



# Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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## **KHSAA ISSUES PENALTIES FOR SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS**

**LEXINGTON** – Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner Brigid DeVries has announced that boys' basketball players from Providence and Webster County High Schools have been penalized for violation of the Association's Sportsmanship Bylaw (Bylaw 11) following an incident during the December 14 contest at Webster County. In addition, both programs will be on probation for the remainder of the 2004-05 year and face other administrative sanctions.

The contest was ruled final with 2:55 left in the game and Webster County leading, 75-45, after an outbreak of multiple incidents on the floor involving players from both schools.

After detailed review of the incident and communication with administrators and coaches from both schools the Commissioner has issued a ruling. A total of four players from Providence will sit out a total of 19 games while three players from Webster County will miss a total of 12 games.

"Good Sportsmanship is at the heart of the mission of the Association," Commissioner DeVries said. "It is a key issue and the Association's charge to promote its practice. It is an issue with the KHSAA, the National Federation of High School Associations, the NCAA and other sports governing bodies at all levels of competition," DeVries said.

By NFHS playing rules, personnel that leave the bench area to participant in a fight are charged with a flagrant foul (disqualification). In addition per KHSAA Bylaws, schools and school representatives are subject to other penalties contained in Bylaw 33 including, but not limited to, a fine when a player or players leave the bench.

A rule change by the NFHS, effective for the 2004-05 season and discussed at required KHSAA basketball rules clinics attended by coaches and officials, emphasized that beginning in the 2004-05 season that bench personnel will be charged with a flagrant foul (disqualification) if they leave the confines of the bench when a fight may break out.

"This particular incident was preventable had the penalized students responded to attempts by adults to control the situation. When the students failed to respond, the situation escalated to a regrettable situation that cannot be tolerated. Penalizing our membership is never a pleasant thing and we hope lessons have been learned and incidents like this in the future will not occur.

"It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that a safe environment for athletic competition exists," DeVries concluded.

*For more information or comments, contact the school administration at Providence or Webster County High Schools.*

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