

# BYLAWS OF THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GOVERNING HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (GRADES 9-12)

## BYLAW 1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELIGIBILITY

### Sec. 1) PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT

The Principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters in the school that concern eligibility, and interscholastic athletics, and shall ensure that institutional control over the athletic program is maintained.

### Sec. 2) DESIGNATION OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

- a) The Principal of each member school may annually designate an individual at the school to serve as the Designated Representative for the purpose of conducting the interscholastic program at that school.
- b) The Principal or Designated Representative shall sign all forms requiring authorized signature.
- c) If a member school principal fails to make the designation prior to August 31, the building principal shall automatically be the Designated Representative for the current year.

### **Case BL-1-1- What role does the Principal play in the management of the Association and the regulation of eligibility in the member school and what level of institutional control is the principal of each member school expected to maintain?**

*The member school principal is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the athletic program, whether it is rules enforcement and reporting or eligibility certification. It is important that each member school through its Principal exercise the principles of institutional control in order for the Association to continue as a fully functioning membership organization and in order for the school to remain a member.*

*There are several principles that go into the concept of maintaining institutional control. Control shall first be defined in common sense terms and is best summarized by the school having in place the proper policies to ensure that violations do not occur, and if they do occur, the Principal exhibiting the leadership and duty to correct the problems and prevent recurrence. In general, violations do not result from a lack of institutional control if there are adequate preventive measures in place that are properly monitored and followed, and if swift action is taken.*

*However, there are several things that demonstrate a lack of institutional control including the failure to implement proper preventive procedures; failure by members of the designated athletic staff to thoroughly investigate and report violations; failure to adequately disseminate and distribute compliance information; failure to adequately distribute compliance duties to allow for effective control; failing to make clear to all coaches and participants that rules violations will not be tolerated; failing to fully investigate and file reports as requested when potential violations are reported; a head coach failing to create a compliant atmosphere with the assistant coaches.*

*The KHSAA enforces its rules based on the following premises-KHSAA regulations and information are readily available to the member schools and general public; the Principal or Designated Representative properly distributes information, rules manuals, communication, forms, and other needed materials to the members of the athletics staff; that meaningful education programs are conducted within the schools to ensure compliance; student-athletes are properly informed about rules prior to and during participation. Certainly the compliance history of a school and its cooperative spirit during any investigation or inquiry will factor into any penalty decision regarding violations.*

## BYLAW 2. AGE

### Sec. 1) AGE RESTRICTION

- a) Pursuant to KRS 156.070 (2) (e), a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at a KHSAA member high school.

- b) A student who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

### Sec. 2) WAIVER PROVISION

- a) The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner may waive the provisions of this bylaw and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if the written documentation is provided to clearly demonstrate that the student:
  - (1) Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual education program developed by an admissions and release committee (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
  - (2) Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC committee recommendation; and
  - (3) Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility following initial promotion into grade nine (9).
- b) The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner shall not adopt administrative procedures that allow for waiver of this rule under any other condition.

### **Case BL-2-1- Why is there an age restriction?**

*To ensure equality of competition and opportunity, a standard must be established at some point to determine the cutoff date for age eligibility. Use of a specific cutoff date gives notice to all parties involved in interscholastic athletics and maintains equality of participant eligibility between schools.*

*An age limitation requirement:*

- (1) Provides commonality between student-athletes and schools in interscholastic competition;
- (2) Inhibits "redshirting" or failing to make normal progress through school;
- (3) Allows the participation of younger and less experienced players;
- (4) Enhances the opportunity for more students to participate;
- (5) Promotes quality of competition;
- (6) Avoids over-emphasis on athletics; and
- (7) Helps to diminish the inherent risk of injury associated with participation in athletics.

### **Case BL-2-2- Are rulings related to Bylaw 2 (Age) appealable through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure other than the published exception stipulated in KRS 156.070?**

*No. Bylaw 2 as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education expressly prohibits appeals concerning this bylaw. In addition, with the adoption of HB215 from the 1998 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly has placed this provision in KRS 156.070 in the form of state law with the only exception being the provisions passed by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly.*

### **Case BL-2-3- What is the primary school program as used in KRS 156.070 (2) (e) as amended by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly?**

*KRS 158.031 defines "primary school program" as "that part of the elementary school program which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they are ready to enter the fourth grade" (PK-3). Bylaw 2 applies this same definition.*

## BYLAW 3. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF YEARS

### Sec. 1) LIMIT OF FOUR YEARS

A student entering grade nine (9) for the first time in any high school shall have four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first entry into grade (9) in any school provided the student is eligible according to this and all other Association bylaws. The eligibility shall conclude with the completion of the spring sports season following the fourth year. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial entry into grade nine (9).

### Sec. 2) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner through the Due Process Procedure, may grant additional eligibility in the case where it has been documented by the attending physician, Principal and Superintendent that severe illness or injury has prevented the

student from receiving necessary education services and the right to an education has therefore been impacted rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege. The grant of eligibility may only be made in the cases in which the student-athlete would remain eligible by all other Association bylaws. This provision shall not include additional eligibility strictly for loss of participation due to sports related injuries. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial entry into grade nine (9).

**Case BL-3-1- Why is there a requirement that limits the number of years and stipulates a maximum participation requirement?**

*Without a clearly defined limit, avenues remain open for red-shirting, deception, legal maneuvering, and other athletics-driven motivations for a student to remain in school rather than proceeding on into college or into the work force thereby denying the participation of a student who is otherwise "next in line" to play.*

*A maximum participation requirement is in place because it:*

- (1) promotes timely progress toward graduation by discouraging students from delaying or interrupting their high school education;*
- (2) disallows students to enroll for one single semester each school year to increase athletic ability and skill;*
- (3) diminishes risks stemming from unequal competition;*
- (4) places emphasis on the year-long academic mission of the school;*
- (5) promotes harmony and fair competition among member schools by maintaining equality of eligibility affording each student the same number of semesters of athletic eligibility;*
- (6) increases the number of students who will have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics;*
- (7) is conducive to the prevention of red-shirting;*
- (8) helps avoid exploitation by coaches or boosters who otherwise might seek to obtain transfers or to delay a student's normal progress through school; and*
- (9) prevents displacement of younger student-athletes by older students wishing to protract unfairly their high school careers.*

**Case BL-3-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt additional stipulations regarding a maximum number of years that are more stringent than KHSAA rules?**

*Yes. While a school or school district cannot establish a standard that is more lenient than the KHSAA requirements, a school or school district may set other requirements. For those requirements which are more stringent than the KHSAA rules, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.*

**Case BL-3-3- How is the determination made regarding eligibility under Bylaw 3 when a student comes in from a nonmember school system in Kentucky or when promotion/retention records are not available?**

*Students enrolling at KHSAA member schools after having been enrolled in non-KHSAA school districts (home school, nonmember school) are placed into the proper class according to documented procedures within the school district of the KHSAA member school. From that point, the provisions of Bylaw 3 apply and the student will have only one year of eligibility per remaining grade, and shall meet the provisions of all other KHSAA bylaws.*

**Case BL-3-4- When is a waiver available under Bylaw 3, Sec. 1 and are there legal provisions for gaining additional semesters/years for those students retained by the parents or due to athletic injury?**

*Unless basic education services are not available to the student-athlete due to illness or injury, each student shall be limited to four consecutive years of opportunity for participation in high school sports. Without this clearly defined limit, other athletics-driven motivations for a student to remain in school rather than proceeding on into college or into the work force exist and thereby deny the participation opportunity of a student who is otherwise "next in line" to play.*

*Additional semesters/years are available only in tightly crafted exceptions contained in the bylaw. The necessary written verification of the lack of available education services shall come from the attending physician at the time of the injury or illness that resulted in deprivation of educational services. There are no provisions in the bylaws for other types of repeating in order to allow for additional semesters/years due to sports related injuries.*

*A ruling for additional semesters/years is not ripe for review until it is clear that a student will not be able to complete the academic requirements to graduate. Until that time, any request is speculative and is not to be reviewed. This will normally be at the end of the student's third year following entry into grade nine (9), but may be into the fourth year depending upon the individual circumstances.*

*Kentucky Department of Education regulations place the responsibility for promotion or retention of a student on school personnel and not parents. Verification and documentation as to the retention/promotion decision is solely the responsibility of school personnel and will be based solely on the written record by the school in which the student was enrolled at the time of retention or promotion.*

*Documentation of the promotion/retention decision may include such things as STI/Infinite Campus records or other written documentation and shall always be available for review until the student graduates.*

## BYLAW 4. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Sec. 1) ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION WHILE ENROLLED IN GRADES 9-12

- a) On Friday of each grading period, a student enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be legally enrolled in a member high school as a full-time student in at least four hours of instruction as provided in Kentucky Board of Education regulation 702 KAR 7:125 (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation at the member school he or she desires to represent in order to be eligible for athletics.
- b) A student who is enrolled or connected with any other school than the one he or she represents shall not take part in any contest. In the case of an all-boys high school, girl cheerleaders from an affiliated neighboring girls school may be accepted.

### Sec. 2) ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION WHILE ENROLLED BELOW GRADE 9

- a) A pupil in grades 7-8 in the feeder pattern of a KHSAA member school under the same local Board of Education as the member school may play on the high school team (at any level of play) if that participation is not in conflict with Section (3) below, and the time so played shall not be counted on the four (4) year (eight (8) semester) limit.
- b) Beginning with the first date or practice for the 2014-2015 school year, students enrolled below grade seven (7) may not play on a high school team at any level except that a pupil enrolled below grade 7 who previously participated at the high school level in a specific sport prior to or during the 2013-2014 school year may continue participation in that specific sport at any level following the implementation of this restriction provided such participation is not in conflict with any other Bylaw or statute. EXCEPTION: A student below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football or soccer.

### Sec. 3) INELIGIBILITY FOR REPEATING STUDENTS

- a) A student having been enrolled in the fourth (4th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall begin in the first year enrolled in that grade.
- b) A student repeating a grade for any reason is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after initial entry into grade nine (9).

#### Sec. 4) DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT

A student shall have enrolled as a bona fide full-time undergraduate student no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester.

