



Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

## Fwd: Soccer Realignment

1 message

Barren, Michael <mbarren@khsaa.org>  
To: Julian Tackett <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Tue, Jan 10, 2012 at 2:24 PM

LAST ONE

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From: **LeMonds, Chris** <[chris.lemonds@boyle.kyschools.us](mailto:chris.lemonds@boyle.kyschools.us)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 9, 2012 at 2:44 PM  
Subject: Soccer Realignment  
To: "[mbarren@khsaa.org](mailto:mbarren@khsaa.org)" <[mbarren@khsaa.org](mailto:mbarren@khsaa.org)>

Mike,

I spent some time talking with my soccer coaches the other day and they brought up some good points and concerns about the soccer realignment. So with the vote for re-alignment coming soon I would like to express my concerns/questions as athletic director in regards to the changes in soccer.

From past emails and meetings with KHSAA I believe that the purpose of re-alignment is to help keep natural rivalries, cut down on travel, and to prepare for the "booming" growth of soccer across the state. While I'm not completely sold on the rivalry issue that a win in a soccer regional will raise the intensity of basketball regional or baseball regional game. I respect this stance and see that this is a decision made by the KHSAA. My concern with this is re-alignment will destroy many great rivalries already established.

With the new alignment, most regions in the state will have gone from 4 teams to 8 teams, while in Eastern Kentucky, one region will go from 8 teams to as few as 4-5 teams. With this change we are "hoping" that some of these schools in Eastern Kentucky will consistantly have a soccer team. If they are not able to have a team on a consistant basis this will hurt these regions numbers due to the lack of consistency of having a team year in year out. In essence, it's giving the appearance that this change will benefit one area of the state while the remaining part of the state will undergo drastic change. Thus leading many to believe this move is not for what's best for all kids, but what's best for kids in one part of the state.

My feelings on this matter is why not be patient and wait to see the development of soccer in more schools then make the switch. There is nothing wrong with being patient to make sure we get the change right the first time. In an email and a meeting for school administrators in late October or early November, it was stated that re-alignment was going to be discussed for 2013. Then 10 days to 2 weeks later the email was sent that it was going to a vote for change in 2012. This conflicting information is puzzling to me. Why the change of the year of implementation? Using patience will only help us as administrators and the KHSAA to make the best decision for all kids playing soccer.

In addition, with it being implemented in 2012, both soccer and football (Freshmen and JV) schedules are finalized. Soccer schedules were final prior to the email indicating all contracts prior to Jan 14th would be void if

re-alignment was passed. Also, football's freshmen and JV schedules are final thus by implementing this in 2012, this will force not just soccer but football as well, to change their schedules and schools using one field for boys, girls soccer and freshmen/JV football will become a nightmare to reschedule. By waiting until 2013 this will allow us as administrators to be prepared.

With that being said, if re-alignment is going to pass for the 2012 season, my big question and concern is the post season set up after regional play. For soccer to continue to grow and be successful, I would like your opinion on the idea of a new format for the state tournament set up.

If we intend to keep all regions aligned with basketball, then is the KHSAA looking to revise the current state tournament format to a new format similar to basketball? It would make sense and would be able to bring more revenue and excitement to the soccer state tournament. Below is an idea that I think would be beneficial and profitable if re-alignment were to happen and the KHSAA is willing to change the state tournament format.

Utilize a blind draw, just like basketball, and bring all teams into a central Ky location. Two locations will be needed for the first weekend. Turf fields will be best.

Also, if I am wrong on any of these comments I don't mind you letting me know so that I can relay this information back to my coaches. Thanks

Chris LeMonds  
Athletic Director  
Boyle County High School  
[859-236-5047](tel:859-236-5047)

"people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." John Wooden

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Michael J. Barren, CMAA  
Assistant Commissioner  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505  
[\(859\) 299-5472](tel:859-299-5472)  
[mbarren@khsaa.org](mailto:mbarren@khsaa.org)

*"If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me."* D.L.Moody

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