

## BYLAWS OF THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### BYLAW 14. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS

#### Sec. 1) GRADUATES AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

Any student who has graduated from a secondary school, or who has ever played on a college team, is thereafter ineligible to play on a high school team.

#### Sec. 2) PRACTICE OF INELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Unless ineligible due to the provisions of Bylaw 15 (Sportsmanship, having been ejected from a contest), any student who is not eligible for competition during a team's next contest/meet/match/game shall not practice with the team.

#### Sec. 3) ASSUMED NAME

If a player enters a contest under an assumed name or when not properly certified, he or she shall be permanently ineligible, and his or her school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 27.

*this practice is not permitted, not the least of which is the fact that Bylaw 14 precludes the activity. Schools should also be mindful that using outside members (not eligible) in a situation like this certainly could be viewed as depriving females at the younger or less talented levels of participation opportunities. The only exception to this policy is the allowable practice of otherwise eligible students who are not eligible for the team's next contest due to the penalty for sportsmanship violations (Bylaw 15).*

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#### **Case BL-14-1- Is it permissible for a student to play on a school team after he/she has graduated from high school?**

*Yes, but only to complete the spring sports season including baseball, softball, tennis, and track of the student-athlete's senior year. Any participant is eligible to continue participating in KHSAA sponsored state championship competition even if their spring semester has ended or graduation has been held. Only students eligible during as of the final weekly grade check may compete on any of the teams mentioned.*

#### **Case BL-14-2 - If a student is in possession of a GED, does that mean the student has graduated and is ineligible per Bylaw 14, Section 1??**

*No. A student, who has previously earned a GED but who is under 21 and has not achieved a traditional high school diploma, and therefore remains eligible for educational services from a Kentucky public school district. This interpretation is also supported by the fact that the military is no longer accepting a GED in place of a high school diploma. Lastly, KRS 158.030 requires a school district to provide an education to "every child residing in the district who satisfies the age requirements of this section has had the privilege of attending it. A local school district shall enroll any resident pupil, not holding a high school diploma, under the age of twenty-one (21) years of age who wishes to enroll." For these reasons and congruent with enrollment regulations, the GED does not count as a student having graduated for the purposes of applying Bylaw 14.*

#### **Case BL-14-3- Is it permissible for a student who is not eligible to participate in a game to practice with the team?**

*No. If a participant is ineligible he/she may not try-out, practice, or participate in games or scrimmages until eligible and minimum practice periods (i.e. acclimation and acclimitization days for football) do not begin accumulating until the ruling is complete. In addition, those students may not be issued any competition equipment necessary for the sport or any other items specific to participation in the sport.*

*Ineligible persons practicing with the team or participating in any manner while representing the school potentially jeopardize the insurance coverage, including catastrophic and liability insurance, of all participants and the liability coverage of the school and school system.*

*This restriction to only using eligible students also includes the use of males in practice for girls basketball against members of the girls' basketball team and similar situations in other sports and sport activities. If this occurs, the members of the squad are practicing against students (regardless of the grade level) who are not eligible to be on the roster for the girls team, and therefore, each time this is done, the school has utilized one of its allowable two scrimmages or one of its allowable contests. And schools are reminded that once the first official game has been played, there are no more opportunities for scrimmages by members of the team. There are a myriad of reasons why*