



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: KHSAA Board of Control, KHSAA Executive Staff  
FROM: Chad Collins, General Counsel  
DATE: November 11, 2011  
RE: Alcohol Policy

At the September Board of Control Meeting, an inquiry began regarding the need for a policy relating to the sale and consumption of alcohol at KHSAA events across the state. As General Counsel, I was tasked to draft language and research issues relating to such a policy. As a part of my research, I inquired to several states, many in this general geographic area, in order to see what policy they may have and how they deal with the issue.

In total, I inquired with 9 different states including: 1) Indiana, 2) Iowa, 3) Missouri, 4) Maryland, 5) Illinois, 6) South Dakota, 7) North Dakota, 8) Colorado, and 9) Nebraska. Of the nine, only two (Illinois and Iowa) has any formal written policy regarding the sale or consumption of alcohol. One of the two, Iowa simply relies on a state statute that prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol on public school property **or** while attending a public or private school related function. Both states limit their policy to only state championship events and do not address the regular season.

For the purpose of continuing the discussion, I have drafted the following initial language for a policy: "The possession, distribution, sale, or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at the site of any KHSAA event by any spectator or participant. It is important to note that any contests held on public school property already have alcohol prohibitions based on a 1976 Attorney General Opinion supported by state law. However, this does not address contests held off school grounds. It is also important to have a policy that is flexible enough to accommodate certain venues, such as golf and bowling.

As you can see from the relatively small sampling, most states do not have any formal policy whatsoever. However, each state does prohibit the sale or consumption of alcohol at their state events. As they control the post-season, they simply prohibit the sale on their own. It is interesting that none of the states I contacted touch the regular season at all. As it has been the KHSAA's general approach to leave the regular season to local control, a policy that addresses more than the post-season would be inconsistent with that approach. Nevertheless, such a policy may be in order.

One matter to consider is our ability to utilize the NFHS and survey all the member associations on this issue. It could be helpful to ascertain how many associations have formalized a policy and whether it is limited to only the post-season. We should also ascertain whether the remaining states prohibit such activities without any formal policy. After this information is gathered, a long term decision on this issue could be made.