

Commissioner's Notes

SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

• PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL •

OUT OF SEASON PLAY AND AWARDS RULES

We have had several inquiries related to the awards rule and players participating in events which offer cash for prizes. Nothing in the KHSAA Handbook prohibits a student from playing in such events and mere participation is not a rules violation. However, in light of recent situations at the high school and college level, we would offer several suggestions for Athletic Directors, Principals and Coaches to pass along to the student athletes.

- 1) Recommend strongly that these students should not participate in such events. Even the appearance of possible "cash for play" rewards lends itself to suspicion and allegations of the violation of Bylaw 12 and the PERMANENT loss of amateur status;
- 2) Remind the students of the provisions of KHSAA Bylaw 12 in that they cannot accept cash, gift certificates or things that cannot be properly personalized and in addition, they cannot have the money or prizes deferred to a later date or given in someone else's name;
- 3) If they insist on participation, request that event organizers denote a list, and post prominently such list, of those students who are competing in the competition, but will not be accepting prizes;
- 4) Make sure the students understand that they may accept specific prizes up to the limit of the National Governing Body for that sport, but cannot under any circumstances, accept a gift voucher or simply be given an amount to spend.

Number (4) above appears to be the most frequently violated from the anecdotal evidence in the office, as for example, a golfer is told he can go to the pro shop, and spend up to \$50 for finishing third in a tournament. This is not legal and potentially renders the athlete PERMANENTLY ineligible at all amateur levels. If for example, the prize was predetermined that the third place finisher was to receive a golf bag as displayed at the 18th hole, then if that bag is under the NGB limit for golf (assume it had a price of \$80), then it could be accepted. But that same golfer could not be allowed to go spend \$80 in the pro shop. While this may seem like a minute difference, it is the position of the KHSAA that we should do everything possible to protect the amateur status of our competitors. Please contact the Association office should you have any further questions.

CLARIFICATION ON BYLAW 8

Each member school is being mailed with this issue of the Commissioner's Notes, a ruling issued based upon an inquiry from Woodford County High School. Please carefully review this ruling and its applicability to your situation and the playing of students enrolled below grade nine in football and soccer. It is important that this information be passed along to your coaches and this is a necessary revision from previous interpretations. Please contact the office should you have any questions.

STATE LOSES GREAT SUPPORTER OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Simply known as "The Dipper", Richard Blount died Aug. 26 suffering a heart attack. Dipper was one of the voices of the mountains and conducted a local radio show for many years on WSGS-Radio in Hazard. Blount was a fixture at the Boys' and Girls' State Tournaments, often conducting his radio show courtside during the Sweet 16. The KHSAA and high school sports have lost a true friend.

POST SEASON SITE SELECTION PLANS

Member schools should note that on the KHSAA web site is a listing of the current site selection plans for baseball, basketball and wrestling as on file with the office. Many sites did not update rotations following the tournaments held during the 2000-2001 school year, and therefore in many cases, the information is either missing or out of date. It is also important to note that several regional sites in these sports are designated to be hosted by selected districts. The specific school recommended hosts should be determined by September 30 in all of these sports to allow for proper communication with the sites. Please also note that the final selection of these sites is the jurisdiction of the Commissioner's office, however, we rely very heavily on the wishes of the membership.

CORRESPONDING DATE REMINDERS

Schools should carefully consult pages 106 and 107 of the KHSAA Handbook as it relates to scheduling contests for 2002-03 and beyond. This is the "rollover" year for corresponding dates, and it is important that those dates be compared as next year's corresponding date is "plus six" days from the current year date, not "minus one" as it usually is when you look at future dates. For basketball (page 34) and football (35), further breakdowns of corresponding dates are contained in Bylaw 25 to assist you in scheduling. Please also remember that the Association will not and cannot by rule, enforce contract provisions of a game contract which calls for "corresponding dates" rather than specific game dates and times.

