

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION Commissioner's Notes

AUG. 15, 2000

• COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL •

TRANSFER FORMS -- BY MAIL ONLY!!

This is an important reminder to schools that transfer forms are accepted by U.S. Mail -- ONLY!!

FAXED TRANSFER FORMS OR TRANSFER FORMS DROPPED OFF AT THE ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Forms faxed or dropped off at the Association office WILL BE RETURNED, only causing a delay in obtaining a ruling.

2000-2001 SCHOOL UPDATES

Schools were sent information regarding school updates for the 2000-2001 Handbook. Schools may now make changes via the KHSAA homepage on the Internet (www.khsaa.org) at any time during the school year. There is a "Member Schools Only" page. Using your previously-issued password, you can update your school's information at any time. It is advised that Athletic Directors perform this task to prevent duplication. School information used in the 2000-2001 Handbook reflects updates received by the KHSAA by Aug. 9. However, you can update the site year-round which will keep the KHSAA's database up-to-date for coach's mailings, etc. If you have any questions or have forgotten your password, you can contact Holly Ratliff at the KHSAA office.

UPCOMING-RECENT MAILINGS

The 2000-2001 KHSAA Handbook will, as in past years, be mailed to member schools Sept. 1. Each member school superintendent, principal and athletic director will be mailed a complimentary copy of the Handbook. Additional copies may be purchased by contacting Ms. Ratliff at the KHSAA office or ordered online (www.khsaa.org). Copies of the printed/bound Handbook are \$10 each by mail. Three-ring binder inserts are available for \$15. A complete binder Handbook (binder & insert) is \$25. Copies of the 2000-2001 KHSAA Eligibility Poster were mailed to member school principals and athletic directors on July 25. Memorandum calendars were mailed July 1. Additional copies of the calendar are available for \$8 each.

SCHOOL DUES DEADLINE

This is a reminder that Association dues for the 2000-2001 school year are payable by Sept. 1.

NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the KHSAA Board of Control will be Sept. 27-28, at the KHSAA office in Lexington. For an agenda of the meeting, contact the Association office. Board President Roland Williams has called a special meeting to review June appeals. The special meeting will be Wed., Aug. 30, beginning at 4 p.m. at the KHSAA office.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT BYLAW REVISIONS

Schools are reminded that effective July 15, many of the bylaw changes that have been made during the last couple of years went into effect. In addition, there have been revised bylaw interpretations issued in light of these changes. Many of the more prominent revisions are listed elsewhere in this issue.

RAWLINGS BALLS TO BE USED THIS SCHOOL YEAR

As approved by the Board of Control and announced following the January Board meeting, Rawlings becomes the official ball for the postseason in all sports for the Association beginning this school year (2000-2001).

Following are the identification codes to use when placing orders:

- Volleyball (KYVBI 1000B)
- Soccer (KYSB 905B)
- Football (ST5KYB)
- Basketball (boys) (Composite, wide-seam-COMPKYB)
- Basketball (girls) (Composite, wide-seam-COMPKY285B)
- Baseball (R200KY / R100KY, the R100KY will be used in state play)
- Softball (NFKY12Y47L)

Dealers desiring information and availability should contact Kentucky sales representative Dave Dickerson at (317)272-2052 or email him at ddickerson@rawlings.com.

Schools are reminded that the old balls will be legal for regular season play (as long as they have the NFHS authenticating mark) as the Board of Control does not mandate a specific ball for regular season play, and that surplus equipment can also be used at the non-varsity levels.