#### **Case BL-4-1- Why is there a requirement that a student be enrolled at a member school or feeder school under the same Board of Education?**

A student enrollment requirement accomplishes the following:

- (1) Promotes loyalty and school spirit which lends itself to cohesion of the student body;
- (2) Helps promote amateurism by drawing athletes only from each school's student population;
- (3) Avoids professionalism and over-emphasis on athletes;
- (4) Discourages "team-shopping," which wrongfully skews the relationships among student-athletes and coaches; and
- (5) Secures role models for other students, and allows students in many public schools to participate in interscholastic athletics for credit in fulfillment of physical education requirement for graduation.

An attendance requirement helps ensure that students will adhere to a school's attendance plan which, in turn, prompts students to maintain the academic standard required for participation and promotes graduation in a common time frame.

#### **Case BL-4-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt additional stipulations regarding enrollment and residence that are more stringent than KHSAA rules?**

Yes. While a school or school district cannot establish a standard that is more lenient than the KHSAA requirements, a school or school district may set other enrollment and residence requirements. For those requirements which are more stringent than the KHSAA rules, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.

#### **Case BL-4-3- What type of enrolled students are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a KHSAA member school?**

Only those students enrolled as a full-time student at an A1 (Public School), D1 (State Department of Education Operatd School), F1 (Federal Dependent School), J1 (Roman Catholic), M1 (Other religion) or R1 (Private, nonchurch related) schools may participate. Enrollment at an A1 school must be verifiable through the Infinite Campus system.

#### **Case BL-4-4- What is a "full-time student according to regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education" as listed in Section 3 of Bylaw 4?**

Students are required to be enrolled as full-time students according to the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The KHSAA expects all of its member schools to comply with all applicable rules from KDE, but the KHSAA does not become involved in enforcement of regulations or policies that are not a part of KHSAA regulations. The stipulation requires that students shall be enrolled as a full-time student (in at least four hours of instruction (240 minutes) out of the six hour instruction day) earning credits toward graduation.

#### **Case BL-4-5- For the purposes of Bylaw 4, when is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school and how is enrollment verified for a student?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

In addition, a student may be considered enrolled at a KHSAA member school during the summer break when the student registers at the new school, is on the student enrollment listing of a member school, and not on the enrolled listing of another school.

In the case of enrollment during periods when classes are not being held (i.e. summer), the student may be considered to be enrolled at the new school when formal application has been made and accepted as verified by the new Principal and the student is officially withdrawn and off the enrollment listing of the former school.

#### **Case BL-4-6- How do Bylaws 4 and 5 relate to schools with nontraditional (block) schedules?**

A student shall be enrolled as a full-time student (four of six hours) in the member school or defined feeder school within the restrictions of Bylaw 4, and passing in four full credit hours (240 minutes) worth of classes as defined in Bylaw 5. For example, if a student were attempting four full credits of one and one-half hours each, he/she would need to pass three (four and one half hours) worth. As another example, if the periods are 80 minutes, he/she would need to pass three. It is imperative when interpreting this rule that the amount of credits attempted and class length is considered when determining the eligibility of a student-athlete as the student shall pass 240 minutes of class (four full credit hours).

#### **Case BL-4-7- Is it permissible for a student to participate for a member school while enrolled full-time in another school that does not offer a particular sport?**

No, a student desiring to participate shall be enrolled as a full-time student and receiving credit through the member school at which participation is desired, or be a student at a "feeder" school in the same school district.

#### **Case BL-4-8- Are there specific rules regarding participation in high school sports and sport-activities for home schooled students?**

No. However, in order to participate for a member school, a student must be enrolled full-time (minimum four hours of instruction) at that local high school or at a "feeder" school under that local Board of Education as defined and interpreted under Bylaw 4.

#### **Case BL-4-9- Are there regulations regarding a home-bound student participating in interscholastic sports or sport-activities at a KHSAA member school?**

Yes. In order to represent a member school, a student shall be a full-time student at a KHSAA member school or at a feeder school under the same local Board of Education as the member school as defined within Bylaw 4 and its interpretations. In accordance with 704 KAR 7:120, Section 2, part (7), "Eligibility for home/hospital instruction shall cease if the student works or participates in athletic activities." Schools and school districts are reminded that a student who practices or plays in an athletic scrimmage or contest is no longer able to be in home bound instruction once such participation occurs.

#### **Case BL-4-10- What is the feeder pattern as used in Bylaw 4, Sec. 2 and its restrictions?**

For a school to be considered a "feeder" school, it must be under the same local board of education as the member school, and enroll students below grade nine. A student enrolled at a nonfeeder school shall not be considered to be enrolled at a feeder school irrespective of past enrollment patterns of that nonfeeder school. Applying for admission to a school does not waive this definition as there is a clear line between applying and actually being enrolled. School and school districts may choose to define a more restrictive feeder pattern for its middle schools to high schools which if violated, constitute the student not being "connected". In a school district with multiple high schools, absent a specific otherwise adopted feeder pattern, the residence of the student-athlete within the district student assignment plan shall determine the school at which the student may participate, if such participation is permitted by local policy. School districts with multiple schools may not establish an "open choice" option for the purpose of athletics.

#### **Case BL-4-11- What interscholastic athletic participation opportunities are available to students desiring to participate in high school level (freshman, JV or varsity) sport who are enrolled below grade nine (9)?**

Only those students enrolled in a feeder school in grades 7 and 8 (along with those grandfathered into revisions in Bylaw 4 by participating at the high school level prior to the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year) will be permitted to play in a high school sport or sport-activity (at any level) except for football and soccer.

Students below grade seven (7) may not participate in any activity

(practice, scrimmage or game), except for those grandfathered into revisions in Bylaw 4 by participating at the high school level prior to the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year. These students below grade seven (7) may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after a practice, scrimmage or contest. Only those students enrolled in the member school and in the 7th grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area.

For football and soccer, students enrolled in a feeder school in grades 7-8 may only participate in nonvarsity level practice and play, and only if permitted within local board of Education and school-based policy.

Students in grades 7 and 8 may not participate in any activity designated by either team as "varsity (first team)" in football or soccer. These 7th and 8th grade students may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after, a varsity practice, scrimmage or contest in the sports of football or soccer. These 7th and 8th grade students may not participate (practice, scrimmage or contest) on nonvarsity (freshman, junior varsity, etc.) level teams in football or soccer if any member of the team they are representing or the team they are competing against is enrolled in any grade above grade ten (10). It is the obligation of the school desiring to allow the seventh or eighth grade student to participate with the nonvarsity team to ensure compliance with this provision. Students below grade seven (7) may not participate (practice, scrimmage or contest) on any high school level team (freshman, JV, varsity) in football or soccer.

**Case BL-4-12- Is it permissible for a local school board to place restrictions and limits on participation in sports for those students in grades seven (7) and eight (8) other than football, soccer and wrestling?**

No. KRS 156.070 (2) bans the KHSAA or Kentucky Board of Education from implementing any prohibition on 7th and 8th graders participating in high school sports, and as interpreted, leaves that determination to the Local Board of Education or SBDM Council. However, that same statute and subsequent Attorney General Opinions specifically ban a prohibition against students playing on more than one school-sponsored team at the same time. Specifically exempted from this statute are the sports of football, soccer and wrestling, whose participants may be restricted if they are enrolled below grade nine.

**Case BL-4-13- Why is there a requirement that a student be eligible only one year in each grade as detailed in Sec. 3?**

Holding a student back and allowing the student to practice or play sports is prohibited and goes against the basic principles of fair play. The repeating student at any level is prohibited from practice or play, and beginning with initial entry into grade nine (9), the four-year count of eligibility has begun. According to OAG82-473 opinion, the promotion and retention of students in all grades are the direct and sole responsibility of the Principal through policy developed by the local board of education.

**Case BL-4-14- What interscholastic athletic participation opportunities at the high school level are available to students who are repeating a grade?**

Student-athletes may not represent a KHSAA member high school as a participant in any sport at any level if they are repeating a grade, whether or not that student played interscholastic sports at any level during the first year in the grade.

**BYLAW 5. MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT**

Sec. 1) PROPER GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

a) First Day of School Year Earned Credit Check

On the first day of each school year, a student shall be at his or her proper grade level. To be considered to be at the proper grade level, a student shall have been enrolled as a full-time

student during the previous grading period, and shall be on schedule to graduate with his or her class on the first day of school based on the number of credits officially recorded on the transcript. For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer and correspondence work, and final grades shall be complete by the first day of the school year for the student body.

The determination for reinstatement of eligibility and first available date of practice available under Section 1(b) of this bylaw shall be based on the original published calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education.

(1) Eligibility During First Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the ninth grade to be considered to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(2) Eligibility During Second Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 10) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation (credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(3) Eligibility During Third Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 11) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation (credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(4) Eligibility During Fourth Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 12) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation (credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(5) Eligibility In Districts of Innovation

For a student participating in a school in an approved district of innovation as referenced in KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107, in lieu of complying with subparagraph 1-4 above, the district shall develop and submit for approval to the Commissioner, a plan to monitor the yearly progress of students that provides for an accurate assessment of being on schedule to graduate at the beginning of each year. Such plan shall consider solely the documented record of the student's academic progress and may not include speculative factors for future periods.

b) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements on First Day of School

(1) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one school year: -

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subparagraph 1-4 above may be reinstated a maximum of one time. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he or she is ineligible. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year.

(2) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one semester:

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subparagraph 1-4 of Sec. 1 may be reinstated a maximum of one time in schools operating on a two-semester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the semester in which he or she is ineligible due to the provisions of Sec. 1. Such verification will be made by reviewing solely credits officially posted on the transcript. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent semester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1 above. Eligibility to practice and compete in scrimmages or contests shall be effective with the first day of the semester based on the district's official original calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education following the recording of the credits to the student's permanent record.

- (3) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one trimester: The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subparagraph 1-4 in Sec. 1 may be reinstated a maximum of one time in schools operating on a three-trimester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the trimester in which he or she is ineligible due to the provisions of Sec. 1. Such verification will be made by reviewing solely credits officially posted on the transcript. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent trimester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1. Eligibility to practice and compete in scrimmages or contests shall be effective with the first day of the trimester (based on the district's official original calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education) following the recording of the credits to the student's permanent record.

