



Commissioner's Notes

August 2011

A monthly newsletter from Commissioner Julian Tackett, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40505 859-299-5472 • www.khsaa.org

SCHOOLS REMINDED OF MULTIPLE METHODS TO MEET PRIME DATE REQUIREMENTS FOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

Member school representatives are reminded that by action of the Board of Control during the 2010-2011 school year, there are now two different methods for meeting the prime date initiatives set out to attempt to ensure compliance with Title IX scheduling desires. Responding to requests from the membership, the Board approved a second alternative method which allows for analysis of the total schedule, not simply an analysis of the home games. The entire policy is listed below. Please contact Darren Bilberry (Title IX Coordinator) or Angela Passafiume (Regular season basketball contact) if you have questions about your specific schedule.

KHSAA BASKETBALL PRIME DATE SCHEDULING A) PRIME DATE REQUIREMENT

Each basketball season, a member school shall meet one of two alternative methods of prime date compliance. The member schools shall:

1) Play at least forty (40) percent of its girls home basketball games on a prime date, defined as Friday night, Saturday or Sunday, wherein tournaments shall only count as one game played toward this requirement; or

2) Play at least forty (40) percent of its girls basketball schedule (all games) on a prime date, defined as Friday night, Saturday or Sunday. Schools using this method must play at least one prime date game in each of the months of December, January and February.

B) ANNUAL PRIME DATE COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Each year, the KHSAA shall audit all girls' regular season basketball schedules (hereinafter "current schedule"). These annual audits shall begin with the first legal regular season playing date. Schools that are not in compliance with the forty (40) percent requirement on the first playing date shall be contacted on or before December 31 of the playing season in an effort to allow for schedule corrections or revisions to comply with the forty (40) percent requirement. The school shall be notified of the potential penalties for non compliance with this correspondence.

Schedules shall be posted on the KHSAA website in the manner as instructed by the Commissioner's office prior to the published deadline. Schedules shall be accurate and include entry and designation of games that are involved in tournaments, classics, festivals and other multi-game events.

At the end of the regular playing season, the schedules shall be audited for final compliance with the requirement.

C) PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRIME DATE REQUIREMENT

Based on the final audit at the end of regular season, if a



member school's total home games for girls' do not comply with the forty (40) percent requirement, the following penalty shall be applied:

1) The boys' regular season total game schedule for the following school year's basketball season shall be reduced by two games as compared to the current boys' schedule.

2) The overall two contest reduction shall be achieved by reducing boys' home games.

3) In the case that a school does not have any home games, the two game penalty shall be applied to away games.

4) In the event that this penalty is imposed, the offending school shall count the game as a forfeit with respect to KHSAA Bylaws and shall comply with the provisions of Bylaw 24 as it relates to forfeit fees and other penalties. The game may not be replaced on the offending team's schedule but may be replaced on the opponent schedule.

5) Schools may not schedule or enter additional tournaments from the benchmark year as a means of circumventing the penalties within this policy.

6) Schools will be notified of the reduction in the allowable boys' games for the following season after the conclusion of the current season.

D) EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE PENALTY APPLICATIONS

On the first legal playing date for the season, Jones High School's regular season girls' basketball schedule reflects they are not meeting the forty (40) percent requirement. Jones High School is audited again at the end of the season, and does not meet the forty (40) percent requirement.

During that same season, the boys' total number of regular season games played is 23 as defined by Bylaw 25. Within this 23 count, there are 21 single games being played and two tournaments counted in a reduced fashion per the rule. The boys' team played six regular season home single games.

Due to non-compliance with the forty (40) percent requirement, Jones High School's total number of allowable boys' regular season single games for the following regular season shall be reduced to 21. This reduction would not apply to the allowable two tournaments that may be counted in a reduced fashion.

In this example, the total allowable number of regular season home games for the following season may not exceed four single games.

Should this reduction occur, the KHSAA staff shall work with member schools to accomplish the identified contractual game reductions.

BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVES CHANGES TO VARSITY BASKETBALL CONTEST OFFICIATING

During its 2010-2011 meetings, the Board of Control made three critical decisions related to varsity basketball contests and the officiating of those contests.

First, the Board approved the recommendation to establish a planned selection pattern for postseason officials in all regions for the regional basketball tournaments. That decision, implemented in 2011, was a positive change in the vast majority of regions, and will continue.

Secondly, the Board of Control raised the base fee for basketball officials to \$45 per official for a three-person game at the varsity level. As has been the case, local regional policy boards may provide an additional supplement to the game fee in all sports, solely for the purpose of compensating for travel within the region. Additional fees may not be added to the pay for officials for any other reason.

Policy Boards may also continue to adopt special fees for tournaments, and multiple game events, but the per game rate may never be below the adopted rate. These rates apply only to the varsity level as the non-varsity levels are established by the policy board within the region.

Thirdly, the Board approved the recommendation that all varsity games for boys and girls be officiated with three officials beginning with 2011-2012. This decision was not made without considerable discussion and debate. The safety of the players, coverage of the game as the ability of the players and coaches has evolved, cost to the member schools, availability of a pool of officials, and the scheduling of available officials all factored into the decision.

In the end, the Board felt strongly that the incidents of unsporting conduct in two-person games and the ability of the players now competing outweighed fiscal and other concerns. A majority of the Board also noted that since three-person crews were mandated for postseason in 2000, it has resulted in improvement of postseason play in most areas.

With the coupling of the decisions on the game fee and the requirement for three-person in all games, the Board and Commission realize that regional policy boards may need to revisit the travel allowance paid to the officials in each local association. This may result, in some areas, in the overall fees for three-person remaining the same this coming season as last, despite the \$5.00 base fee increase.

This trade-off for the officials, is easily offset by the additional available games due to more assignments, but is a local level

decision. The Board of Control, with this fee increase, did NOT stipulate that the total fee must remain the same, as it had with past officiating increases. The Board is very aware (as most are impacted) of the tight fiscal times for the member schools, and is trusting that officials realize that situation as well should this type of decision need to be made.

There is NO MANDATE on either fee or number of officials for non-varsity games, as that remains local policy board jurisdiction at this time.

Again, these decisions were not made without considerable discussion and input from the Board, most of which are in schools and directly effected by the consequences of these decisions. Thanks to all of you who shared your feedback and input throughout the many months of consideration.

BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVES CHANGES IN SPRING ALLOWABLE DATES FOR COMPETITION

At the Board of Control meeting in July, after more than two years of review both by staff and the Board, the Board approved a recommended change in the starting date for Baseball, Softball and Tennis, and a change in the scheduling of the state championships in Tennis and Track and Field. With the change in course assessment dates for the vast majority of our membership, and the mandate for end of course assessments, it has become necessary to schedule the championships in the two extremely large-participation state events (tennis and track) at a different time or consider reducing the number of competitors and impacted schools. A reduction in competitors was not deemed the best option. This new schedule appears to be the optimal for these championships to minimize conflicts with the testing requirements and lessen graduation ceremony conflicts. The allowance to schedule earlier in March will allow for time to have a full-competition schedule per Bylaw 25. Track and Field already has an earlier start date for competition than any other spring sport (which at school discretion can be either indoor or outdoor), so no start date adjustment was deemed necessary.

For 2012, the Board waived the first available date for a contest in Baseball, Softball and Tennis and will allow those contests to begin on the **WEDNESDAY OF THE FIRST STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** (March 7). This will minimize conflicts with the ending of winter sports as only the schools with teams remaining in the basketball tournament should be directly effected. The Board has authored a proposal for the Annual Meeting to memorialize this earlier starting date.

For 2012, the regional week for tennis and track will end on the Saturday following Derby Day (May 12), and the state events will be contested on May 17 through 19.

No adjustment is yet necessary for baseball and softball postseason as those activities can adjust for testing dates and with the additional days to compete earlier in March, are able to schedule the full schedule of games despite missing for testing and required activities. The Board policy of having the regional softball and baseball events during Memorial Day week has not been revised. Teams may continue to play on the previous dates, or they may choose to begin on the earlier schedule.

REMINDER OF KHSAA ANNUAL MEETING

Member schools are reminded that the 2011 Annual Meeting of the membership of the KHSAA is to be held on Thursday, September 22 in the Thoroughbred meeting rooms on the third floor at the Lexington Center (High Street level, adjacent to the concourse of Rupp Arena). A final agenda will be distributed in the coming weeks, but the meeting is expected to begin at approximately 8:00 a.m. ET. and conclude not later than 1:30 p.m.

This specific meeting has professional development opportunities in the morning, a discussion period regarding proposals for rules changes, and a meeting where delegates convene to approve or disapprove the proposed KHSAA Constitution and Bylaw changes.

The Hyatt Regency, adjacent to the center, has a small block of rooms available by contacting 859-253-1234 and when transferred to the reservations office, refer to the KHSAA block of rooms (KHSAA) for the KHSAA Athletic Meeting. It is requested that reservations at the Hyatt be made by August 31, 2011 as the block will close at that time. Please be mindful that with other meetings in town that day, prompt room requests would be helpful in ensuring a room is available.

It is hoped that 100% of the member schools plan on attending this important meeting. As always, professional development opportunities, relevant exhibitors and lively discussion of the future of high school athletics in our state will be just a few things that will highlight the day.

Each school is to formally designate the Delegate for your school to vote during the business session. This important meeting allows your school a vote and voice in the operations of the Association. Assistant Commissioner Butch Cope will be soliciting this information from the member schools.

Final information on the meeting will be distributed electronically as in the past, and in addition, will be posted on the KHSAA web site, <http://www.khsaa.org/annualmeeting/>

The delegate must be someone from your school, but is not restricted to the Principal and/or Athletic Director or any specific academic or educational background.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES INTERPRETATION REVISIONS TO WHAT IS ALLOWED OUT OF SEASON BY COACHES

As was described in detail in a July 29th email from the Commissioner to all KHSAA administrators and coaches, the restrictions on offseason involvement by coaches have been revised for this current school year. These restrictions DO NOT change the literal wording or application of Bylaw 8 on football and basketball players playing out of season, but are a changing in the restrictions on the coaches at KHSAA member schools.

This change puts the decision making for this important facet of the school athletic program, the high school coach's involvement with the students during the school year but outside the season, where it likely always belonged, at the local school, and in accordance with Bylaw 1, in the hands of the Principal. The interpretation is fairly self-explanatory, and will be printed in the 2011-2012 KHSAA Handbook. Fall sport coaches, please address specific questions to the sport contact in the KHSAA office: : Michael Barren (soccer) - mbarren@khsaa.org; Angela Passafiume

(cross country) - apassafiume@khsaa.org; Butch Cope (volleyball) - bcope@khsaa.org; Darren Bilberry (golf) - dbilberry@khsaa.org and Julian Tackett (football) - jtackett@khsaa.org

REVISED INTERPRETATIONS

Deleted CS BL-25-18, CS BL25-19, CS BL-25-20 from 2010-2011 Handbook

Replace with -

Case BL-25-xx- Are there restrictions during the school year outside of the defined Limitation of Seasons (off-season) when the school's team members are participants or school coaches are involved?

Yes, there are restrictions during the school year outside of the defined limitation of seasons. The "off-season" is the period for each sport or sport/activity that is outside the defined start and end dates for the sport or sport/activity as detailed in Bylaw 25. The restrictions begin on the first day of school and end on the earlier of the day following the last day of school or May 31;

The following general provisions apply to the off-season in all KHSAA sports and sport/activities:

- 1) There is no insurance coverage (catastrophic medical or other) expressed or implied by the KHSAA;
- 2) Any restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, head or assistant, and at all levels;
- 3) No activity may be required for the student-athlete in that particular sport and there may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for non-participation;
- 4) There may be no organized activity (where sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated) that is restricted solely to the members or prospective members of any sports team; and
- 5) Nothing about these interpretations allow for the use of specific school issued football gear during this period except during the allowable spring practice window, and the use of the helmet during specific periods enumerated in other published interpretations.
- 6) Nothing about these interpretations change any of the provisions of Bylaw 8 that prohibit players in basketball and football from participating in an organized game for any other entity from the start of school to the end of the season (including KHSAA postseason play)
- 7) Nothing about these interpretations allow for the use of specific school issued baseball and softball gear during this period (i.e. catching gear) except during the specific periods enumerated in other published interpretations.

A member of the coaching staff, member school, group of school representatives, or school or team-related booster group may not:

1. Pay the entry fee for a team or individuals into a practice, league, camp or tournament;
2. Pay other necessary fees for competition including umpire payment and game or facility management;
3. Provide or fund transportation for team members to go to games, or tournaments;
4. Allow school transportation to be used for team members to

go to games, or tournaments;

5. Allow the use of the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness on school issued or non-school issued apparel;

6. Allow the use of school issued or school identifying apparel, including uniforms, hats, sleeves, jerseys, pants or school owned protective gear to be worn by team members, with the exception of the use of specific baseball, football and softball equipment during the specific periods enumerated in other published interpretations and the use of appropriate and legal equipment during the April Cheer tryout period; or

7. Allow the use of the school facility for organized competition for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values.

All other restrictions related to the scheduling, composition, pool and use of available personnel including coaches, and other logistical arrangements are the jurisdiction of the building Principal for any activity held within that local school facility or off-site activities where the coach and team members are simultaneously present, in compliance with Bylaw 1 of the Association.

REPORTING OF SCORES TO SCOREBOARD

Remember to call in scores to the Scoreboard, 1-800-453-6882 at the completion of contests. Scoreboards are maintained in the fall sports of Volleyball, Boys' and Girls' Soccer and Football. If you have results from any fall sport, superlative performance or other note of news, you may submit that via e-mail to emay@khsaa.org for inclusion in the KHSAA weekly news release.

RULES CLINIC REMINDER

This is a reminder to all fall sports coaches that the mandatory online rules clinics continue to be available for free on the KHSAA website through August 22. If you have any problem logging in be sure to check with your athletic director to confirm that your email address is correct on the school administration page.

SPORT UPDATES

Baseball

The KHSAA Board of Control recently approved a recommendation to permit the Commissioner to negotiate an extension of the site location for the Kentucky National Insurance State Baseball Tournament with representatives from Whitaker Bank Ballpark and the Lexington Legends. The current contract to host the event expires in 2012. The tournament has been held at the site since 2002.

Basketball

With the change in Bylaw 25 Limitation of Season and what is allowed out of season by coaches, we want to remind you that Bylaw 8 has not changed with the restriction being on participants once school has begun in regards to basketball. This includes basketball camps that include organized scrimmages being restricted after the start of school.

Cheer

The Annual Cheer Workshop is scheduled for Aug. 27 at the KHSAA Office in Lexington. Workshop information is posted on

the Association website.

Football

Football schools are reminded of several forms that will need to be submitted immediately after the regular season begins (September 15 for the GE20 form). Form FB109 details football scrimmages (which may be reported on the new multiple sport scrimmage report if desired), FB122 reports compliance with the contact practice restrictions, and GE20 logs the heat index regulation compliance.

We are also happy to welcome Russell Athletic as the title sponsor for the football finals, and very excited that the Russell Athletic/KHSAA Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl games will be played at WKU for the next four seasons.

Soccer

Athletic directors, remember the Board of Control Policy in regard to game management. You must provide an event manager other than the head coach, ie. athletic director or principal. Also, this year you need to inform the officials prior to the start of the match if this match will be used to determine district tournament seeding. If so, these regular season matches will follow a tie break protocol.

Tennis

The USTA will begin with this year's regional tournaments, recognize outstanding sportsmanship by presenting an outstanding male and female tennis player with a Sportsmanship Award in each region.

The regional tennis tournaments will take place the week of May 7th through 12th with the state tournament on May 17th, 18th, and 19th due to the change in the spring calendar.

Track

The regional track meets will take place the week of May 7th through 12th with the State meet returning to the University of Louisville on May 17th, 18th, and 19th due to the change in the spring calendar.

Volleyball

We have received calls inquiring about the official volleyball. Schools are reminded, and this is mentioned in the Volleyball Rules Clinic online, that you may play with any brand of volleyball during the regular season provided that it has the NFHS authenticating mark. Balls may be all white or schools are now permitted to play with the three panel colored ball provided one of the panels is white (and includes the authenticating mark). For postseason, Rawlings is the official ball of the KHSAA and we will use the Rawlings three panel Red, White and Blue ball for District, Regional and State Tournaments. The approval of the addition of the three panel colored ball that was adopted by rule in 2010 does not necessitate a purchase of equipment as schools may still play with the all white ball.

Wrestling

Exciting news for Kentucky High School Wrestling. We have just completed the negotiations and are very excited to announce that this year's State Championships will be held at the Alltech Arena, located at the Kentucky Horse Park here in Lexington. We believe the move to a larger venue with modern amenities fits well with our growing sport and will allow for less use of school time.

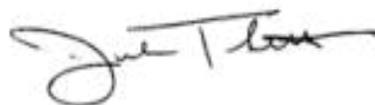
2011-12 KHSAA Championship Dates

Oct. 3-5	Leachman/ KHSAA Boys' Golf	Bowling Green Country Club
Oct. 6-8	Leachman/ KHSAA Girls' Golf	Bowling Green Country Club
Oct. 28-29	Girls' Volleyball	Bellarmine University, Louisville
Nov. 2-3, 5	Boys' and Girls' Soccer	Paul Laurence Dunbar HS, Lexington
Nov. 12	Boys' and Girls' Cross Country	Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
Dec. 2-3	Russell/KHSAA Commonwealth Gridiron Bowl	Houchens-L.T. Smith Stadium, Bowling Green
Feb. 17-18	Wrestling	Alltech Arena at Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
Feb. 23-25	Pannell Swim Shop/ KHSAA Swimming & Diving	Wright Natatorium, Louisville
March 7-10	Girls' Basketball	TBA
March 14-17	PNC/KHSAA Boys' Basketball	Rupp Arena, Lexington
March 23-24	Boys' and Girls' Bowling	Executive Bowl, Louisville
May 17-19	Boys' & Girls' Tennis	Lexington
May 17-19	Boys' & Girls' Track and Field	Owsley Frazier Cardinal Park, Louisville
June 7-9	Softball	Jack C. Fisher Park, Owensboro
June 13-18	Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA Baseball	Whitaker Bank Ballpark, Lexington

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 22 HYPE Student Leadership Conference, Lexington Center, Lexington
- August 23 HYPE Student Leadership Conference, Bowling Green Convention Center, Bowling Green
- September 15 KHSAA Board of Control Meeting, KHSAA Office, Lexington

Thanks for all of your continued support!



Julian Tackett