2000-2001 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT CALENDAR

- Oct. 2-4 - Girls' Golf - Glasgow Country Club, Glasgow
- Oct. 4-6 - Boys' Golf - Barren River State Park, Glasgow
- Oct. 27-28 - Volleyball - Ryle HS/Gray MS, Union (tentative)
- Nov. 1-2, 4 - Boys' & Girls' Soccer, Rawlings Stadium, Georgetown
- Nov. 4 - Cross Country - Ky. Horse Park, Lexington
- Nov. 17 - Eight-Man Football Final - Ky. State University, Frankfort
- Dec. 1-2 - Football - Ky. Fair & Expo Cardinal Stadium, Louisville
- Feb. 16-17 - Wrestling - Farnham-Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort
- Feb. 23-24 - Swimming & Diving - UK Lancaster Aquatic Center, Lexington
- March 14-17 - Boys' Basketball - Rupp Arena, Lexington
- March 21-24 - Girls' Basketball - WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green
- May 11-12 - Slow Pitch Softball - TBA
- May 31-June 2 - Boys' & Girls' Tennis - UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington
- June 1-2 - Track & Field - UK Shively Track Complex, Lexington
- June 8-9 - Fast Pitch Softball - Skyview Park, Jeffersontown
- June 14-15 - Baseball - UK Cliff Hagan Stadium, Lexington

ihigh.com/KHSAA WEBSITE SEMINARS

ihigh.com and the KHSAA will be conducting three regional seminars to educate and assist member schools in using the KHSAA website and in setting up and maintaining member schools' own ihigh websites. The free seminars will be held on the following dates. It is suggested that the student(s) or individual(s) who will be maintaining your site attend if at all possible. Information was mailed to school principals with registration information. For more information, contact Butch Cope at the KHSAA or Kris Comstock at ihigh.

- Sun., Sept. 10 - Lexington, Paul Dunbar HS - 2-4 p.m. (ET)
- Sun., Sept. 17 - Jeffersontown HS - 2-4 p.m. (ET)
- Sun., Sept. 24 - Bowling Green HS - 2-4 p.m. (CT)

UPCOMING CLINIC SCHEDULE (AUG. 16 - SEPT. 15)

A complete listing of Rules Clinics for the entire 2000-2001 school year is posted on the KHSAA Internet site (www.khsaa.org).

FB - Aug. 16 - Newport HS, 7 p.m.

VB - Aug. 16 - Paintsville HS, 7 p.m.

FB - Aug. 17 - Lexington, Paul Dunbar HS, 7 p.m.

GF - Aug. 23 - Owensboro, Ben Hawes State Park, 6:30 p.m.

GF - Aug. 24 - Alexandria, A.J. Jolly Golf Course, 6:30 p.m.

SO - Aug. 31 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

GF - Aug. 31 - Paducah, Paxton Park, 6:30 p.m.

GF - Sept. 6 - Louisville, Seneca Golf Course, 6:30 p.m.

GF - Sept. 7 - Winchester, Country Club, 6:30 p.m.

SW - Sept. 11 - Covington, Scott HS, 6:30 p.m.

SW - Sept. 12 - Louisville, St. Xavier HS, 6:30 p.m.

VB - Sept. 13 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - Lexington, KHSAA Office, 7 p.m.

SO - Sept. 13 - Make-Up (\$50 Fine) - Lexington, KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL STATS

The KHSAA will begin its weekly compilation of statewide football stats leaders Thurs., Sept. 7. Stats must be entered through the KHSAA internet site (www.khsaa.org) through the "Member Schools only link. The process will work much the same as the "School Updates" with each school required to utilize its previously-issued passcode. Schools may begin entering stats on Mon., Sept. 4, continuing each week throughout the regular season. Following the Football Finals, a season ranking (complete with postseason games) will be done Dec. 15. Correspondence regarding the new procedure is being directly communicated to all head football coaches.

FB (01 & 02) AND VB (00) ALIGNMENTS APPROVED

The Board of Control of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association approved alignments for Football and Volleyball at its annual July meeting at the KHSAA Office.

The approved football alignment is for the 2001 (2001-2002 school year) and 2002 (2002-2003) seasons. After sending an earlier draft to member schools for input, the Board left the final alignment intact from the draft. The volleyball alignment is for the upcoming 2000 (2000-2001 school year) Fall season.

Alignments may be viewed via the KHSAA internet site. For the football alignment, log on to www.khsaa/football/approved20012002align.htm and for the volleyball alignment log on to www.khsaa/volleyball/alignmen2000.htm. For the boys' soccer alignment, log on to www.khsaa/soccer/2000Boysalignment.htm and for the girls', log on to www.khsaa/soccer/2000Girlsalignment.htm.

