



# COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

NOVEMBER 25, 2002

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## FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we are reminded that there is much to be thankful for, especially all of you who make up the high school sports community. Special thanks go to the sports advisory committee members who contribute a lot of time, energy and expertise for the betterment of our high school sports programs.

They work quietly, mostly in the background and have a valued perspective regarding the various aspects of each sport the Association sponsors. Advisory committee members assist our staff and truly help shape the complexion of high school sports in Kentucky.

In addition, as our fall state championship season is winding down, we thank all of our tournament managers, officials, coaches and athletes for making the fall sports season one to remember. We look forward to the rest of the football playoffs and hope to see you at the State Football Championships in Louisville. Happy Thanksgiving!

## CORRESPONDING DATES CHANGE

During the 2001-2002 school year, changes and clarifications were approved to the KHSAA long range scheduling calendar that placed the cross country championship first, followed by soccer, and concluding with volleyball, allowing for three consecutive weekends of competition, in KHSAA fall sports. This change followed a lengthy discussion with various sports committees and related parties, and in particular, followed input from the membership who had students participating in more than one event at the same time. This also helps ensure that each of these sports and its participants, have the "center stage" as the primary event in high school sports in the Commonwealth during their championship event.

Following the distribution of that information, the Association received considerable feedback from the membership. Several issues have surfaced since that time, some of which were neither envisioned nor problematic when the change was first considered. Among those issues are:

- Cross country conducting its championship first creates a situation where the sport with the longest of the three seasons (cross country), would be running its first regular season meet in early August. This issue was exacerbated by the adoption of the KMA Heat Guidelines as a recommendation for all of our schools. These guidelines allow for the removal of equipment at certain heat indices, however, in cross country, this would lead to cancellation of more competitions as there is little or no equipment to remove;

- In addition, evidence from the cross country coaches and schools leads staff to conclude that the weather for the championship meet, once thought to be a major criterion for this decision, is of relatively little importance;
- Volleyball is played indoors and is largely unaffected by the Heat Index recommendations at this time;
- A large number of coaches in programs where students play both volleyball and basketball have replied that some students may be forced into making choices between the sports, rather than competing in both. While the staff contends that similar conflicts have always existed for football and basketball on the boys' side, this argument appears to have validity given the Association's recent emphasis on female opportunities;
- Playing regular season volleyball a couple of weeks earlier could help many districts in the conflict over time schedule and facility problems that exist in the fall, particularly in districts where many teams use the same in door facility;

Even with the proposed change, original staff objectives can be met. As a refresher, those objectives were;

- Eliminate the conflict between state events being held at the same time in different parts of the state;
- Protect the scheduling of the KHSAA soccer tournament, a long standing schedule of playing the finals during the first Saturday in November;
- Maintain the current sports season for all three sports, in terms of length of season and number of contests;

In addition, the wrestling schools and committee recommend the movement of the wrestling season one week later, with no change in length of number of matches, for the following reasons:

- Recent National Federation Rule Changes mandating strict weight control have placed Kentucky's wrestling program in a problematic situation due to the large number of football competitors who also compete in wrestling;
- The movement of the State Tournament would allow the same length season, with the same number of matches, without regard to this move;
- The movement of the championship, based on historical data, would minimize if not eliminate the conflict between the swimming and wrestling championships, placing the wrestling meet into its own time slot, immediately prior to the District basketball tournaments.

The complete listing was sent electronically to all affected principals, athletic directors and coaches on Wed. Nov. 20, and is currently posted on the KHSAA website.

## REMAINING 2002-2003 KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT DATES & SITES

Dec. 6-7	Football	Ky. Fair & Expo Ctr, Louisville
Feb. 20-22	Wrestling	Convention Complex, Frankfort
Feb. 21-22	Swimming	UK Lancaster Aquatic Center
March 19-22	Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
March 26-29	Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
May 9-10	Slow Pitch Softball	TBA
May 29-31	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/ Downing Lexington
May 30-31	Boys' & Girls' Track	UK Shively Track, Lexington
June 13-14	Fast Pitch Softball	Tie-Breaker Park, Hopkinsville
June 18-20	Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington

## REMAINING RULES CLINIC SCHEDULES

Following is a listing of remaining in-season rules clinics. To view a full listing of clinics in all sports, go to the KHSAA website at [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org).

### BASKETBALL

12/11 Make-Up (\$50 Fine) Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

### TRACK

(All start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

12/5 Louisville, St. Xavier HS  
 12/9 Paducah Tilghman HS  
 12/10 Madisonville, Hopkins Co. Central HS  
 1/13 Covington Catholic HS  
 1/14 London, South Laurel HS  
 1/27 Cecilia, Central Hardin HS  
 2/3 Ashland, Boyd Co. HS  
 2/10 Bowling Green HS  
 4/2 Lexington, KHSAA Office  
 4/21 Make-Up (\$50 Fine), Lexington, KHSAA Office

### WRESTLING

(All start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

12/12 Make-Up (\$50 Fine) Lexington, KHSAA Office

## ATTENTION CHEER COACHES

A reminder that cheerleaders should be following the National Federation Spirit rules at all times. This includes all cheer situations such as high school games and contests and competition such as those sponsored by organizations like NCA and UCA. Schools are subject to the penalties listed under Bylaw 33 (maximum fine of \$1000) for not complying with National Federation Spirit Rules and insurance coverage can be null and void if these rules are not followed.