- (4) Eligibility In Districts of Innovation  
For a student participating in a school in an approved district of innovation as referenced in KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107, in lieu of complying with subparagraph 1-3 above, the district shall develop and submit for approval to the Commissioner, a plan to monitor the progress of students that provides for an accurate assessment of being back on schedule to graduate at the beginning of a credit period while ineligible. Such plan shall consider solely the documented record of the student's academic progress and may not include speculative factors for future periods.

**Sec. 2) CONTINUAL PROGRESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

On a weekly basis, a student shall be making continual progress during the school year in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday.

- (1) Weekly Eligibility Standard for Students Enrolled in Grades 9-12:

To be making continual progress, a student shall have passed in four hours of instruction units as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) during the previous credit period that closed during the school year (trimester or semester). To be making continual progress the student shall also be passing cumulatively for the current credit period in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation.

- (2) Weekly Eligibility Standard for Students Enrolled in Grades Below 9 participating for a KHSAA member school:  
A pre-secondary school student (grades 4-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be

passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which he or she is currently enrolled and be in compliance with all other bylaws in order to be eligible.

- (3) Eligibility In Districts of Innovation

For a student participating in a school in an approved district of innovation as referenced in KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107, in lieu of complying with subparagraph 1-2 above, the district shall develop and submit for approval to the Commissioner, a plan to monitor the weekly progress of students that provides for an accurate assessment of academic progress for the year. Such plan shall consider solely the documented record of the student's academic progress and may not include speculative factors for future periods.

**Sec. 3) SPECIAL RECITATIONS/ADJUSTMENTS**

Special tests or recitations shall not to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

**Case BL-5-1- Why is there a Minimum Academic Requirement as contained in Bylaw 5?**

*The primary purpose of high schools is to academically prepare students for productive contributions in their future lives as citizens in this country, whether they are bound for college or ready to embark on a career. For that reason, standards must be developed and applied, including:*

- (1) Interscholastic athletic activity programs are an extension of the classroom, and academic standards help ensure the balance between participation in the activity and appropriate academic performance;
- (2) Interscholastic athletic and activity programs assist in the educational development of all participants;
- (3) Academic standards promote the objective of graduation from the institution and that student participants are truly representing the academic mission of the institution;
- (4) Overall, academic standards promote educational standards, underscore the educational values of participating in activities, encourage appropriate academic performance and allow the use of interscholastic participation as a motivator for improved classroom performance;
- (5) Participants in the interscholastic athletic program are expected to be student-athletes;
- (6) High school sports are not intended to be a "farm team" for college and professional sports, but a complementary activity to the total learning experience;
- (7) Standards shall be in place to ensure that in addition to sports participation, a student shall be on schedule to graduate with his/her class; and
- (8) As class systems change (block and other alternative schedules), these requirements shall be continually reviewed to make certain that all students are meeting the necessary requirements to graduate from high school and be positive contributors to society.

*Though athletics and activities serve as deterrents for many students to become involved in less-desirable elements of society, a young person shall be a student first and an athlete second.*

*The combination of Bylaw 5, Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 attempts to ensure that each student-athlete not only makes progress throughout a season, but through each year and through the course of the four years following enrollment in grade nine (9).*

**Case BL-5-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt an academic standard that is different from the KHSAA Minimum Academic Requirement?**

*Yes. A school or school district may set a higher (more rigid) requirement than the KHSAA minimum requirement. The KHSAA requirement for participation is that a student shall be at proper grade level, and on schedule to graduate in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics and make continual progress during the school year. For those requirements which are a higher requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.*

*A school cannot establish a standard that is lower than the*

KHSAA minimal standard.

Schools are strongly encouraged to ensure that the normal promotional requirement for advancement to the following grade concurs with eligibility requirements for that grade. This will help ensure that students promoted to the next grade are in fact eligible in that particular grade and that the locally adopted standard does not fall below the requirements of Bylaw 5.

**Case BL-5-3- How long must a student be enrolled during the previous grading period to be considered enrolled as a full-time student during the previous grading period?**

Six weeks enrollment in a school shall constitute a semester in the interpretation of this rule.

**Case BL-5-4- How is Section 1(a) of Bylaw 5 interpreted to determine eligibility of a student on the first day of school?**

On the first day of school, guidance counselors or other personnel shall use the following chart to determine eligibility based on the local districts requirements for graduation.

Any number of credits required which cannot be matched directly to the credits of the school shall be rounded to the next possible number. For example, if 9.45 is required, but the school only gives half and full credits, 9.5 would be required. If that same school only gave full credits, 10 would be required. Any other means of rounding would result in the requirement not being met.

Graduation Requirement (Credits)	First Year (Normally Grade 9)	Second Year (Normally Grade 10)	Third Year (Normally Grade 11)	Fourth Year (Normally Grade 12)
20	Promoted from 8	4.00	9.00	14.00
21	Promoted from 8	4.20	9.45	14.70
22	Promoted from 8	4.40	9.90	15.40
23	Promoted from 8	4.60	10.35	16.10
24	Promoted from 8	4.80	10.80	16.80
25	Promoted from 8	5.00	11.25	17.50
26	Promoted from 8	5.20	11.70	18.20
27	Promoted from 8	5.40	12.15	18.90
28	Promoted from 8	5.60	12.60	19.60
29	Promoted from 8	5.80	13.05	20.30
30	Promoted from 8	6.00	13.50	21.00
31	Promoted from 8	6.20	13.95	21.70
32	Promoted from 8	6.40	14.40	22.40

**Case BL-5-5- How is Section 1(b) of Bylaw 5 interpreted to determine eligibility of a student desiring to restore eligibility following a period of ineligibility due to Section 1(a)?**

After the student has been ineligible for a specific period (semester, semester or year based on the school academic calendar), the student can be reviewed for reinstatement according to Section 1(b).

Guidance counselors or other personnel shall use the following chart to determine eligibility based on the local district's requirements for graduation.

Any number of credits required which cannot be matched directly to the credits of the school shall be rounded to the next possible number. For example, if 9.45 is required, but the

school only gives half and full credits, 9.5 would be required. If that same school only gave full credits, 10 would be required. Any other means of rounding would result in the requirement not being met.

Graduation Requirement (Credits)	Required to reinstate after complete year ineligible	Required to reinstate after semester ineligible	Required to reinstate after trimester ineligible
20	5.00	3.00	2.00
21	5.25	3.15	2.10
22	5.50	3.30	2.20
23	5.75	3.45	2.30
24	6.00	3.60	2.40
25	6.25	3.75	2.50
26	6.50	3.90	2.60
27	6.75	4.05	2.70
28	7.00	4.20	2.80
29	7.25	4.35	2.90
30	7.50	4.50	3.00
31	7.75	4.65	3.10
32	8.00	4.80	3.20

**Case BL-5-6- Are subjects or credit hours involved in the application of the Minimum Academic Requirement?**

Credit hours (commonly referred to as Carnegie units) as applicable to graduation are the standard of measurement to be used for determining eligibility. To be eligible, a student shall be passing currently in the required number of full-credit subject hours applicable to graduation and shall be at his/her proper grade level according to Bylaw 5. However, their equivalent in units of credit accepted for graduation may be substituted. All credit calculations are based on totals at the time the credit is recorded to the transcript. In the case of end of course assessments, determination shall be made once the final credits are applied to the official transcript in compliance with state regulations.

**Case BL-5-7- How are credit hours and credits computed when a student changes from a traditional format to an alternative format school (i.e. 6 hour day to block schedule day) or vice-versa, enters from a nonmember school, or the credits on the transcript are in doubt?**

When transferring between traditional (6 credit) and nontraditional credit systems, a student's eligibility status shall be determined after converting the credits earned in the prior system in accordance with accepted state policies for computing graduation progress, and no special consideration can be given to student athletic participants.

In the case of a school raising or changing its graduation requirements within a school, this conversion can be done by taking the number of credits required for graduation under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits required under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent number to be used in determining standing. For students changing from a traditional to a block system, or vice versa, it can also be done by taking the number of credits possible per year under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits possible per year under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent number to be used in determining standing.

For students who have been in multiple school systems with multiple credit systems, the process can be done by taking the academic record of each school year, dividing the number of credits earned at the school of that particular year (or credit period when credits are recorded to the final transcript) by the number of possible credits earned that particular year (or credit period) at that school, and then taking that fractional value times the number of credits possible at the new school. Doing this calculation for each year (or credit period) and then adding together the results yields an "apples to apples" comparison in terms of credits needed by a student to be on schedule for

graduation.

The policy for conversion shall be approved by the School based Decision Making organization at the school and shall be in place for all students and not restricted to student-athletes.

For those coming from other systems and nonmember schools, member schools must determine the number of credits that have previously been earned in accordance with state standards and regulations, and then check the normal progress chart in Case Situation 5-4 to determine eligibility.

**Case BL-5-8- How do summer school or correspondence courses count toward satisfying the academic requirements of Bylaw 5, Sec. 1?**

Summer school or accredited correspondence courses may be used to make up a failure or deficiency in the academic work of the preceding year provided the course work (including all required examinations) is completed, the grade received and credit recorded prior to the first day of school for the student body.

**Case BL-5-9- What are the options for the use of online courses, credit recovery, or other nontraditional courses to be used to obtain eligibility under Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(a) and (b)?**

Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(a) is solely determined on the first day of school for the student body by examining the number of credits that have been recorded to the transcript. That number includes any full credit awarded and recorded in compliance with all applicable state regulations. Therefore, any type of credit, regardless of the method in which it is earned, may be used for this standard, but must be officially recorded on the student's permanent record (transcript) on or before the first day of school for the student body.

Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(b) is an opportunity to reinstate eligibility on a one-time basis for those students who do not meet the standards of Sec. 1(a), but only after a defined period of ineligibility.

