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November 8, 2013

Angela Passafiume
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Re: Leslie County High School's Request to
Return to Class 2A Region 7 for KHSAA
Track and Field Competition

Dear Angela:

The purpose of this letter is to request a transfer of Leslie County High School's Track and Field Team from Class 1A, Region 7, to Class 2A, Region 7. Leslie County's Track and Field Team has been in Class 2A, Region 7, for many years. In fact, for three of the past five years, Leslie County High School's Track and Field Team was voted by the Regional Coaches to be the host school for the KHSAA Regional Meet for the Class 2A, Region 7 teams.

In this past July, Leslie County was moved from Class 2A, Region 7 to Class 1A, Region 7. This move will place Leslie County High School at a geographic and financial disadvantage. This move will also place the teams within Class 2A, Region 7 (the region from which Leslie County was removed) at a disadvantage. Following is a list of the teams in Class 2A, Region 7, from which Leslie County was removed:

Belfry, Breathitt County, East Ridge, Estill County, Johnson Central, Knott County Central, Letcher County Central, Perry County Central, Pike County Central, and Powell County.

None of these ten teams have a track which is KHSAA certified for a Regional Track meet. Leslie County hosts many of these teams throughout the regular track season as we are more centrally located and have a nice facility. To return Leslie County to this region would place 11 teams in the region and would allow us to remain the host for the 2014 Regional Meet.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Further, and most importantly, it will be impossible for Leslie County to compete against the quality teams it would face in the region to which it has been moved. The 29 teams in the region in which Leslie County has now been placed are as follows:

Allen Central, Betsy Layne, Buckhorn, Cordia, Elliott County, Fairview, Hazard, Jackson City, Jenkins, June Buchanan, Lee County, Leslie County, Magoffin County, Menifee County, Morgan County, Owsley County, Paintsville, Phelps, Piarist, Pikeville, Prestonsburg, Raceland, Riverside Christian, Rose Hill Christian, Shelby Valley, Sheldon Clark, South Floyd, West Carter, and Wolfe County.

A number of the smaller schools which are close to Leslie County do not have tracks and either do not have track and field teams or field very small teams, usually not even competing in more than 5-7 events. The bigger teams against which we would need to compete are so far away that we could not attend a track meet during the week because the students would have to leave school well before the end of the day due to travel distances. Even if we were able to attend a track meet on the weekend, the distances and costs are prohibitive. Here are some examples of the distances as calculated at "car speed", not taking into account the speed of a bus, or the need for a "pit stop" along the way:

- 1) Elliott County: 2 hour and 35 minute trip and approximately 116 miles;
- 2) Fairview: 3 hour and 12 minute trip and approximately 144 miles;
- 3) Menifee County: 2 hour and 26 minute trip and approximately 111 miles;
- 4) Raceland: 3 hour and 10 minute trip and approximately 147 miles;
- 5) Rose Hill: 3 hour and 4 minute trip and approximately 142 miles; and
- 6) West Carter: 3 hour and 8 minute trip and approximately 161 miles.

These distances and the costs associated with travelling to these schools would not only be cost prohibitive, but would have such an effect upon our students from an academic point of view, that we simply could not allow our students to make these trips. Given that most track meets

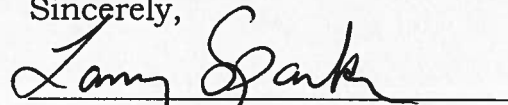
start at 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m., our students would have to leave school well before the end of the school day. These problems would place our team at an athletic disadvantage such that we could not overcome.

The Leslie County High School Track and Field Teams experienced much success last year. In fact, our girls' team has either been Regional Champions or Regional Runners-up for the past five years (three championships and two runners-up). While we understand that KHSAA was trying to align teams of appropriate size to make the competition fairer, this alignment actually serves to punish our students more than help them on the field of competition.

We respectfully request that KHSAA return our Track and Field Team to Class 2A, Region 7. In addition, we would request that this same consideration be given to our Cross Country Team.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Sparks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Larry W. Sparks,
Superintendent, Leslie County
Schools