forms and information are due in to the Association by June 30, 2000.**

#### **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, he/she 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. He/she 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 coverage of the school, school system and individual coverage.*

#### **BLUEGRASS STATE GAMES – VB/SO LIMITATIONS**

*Q/A - Are there any exceptions to the Limitation of Seasons for the Bluegrass State Games?*

Yes, the Commissioner and Board of Control have previously ruled that any play by teams in fall sports (volleyball and soccer) is not subject to the scrimmage limitations and coaching restrictions. High school teams together with their coach(es) may participate in the Bluegrass State Games and such play shall not count against the two scrimmage limitation. Volleyball and soccer are the only sports for which this exception has been addressed.

#### **CITIZENS FOR SPORT EQUITY AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The CSE Class of 2000 Award winners were honored with an awards presentation reception on Fri., May 19, at Graham Cottage on the campus of Transylvania University.

Following are the 2000 Award Winners:

Sports Leadership - Tom Jurich, Athletics Director,  
University of Louisville  
Official - Jenny Mertle, Newport Central Catholic High School  
Sports Equity Pioneer - Pat Deacon, Field Hockey Coach,  
Transylvania University  
High School Athlete, Individual Sports - Courtney Wright,  
Ballard High School  
High School Athlete, Team Sports - Jenni Benningfield,  
Assumption High School  
High School Coach - Mina Todd, DuPont Manual High School  
Collegiate Athlete, Individual Sports - Sarah Blossom,  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Collegiate Athlete, Team Sports - Lindsey Thieneman,  
Georgetown College  
Collegiate Coach - Nancy Winstel, Northern Kentucky University  
Non-scholastic Athlete, Individual Sports - Tori Murden,  
Louisville