COURT CASES UPDATE

At the request of many principals and superintendents, we will provide in the next issue of the Notes, a complete listing of the court cases in which the Association is involved so as to better help the membership understand the situation with the Association's legal bills and defense costs.

FOOTBALL HALF-TIME EXTENSION

At the concern of the NFHS and the KHSAA Board of Control, this is a reminder that protocol of half-time of football games should be strictly adhered to. Concern for the cool-down of the athletes and officials has been expressed. Following is the protocol for school to use.

HALF-TIME LENGTH

The normal half-time in high school football is 15 minutes. This half-time may be extended to a maximum of 20 minutes only for once during the year for homecoming. If the half-time is to be extended, the assigning secretary and the opposing school must be notified prior to the contest. The contest officials must be notified prior to five minutes before kickoff so that both teams can be notified. Without such notification, half-time shall be 15 minutes.

The spirit and intent of the rule is to allow for ONE extension per year.

It is also permissible, with agreement of both coaches, to cut the half-time intermission to 10 minutes.

HALF-TIME STARTING

The start of the half-time intermission is recommended to be when both teams leave the field. This is open for interpretation, but officials may start this intermission as soon as the teams begin leaving the team box to go to their half-time gathering location. Officials are not to wait until the field is completely clear unless the teams are unable to leave the field because of events beyond control of the participants. In addition, with a 20 minute half, the clock can be started immediately following the signal of the ball above the head to end the half.

HALF-TIME ENDING

It is a fifteen yard foul, unsportsmanlike conduct, for either team to not be ready to play at the conclusion of the scheduled half-time intermission. If 15:00 is listed for the half-time intermission, and the team is not on the field at 0:00 following the three minute warm-up period, it is an immediate 15 yard foul. If the field is not ready for play at the end of the scheduled half-time intermission, it is a 5 yard foul against the home team. Allowing for additional time at half-time without penalty is to place the officials in a bad situation with regards to allowing the athletes to cool down too long, and the risk of injury subsequently increasing.

STARTING THE THREE MINUTE WARM-UP PERIOD

After the half-time intermission (scheduled), the clock is to be reset to 3:00 and started immediately for the warm-up period. Do not wait on the teams to return. The legal obligation is to provide for a warm-up period, not ensure that warm-ups are conducted. It is the coach's liability and concern if they do not utilize the warm-up period.

COMPETITION - FOUR CONSECUTIVE DAYS PROHIBITED

This is a reminder to schools regarding Bylaw 25 - Limitations of Seasons - Four Consecutive Days - as you schedule sports for the upcoming year.

Bylaw 25 - Sec. 1 (2)

(1) Schedule of Contests on Consecutive Days

Contests shall be scheduled so that there are not four consecutive days of competition on any Monday through Thursday period while school is in session.

Q/A 2 - Does the limit on consecutive day contests extend to non-varsity teams? Yes. A school non-varsity team must also have a day of non competition on Monday through Thursday just as is the case for the varsity team. The intent and spirit of this rule is to ensure that each athlete has at least one day per week not committed to athletic participation.

Q/A 3 - What is the spirit and intent of Bylaw 25 as it relates to athletes who play on more than one level team (i.e. junior varsity and varsity) in the same sport? The intent of the rule is that each athlete shall be guaranteed at least one night (Monday through Thursday) where participation in an interscholastic contest is not required to allow for time to properly attend to academic pursuits and other priorities.

FAALL SPORTS TEAM PHOTOS DUE OCT. 1

This is a reminder that each school is responsible for forwarding to the KHSAA office a team photograph and identification for requested sports.

The first deadline for team photos is Oct. 6. Pictures are due at that time only for the sports of VOLLEYBALL, BOYS' SOCCER, GIRLS' SOCCER and FOOTBALL. Failure to submit the photos WILL result in a fine assessed to the school.

Please remember that the photo MUST BE AN ORIGINAL – faxed copies, copies of photos, newspaper copies, or laser printer printouts ARE NOT acceptable. If you wish to e-mail a scanned photo, you may send it to bcoppe@khsaa.org. Please make sure the photo is scanned at 300 dpi and is not bitmapped. The file must be saved in a .TIF, .GIF, or .JPG format.