## SCHOOL MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Please remember that schools advancing to the state tournament football championships are asked to request school media credentials PRIOR to the event. A letter from the school principal (on school letterhead) is required including the name(s) of the individual(s). Each school is limited to three (3) credentials. This includes yearbook, newspaper, journalism class personnel or video yearbook personnel. **Students or other representatives simply showing up at the gate will not be issued media credentials.**

## SANCTIONS

This is a reminder regarding the policy of the National Federation for sanctioning out-of-state contests. KHSAA member schools hosting an event are to complete the sanction form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$75.00. 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 Federation Office. When Kentucky member schools are participating in out-of-state contests, the host school from out-of-state is responsible for completing the sanction form. A sanction form is not required if all participating schools are from bordering states of Kentucky. Please note, however, that Tennessee and West Virginia require a sanction form for every out of state event. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND HYPE CONFERENCE

The Annual Delegates meeting will be held Wed., Jan. 8, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Lexington.

Delegate designation forms are included in this mailing.

The second annual HYPE Conference will be held Wed., Jan. 15, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. Information was mailed to member school principals, athletic directors and counselors on Nov. 14. Information is also posted on the KHSAA website ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)).

Please remember all registration forms must be in by Dec. 16.

## DELEGATE MEETING CHANGES

This is a reminder regarding the Jan. 8, 2003 Annual Delegate Meeting.

Due to the approval timeline of proposal changes as approved each year at the KHSAA Delegate Meeting, voting will not be conducted at this year's meeting.

The current approval process begins with voting at the Delegate meeting. Once approved by the member school delegates, changes are sent on to the Kentucky Department of Education for approval and submitted to the Legislative Research Commission for final acceptance and implementation in to the KHSAA Handbook.

The KDE process requires two readings at separate meetings for review by the Kentucky Board of Education. This total timeline sometimes takes as much as 18 months due to the meetings, creating a situation where member schools are proposing potential changes to rules that have yet to be accepted by the KDE and placed in the KHSAA Handbook.

After communications with KDE, on a way to fully implement this change, voting will now be conducted at the Annual Meeting every-other year. Voting on rules changes will next be conducted at the January, 2004 meeting. In essence, the deadline for any changes to be voted on would be December 1, 2003. Proposals received prior to that time, would be considered during the January, 2004 Annual Meeting for consideration.

The KHSAA staff and Board of Control have been working to formulate an Annual Meeting that would continue to be professional development for our delegates. This would entail the breakouts sessions in the morning as well as workshops. This is the tentative format for the 2003 meeting, which has received EILA numbers and approval.

The 2003 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 8, 2003 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington. The KHSAA Student Leadership Conference will be held Wed., Jan. 15, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington.

## ASSIGNMENT/EMPLOYMENT OF UNLICENSED SPORTS OFFICIALS

In the memorandum dated August 21, 2002, the reference to Joshua Bishop of Beechwood High School, and the amount paid to him under the catastrophic insurance policy, was in error.

## SCHOOL UPDATES

Please remember to keep your school information current on the KHSAA website. To make changes to your school directory via the KHSAA web site ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)) use the "Member Schools Only" link and your passcode. You can update your school's information at any time.

## REMINDER ABOUT BYLAW 25

Several times during this school year, the Association staff has taken inquiries from schools about the counting of matches in sports such as Cross Country, Swimming, Track, Tennis, Golf and Wrestling. In many cases, coaches are spreading misinformation about the counting procedures, stating that each athlete is restricted by Bylaw 25, but not the school. This is simply not the case. Each school may play against another school or in a traditional match format against the number of opponents contained in Bylaw 25. The limit is for the school, not the individual, and the individual is inherently limited by the same rule. If you have further questions, please feel free to direct them to the appropriate KHSAA staff member responsible for the sport to eliminate the possibility of playing too many contests, and subsequently losing out on postseason opportunities for your students.

## START OF SPRING SPORTS REMINDER

The Board of Control at its September meeting, heard requests from schools who due to their alternative calendars, were attempting to play regular season competition in baseball and/or softball during the March 24-29 week. Particular requests were made from schools desiring to go out of state (i.e. Florida tournaments) during that time. The request was again denied by the Board of Control, as it has consistently done on this issue. The Limitation of Seasons is in place to ensure that teams have the same length season from start to finish. Sanction requests for play during that time will be denied by the Association as schools cannot feasibly participate in such out of state opportunities, and yet play only the allowable number of scrimmage contests.

## WELCOME COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN

The KHSAA would like to welcome its newest member school, Community Christian Academy in Independence. They will be placed in the appropriate KHSAA districts and regions and will be eligible for postseason play in 2004-2005. With this addition, the total membership of the KHSAA is 283. We are sure you wish them luck as our newest member.