WELCOME COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The KHSAA would like to welcome its newest member school, Community Christian High School in Paducah. They are placed in the appropriate KHSAA district and/or region in baseball, and we are sure you wish them luck as our newest member. For coach's names and information, go to:
<http://www.khsaa.org/directory/s322.htm>.

SCORE CALL IN REMINDER

Please remind your boys' and girls' soccer, and football coaches to call the KHSAA scoreboard at 1-888-366-8706 (toll free) with their scores **IMMEDIATELY** following the completion of the game.

INTERPRETATION ISSUED RELATIVE TO BY-LAW 25 AND COACHES AT MORE THAN ONE LEVEL

Rowan County High School recently sought clarification as to the coaching of a high school coach (grade 9-12 at any level of play), being involved in coaching out of season play in the same sport within the school system. Though hiring decisions can and must be made at the local level, this can inadvertently place a school out of compliance with KHSAA Bylaw 25 if the school below grade nine has players who "played up" to the high school level (freshman, JV, varsity) in that sport. If the coach has coached in any capacity (head or assistant coach) with your high school team at any level (freshman, JV or varsity) and players from the middle/junior high school have "played up" to the high school team (freshman, JV or varsity) in that coach's sport, then he/she cannot coach those players on that middle/junior high school team in that sport if the coaching duties would occur outside of the Limitation of Seasons. If no student from the middle/junior high school level "plays up", there is no rule to keep the coach from doing more than one level within a system and at any time during the year. The problem occurs when those student athletes below grade nine play up, then they cannot be coached by the same person at both levels and is particularly complicated when the schools are not playing in concurrent seasons (i.e. middle school plays basketball in fall).

BYLAW 25 LIMITATION OF SEASON, SWIMMING

During the 2000 Annual Meeting of the membership, the delegates passed an amendment to Bylaw 25 to start swimming practice on October 15 each year. This amendment has been in the process of getting final regulatory approval since that time. In the meantime, the schools passed an amendment restoring the date to October 1 at the 2001 Annual Meeting due to safety concerns. Due to the safety and preparation implications, and since it is the obvious wishes of the membership to restore the date to October 1 based on the 2001 Annual Meeting vote, the Commissioner's office will interpret that for the 2001-02 school year, practice can start October 1. We fully anticipate final regulatory approval of the October 1 change very soon so that the Handbook can be revised for the 2002-03 printing, however, it will be interpreted as October 1 for this school year.

BYLAW 25 OUT OF SEASON PRACTICE

There have been several reports of member schools continuing to violate Bylaw 25 Limitation of Season. Practice out of season is a violation and the Commissioner's office would like to make all member schools aware that any violation verified will result in penalties being imposed. Member schools should not have to be constantly reminded of ByLaw 25 Limitation of Season.

REMAINING SWIMMING CLINIC DATES

(All start at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)
9/19 Lexington, UK Lancaster Aquatic Center
10/11 Bowling Green HS

FALL SPORTS TEAM PHOTOS DUE OCT. 5

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. 5. 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 print-outs **ARE NOT** acceptable. If you wish to e-mail a scanned photo, you may send it to bcope@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.

REGIONAL GOLF SITES AND MANAGERS

BOYS

Region 1	Drake Creek, Ledbetter	David Pope
Region 2	Madisonville Country Club	Matt Bell
Region 3	Barren River State Park, Lucas	John Belcher
Region 4	Winchester Country Club	Wesley Martin
Region 5	Campbellsville Golf Course	David Parsons
Region 6	Iroquois Golf Course, Louisville	Paul Denison
Region 7	Seneca, Louisville	Marty Donlon
Region 8	Kenton County, Willows Course	Rick Hornsby
Region 9	Laurel Oaks, Maysville	Jeff Shulkens
Region 10	Crooked Creek, London	Bob Tucker
Region 11	Stonecrest, Prestonburg	Nelson Gullett
Region 12	The Oaks, Flatwoods	Larry Slone