Also, please make sure you have additional copies for any potential use by district and regional tournament managers. Due to the timeliness of producing the various programs, the KHSAA cannot “wait” until a particular round or other vendor is finished with the photo prior to receiving its copy of the photograph.

Future deadlines for other sports will be published in issues of the Commissioner's Notes and *the Athlete* magazine.

BYLAW 4 REMINDER

During the 1999-2000 school year, the Association released a revised interpretation as it relates to middle school students who are repeating a grade. In addition, the issue of students dressing for varsity games in football, soccer and wrestling came up last year in an investigation and the entire issue was reviewed. The interpretations relative to those issues are listed below.

Q/A 4 - Are there legal provisions for red shirting of athletes or for gaining additional semesters due to injury or for those students retained in grades 4-8 by the parents? No. Red shirting, or holding a student back for the purpose of athletics is strictly prohibited and goes against the basic principles of fair play. According to OAG82-473 opinion, the promotion and retention of students in all grades are the direct and sole responsibility of the policy developed by the local board of education. There are no provisions in the bylaws for medical red shirting or other types or repeating in order to allow for additional semesters due to sports related injuries. The KHSAA Board of Control reaffirmed in July of 1999 that athletics is indeed a privilege and not a right, and in fact, waivers should only be granted in the case where the right to basic education services is impacted due to illness or injury rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege.

Q/A 5 - May a student who is repeating a grade (below grade nine) play interscholastic sports for the middle school / junior high school? That determination is left to the discretion of the local site based decision-making body for the school in accordance with adopted SBDM policies. It has been determined and reaffirmed by the Department of Education that the Association's jurisdiction is presently limited to the member high schools of the Association and not the related middle or junior high schools. However, those students who are repeating a grade are prevented in all situations from representing a KHSAA member school in a contest at any level (grades 9-12) during the year being repeated whether or not that student played interscholastic sports at any level during the first year in the grade.

Q/A 8 - May a student who is below grade nine (9) practice with the varsity team in the sports of football, soccer and wrestling or dress in the game uniform and / or participate in warm-up activities before and during varsity football, soccer and wrestling contests? No. The provisions of this legislation (HB 750 1990) were in place to protect these students from unnecessary exposure to potential injury, and such exposure is just as likely to occur in practice as it is in games. In addition, neither students enrolled in feeder schools (under the same local Board of Education) nor enrolled in other schools may wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities prior to, during or after a varsity contest in the sports of football, soccer or wrestling. Only those students duly enrolled in the member school and at the 9th grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area.

BYLAW 5 REMINDER

With the start of school, it is important to review the grades of each student-athlete and put into place procedures to ensure eligibility throughout the year.

Sec. 2. Continual Progress During the School Year

On Friday of each grading period, a student shall also 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 next seven day period (Saturday through Friday). No special tests or recitations are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

Q/A 2 - May a student who is not eligible participate in a game practice with the team? No. If a participant is ineligible he/she may not try-out, practice, or participate in games or scrimmages until eligible, and minimum practice periods (i.e. ten days for football) do not begin accumulating until the ruling is complete. Ineligible persons practicing with the team jeopardize the insurance coverage of all participants and the liability coverage of the school, school system and individual coverage. The only exception to this policy is the practice of otherwise eligible students who are not eligible for the team's next contest due to the penalty for sportsmanship violations (Bylaw 11).

Q/A 3 - May a student who was ineligible as of the last Friday grade check of a school year practice with the varsity team during the season (Bylaw 25 specified practice dates) before school begins? No, until school has begun and a school has checked grades on the first Friday opportunity, any student who was not passing four hours of instruction as of the last valid Friday grade check of the previous school year could not be eligible. Schools are cautioned to remember the recently revised provisions of KHSAA Bylaw 9 which state that any student not eligible to play in the team's next contest is not eligible to practice with the squad.

