

# Commissioner's Notes

December 2007



Participation Sportsmanship Integrity



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## FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



December is here which I can only describe as fun and frenzied. It's a busy time for all of us where we shop till we drop and absorb all of the joy we possibly can at this special time of the year. The high school winter sports season really gets into high gear with Swimming and Diving invitational's, Wrestling tournaments and

Holiday Basketball events in full swing.

The KHSAA staff is winding up the fall championship season with the Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl at Papa Johns Stadium. This year's new 6 Class playoff system begins a new era for high school football in Kentucky. The participating schools are excited about having expanded opportunities they now have to play in Louisville in December.

Congratulations are in order for our new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Jon Draud. His career in education paired with his legislative experience put him in a strong position to do an excellent job in Frankfort.

The happiest of holidays to you all!

## REPORTING OF SCORES AND SCHEDULE ENTRY

We 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.

Please remember to call in the scores of contests to the KHSAA/Riherd's Scoreboard immediately following each contest. The number is **1-800-453-6882** and is toll free.

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.

## 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.

## ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CORNER

There's still time to register for the National Conference for Athletic Directors in Nashville, TN, December 15 -18. Our own Phil Rison will receive a Distinguished Service Award on Monday at the Conference Luncheon. In addition, Kentucky's Mike Barren, Phil Rison, Arthur Ballard, Faye Thornton and Gale Travis will be teaching or assisting with Leadership Training Program courses at the national conference. Visit [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) for more information.

Good luck to all schools and teams as we begin the winter sports' portion of our annual schedule!

## SPRING ASSISTED FLOORS, MINI-TRAMPS, AND SPRING BOARDS ILLEGAL BY 2007 NFHS CHEERLEADING (SPIRIT RULES)

One of the most significant NFHS spirit rule changes this year for Kentucky high cheerleaders is that a spring floor is no longer considered an acceptable performing surface for cheerleader performances and/or competitions. NFHS Spirit Rule 2-1-7 states: The use of mini-tramps, spring boards, spring-assisted floors or any height-increasing apparatus is illegal for use during performances and competitions. Comment: These devices are by definition "height-increasing apparatuses" and should not be used for anything other than a teaching tool. Cheerleader coaches, athletic directors, and principals need to be aware and check on the performance surfaces that are used in competitions before giving approval for their cheerleader team(s) to participate. Competing on a spring floor is a violation of KHSAA Bylaw 33.

Recent developments in non-school cheerleading programs have created a trend of using spring floors for cheerleading performances. This trend is a concern for high school programs for several reasons. Spring floors are designed to assist a performer in tumbling skills. Therefore, they can give a false sense of security to athletes who are not performer-ready, potentially resulting in additional risks. In addition, high school safety rules are written with the understanding that the primary performance surface will be a gym floor, outdoor grass or track, or matted floor. Spring floors are typically associated with high-level tumbling skills, such as double full twisting layouts, which are prohibited for high school spirit teams.

The standard of care for school cheerleading performance surfaces is generally accepted as a non-spring floor. Spring-assisted devices such as spring floors, springboards, and mini-trampolines can be valuable teaching tools to assist in skill acquisition and development. These devices, under the supervision of a person specifically trained in their use, can be used in practice as a teaching tool.

## TITLE IX WORKSHOP DATES

The second Title IX Workshop is set for December 12<sup>th</sup> in Lexington. For more information, contact Fay Isaacs at the Association office.

## REMINDER OF SCHOOLS NEED TO REQUEST REINSTATEMENT OF DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS

When an athlete is disqualified from a contest, the officials have 24 hours to report the disqualification to the KHSAA office. Those reports can only be done online, via the KHSAA web site.

Once that report is done, an email is sent to the school Principal and Athletic Director of each school along with a link to that disqualification. Clicking on this link will allow the school to go to the web site, and request the reinstatement of the student. Only after this is done will the KHSAA process the final step of the disqualification process.

Using this process requires member school compliance with the immediacy of requesting the reinstatement, and does so in a much more timely and accurate manner than prior written methods. Schools should be mindful that technically, athletes cannot participate until being reinstated by the Association, so an immediate response is necessary to the disqualification request.

It is also worth noting that the information is sent to the email address on file, so if the school information is out of date, the notices will not get to the proper authorities. If you have questions about the process, contact Marsha Day at the KHSAA.

## 2007-2008 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Dec. 7-8	Football	Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, Louisville
Feb. 8-9	Swimming	U of L Ralph Wright Natatorium
Feb. 14-16	Wrestling	Frankfort Convention Center, Frankfort
March 12-15	Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Basketball	WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
March 19-22	National City/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
May 22-24	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington
May 30-31	Boys' & Girls' Track	U of L Owsley Frazier Park, Louisville
June 6-7	Fast Pitch Softball	Jack Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 11-14	Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington