



Kentucky High School Athletic Association
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January 30, 2013

Principal Danielle Weigandt
Holy Cross High School
5144 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216-1702

Re: Ruling and Order of the Commissioner – KHSAA Bylaw Violations

Dear Ms. Weigandt:

This letter is in response to your preliminary report regarding potential violations submitted to the KHSAA. Following your responses, I have reviewed the information to determine whether Holy Cross (Louisville) ("HCHS") High School violated KHSAA Bylaws and have strongly factored into the decisions related to this matter, your responses to the individual inquiries and your recommended internal remedies.

Specifically, the reviewed allegations were as follows:

1. That HCHS Head Football Coach Todd Crumbacker entered non-enrolled student X and student Y (public school students at a non-feeder school to HCHS) into a school-based weightlifting competition.
2. That student Y, a 8th grade student/athlete (who is currently attending North Bullitt) was recruited by Coach Crumbacker in violation of Bylaw 10 as the coach attended his youth football games and the invited the young man to Holy Cross Games.
3. That student X was also invited to attend, and stood on the sideline of a Holy Cross Football game.

Based on the review and the information gathered by the KHSAA staff, there is not compelling evidence to reach a finding that allegations (2) and (3) as listed above are in fact verifiable as being a violation of Bylaw 10. The amount of communal area at the facility where the alleged inappropriate contact occurred creates enough doubt to prevent a verifiable finding in the opinion of both the investigation of the staff that reviewed and researched the matter, and myself. There was however, enough potential for violation that it is a strong statement by you and your administration that you have taken steps to prevent even the perception of a violation in the future. It is also noted for the record that while these conversations referenced in allegations (2) and (3) were allegedly initiated by parents, the coaches were at best, slow to refer the matter to the Principal or Designated Representative as required, and at worst, deliberate situations where the coaches used the initiated conversation as an open-ended opportunity to potentially violate Bylaw 10.

As it relates to allegation 1, and after consideration of all of material provided, including the investigation results within this office, I have reached the following conclusions related to this matter. It was made apparent that the staff at HCHS had been misapplying/misinterpreting the provisions of Bylaw 10 as it relates to non-enrolled students. Statements from HCHS staff members indicated a prevailing conclusion within the school that non-enrolled students who had taken the entrance exam to HCHS were now considered to be in the "feeder" pattern of the school as it relates to Bylaw 10, and all restrictions on participation were therefore moot. While

this allows for the administration to respond to communication requests for information, etc., it does not allow for participation. This would be contrary to the published rules and interpretations of KHSAA Bylaw 10 that stipulate that until officially enrolled at a specific member school (and no longer enrolled in a non-feeder pattern school) a student could not represent that member school in athletic activity.

Based on the review and the information gathered by the KHSAA staff, it is clear that allegation (1) above is verifiable, and is in fact, a violation of KHSAA Bylaw 10 did occur. While these competitions were not sanctioned or governed by the Association, the activity of HCHS coaches had the clear intention of asserting the students being representatives of HCHS. In addition, it is without doubt that once the activity became supervised by an HCHS coaching staff member, the line was crossed regarding HCHS involvement with non-enrolled students.

Based on these findings, I am issuing the following penalties in this case.

I am accepting the penalties proposed by you in accordance with Bylaw 1 in this matter to include:

1. All Holy Cross High School coaches attended a mandatory 2 hour rules training session lead primarily by the principal, as the primary lead for institutional control, in June 2012. Bylaw 10 was explicitly explained, examples given and compliance demanded.
2. The Holy Cross High School Athletic Director conducted an all-sports parent meeting in July 2012 in which recruiting violations and details of Bylaw 10 were explicitly explain as it pertains to parents.
3. The Holy Cross High School Football Coaching staff has not (during 2012-2013) /will not attend any Bullitt County Youth events, even for those coaches who live in Bullitt County.
4. Head Coach Todd Crumbacker will be suspended from participating during the 1st five (5) Spring Football practices in 2013.
5. The-Holy Cross High School Coaches Handbook is undergoing revision during the 2012-2013 school year with a detailed section outlining recruiting, Bylaw 10, feeder/non-feeder pattern, etc.

In addition, I am issuing the following penalties on behalf of the Association:

1. When the revisions to the Coaches Handbook are in near final form, that manual shall be submitted to this office for approval. Specifically, this office will ensure that the restrictions surrounding the relevant eligibility rules are clearly delineated in that manual. It remains highly advisable that multimedia or other explanatory presentations be developed to ensure the current compliance attitude remains in place through turnover in both coaches and administration;
2. Prior to the 2013-2014 school year, HCHS shall submit written acknowledgement from each coach that the Coaches Handbook has been reviewed and your expectations for compliance have been met;
3. The football program at HCHS will be placed on PROBATION, and remain on probation through the remainder of the 2013 season. Any further violations of KHSAA rules will results in additional penalties, however such PROBATION does not impact game scheduling or playoff eligibility;
4. HCHS is issued an administrative FINE in the amount of \$500 for this specific violation of Bylaw 10. Such fine shall be paid by the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. Certainly the amount of this fine has been mitigated by the decisive action taken by you as Principal in this matter in addressing the concerns relative to specific individuals.

It is my understanding that your Athletic Director, who has been especially cooperative throughout this review, is well on the way to completing the majority of these remedies. If you need further assistance from this office in finalizing the matter, please feel free to write or call this office.

I hope it is clear to both you and your school community that it is never easy to place sanctions on a school and potentially penalize young people, their families and school communities. However, the violations that have occurred are extremely serious in nature and our member schools expect this office to investigate and administer the appropriate penalties that are prescribed in our bylaws when we have credible, detailed information.

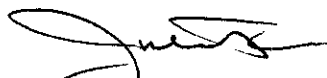
You are to be commended for the aggressive and decisive action taken in response to this situation. Your proposed penalties represent not only a clear identification of the problems that had existed, but strong leadership in resolving them and ensuring that they not occur again. This factored strongly into my imposition of penalties. Hopefully, both you and those involved in your athletic administration have a continued recognition for the need to closely monitor all aspects and complexities of the interscholastic athletic program. Undoubtedly, this situation has been a burden on both you and the institution and potentially detracted from academic achievement. While athletic success (or the potential for success) has many positive values in a school setting, it cannot be allowed to override the education mission of the school.

With this action and the imposition of the required penalties, this matter is considered closed. An invoice is enclosed for the amount of the fine from this office, inclusive of the restitution for the investigative assistance. Following the public release of this information, there will be no further comment by KHSAA representatives to the media or in response to inquiries from the media, and all such requests for comments will be directed to you as Principal of the school.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

An aggrieved party may appeal the Commissioner's ruling in accordance with the KHSAA Due Process Procedure. An appeal seeking a ruling based on unknown or speculative factors shall be dismissed as premature. Please note that, under the KHSAA Due Process Procedure, this is considered a "Board Matter", and as such, any appeal would go directly to the KHSAA Board of Control for a formal hearing with any member who has had "ex-parte" communication relative to the matter being forced to recuse his/her self from involvement.

Sincerely,



Julian Tackett
Commissioner

JT/mm

xc: HCHS Athletic Director Jody Thornsberry
Chad Collins, KHSAA
KHSAA Executive Staff
KHSAA Board of Control