



Commissioner's Notes

December 2005

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



December is here and it's hard to believe that 2005 is coming to a close. The KHSAA has been fortunate to have had a great fall championship season. Before we know it we will be into the winter championships in Swimming, Wrestling and Basketball.

The 2005 Annual Meeting is over and as an Association we continue the ongoing process of evaluating our current Bylaws and regulations. As a review item at its December 7-8, 2005 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education considered the KHSAA bylaw changes approved at the 2005-06 KHSAA Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. Subsequent to their review, the KBE has directed the KHSAA to work toward a solution with regard to Proposals #3 and #20 in an effort to accommodate both public and non-public school concerns. The KHSAA was encouraged to reenergize its already on-going efforts to seek resolution of the issues surrounding these two proposals by school personnel, including the use of a facilitator for the meetings if such is beneficial. The KHSAA also was encouraged to consider the use of mediation if such is deemed necessary.

As Commissioner, I am immediately beginning the process of formulating a plan to address the directives of the KBE. As part of this process I will be identifying individuals to help achieve a resolution that is in the best interest of our membership, their expressed concerns, and the students we serve. I remain open to any suggestions you, as member school personnel, might have.

Here's hoping you have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CORNER

The KHSADA would like to announce the following appointments: Executive Director - Jim Watkins, CMAA; President-Elect - Arthur Ballard, CAA, Estill County; Treasurer - Joe Roberts, CAA, Campbell County.

There's still time to register for the NFHS National Conference for Athletic Directors in Orlando, Florida December 14 - 18. Log onto the website, www.nfhs.org for more information.

BYLAW 5-3 (CONTINUAL PROGRESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR)

Bylaw 5-3 states that on a weekly basis, a student shall be passing (cumulatively for the credit period) in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. On its membership form, each member school shall designate the day of the week, approved and documented through local policies, that the grades shall be examined for the student-athletes within that school in order to make this determination. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday. No special tests or recitations are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

Clarification: The key words in the weekly grade check are "cumulatively for the credit period" which means the entire year to date for those schools on a traditional year long credit period, or the semester for those that are on a block schedule.

As the semester comes to an end, schools are reminded that a student must be eligible at the last weekly grade check before the semester ends in order to be eligible during the holiday break. A student failing the weekly grade check standard at the last check of the semester, would not be eligible until the first successful grade check of the next semester or grading period.

Example: If a student has a failing grade in a class for the first three weeks of a grading or credit period, and the fourth week gets a passing grade, this grade shall be averaged in with the first three weeks' grades. If the cumulative average of all four weeks results in a passing grade then the student is eligible to participate.

KHSAA STAFF CHANGE

Mr. Will Engle, Administrative Support Specialist for Assistant Commissioner Larry Boucher, will be leaving the Kentucky High School Athletic Association at the 2005 Christmas break. Mr. Engle will be serving an internship as he finishes his work on a Masters Degree. Will has been a wonderful asset to the KHSAA during his tenure here and we wish him well.

Mrs. Fay Isaacs will assume the responsibilities of the Administrative Support Specialist position to Mr. Boucher. Please feel free to give her a call at (859) 299-5472 ext. 224 for assistance with regard to Officials Licensing/Records and Title IX. We look forward to Fay's contributions to our staff and operations.

TITLE IX WORKSHOP

The KHSAA conducted its first Regional Title IX Workshop at Madisonville Community College on November 10, 2005. There were 50 people in attendance with 28 school systems represented. The Workshop ran from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The feedback from participants was excellent with several critiques stating "the workshop needs to be longer!" Other comments were "very thorough", "helped me better understand the accurate information needed on the forms."

We are currently in the planning stages for another workshop in the Spring of 2006 to be conducted in east Kentucky. More information will be sent when plans are completed. We are also targeting the Covington and Somerset areas for these two workshops in 2006-07.

REPORTING OF SCORES AND SCHEDULE ENTRY

Please remember to call in the scores of contests, win or lose, to the KHSAA/Riherd's Scoreboard **immediately** following each contest. The number is **1-800-715-8388** and is toll free.

We also ask that member school personnel review your baseball, basketball (boys and girls), and softball schedules to make sure any game updates have been added. Schedules are to be entered on the KHSAA website through the "Member School Only" link.

While it is a Board policy that the membership cooperate with the data collection on the scoreboard or be subject to penalty, it has been proven by the membership time and again that they desire to voluntarily cooperate with this project.

KHSAA CONTEST OPPONENTS, IN AND OUT OF STATE

KHSAA MEMBERS VS. IN STATE TEAMS

All regular season games against in-state opponents must be against schools that also belong to the KHSAA. Students from non-member schools in Kentucky may not, under any circumstances, compete against KHSAA member school students in the contests defined within Bylaw 25.

KHSAA MEMBERS VS. OUT OF STATE TEAMS FROM CONTIGUOUS STATES

All regular season games played against out of state opponents must be played against schools that are full members of that state's association. The KHSAA office can assist in determining the status of those teams. KHSAA members may only compete against the schools from Virginia, for example, who are members of the VHSL.

A sanction form is not required if all participating schools are from Indiana, Illinois or Ohio, unless a NFHS sanction applies. Please note, however, that Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia require a sanction form for every out-of-state event

KHSAA MEMBERS VS. NON CONTIGUOUS OR OTHERS THAT REQUIRE NFHS SANCTION

KHSAA member schools hosting an event are to complete the NFHS sanction form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$100.00 if the contests includes any of the following criteria:

- The event involves two or more schools and is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a university, theme park, athletic shoe/apparel company).
- Non-bordering state events if five or more states are involved.
- Non-bordering state events if more that eight schools are involved.
- Any event involving two or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico).

The sanction fee should be made payable to the National Federation and sent to the KHSAA with the appropriate form. 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 through the applicable state association.

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office (859)299-5472 or email mmitchell@khsaa.org.

KHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Feb. 17-18	Swimming	UK Lancaster Aquatic Center, Lexington
Feb. 16-18	Wrestling	Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort
March 15-18	National City/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
March 22-25	Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
May 20	Slow Pitch Softball	RiverShore Sportsplex, Hebron
May 25-27	Fifth Third/KHSAA Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington
June 2-3	Boys' & Girls' Track	UK Shively Track, Lexington
June 9-10	Fast Pitch Softball	Skyview Park, Jeffersontown
June 14-17	Fifth Third/KHSAA Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington