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PERRY COUNTY CENTRAL PENALTIES TO INCLUDE KHSAA ATTORNEY FEES

LEXINGTON –Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner Louis Stout announced on Friday, penalties imposed on the Perry County High School Boys' Basketball program.

Today, the Commissioner announced that under Bylaw 33, the Perry County Central program would also be responsible for reimbursement of \$4,091.79 to the Association for the cost of the KHSAA's attorney's fees expended during Perry County's challenge of the Commissioner's ruling.

Perry County Central had challenged the Commissioner's ineligible ruling of a transfer student with a suit in Perry County court that was later transferred to Franklin County Court. Following the transfer, the suit was dismissed and filed again with the court eventually ruling in favor of the KHSAA.

Those penalties announced Friday resulted from the participation of the ineligible athlete. According to KHSAA Bylaws, no athlete shall participate in practice or game contest while ruled ineligible.

The penalties announced and imposed on Friday included a two-year probation, beginning with the 2001-02 season and continuing through the 2002-03 season. Prohibition of the boys' program from any pre-season scrimmages, participation in invitational tournaments or contests outside the state of Kentucky for the 2001-02 year. And, the program was assessed a fine in the amount of \$1,000.

"We are charged with upholding the Bylaws of the KHSAA that each of our 285 member schools have agreed to abide by," Commissioner Stout said. "Those who challenge the rules set forth by the member schools and are not successful, are going to shoulder the financial burden."

The Association has seen a rise in the amount it has spent to uphold the Bylaws adopted by its member schools. The Association's general legal services bill was \$97,273 for the 1996-97 year. That amount increased to \$164,753 in 1997-98 and skyrocketed to \$245,370 in 1998-99. For the 1999-2000 year, the Association spent \$88,868 and has budgeted \$155,000 for the 2000-01 year. To date, the KHSAA has spent \$127,198.

"Our Board of Control has been very concerned with our legal expenses and the fact that our schools challenge the rules," Stout added. "They are in support of those challenging our rules being held responsible," Stout concluded.

The law firm of Greenbaum, Doll & McDonald serves as legal counsel for the KHSAA.

The school has the opportunity to appeal all penalties in writing and appear before the Association Board of Control.

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For more information, contact the Administration at Perry County Central High School.