Any credit or course used to meet these standards must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting;
- (2) Students may not skip lessons or test out of modules. For example, if a student is permitted to test out of portions of a repeated course, is exempted from certain modules, or is allowed to finish the course in an abbreviated time frame, such a course would not be acceptable for use in the reinstatement determination;
- (3) The instructor and the student shall have ongoing access to, and regular interaction with, one another for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student throughout the duration of the course;
- (4) The student's work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) shall be made available for evaluation and validation upon request;
- (5) Evaluation of the student's work shall be conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies;
- (6) The course shall include a defined time period for completion and comparable to the same credit taught within the traditional school day;
- (7) The course must be acceptable for any student and the school's policies for such courses must be followed consistently for both student-athletes and non-athletes with no exceptions made for student-athletes;
- (8) The course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively (e.g., content, textbook, assessments, duration), to the course in the mainstream or regular curriculum;
- (9) The course credit must be recorded on the student transcript prior to the day before the defined Sec. 2 period for which reinstatement is desired (subsequent trimester, semester or school year dependent upon school defined curriculum); and
- (10) The course provider must have the work completed online accepted by the NCAA as part of its review of Division I and II athletes seeking to enroll at a college or University.

**Case BL-5-10- If a student is ineligible at the beginning of the school year according to Bylaw 5, Section 1(a), can this student become eligible during the school year?**

Yes. A student may be reinstated at the end of the semester/trimester that the student is ineligible, depending upon the school academic calendar structure provided that there are opportunities for the entire student body to add permanent credits to the transcript at those breaks between semesters/trimesters. Schools with a semester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each semester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of the semester in which the student was ineligible. Schools with a trimester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each trimester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of each trimester in which the student was ineligible. Schools with a year-long calendar where credits are only recorded at the end of the year do not have a mid-year reinstatement opportunity for athletes ineligible on the first day of school. A student-athlete who is ineligible due to failing to maintain normal progress as defined in Section 1(a) may have eligibility reinstated for the following and subsequent semesters/trimesters/years providing he/she meets all provisions for reinstatement in Bylaw 5, Sec 1(b).

**Case BL-5-11- Is it possible for a student to be eligible according to Bylaw 5 during the senior year and yet not graduate?**

Yes, depending upon that particular student's class load and progress, he/she could be eligible by Sec. 1 of this bylaw, complete the required number of courses each year including the final year, and still not graduate, and yet remain eligible throughout the year. This bylaw represents a minimum standard, and as such, schools are empowered to make a tougher regulation that could prevent such an occurrence.

**Case BL-5-12- When do schools perform the weekly grade check to determine the continual progress provisions of Bylaw 5, Sec. 2?**

Each year, when a school applies for membership, school representatives are to designate the one specific day of each week that grades will be checked, and eligibility will then be determined for the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period).

**Case BL-5-13- May online credit recovery courses be used in the weekly grade check to determine the continual progress provisions of Bylaw 5, Sec. 2 (weekly grade checks)?**

No, not unless the course work was taken as recovery for a course taken during the same academic year.

**Case BL-5-14- How does Bylaws 5, Sec. 3 relate to schools with nontraditional (block) schedules?**

A student shall be passing in four full credit hours (240 minutes) worth of classes as defined in Bylaw 5, Sec. 3. For example, if a student were attempting four full credits of one and one-half hours each, he/she would need to pass three (four and one half hours) worth. As another example, if the periods are 80 minutes, he/she would need to pass three. It is imperative when interpreting this rule that the amount of credits attempted and class length is considered when determining the eligibility of a student-athlete as the student shall pass 240 minutes of class (four full credit hours).

**Case BL-5-15- How is weekly eligibility determined for students who were not passing at the last grade check prior to breaks during the school year?**

Until school has resumed and a school has checked grades on the first weekly grade check opportunity, any student who was not passing four hours of instruction as of the last valid grade check is not academically eligible.

**Case BL-5-16- How is academic eligibility determined during the summer after July 15 and prior to the start of school?**

The academic record of each student desiring to participate in practice or competition in scrimmages or contests after July 15 and prior to the start of classes in the fall shall be checked to

ensure that the student is on schedule to graduate per Bylaw 5, Section 1. If the student's grades and credits in any offering are not a part of the permanent record, those grades or credits may not be used to determine eligibility.

**Case BL-5-17 - Does compliance with Bylaw 5 ensure that students will be eligible to compete after high school at the collegiate level?**

No. Schools and student-athletes shall be mindful of recent changes in the core-content requirements for the NCAA Clearinghouse as certain correspondence courses previously acceptable for credit may not be acceptable within the core curriculum required for certification. Though this does not at this time impact high school eligibility, it creates the scenario where a credit may apply to high school graduation, but not be applicable to college admission or qualification.

It is also important that school administrators and prospective NCAA and NAIA student-athletes carefully monitor changing academic requirements at various levels. NCAA information is available at websites such as <http://blog.ncaa.org/GetTheGrades/> and NAIA information can be found at <http://www.playnaia.org/>.

**BYLAW 6. TRANSFER RULE- CITIZENS OF THE U.S. OR U.S. TERRITORIES**

**Sec. 1) DOMESTIC STUDENT TRANSFER**

- a) Any student who has been enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and has participated in any varsity contest in any sport at any school while maintaining permanent residence in the United States or a United States territory following enrollment in grade nine (9) and who then transfers schools shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for one year from the date of last participation in varsity interscholastic athletics.
- b) The Ruling Officer and Commissioner have discretion (but are not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one or more of the following exceptions in Section 2 has been met.
- c) A student awaiting a ruling regarding eligibility shall not be eligible to compete, including practice, during the periods defined by Bylaw 23.

**Sec. 2) DISCRETIONARY EXCEPTIONS FOR WAIVER**

- a) **REASSIGNMENT BY BOARD OF EDUCATION-** The period of ineligibility may be waived if the student has changed schools through a properly documented reassignment of the Board of Education to another school. To meet this exception for a reassignment, reasons for the assignment may include the closing or opening of a school due to consolidation, merger, opening of a new school, or another type of opening or closing or assignment through KRS 158.6455 or other applicable adopted regulation. In the case of a school closing or consolidation, such assignment may be to the public school district should a private, parochial or independent school close. For a multiple school district reallocating students to existing schools in a revised manner (redistricting), the exception shall be valid only on the first day of school for the student body following implementation of the redistricting plan, and does not apply before or after that date due to optional choices offered by the district.  
Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- b) **TRANSFER FROM NONMEMBER SCHOOL –** The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring from a nonmember school located in Kentucky whose athletic participation has been limited primarily to other nonmember schools.  
Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- c) **MILITARY ASSIGNMENT-** The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring in a situation where documentation is presented to verify that the change in education and living arrangements is directly related to an order from any branch

of the United States military service, including the reserve components. Special verification may be requested including documentation of a Permanent Change of Station or Change of Duty Status. This may also include the case where the transfer is made necessary by implementation of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children.

- d) **BONA FIDE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE-** The period of ineligibility may be waived if there has been a bona fide change in residence by the parents and student that precedes a student's change of schools.  
For purposes of this bylaw, a bona fide change of residence means the uninterrupted moving of the permanent residence of the entire family unit of the student as composed when the student was eligible at the sending school (including one or both parents if at that residence) from one school district or defined school attendance area into another school district or defined school attendance area prior to a change in enrollment of the student. To be considered bona fide, the change must remain uninterrupted for the entire period during which the student would have been ineligible if the exception was not applied. A student who becomes emancipated does not have a bona fide change of residence by virtue of his or her emancipation and change of residence for purposes of satisfying this exception. Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- e) **DIVORCE-** The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event of a dissolution of marriage (i.e. a final and legally binding divorce decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) or properly recorded legal separation (i.e. a legally binding separation decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) of the parents and a change in the residence of the student pursuant to a court order granting custody of the child to one of the parents with whom the student shall reside.  
The grant of this waiver shall only apply to the member school in the school district in which the residence of the custodial parent is located.  
Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- f) **CHANGE IN SOLE CUSTODY-** The KHSAA shall not recognize guardianship or similar arrangements made, for purposes of this bylaw. The period of ineligibility may be waived if it is shown that custody of the student has been taken from one or both parents and given to the other parent or a third person by a court of competent jurisdiction and under circumstances indicating: (1) the parent(s) are unfit or (2) the court finds that the health and welfare of the student would be better served by the change in custody.  
The grant of this waiver shall only apply to the member school in the school district in which the residence of the custodial parent is located.  
Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- g) **CHANGE IN JOINT CUSTODY -** In the event joint custody is awarded to both parents, for purposes of this bylaw, the student shall initially be eligible where either parent resides. The eligibility of a student may be restored one time if, after establishing eligibility and complying with the initial court order granting joint custody, a student relocates to permanently reside with the other custodial parent.  
The grant of this waiver shall only apply to the member school in the school district in which the residence of the custodial parent is located.  
After this one time move by the student to the other custodial parent all subsequent moves between parents shall require a period of ineligibility of one year.  
Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- h) **DEATH-** The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event the death of one or both of the student's custodial parents creates the circumstances that the transfer to another secondary



school is deemed appropriate.

Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.

- i) **BOARDING SCHOOLS-** The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student entering a boarding school on a full-time basis as a boarding school student, or a student returning from a boarding school to the school attended immediately prior to enrollment in the boarding school; where attendance in the boarding school was required by order of the court or by recommendation of the principal of the school attended immediately prior to attendance at the boarding school.

A boarding school is defined as a school that has an enrolled resident boarding school population in the ninth through 12th grades of at least fifty (50) percent of the full-time student body for each of the last four years.

A boarding school must have appropriate dormitory facilities to house, feed and provide general living accommodations for boarding students, and must have properly trained supervisory personnel on duty at all times.

A boarding school must be recognized as a boarding school in its own literature and must be verified by the Kentucky Department of Education and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A boarding student, to qualify for the exception, must spend at least an average of five (5) days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session. Coaches and other individuals employed by or associated with a boarding school's athletic program shall not serve as the boarding supervisor or otherwise live with boarding students in school housing.

Only those schools that qualify as boarding schools as defined herein may provide any assistance for room and board to students who participate in interscholastic athletics and only if such assistance is based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.

The Ruling Officer is required to have verification that the move to or from the boarding school is by order of the Principal (sending) or a court of competent jurisdiction in order for this exception to apply.

Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this exception shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.

- j) **CESSATION OF SCHOOL PROGRAM-** The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event of a school remaining open but notifying the Association in writing that it is discontinuing its varsity participation in an Association sponsored sport (regular and postseason) in which the student had previously participated after enrolling in grade nine (9).

**Sec. 3) SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR DENIAL OF WAIVER FOR THOSE SATISFYING DISCRETIONARY WAIVER PROVISION(S) IN SECTION 2**

A waiver of the period of ineligibility is not required to be granted for those students satisfying one of the exceptions in Sec 2:

- a) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility;
- b) If the change in schools is to nullify or circumvent implementation of Board of Education, School Based Decision Making or school imposed policy which would have resulted in the student's ineligibility at the sending school in accordance with KHSAA Bylaws or Competition Rules;
- c) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school; or
- d) If the change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school, including:
  - (1) If a student participates on a school team that is coached by a coach associated in that same sport at a high school, and the student then transfers to the member school where the coach is employed (paid or volunteer at any level); or
  - (2) If a student participates on a nonschool (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, summer program, etc.) team that is affiliated with or coached by a coach associated in that same sport at a member school and the student then transfers

to the member school where a coach is employed (paid or volunteer at any level).

**Sec. 4) OTHER TRANSFERRING STUDENT RESTRICTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

- a) The Commissioner's office may appoint or hire a committee or investigator to conduct any inquiry or investigation concerning any issues arising under this bylaw or any other bylaw.
- b) If any member school files a written objection to the factual validity of the certification before the conclusion of the period of time to which the period of ineligibility would normally apply, along with the specific, detailed basis for the objection, then a complete investigation shall be conducted by the KHSAA and a ruling shall be issued through the Commissioner's office.
- c) A student enrolled in grades 4-8 who has participated in a first team game shall not be eligible to represent a second member school during that school year unless that student would qualify for a waiver of the period of ineligibility in accordance with provisions of Section 2 above.
- d) A student is ineligible for athletics in this state if he or she transfers from another state if the student was or would have become ineligible in the state from which he or she transfers.

**Case BL-6-1- What is the transfer rule (Bylaw 6)?**

*Bylaw 6, Transfer Rule, states that any student who changes schools after enrolling in grade 9 and after participating in a varsity contest in any sport, shall be ineligible at the new school for one year from the date of last varsity participation at the old school. There is only limited authority to waive the period of ineligibility under the circumstances outlined in Bylaw 6 and the Due Process Procedure. A contest is one of the defined limit for the specific sport within Bylaw 23 and does not include scrimmages.*

**Case BL-6-2- Why is there a transfer rule?**

*Nearly every state has a transfer rule to protect the integrity of the interscholastic program. These rules are necessary for several reasons including, but not limited to, the following principles:*

- (1) *these rules prevent and deter transfers due to recruiting or athletic reasons;*
- (2) *these rules protect the opportunities of bona fide resident students;*
- (3) *these rules provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework for athletic competition in an academic setting;*
- (4) *these rules provide uniform standards for all schools to follow;*
- (5) *these rules support the educational philosophy that athletics is a privilege which should not assume a dominant position in a school's program;*
- (6) *these rules keep the focus of educators and students on the fact that students attend schools to receive an education first, and participate in athletics second;*
- (7) *these rules maintain the fundamental principle that a high school student should live at home with parents or custodian in the event of parental death or incapacitation, and attend school in the school district in which they reside;*
- (8) *these rules reinforce the view that a family is a strong and viable unit and as such is the best place for students to live while attending high school;*
- (9) *these rules serve as a deterrent to students running away from, or avoiding discipline that has been imposed; and*
- (10) *these rules prevent manipulation of a residence change or other exception solely or primarily for the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation and serve to ensure the integrity of the rules adherence process.*

**Case BL-6-3- What is the procedure for requesting a waiver of the period of ineligibility for a student who has transferred in to a member school?**

*The receiving school initiates the process using KHSAA Form GE06 and utilizing the instructions on that form.*

*The Receiving School is the KHSAA member school in which the student is enrolled and for which he/she is requesting eligibility.*

*The Sending School is normally the most recent school in which this student was enrolled and participated in interscholastic athletics. However, for students who have attended multiple*

schools, the Sending School is the last school at which the student participated in varsity athletics after enrolling in grade nine (9).

Failure of the sending school to return the form to the receiving school within fifteen (15) days will result in an administrative penalty per Bylaw 27.

Any school failing to properly certify the eligibility of a student who ultimately has an ineligible student participate or practice will be held accountable for penalty in compliance with other KHSAA bylaws.

**Case BL-6-4- What special documentation needs to be sent along with the waiver request when the member school sends the request to the KHSAA?**

This is dependent upon which exception to Bylaw 6 that the member school desires to request. Any and all documentation that would further detail the transfer including records shall be submitted. The transfer form (GE06) is revised annually with details about the required documentation, and is posted on the KHSAA website.

**Case BL-6-5- What are the restrictions on, and expectations for, student-athletes during the normal one-year period of ineligibility?**

If a student seeking a waiver of the one-year period is granted such waiver, and the conditions change during the one year following enrollment at the new school, a new ruling may be issued. The expectation of the published exceptions is that the circumstances resulting in the waiver continue to exist for one year. It is the obligation of school personnel to monitor the facts surrounding students receiving the waiver, and report to the Association if the circumstances change in order to request a new ruling.

If an ineligible student participates in interscholastic athletics during the usual period of ineligibility, the KHSAA may toll the one year period of ineligibility after the anticipated expiration date in an amount of time equal to the time the student participated while ineligible. For example, if a student participates in interscholastic athletics for six months during the usual period of ineligibility, the KHSAA may toll the period of ineligibility after the anticipated expiration date for six months. Depending on the circumstances of each case, this time might be applied immediately after the expiration of the normal one-year period of ineligibility or delayed until a particular sports season. This interpretation is necessary, fair and reasonable because the ineligible student may have participated in and affected the outcome of games, including tournament games, that cannot be replayed and deprived properly eligible students of opportunities to participate that cannot later be restored.

**Case BL-6-6- When is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school for the purposes of Bylaw 6?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

In the case of enrollment prior to the start of the school year, the student may be considered to be enrolled at the new school when formal application has been made and accepted as verified by the new Principal and the student is officially withdrawn and off the enrollment listing of the former school.

**Case BL-6-7- What does the word "sport" as used in Bylaw 6 represent with respect to athletic participation and the applicability of Bylaw 6?**

The provisions of Bylaw 6 that call for participation in a varsity "sport" as a determinant restricts application to those sports which the KHSAA sanctions and these are separate and apart from Sports-Activities. "Sport" includes baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, softball (fastpitch), swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track, volleyball and wrestling. This rule does not apply to students whose participation is solely in the Sport-Activities of archery, bass fishing, bowling and competitive cheer.

**Case BL-6-8- Is there a link between Bylaw 6 (Transfer Rule) and Bylaw 16 (Recruiting) as for the enforcement by the Association?**

No. These are separate and distinct bylaws. However, it is

possible that a transferring student could have a change in residence or meet another documented exception and still be ineligible if a Bylaw 16 violation is determined in the case. And, the absence of a Bylaw 16 violation (recruiting) does not relate to the enforcement of Bylaw 6.

**Case BL-6-9- How are magnet schools, and board selected program enrollments interpreted with regard to Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 (a)?**

The Association attempts to ensure that its regulations are not an inhibitor to a school trying a creative, magnet, and traditional or other type of special program for student or school improvement. Representatives of those local boards of education shall ensure that the listing of magnet, traditional, innovative, ROTC, and other selective, board approved and designated programs are submitted to the Commissioner's office where they will remain on file to ensure the accurate processing of such requests.

**Case BL-6-10- How is Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(a) interpreted in the case of a school consolidating or splitting into multiple schools?**

When multiple schools are consolidated within a district, the students entering the consolidated school are considered eligible at the consolidated school under this exception, provided they are eligible to attend the consolidated school per local board of education policy. Subsequent to the first day of school, the KHSAA transfer rule provisions shall apply.

In the case of a member school splitting into multiple schools within a district, the students shall be eligible at the school assigned by the board of education or the school where the student first attends within the district if such attendance and eligibility is allowed under local board of education policy. Subsequent to the first day of school, the KHSAA transfer rule provisions shall apply.

**Case BL-6-11- How is Bylaw 6 applied to out of state students, and does exception (b) in Section 2 of Bylaw 6 apply to students transferring from out of state schools?**

Students transferring from out of state schools are subject to the provisions of Bylaw 6 if they participated in any varsity game in any sport at any out of state school following enrolment in grade nine (9).

Exception (g) is not available for students transferring from out of state schools. "Nonmember school located in Kentucky" in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 (b) specifically means a school located in Kentucky that is not a member of the KHSAA. This exception was passed by the KHSAA member schools in an effort to accommodate students who had been enrolled at small in-state schools that were not members of the KHSAA and had participated against similarly situated schools.

**Case BL-6-12- What are the Boarding Schools impacted by Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 (g)?**

Per the Kentucky Department of Education, the schools that are "boarding schools" and qualify for the exception as of August 15, 2015 are Oneida Baptist Institute and Red Bird Christian School.

**Case BL-6-13- What does "reasonably precipitate" mean under Bylaw 6, Sec. 3 (c) and can a student delay enrolling at the receiving school if the family changes residence during the middle of a grading period?**

The bona fide change of residence exception in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(a) is not available if the change in residence by the student and the parents does not "reasonably precipitate" the transfer to the receiving school (see Sec. 3 (g)). "Reasonably precipitates" means, among other things, that a student cannot delay transferring after a change in residence for an unreasonable amount of time.

The "reasonably precipitates" provision gives the Ruling Officer/Commissioner discretion to waive the period of ineligibility under Bylaw 6, Sec. 1(a) if the change in residence occurs at a point during a credit period (semester/trimester) when the student would incur academic difficulties to transfer schools provided that the student transfers schools at the next

available credit period (semester/trimester) break. A student who delays transferring until after that time will not have had a change in residence that "reasonably precipitates" the transfer of schools.

It should be noted the "reasonably precipitates" language also refers to the timing of the transfer as it relates to any documented exception. The rule as written and interpreted, calls for the exception being satisfied (i.e., residence change, divorce, custody action, etc.) to occur first, and thereby result in the need to change schools. The documented exceptions are not published to provide a guide for circumvention of the one-year period of ineligibility, but rather to show that there are instances where changing circumstances necessitate a change in schools.

