



Commissioner's Notes

December 2010 / January 2011

Welcome Back

A monthly newsletter from Commissioner Julian Tackett, Kentucky High School Athletic Association,
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When we thought of a phrase to describe the past six weeks, what else is really appropriate to say other than Welcome Back? While the holiday season is a time we looked to with anticipation, the time away from school has been extended for many of you due to the harsh weather we have received thus far this winter. While we may not be able to control the weather, we can lend you a hand. If there is any way this office can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVES FEE CHANGE FOR BASKETBALL AND WRESTLING OFFICIALS IN 2011-2012

As budgeting cycles begin, schools that sponsor basketball and wrestling should be aware that the fee schedule for games/matches will change in 2011-2012. The Board deferred consideration of all fee increases during the 2009-2010 school year in an effort to recognize the difficult economic climate for the schools. However for 2011-2012, due in great part to an escalation in travel costs for officials, the Board of Control felt compelled to adjust the base fee in the sports in which it deferred consideration last year.

The Board of Control is charged through the Federal Court Order of 1971, with setting the varsity officiating fee for sports in which the KHSAA licenses officials. Regional Policy Boards may add an additional fee to compensate for travel in the geographic region covered by the local officials association. The Board regularly checks the fees of surrounding states and attempts to ensure that the fees paid to officials are fair and equitable while balancing that desire against the fiscal responsibility of the member schools. The Board has adopted a regular schedule for reviewing the officials fees in order that schools are not constantly solicited for fee increases in the same sport. Baseball/softball fees will be reviewed during the 2011-2012 school year, Football/Soccer will be reviewed during the 2012-2013 school year, Volleyball/Cross Country/Swimming/Track will be reviewed during the 2013-2014 school year and Basketball/Wrestling will be reviewed during the 2014-2015 school year.

WRESTLING FEES

Beginning in 2011-2012, a dual meet with 1 official on one match shall be paid a fee of \$45. For a tri-meet, the per official rate for the three matches shall be paid \$100. For a quad meet, each of two officials officiating a total of six matches will received \$100. For all tournaments, the fee will be \$25 per mat, per hour, per official, with a minimum of \$175 per official. In this manner, the various forms of tournaments can be addressed with a simplified fee schedule. Post season fees for wrestling will also be slightly adjusted and will be published with the 2011-2012 Officials Guidebook and KHSAA Handbook.



BASKETBALL FEES

For 2011-2012, varsity basketball officials will have the standard base fee (outside of the regional policy board approved travel allowance) at all levels increased by \$5 per game. For a two-person game (if such continues to be an option), the standard varsity fee will be \$55 per official for a two person crew. For a three-person game, the standard varsity fee will be \$45 per official. The Board is currently in discussion about the future of two-person officiating in light of recent incidents in games where specific situations seem to be common to two-person crews, and in the recognition that quite simply, the game has changed to the point where two-person may not be viable. When the final decision is made regarding this discussion, the member schools will be informed. Post season fees for basketball will also be slightly adjusted and will be published with the 2011-2012 Officials Guidebook and KHSAA Handbook.

BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVES ADJUSTMENT IN FEE DIFFERENTIAL FOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

In another matter related to officiating, the Board of Control has approved the Commissioner's recommendation to change the differential cap between varsity baseball and varsity softball from \$5.00 to \$10.00. This will be at the discretion of the local regional policy boards for 2011, and will be considered by the Board for statewide implementation as the review of baseball and softball is done in 2011-2012. In comparing surrounding states, the pay scale for softball is very competitive with other states, however baseball has lagged behind and perhaps failed to recognize the difference in the length of the games. With two published Federal Court Cases clearly stating the baseball and softball are NOT the same sport, the Board recognized the need to allow the local regional policy boards some flexibility in making the adjustment.