REMINDER ABOUT START OF PRACTICE AND PLAY AND COACHING RESTRICTIONS

Q/A 3 - What are the restrictions for a coach being involved in the coaching of his/her own players during the school year either before the first legal practice date or after the last date for playing a contest? No. Coaches may not coach the school participants in organized non-school sports competition in that sport during the authorized high school sports season in that sport. Coaching is defined as any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, practiced or evaluated.

Though specific practice and play dates are in place for each sport, the interpretative season is the academic school year as far as coaching limitations. **THIS LIMIT BEGINS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND ENDS ON THE EARLIER OF THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL OR MAY 31.** The high school coach or any assistant coach or non faculty assistant may not coach members of the high school team in a league outside of the school's regular season competition during the school year, regardless of the type of league, as it would be a violation of the rules governing the Limitation of Seasons. **THE COACHES ARE NOT TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THESE GAMES OR CONTESTS IN OUTSIDE LEAGUES IF HELD PRIOR TO MAY 31 OR HELD DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE.**

The Limitation of Seasons, Bylaw 25, affects all sports. This also restricts the coach in any sport from being involved with students in another team from that sport from that school. For example, the girls' coach cannot coach the boys' team in outside competition, or vice-versa.

The provisions of that rule as interpreted, state that following the team's last regular season contest, there shall be no further practice or play as a team or individuals under the supervision of a member of the coaching staff for the remainder of the school year or until after May 31, whichever is earlier, with the exception of practice and play for the KHSAA tournament. The published exception to this restriction is that the team and coaches may continue to

practice through elimination from KHSAA sanctioned post-season play. Provisions of that rule also stipulate a beginning date for practice, which implicitly prohibits practice during the school year prior to that date. Coaches are not to be involved in coaching the team or individual players in an outside league, or in other competition during the academic school year. **TRY-OUTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF ORGANIZED PRACTICE AND MUST BE HELD DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE PERIOD SPELLED OUT IN BY-LAW 25.**

In addition, coaches may not be involved with the school representatives during the approved summer dead period as enumerated in Bylaw 26.

Q/A 5 - What is the Association ruling on Out of Season play and practice? What is an "Open Gym / Field"? "Open Gym / Field" is defined as the school making its gymnasium or athletic field available for free play by any member of the public and/or student body. The availability of the open gym/field must be made public through public address announcements, media advisories, etc. and cannot be restricted to members of a particular team.

What is an organized practice? For interpretation purposes, an organized practice would be a practice of the squad or potential squad members in a particular sport, in the presence of a member of the coaching staff in that particular sport, in which skills are taught, refined, practiced or evaluated by the coach or any other individual.

Can players be assigned to teams in an Open Gym/Field? No, students may not be assigned to teams or groups, and play is to be open to all students and not required of the student-athletes.

Can the coach be present? NO. No coach of any level of a team in the school in that specific sport may be in the gym/field during the open gym/field period if any sport specific skill is being taught, refined, developed or evaluated. Under no circumstances may a member of the coaching staff in that sport play against or with the students involved in the open gym/field. This does not preclude the supervision of such non sports-specific activities as running and weight lifting, which is not considered sport specific practice as long as it is open to the public and no sport specific activities are concurrently held..

Can the coach in a sport perform any coaching duties during the non-play period (outside of the limitation of seasons as defined for each sport)? NO, though the coach's presence may not indicate any improper action, it does contribute greatly to the perception of an illegal practice session.

How does a school publicize "Open Gym/Field"? Announcements in the school paper, notices in the local newspapers, public address announcements and posted printed announcements can be utilized to publicize the open gym/field. In each of these mechanisms, it should be clear that the announcement includes the fact that it is voluntary and open to the entire student body.

Can the squad members execute plays, offenses, etc. on their own? If the persons participating in the open gym/field happen to be members of the squad, they are free to play as they wish. They are not to be directed by any member of the coaching staff nor should they be evaluated, praised, or criticized for their efforts by staff members or persons designated by the sport coaching staff.

What about insurance coverage for Open Field/Gym? The KHSAA catastrophic plan does not cover student athletes participating in open gym/field. All coverage would revert to the school coverage, or the coverage by the individual student-athletes and his/her family.