## **BYLAW 7. TRANSFER RULE- FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

### **Sec. 1) FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS (NONDOMESTIC)**

- a) Foreign exchange students desiring to participate in high school athletics (grades 9-12) at any level in Kentucky shall be considered ineligible for the first calendar year following enrollment.
- b) Foreign exchange students who have been ineligible for an entire calendar year after being enrolled in a high school in Kentucky become eligible to represent that school immediately following the conclusion of the one-year period, and remain eligible through graduation if compliant with all other KHSAA Bylaws.
- c) A student awaiting a ruling regarding eligibility shall not be eligible to compete, including practice, during the periods defined by Bylaw 23.

### **Sec. 2) EXCEPTION FOR PLACEMENT THROUGH APPROVED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS UTILIZING A J-1 EDUCATION VISA**

#### **a) Approved Programs**

Foreign Exchange Students in possession of a J-1 education Visa attending KHSAA member schools may have the period of ineligibility waived in the event that the student is placed in a KHSAA member school under the auspices of approved student exchange programs. Member student exchange programs (agencies) of the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) who are members in good standing with CSIET shall be considered approved agencies. An individual placed by an agency approved by CSIET may be denied eligibility in the event that it is documented that the agency has failed to assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party has influenced the assignment for athletic or other purposes.

#### **b) Waiver of Period of Ineligibility**

In order to be considered for a waiver, the following conditions shall exist:

- (1) The student shall be in compliance with all U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations and placed through an approved program as in Sec. 2(a) above;
- (2) The student shall be in the first year as an exchange student in the United States and placed through an approved program as in Sec. 2(a) above;
- (3) The student shall not be a graduate of the 12th or terminating grade or its equivalent in either the U.S. or his or her home country;
- (4) The student shall be in possession of a complete transcript of records that has been translated into English prior to the request for eligibility;
- (5) The student shall be in possession of a J-1 student education visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service;
- (6) Placement in the KHSAA member school is random, and the student has not been a "direct placement" into a KHSAA member school. For the purposes of the J-1 visa, a "direct placement" is one in which either the student or the sending organization in the foreign country is party to an arrangement with any other party, including school personnel, for the student to attend a particular school or live with a particular host family;
- (7) The student's host family shall not pay any tuition or fee

normal to the attendance at the KHSAA member school, all fees shall be paid by the student's family;

(8) All travel fees shall be paid by the student's family;

(9) The student's host family from the initial date of entry into the United States through the end of the time period as an exchange student shall not include members of the coaching or athletic staff at the KHSAA member school at which participation is desired and shall not include exchange agency representatives; and

(10) The student, the principal or designated representative of the member school, and a representative of the placement agency shall sign and attest to certification that the athlete complies with the eligibility rules of the KHSAA and shall not be eligible under any circumstances for more than one year of athletic participation if the first year period of ineligibility is waived.

(11) Any payments to the host family by the placing agency shall be made solely by the exchange agency, and in compliance with the regulations and requirements of CSIET;

(12) The facts supporting a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.

### **Sec. 3) EXCEPTION FOR PLACEMENT THROUGH APPROVED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS UTILIZING AN F-1 EDUCATION VISA**

#### **a) Approved Programs**

Foreign Exchange Students in possession of an F-1 education Visa attending KHSAA member schools may have the period of ineligibility waived in the event that the student is placed in a KHSAA member school under the auspices of approved student exchange programs or a valid F-1 exchange agreement under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security. Member student exchange programs (agencies) and schools of the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) who are members in good standing with CSIET shall be considered approved agencies/schools. An individual placed by an agency/school approved by CSIET may be denied eligibility in the event that it is documented that the agency has failed to assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party has influenced the assignment for athletic or other purposes.

Other entities may be approved by the Board of Control, but such approval must be granted prior to the placement of any student in a KHSAA member school. To be otherwise considered for approval by the Board of Control, a foreign exchange program (agency) shall assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes and shall formally request approval of the Board of Control through the Commissioner's office.

#### **b) Waiver of Period of Ineligibility**

In order to be considered for a waiver, the following conditions shall exist:

- (1) The student shall be in compliance with all U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations and placed through an approved program or school as in Sec. 3(a) above;
- (2) The student shall be in the first and only year as an exchange student in the United States and placed through an approved program as in Sec. 2(a) above;
- (3) The student shall not be a graduate of the 12th or terminating grade or its equivalent in either the U.S. or his or her home country;
- (4) The student shall be in possession of a complete transcript of records that has been translated into English prior to the request for eligibility;
- (5) The student shall be in possession of an F-1 student education visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and a properly completed I-20;
- (6) When enrolled in a public (A1, D1, F1) school, the student shall be required to pay the public school district the full unsubsidized, per capita cost of providing the education, as reported to the Kentucky Department of Education. The full, unsubsidized per capita cost of education (for each student) is the district cost of providing education to each student in the school district where the public school is located. When

enrolled in a nonpublic (J1, M1, R1) school, the student shall be required to pay the nonpublic school the full amount of the highest listed tuition for attendance at that member school, and shall not be eligible for any merit or need based aid as defined in Bylaw 13 or any otherwise permitted tuition reduction within the guidelines of the member school;

- (7) The full, unsubsidized, per capita cost of education shall be listed under "tuition" on the student's Form I-20. If the Form I-20 does not include the cost of tuition, the student must have a notarized statement, signed by the designated school official (DSO) who signed the Form I-20, stating the full cost of tuition (unsubsidized per capita cost of education) and that the student paid the tuition (unsubsidized per capita cost of education) in full. The unsubsidized cost payment is mandatory and school systems cannot waive the requirement. Federal law does not allow a student in F-1 status to attend public secondary school without paying this cost, which must be paid in all cases. Any payments to the local school district for this unsubsidized cost payment shall be made by the student and may not be made by any individual with any direct or indirect connection to the member school;
- (8) Placement in the KHSAA member school is random, and the student has not been a "direct placement" into a KHSAA member school. For the purposes of the F-1 visa, a "direct placement" is one who is known to be trying out for/to play an interscholastic varsity sport, or for whom participation in athletics was a known motivating factor at the time of application;
- (9) The student's host family shall not pay any tuition or fee normal to the attendance at the KHSAA member school, all fees shall be paid by the student's family;
- (10) All travel fees shall be paid by the student's family;
- (11) The student's host family from the initial date of entry into the United States through the end of the time period as an exchange student shall not include members of the coaching or athletic staff at the KHSAA member school at which participation is desired and shall not include exchange agency representatives; and
- (12) The student, the principal or designated representative of the member school, and a representative of the placement agency shall sign and attest to certification that the athlete complies with the eligibility rules of the KHSAA and shall not be eligible under any circumstances for more than one year of athletic participation if the first year period of ineligibility is waived.
- (13) The facts supporting a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.

#### Sec. 4) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY BEYOND ONE YEAR IF WAIVER GRANTED

Any student having made election to apply for the waiver of the first year of ineligibility and having been granted a waiver of the normal period of ineligibility under Section 1 above shall not be eligible, under any circumstances, for more than one (1) school year while enrolled in grades 9 -12 in Kentucky.

#### Sec. 5) SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS RESULTING IN DENIAL OF WAIVER

Satisfying of one of the exceptions in this Bylaw shall not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted if:

- a) The change in schools is to nullify or circumvent implementation of Board of Education, School Based Decision Making or school imposed policy which would have resulted in the student's ineligibility at the sending school;
- b) The satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the enrollment at the new school;
- c) The change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
- d) The satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility; or
- e) The satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school.

#### Sec. 6) ELIGIBILITY OF OTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS

This Bylaw covers only foreign exchange students entering the

United States with a J-1 or F-1 Visa. Regulations relating to all other foreign students are contained in Bylaw 8.

#### **Case 7-1 - Why are there restrictions on foreign exchange students, and why are the restrictions on J-1 and F-1 students different?**

*For each international student who arrives at a US high school and promptly plays at the varsity level, there is a lost participation opportunity for a student who has "paid his or her dues" in the hope of one day gaining playing time.*

*An international student who comes to the United States without the accompaniment of his or her parent(s) is analogous to a domestic student who transfers without being accompanied by his or her parents. The latter student is not typically granted immediate eligibility.*

*"Team shopping" is at odds with the high school model of academic primacy, and is unfair to other students and other schools.*

*F-1 visa programs in particular are ripe for abuse in the transfer process. While a J-1 foreign exchange student in an approved program typically has little say in his or her school of enrollment, a student with an F-1 visa, absent a state association rule, could choose his or her school of enrollment based solely on immediate sports opportunity. The displacement risk to other students would be immediate and irreparable.*

*Rules restricting participation by certain international students promote amateurism, inhibit "power-loading" of select schools, and impede the exploitation of students by coaches and boosters.*

*Such rules discourage recruiting, prevent the over-emphasis of athletics, and maintain the focus of secondary schools on their primary purpose: the academic preparation of students for their adult lives.*

#### **Case BL-7-2- What are the approved J-1 VISA programs for Foreign Exchange Students?**

*Students holding a J-1 VISA issued by the U.S. Department of State and placed in KHSAA member schools through a CSJET approved agency may be declared eligible by the Association. For more information, contact the CSJET website by going to <http://www.csjet.org/>. An agency may be removed from the listing at any time for noncompliance with the basic rules regarding random placement of students and other Federal provisions. At this time, this list contains the following approved agencies—*

##### *Full Approval*

*Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (AFICE)*

*AFS-USA*

*AIFS Foundation- Academic Year in America*

*American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS*

*American Cultural Exchange Service*

*Amicus International Student Exchange*

*Aspect Foundation*

*ASSE International Student Exchange Programs*

*ASSIST*

*Association for Teen-Age Diplomats*

*AYUSA*

*CCI Greenheart/Greenheart Travel*

*Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Program*

*Council for Educational Travel, USA*

*Council on International Educational Exchange*

*Cultural Academic Student Exchange*

*Cultural Homestay International*

*Education Travel & Culture*

*Educational Merit Foundation*

*Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT/SHARE!)*

*EF High School Exchange Year*

*Empire State Youth Exchange, Inc.*

*ESSEX Rotary (Eastern States Student Exchange) (Districts*

*6910, 7190, 7230, 7255, 7280, 7300, 7330, 7360, 7390,*

*7410, 7430, 7450, 7490, 7500, 7510, 7550, 7570, 7600,*

*7610, 7620, 7630, 7640, 7690, 7710, 7720, 7730, 7780,*

*7790, 7810, 7850, 7870, 7890, 7910, 7930, 7950, & 7980)*

*Face The World Foundation*

Foreign Links Around the Globe (FLAG)  
 Forte International Exchange Association  
 Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange  
 German American Partnership Program, Inc.  
 Global Insights  
 International Cultural Exchange Services  
 International Experience USA  
 International Fellowship  
 International Student Exchange  
 The Laurasian Institution (TLI)  
 Nacel Open Door  
 North Star Rotary Youth Exchange  
 NorthWest Student Exchange  
 NW Services, INC. PEACE Program  
 Ohio-Erie Rotary Youth Exchange Program, Inc. (Districts 6380, 6600, 6630, 6670, 6690, 6740, 6780, 7530, 7670, and 7680)  
 Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations  
 Program of Academic Exchange  
 Reflections International, Inc.  
 Rotary California-Nevada (District 5190)  
 Rotary International  
 Rotary YES/SCANEX (Rotary Districts 5000, 5240, 5260, 5280, 5300, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5420, and 5490)  
 Rotary Youth Exchange Florida, Inc. (Districts 6890, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, and 6990)  
 South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (Districts 5500, 5510, 5520, 5610, 5630, 5650, 5670, 5690, 5710, 5730, 5750, 5770, 5790, 5810, 5830, 5840, 5870, 5890, 5910, 5930, 5970, 6000, 6040, 6060, 6080, 6110, 6150, 6190, 6200, 6760, 6800, 6820, 6840, 6860, and 6880)  
 States' 4-H International Exchange Programs  
 STS Foundation  
 Student American International  
 Terra Lingua USA  
 Western States Student Exchange, Inc. (Districts 5010, 5020, 5030, 5050, 5060, 5100, 5110, 5130, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5220, 5230, and 5400)  
 World Learning Youth Programs  
 World Link  
 Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA)

*Provisional*  
 American Academic and Cultural Exchange, Inc.  
 Foundation for Academic Cultural Exchange  
 United Studies, Inc. Student Exchange

*Conditional*  
 None at this time.

**Case BL-7-3- What are the approved F-1 VISA programs for Foreign Exchange Students?**  
*Students holding an F-1 VISA issued by the Department of Homeland Security and placed in KHSAA member schools through a CSJET approved agency may be declared eligible by the Association. For more information, contact the CSJET website by going to <http://www.csiet.org/>. An agency may be removed from the listing at any time for noncompliance with the basic rules regarding random placement of students and other Federal provisions. At this time, this list contains the following approved agencies—*

*Full Approval*  
 Asian American Cultural Exchange Association  
 AHLI- American Home Life International, Inc.  
 ASSIST  
 Azumano International  
 CCI Greenheart/Greenheart Travel  
 CET International  
 Children Around the World  
 Council on International Educational Exchange  
 EduBoston  
 Exchange Service International  
 Foreign Links Around the Globe (FLAG)  
 Global Language Service Networks, Inc.- Public, Private School Program  
 gphomestay / The Cambridge Institute of International Education

Heritage Student Foundation  
 International Cultural Exchange Services  
 International Education Opportunities  
 International Experience USA  
 Ivy Bridge Group  
 Joy International Exchange Student, Inc.  
 Nacel Open Door  
 New World Academic and Cultural Exchange  
 Next International Cultural Exchange  
 Pacific Link International Educational Services (PLIES)  
 STS Global Studies

*Provisional*  
 American Homestay Network  
 American Homestay Services  
 AmeriStudent  
 Apex International Education Partners (AIEP)  
 C & T Education  
 Educatius Inc.  
 Gateway Education  
 Newcomb Central School District  
 Private & Public School F-1 Exchange (PSE)  
 Renascentia Hall International, LLC  
 University Track Preparation  
 The Zource, Inc.

*Conditional*  
 None at this time

**Case BL-7-4- Will the KHSAA recognize a student on any other VISA than J-1 or F-1 for the purpose of granting athletic eligibility?**

*No. The student may apply for eligibility under Bylaw 8, but only J-1 and F-1 VISAs are recognized by Bylaw 7 to allow for participation.*

**BYLAW 8. TRANSFER RULE- NON-EXCHANGE FOREIGN STUDENTS**

- Sec. 1) FOREIGN STUDENTS (NONDOMESTIC) NOT COMING THROUGH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
- Foreign students (nondomestic) desiring to participate in high school athletics (grades 9-12) at any level in Kentucky shall be considered ineligible for the first calendar year following enrollment.
  - Foreign students who have been ineligible for an entire calendar year after being enrolled in a high school in Kentucky become eligible to represent that school immediately following the conclusion of the one-year period, and remain eligible through graduation if compliant with all other KHSAA Bylaws.
  - A student awaiting a ruling regarding eligibility shall not be eligible to compete, including practice, during the periods defined by Bylaw 23.
- Sec. 2) DISCRETIONARY EXCEPTIONS FOR WAIVER
- ENTIRE FAMILY RELOCATION - The period of ineligibility may be waived if the entire family unit is relocating from a foreign country. In this case, the student(s) may be declared eligible by documenting the move of the permanent residence of the entire family of the student and the student's parents into the school district or defined school attendance area prior to the enrollment of the student. The facts supporting a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
  - REFUGEE/POLITICAL ASYLUM - The period of ineligibility may be waived if the members of a family from a foreign country are relocating due to a declaration of asylum or seeking refuge due to acknowledged conflict. In this case, student(s) may be declared eligible by documenting the move into the school district or defined school attendance area by virtue of the policies of the United States Department of State prior to the enrollment of the student. The facts supporting a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.
- Sec. 3) SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS RESULTING IN DENIAL OF WAIVER  
 Satisfying of one of the exceptions established in this Bylaw shall not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted if:

- a) The change in schools is to nullify or circumvent implementation of Board of Education, School Based Decision Making or school imposed policy which would have resulted in the student's ineligibility at the sending school;
- b) The satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the enrollment at the new school;
- c) The change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
- d) The satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility; or
- e) The satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school.

**Case 8-1 - Why are there restrictions on the eligibility of foreign students not coming through an exchange program?**

*For each international student who arrives at a US high school and promptly plays at the varsity level, there is a lost participation opportunity for a student who has "paid his or her dues" in the hope of one day gaining playing time.*

*An international student who comes to the United States without the accompaniment of his or her parent(s) is analogous to a domestic student who transfers without being accompanied by his or her parents. The latter student is not typically granted immediate eligibility.*

*"Team shopping" is at odds with the high school model of academic primacy, and is unfair to other students and other schools.*

*Rules restricting participation by certain international students promote amateurism, inhibit "power-loading" of select schools, and impede the exploitation of students by coaches and boosters.*

*Such rules discourage recruiting, prevent the over-emphasis of athletics, and maintain the focus of secondary schools on their primary purpose: the academic preparation of students for their adult lives.*

**BYLAW 9. BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL CONTESTANT ON OTHER TEAMS, POSTSEASON AND ALL-STAR GAMES**

**Sec. 1) BASKETBALL**

- a) Restrictions from First Day of School through Day Prior to the First Day of Practice
  - (1) From the first day of school through the day prior to the first legal day of practice, no student who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has subsequently been a contestant in basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball may participate in:
    - a. any manner on any nonschool sponsored team in basketball;
    - b. any all-star game in basketball;
    - c. any type of organized competition in basketball or variation of basketball with the exception of competition that meets the camp restrictions as detailed below in subsection (2); or
    - d. any other event not sanctioned by the Board of Control;
  - (2) Permissible competition by males during this period shall include only those camps that are held on the campus of an NCAA or NAIA member institution or conducted by a single NCAA or NAIA member institution within a 100-mile radius of the NCAA or NAIA member institution's campus, when the only available coaches in attendance for the purpose of evaluation are the employed coaches of that institution.
  - (3) Permissible competition by females during this period shall include only permitted evaluations held nonscholastic women's basketball events during the weekend designated for evaluation by NCAA coaches.
- b) Restrictions from First Day of Practice through last legal date Day Prior to the First Day of Practice
  - (1) From the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in basketball (including KHSAA sanctioned postseason) by the school, no student who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has been a contestant in basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in basketball may

participate in any manner on any nonschool sponsored team in basketball; in any all-star game in basketball; or any type of organized competition in basketball or variation of basketball unless it as been sanctioned by the Board of Control.

- c) Restrictions following the End of Season
  - (1) Following the team's last scheduled game (including postseason), there are no restrictions on play in basketball for the student-athletes.

**Sec. 2) FOOTBALL**

- a) Restrictions from First Day of Practice through last legal date Day Prior to the First Day of Practice
  - (1) From the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in football (including KHSAA sanctioned postseason) by the school, no student who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has subsequently been a contestant in football at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in football may participate in:
    - a. any manner on any nonschool sponsored team in football;
    - b. any all-star game in football; or
    - c. any type of organized competition in football or variation of football unless it as been sanctioned by the Board of Control.
- b) Restrictions following the End of Season
  - (1) Following the team's last scheduled game (including postseason), there are no restrictions on play in football for the student-athletes with the exception of the published restrictions on the issuance of equipment detailed in Bylaw 23.

**Case BL-9-1- Why are there restrictions on basketball and football participants that prevent them from playing in outside competition during the school year, prior to the end of their competitive seasons?**

*A restriction on nonschool athletic participation in these sports attempts to protect students who choose to participate on their schools' athletic teams from exploitation by those who seek to capitalize on their skill and/or reputation. In addition, the restriction:*

- (1) Avoids inherent risks to participation in nonschool athletic programs that may have inadequate administrative oversight;
- (2) Discourages outside entities from pressuring student-athletes to miss classes while competing on nonschool teams or in nonschool events;
- (3) Equalizes competition by reducing any unfair advantage students who participate in nonschool athletics may have over those who do not participate in outside events, and
- (4) Reduces distractions from academic preparation and other school responsibilities.