REMINDER ABOUT BYLAW 5

Recently, we had a few questions about students and athletic eligibility, in the cases where the students were not scheduled to receive a diploma and were not earning credits toward a diploma. Just as a reminder that to be academically eligible, a student must be passing each week four hours of instruction applicable to graduation (receiving credit toward graduation), in accordance with Bylaw 5 that is incorporated by reference into 702 KAR 7:065. There are no exceptions. This question occurred often enough to remind the office to ensure that all schools were aware of the requirement.

SCHOOLS REMINDED TO KEEP SCHEDULES UPDATED

With the massive amounts of game cancellations due to inclement weather, it is critical that when games are rescheduled, schools login and change the dates and times. Not only is this an important resource for game and score verification and Title IX prime date monitoring, it is also an invaluable tool to our coaches and administrators as they scout and prepare for contests. Thanks for your assistance.

SURVEYS

In the coming days and weeks, member schools will be sent a variety of surveys and questionnaires. The Board of Control and staff is beginning the process of strategic planning, as well as other surveys being done concerning operations and tournaments. The surveys will be very short and utilize the electronic resources of survey monkey.com, as opposed to compiling one very long and cumbersome one. We ask your indulgence in referring the matters to the appropriate individual for completion.

PNC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ONLINE

Applications for the 2011 PNC/KHSAA Sweet 16® are now available on the KHSAA web site. In addition to its sponsorship of the KHSAA Boys Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournament, PNC awards 32 one-time \$1,000 scholarships to one boy and one girl from each of the state's 16 regions. The scholarship is open to any senior student-athletes who participated in any KHSAA sanctioned sport (including cheer). Scholarships will be based on excellence in three areas - academic achievement, leadership and school and community service.

For an application, please visit the KHSAA web site at <http://www.khsaa.org/forms/bk148.pdf>.

The application process will remain open until Feb. 14, 2011.

WHITAKER NAMED NFHS BASEBALL COACH OF THE YEAR

Harrison County baseball coach Mac Whitaker has been named by the National Federation of State High School Associations as its national baseball coach of the year.

Whitaker led the Thorobreds to the 2010 state championship, the fourth for the school under his watch. During his 33 years as the head coach at Harrison County, the program has compiled a record of 913-260 while many of his players have gone on to play collegiate and professional baseball. Whitaker also enjoyed a successful tenure as the school's girls' basketball coach, leading the Fillies to 10th Region championships in 2000 and 2002. He also served as the school's athletic director.

Whitaker, who became only the fourth coach in state history to win 900 games during the 2010 season, trails only Larry Gumm, Don Richardson and Bill Miller on the all-time victories list.

ADMINISTRATORS RECEIVE HONORS

Daviess County Superintendent Tom Shelton was recently named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. Shelton will also be a candidate for the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year award. Shelton's district also received a \$2,500 scholarship from Scientific Learning for his honor.

Art Davis, the longtime principal at Paducah Tilghman High School, was recently named Educator of the Year by the McCracken County branch of the NAACP.

NAIA SEEKS ASSISTANCE FROM KHSAA MEMBERS

A message from Jim Carr, President and CEO of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics:

We are pleased to announce that the NAIA Eligibility Center opened its doors as scheduled on September 1, 2010, and we thank you for the role you played in getting us to this point. During our first 75 days of operation, more than 3,000 students registered with PlayNAIA.org, far ahead of our initial projections. We anticipate close to 30,000 registrations by August 2011.

I am writing to ask for your continued support. In order to take advantage of the many benefits offered by NAIA members, including more than \$450 million in athletic aid, prospective student-athletes need help from high schools. As a result, we are asking each high school to set up a very simple profile, so we know who to contact when there are questions about a particular student. It takes about two minutes to set up this communication link online, and more than 2,000 high schools have already done so. We would really appreciate your help in encouraging more high schools to join our community.

We will be in touch in the coming weeks to discuss this request and explore additional partnership opportunities, such as NAIA presence on your association website, attendance at significant gatherings of your members, and channels to spread the word to your student-athletes. Again, thank you for your support of the NAIA.

