



April 19, 2013

Mr. Julian Tackett
Commissioner
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Commissioner Tackett:

The Bluegrass State Games (BGSF), the signature event of the Bluegrass Sports Commission (BSC), is entering its 29th year in 2013 and we appreciate the longtime partnership, cooperation and support the Games have received from the KHSAA through the years. The KHSAA has been one of the most important partners of the Games and one of the reasons it is one of the largest and longest-running events of its kind in the nation.

The purpose of this letter is to propose extending our current partnership to include a new boys' and girls' basketball pre-season event. We feel the players, coaches and parents can benefit from the spirit and atmosphere of the events to prepare for their upcoming season. Currently, soccer (approx. 150 teams) and volleyball (approx. 115 teams) are very popular events in the BGSF. Both have been deemed exempt by the KHSAA, but they are popular not just because of this exemption. They are also popular because the events are administered well, utilize top officials from around the state, take place at proper facilities and will always have the best medical supervision. We think the same benefits reaped by soccer and volleyball can also be true in boys' and girls' basketball.

We also feel this event can afford several benefits to the KHSAA. Similar to high school volleyball in the BGSF, this event would provide an opportunity for official training and evaluation. It would also provide a statewide event that would allow the KHSAA to conduct other pre-season educational programs, such as anti-drug messaging, recruiting advice, anti-gambling messaging, and other possible KHSAA-supported messages.

To that end, we propose the following:

Concept:

The BGSF organize and administer the 2013 BGSF High School Basketball Preseason Showcase for boys' and girls' on separate weekends. The event would be open to all KHSAA schools in good standing. The event would be administered directly by BGSF personnel and the venues.

Format:

Although we are open to KHSAA input, we are not proposing a tournament, but instead a showcase whereby each team would play two games.

Venue(s):

The event would take place at the Kentucky Basketball Academy (KBA) and other gyms in central Kentucky as the number of teams dictate. The BSC has many relationships with facilities across the region and we are confident we can accommodate a large amount of teams.

Proposed 2013 Dates:

Boys – November 1-3; Girls – November 8-11.

Organizer:

The Bluegrass State Games, as the signature event of the Bluegrass Sports Commission. The BSC is an independent, non-profit 501c3 organization. It is governed by a 24-member board of directors. The mission of the Games is to promote amateur athletics across the Commonwealth to provide Kentuckians of all ages and skill levels a wholesome avenue for positive development through sports and physical activity, to promote and develop amateur athletics and to provide the amateur athlete an opportunity to showcase their talent and receive statewide recognition. The BSGS is a member of the National Congress of State Games which is a member of the United States Olympic Committee.

KHSAA Action Request:

We request the KHSAA allow its members in good standing to participate in this showcase and count it only as one scrimmage toward their limit of two.

We realize there are many factors the KHSAA must take into account when deciding on a request such as this. We hope the BSGS – a statewide non-profit organization with a 28-year history of serving Kentucky's young people – is seen as a trustworthy organization that always has the best interests of the student-athletes at heart.

Together, we have provided safe, exciting and competitive opportunities for Kentucky's youth to learn the value of healthy competition and sportsmanship. We also feel our partnership has benefited current and future student-athletes at KHSAA member institutions. We appreciate your time and consideration and are available to discuss this further at your convenience.

Regards,



Terry Johnson
Executive Director
Bluegrass Sports Commission