

KHSAA Football Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2016

The Commissioner's Advisory Committee for Football met at the KHSAA offices in Lexington on January 26, 2016. Members present were: Coach David Barnes, Caldwell County; Coach David Buchanan, Mercer County; Athletic Director Rob Detzel, Newport Central Catholic; Athletic Director Alan Donhoff, St. Xavier; Coach Craig Foley, Frankfort; Athletic Director Tim Green, Kentucky Country Day; Coach Philip Haywood, Belfry; Coach Robbie Lucas, Somerset; Coach Jim McKee, Scott County; Coach Mark Peach, Anderson County; Coach Chuck Smith, Boyle County; Athletic Director Mark Swift, Ashland Blazer; Coach Kevin Wallace, Bowling Green; Executive Director Jimmie Reed, KFCA (ex-officio); Jerry Wyman, Jefferson County AD (ex-officio). Absent members: Assigning Secretary Kevin Garris, (ex-officio).

Commissioner Tackett started the meeting with the listing of members and introductions to welcome the new Committee members. An update of information included expense forms, committee membership updates, current football tournament rules, and the current Bylaw 25 provisions.

National Federation rules topics were up next on the agenda. The review of rules changes and projected rule change points of emphasis were the elimination of clipping in the free blocking zone and change to allow the use of a white mouth piece.

An overview of the Mechanics Experiment survey was discussed. There was generous input by all committee members. Coach Wallace didn't think there was a negative or any inconsistency and Coach Buchanan liked the fact that it kept coaches from berating the same official for the entire game. One of the other benefits was that if you had a bad official who can't communicate well, you didn't have to deal with him the whole game.

Further discussion concerned the frequency of missed calls as it pertained to blocking down field as it seemed impossible with 5 man crews to officiate. The ability to run the shotgun and cut block (block below the waist) didn't seem consistent. The occurrences of fans too close to the endzone and whether to go by sight or sound in cases of lightning or thunder were also discussed.

State Finals Review and Concerns began with a KFCA update from Jimmie Reed. Russell Athletics will be providing a hospitality room open prior to each game with food provided. He is concerned with the growing number of no shows among award winners that has increased from past years.

The annual Centre College coaching clinic each spring has experienced decreasing attendance and the KFCA is looking for suggestions to improve the situation. Commissioner Tackett noted that all organizations are having the same attendance problems. Coach Foley stated that the increasing use of technology has a huge impact on in-person clinic and training attendance. The mention that the loss of administration support for athletics and the value of what is taught there has impacted all sports as another reason. Coach McKee requested support for the KFCA Best of the Bluegrass game as it has not well attended in recent years.

Commissioner Tackett continued the State Championship discussion by informing the Committee that a contract with Russell Athletics will run through 2018 at Western Kentucky University. After the 2017 meeting a finals site will be looked at for beyond those dates. Mr. Tackett reminded the group of the many that originally opposed WKU as a finals site have come to appreciate the venue and atmosphere, not wanting a change in venue any time soon. It's well known how much the community welcomes and appreciates the event.

Old business items included the semifinals site criteria and the use of fields that are not all in the same quality playing shape at the end of the year. There was concern about travel costs if the criteria was turf only.

New business items started with the USA Football Course and the possible option that it become a requirement somewhere down the road.

Commissioner Tackett addressed the mid-course alignment adjustment question, as Moore and South Warren will play up next season. Coach McKee requested a memo from the Commissioner to hold up or changes to scheduling until the Board had taken action.

Playoff format was next topic. Committee unanimous consensus was that the current system is better than intradistrict for the first round of the playoffs or any other option. If change was to happen, it's requested that not happen in mid alignment. It was mentioned that no one thinks it's a good idea to play within the district and that despite early very lopsided games, the current system was the best alternative.

The committee requested that the Commissioner and Mr. Wyman take these points to the Board of Control Meeting on January 28, 2016:

- Bowling Green area feels 100% keep as is in this part of the state
- Northern Kentucky teams don't want to stay in district to play
- Current format creates excitement playing different teams in November that they haven't played to date. The more excitement, the better the gate
- Not much gate on first round regardless of system
- Football is a lose at district and you're out. Basketball, you can still may make it to region, so systems need not be the same
- 11 games pretty much guaranteed as opposed to 36 baseball
- Makes it hard to motivate the kids if playing repeat teams
- Legitimizes the playoff current system
- Lone argument is for the mileage and that's not enough to change
- Cross bracketing. No team should ever have to travel two years in a row for rounds 3 & 4 as the number 1 seed

Lastly, video sharing and options were approached. Hudl.com, the preferred method, would be considered for replay in future years and the use of Echo1612 was talked about.

Coach McKee provided an impassioned view of what this fraternity of coaches means to him. His point was that as coaches and teachers, this group is in it for the student athlete, not AAU or traveling ball. The true goal is to promote high school athletics.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.