KHSAA LOOKING FOR ANTHEM SINGERS

In preparation for the 2011 Houchens/KHSAA Sweet 16® Girls State Basketball Tournament and the PNC/KHSAA Sweet 16® Boys State Basketball Tournament, the KHSAA is seeking students to sing the national anthem before each session.

If you have a student who would be capable of performing in front of a large audience while representing your school, please contact Darren Bilberry or Phyllis Sallee and submit a sample of their previous anthem performance.

SPORT UPDATES

Baseball

We continue to advise administrators, coaches and parents to

refer to the KHSAA web site regarding composite bats and use in the 2011 season. BESR bats that meet NFHS specifications and that are legal are listed on the site. Keep in mind that BESR bats will be legal ONLY in 2011 in high school play. Beginning in 2012 BBCOR bat standards will be in place and only those bats will be legal. These changes have the athlete's safety in mind. We are advising folks to purchasing BBCOR bats so they will be covered for the future. On the KHSAA web site click baseball, general information and then look under NFHS Baseball Information for additional correspondence on the issue.

Basketball

The road to march madness has begun. Schools need to be reminded that their warm up activities be confined to the half of the court that they are assigned to during the pregame warm up period.

Cross Country

The state cross country meet on Saturday, Nov. 13 was an overwhelming success as a record crowd enjoyed the unseasonably warm temperatures to root on the competitors. Girls team champions included Assumption, South Oldham and Fairview. Boys team champions are Trinity (Louisville), North Oldham and St. Henry District.

Football

The Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl was played on Dec. 3-4 at Houchens-L.T. Smith Stadium in Bowling Green and it proved to be one of the most successful on record. A total of 47,759 turned out to watch the six championship games, and increase of more than 10,000 from 2009. The Class 4A championship between Boyle County and Allen County-Scottsville drew a crowd of 13,167, the largest crowd ever for a non 4A or 6A game played outside of Louisville. The original two-year contract with WKU for the use of Houchens-L.T. Smith Stadium is over but there is hope the event can return to that venue in the future.

Swimming and Diving

The Swimming and Diving Regional meet has been scheduled for the week of Feb. 7-12. The State meet will take place on Feb. 24-26 at the Ralph Wright Natatorium on the campus of the University of Louisville. There has been a change in the normal schedule that will now have the diving preliminaries taking place on Thursday evening. The final details in regards to this schedule change will be sent to all member schools as soon as possible.

Softball

The Softball State Championships are scheduled for June 10 and 11 at Jack Fisher Park in Owensboro KY. We are currently looking at expanding the two day tournament format to three days in order to minimize the number of games played on a single day. We will notify all member schools of any potential changes.

Tennis

There has been a slight change to the in person rules clinic schedule. The clinic scheduled for Feb. 16 at Johnson Central has been moved to Feb. 9, while the Feb. 15 clinic at Rockcastle County has now been moved to Feb. 24. The full schedule can be found at <http://officials.khsaa.org/20102011/tncinics.pdf>.

Wrestling

The 2010-11 regular season is underway and five new programs have been added this season. Barren County, East Ridge, Grant County, North Bullitt and Scott County will all field squads and compete in postseason play this season.

REMAINING 2010-11 KHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Feb. 17-19	Wrestling	Frankfort Convention Center
Feb. 25-26	Pannell Swim Shop/ KHSAA Swimming & Diving	Wright Natatorium, Louisville
March 9-12	Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Basketball	Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
March 16-19	PNC/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
May 26-28	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	UK & Sayre Complex, Lexington
May 26-28	Boys' & Girls' Track and Field	Frazier Park, Louisville
June 10-11	Softball	Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 13-18	Forcht Bank/ KHSAA Baseball	Applebee's Park, Lexington

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 18 Special KHSAA Board of Control Meeting, Lexington
- Feb. 17-19 State Wrestling Tournament, Frankfort
- Feb. 24-26 Pannell Swim Shop/KHSAA State Swimming & Diving Championships, Louisville

Thanks for all of your continued support and welcome back!

Julian Tackett