State Tournament London Country Club Oct. 1-3

GIRLS

Region 1	Mayfield Country Club	Lanny Lancaster
Region 2	Ben Hawes, Owensboro	Jay Fillman
Region 3	Elizabethtown Country Club	George Lynch
Region 4	Long Run Golf Course, Louisville	Marty Pollio
Region 5	Barren River, Lucas	Mike Harris
Region 6	Henry County Country Club (tent.)	Steve Swank
Region 7	Picadome Golf Course, Lexington	Lou Brown
Region 8	London Country Club	Susan Cochis
Region 9	Winchester Country Club	Amber Anderson
Region 10	River Bend, Ashland	Cindy Caniff

State Tournament Eagle's Nest Country Club, Somerset Oct. 3-5

RECENT MAILINGS

The 2001-2002 KHSAA Handbook has been mailed to member schools. Each member school superintendent, principal and athletic director will receive a copy. Additional copies may be purchased by contacting Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office or ordering online. For a complete listing of KHSAA publications please check the website (www.khsaa.org).

SCHOOL UPDATES

Please remember to keep your school information updated via the KHSAA website (www.khsaa.org). There is a "Member Schools Only" link and, using your passcode, you can update your school information. It is advised that Athletic Directors perform this task to prevent duplication.

If you have any questions, contact Marilyn Mitchell (859-299-5472) at the KHSAA office.

TWO MAJOR EQUIPMENT CHANGES APPROVED IN BASEBALL

The National Federation has announced two major equipment changes in baseball, and the Association wants to be sure that prior to any equipment purchases, schools are advised of the change. First, the catching helmet must have ear flaps on both sides. This would make illegal any cap that only covers the top of the head. In addition, for the 2003 season, the cap shall meet the NOCSAE test standard.

In another change, the NFHS Baseball Committee has approved a change which mandates that bats comply with Ball Exit Speed Ratio (BESR) requirements beginning in 2003, and that bats shall be marked as such. This is an important change which should be passed along to parents to ensure that they do not use illegal equipment.

VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

All previously mailed information to volleyball coaches will be posted on the website (www.khsaa.org). Please make sure all coaches in and out of the school are referred there.

SANCTIONS

This is a reminder regarding the policy of the National Federation for sanctioning out-of state contests. KHSAA member schools hosting an event are to complete the sanction form and include a processing fee in the amount of \$75.00. The fee should be made payable to the National Federation and sent to the KHSAA. The KHSAA is responsible for forwarding the form and fee to the National Federation Office. When Kentucky member schools are participating in out-of-state contests, the host school from out-of-state is responsible for completing the sanction form. A sanction form is not required if all participating schools are from bordering states of Kentucky. Please note, however, that Tennessee and West Virginia require a sanction form for every out of state event. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA office.

NEXT BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next regular meeting of the KHSAA Board of Control will be Thurs., Sept. 20, at the Association Office in Lexington. For an agenda to the meeting, contact the KHSAA.

RESCHEDULED SOCCER CONTESTS

KHSAA policy is that, if participating schools decide to finish a suspended or halted soccer contest, it should be resumed from the point of interruption. The contest should not start anew from the beginning. The policy with regard to dealing with the assignment of officials for these "continued" contests can be found on page 200 of the 2001-2002 KHSAA Handbook under the topic "Severe Weather Policy For Outdoor Sports".

REVISED TRANSFER FORMS ENCLOSED

Enclosed each school will find a clean copy of KHSAA Form GE6 for domestic transfer students and KHSAA Form GE7 for foreign students (and other non-domestic transfers). These should be used beginning immediately and for all future transfers. PLEASE IMMEDIATELY DESTROY ALL OTHER VERSIONS OF THIS FORM AS THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THIS OFFICE AND WILL BE RETURNED FOR COMPLETION OF THE NEW FORM. Additional copies can be duplicated from this original, or an additional original can be obtained from the KHSAA web site, www.khsaa.org/forms.

**"THE ONLY OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS
ARE THOSE IN WRITING."**