*A nonschool athletic participation restriction in these sports also provides some control over the trend towards year-round competitive sports seasons. The regulation operates to reduce, or even eliminate, conflicts which may arise due to: time conflicts of practices, games, playoffs, differing coaching philosophies of the school coaching staff and the nonschool coaching staff, and team loyalty.*

**Case BL-9-2- What specifically is permissible, and not permissible for basketball players to participate in after the first day of school?**

*The following situations would be expressly prohibited:*

- (1) Any play involving more than two (2) people at a time where score is kept, either among the players, on a flip scoreboard, digital scoreboard, or using any other device;
- (2) Any play involving a third party acting in the role of a contest official, whether or not the person is a licensed or approved official;
- (3) Any type of play against other players where the teams are selected either prior to arrival or after arrival, by any other method than simple player selection by the players themselves;
- (4) Any play at any event where school funds are expended for participation fees, travel or any other expense, including fees paid by booster organizations or any member of the coaching staff;
- (5) Any play where future play is predicated by the outcome of

- other play at or preceding the event; and  
 (6) Any play at which players wear school team identifying apparel of any type.

The following situations would be permitted:

- (1) Activity such as individual play or skill development or technique drills where neither score nor time are kept and future play is not predicated by results of other play;
- (2) "Pick-up" type of action initiated solely by players, and with no coaches, event organizers, promoters or event sponsors having any involvement in the activity whatsoever; and
- (3) Any individual instructional activity fully funded by the student participant at his/her own expense.

**Case BL-9-3- For the purposes of Bylaw 9, when are the seasons for basketball and football?**

For the interpretation of this rule, the basketball and football seasons are considered to start on the opening date of school. Student-athletes who have both been enrolled in grade nine, and participated in a contest at the high school level (freshman, JV or varsity) cannot participate in outside competition during this time.

**Case BL-9-4- Does Bylaw 9 apply to participants in any sport other than basketball or football?**

No. There are no restrictions on the student-athletes in sports other than football and basketball as it relates to outside competition during the season or prior to the season beginning.

**Case BL-9-5- Does Bylaw 9 restrict a student who hasn't yet played for the school in basketball from playing in an outside league or in any other organized competitive setting in basketball during the school year prior to the season?**

No, not until he/she has been enrolled in grade nine and played for a team in a contest at any level (grades 9-12) within the school. The restriction, which also applies to outside competition in football by football players, does not apply to incoming freshmen or any other student who hasn't yet represented the school.

**Case BL-9-6- Are there any exceptions to the participation restrictions in Bylaw 9 in girls' basketball exposure events?**

Yes. For the girls, Bylaw 9 does not apply during the NCAA exempt weekend for non scholastic girls' basketball events, which is September 25-27, 2015. There is no application necessary for girls to have that exemption.

**Case BL-9-7- Are there any exceptions to the participation restrictions in Bylaw 9 for participation in Olympic Development Activities?**

Yes, the Board of Control has authorized the Commissioner to consider, on a case by case basis, waivers to any restrictions contained in Bylaw 9 or Bylaw 23 that would allow participation by an enrolled student or employed coach in officially sanctioned U.S. Olympic Development activities. Such organizations as USA Basketball, USA Track and Field and other similar groups that have officially sanctioned activities can request, through the appropriate member school, that these restrictions be waived and participation allowed.

## BYLAW 10. AMATEUR/AWARDS

### Sec. 1) GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AWARDS

- a) Awards governed herein and received by a student-athlete while enrolled in a member school or awards received prior to enrollment.
- b) Awards for participation in special events (postseason tournaments) and established regional or national recognition awards (Mr./Miss Basketball, All-State, etc.) may be presented only by the management of the event, awards program, or by a school that has had or will have a team or individual participate in the event or sport, subject to the limitations in Sec. 3.
- c) An organization, business firm or other outside agency may recognize a student-athlete's outstanding performance in a particular contest or during a particular time by presenting an award, subject to the limitations in Sec. 3.
- d) Awards presented by a member school conference, or approved

agency shall be uniform for all team members receiving the award.

- e) Cash or any other award that an individual cannot receive under these rules may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different agency or individual.

### Sec. 2) AMATEUR STATUS AND IMPERMISSIBLE AWARDS

In order to remain eligible, a student who represents a member school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur (and maintain amateur status) in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from said participation.

An athlete forfeits amateur status and athletic eligibility in a sport by:

- a) Competing for money (cash) or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted). This includes any cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash equivalent item (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletic participation;
- b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value not approved within the permissible awards;
- c) Accepting gift certificates and merchandise items that cannot be properly personalized;
- d) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or other gifts of monetary value not specifically approved by Section 2 or 4 of this rule (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted if paid directly to the institution);
- e) Capitalizing on athletic fame by the use of a specific athlete(s) likeness to promote a specific business or organizational entity unrelated to interscholastic athletics;
- f) Signing a professional playing contract in that sport; or
- g) Accepting in excess of a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and nonschool programs.

### Sec. 3) PERMISSIBLE AWARDS

- a) The total value of any award presented for competition while representing the member high school during the season as defined by Bylaw 23 shall not exceed \$300, except awards presented by the Association or a member school for participation in KHSAA sponsored postseason events.
- b) The total value of any award received by a student-athlete participating in an event while not representing the school at any time shall conform to the regulations of the recognized amateur athletic organization(s) associated with the event. If no limit exists for the amateur organization, the limit shall be \$300.

**Case BL-10-1- What is the limit on the value of an award received by a student-athlete for competition outside of the representation of his/her high school?**

These limits vary from sport to sport within the purview of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport. For example, golfers should check with the United States Golf Association (USGA), while tennis players should check with the United States Tennis Association (USTA). These limits are revised regularly, and are studied for their impact on the overall program.

**Case BL-10-2- Does the association have a recommendation on how school personnel shall handle out of season play inquiries from athletes and coaches who want to enter events which offer cash for prizes?**

Yes, in light of recent situations at the high school and college level, we would offer several suggestions for Athletic Directors, Principals and Coaches to pass along to the student-athletes.

- (1) Recommend strongly that these students should not participate in any manner in such events. Even the appearance of possible "cash for play" rewards lends itself to suspicion and allegations of the violation of Bylaw 10 and the PERMANENT loss of amateur status;
- (2) Remind the students of the provisions of KHSAA Bylaw 10 in that they cannot accept cash, gift certificates or things that cannot be properly personalized and in addition, they cannot

have the money or prizes deferred to a later date or given in someone else's name;

- (3) Be mindful that the event organizer awarding the prize, particularly cash, to the member school in lieu of giving it to the student-athlete is NOT permissible as it allows the school to benefit from the name or image of the student and his/her ability;
  - (4) If they insist on participation, request that event organizers denote a list, and post prominently such list, of those students who are competing in the competition, but will not be accepting prizes; and
  - (5) Make sure the students understand that they may accept specific prizes up to the limit of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport, but cannot under any circumstances, accept a gift voucher or simply be given an amount to spend.
- Number (5) above appears to be the most frequently violated from the anecdotal evidence available to the Association, as for example, a golfer is told he can go to the pro shop, and spend up to \$50 for finishing third in a tournament. This is not legal and potentially renders the athlete PERMANENTLY ineligible at all amateur levels. If for example, the prize was predetermined that the third place finisher was to receive a golf bag as displayed at the 18th hole, then if that bag is under the NGB limit for golf (assume it had a price of \$80), then it could be accepted. But that same golfer could not be allowed to go spend \$80 in the pro shop. While this may seem like a minute difference, member school representatives should do everything possible to protect the amateur status of our competitors.

#### **Case BL-10-3- Does Bylaw 10 apply to Sport-Activities?**

No. At this time, Bylaw 10 and the restrictions on awards do not apply to the Sport-Activities of Archery, Bass Fishing, Bowling and Competitive Cheer.

## **BYLAW 11. FINANCIAL AID**

### Sec. 1) DEFINITIONS FOR THIS BYLAW

- a) Tuition— means the amount of necessary fees, costs and other charges to attend a member school as determined by that member school's published scale of charges. The tuition at the member school shall be the same for all students in like situation irrespective of participation in athletics and shall include applicable room and board expenses.
- b) Classification of Schools- means the classification of the member schools as follows: (1) A1— District operated general program or multi-program schools; (2) D1— Kentucky Department of Education operated schools (Blind and Deaf); (3) F1- Federal Dependent Schools; (4) J1— Roman Catholic schools; (5) M1- Other Religious schools and (6) R1— Private nonchurch related schools.
- c) Public Schools— means the member schools receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Public schools shall include the member schools which are classified as A1, D1 or F1.
- d) Nonpublic Schools— means the member schools not receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Those schools shall include the member schools which are classified as J1, M1 and R1.
- e) Nonpublic School Zone— means the zone to which each nonpublic school is assigned. The four current nonpublic school zones are Covington, Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro. These nonpublic school zones shall be comprised of the counties contained in the geographic alignment related to the archdiocese of the same name.
- f) Nonpublic School Governing Board— means the entity having oversight over the member school. For purposes of this bylaw, the "governing board" of a nonpublic school shall be determined by the school type. For J1 schools, the "governing board" shall be the archdiocese and geographic references shall be the counties included in the nonpublic school zone of the school. For the R1 and M1 schools, the "governing board" shall be as defined by the governance structure of the institution.
- g) Immediate Family— means the student and the student's father, mother, brother, sister, step-father, step-mother, step-brother,

step-sister, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, grandparent.

- h) Financial Aid— means any and all aid given to a student which reduces tuition, including awards, grants, work study, reductions and waivers.
- i) Need-Based Aid— means the amount of financial aid that an independent financial analysis of the student's financial aid application demonstrates that the student needs to pay tuition to attend a member school, provided the analysis is performed by an agency approved by the Board of Control.
- j) Merit Aid— means financial aid awards given by the member school based solely on academic/test performance which are available to the entire student body through a competitive application process and that the selection of the recipient(s) is based on published objective criteria which may not include athletic achievement or ability.
- k) Merit Aid Test— means the academic assessment or placement test approved by the Board of Control prior to its administration.
- l) Merit Aid Test Window— means the range of dates submitted by each member school for the administration of the merit aid test.
- m) Financial Records— means the records related to any financial aid analysis of the student including the immediate family's records of the method and sources for all tuition payments.

### Sec. 2) IMPERMISSIBLE FINANCIAL AID

A student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student:

- a) Receives financial aid beyond the limits defined in Section 1(a) except for merit and need-based aid allowed under this bylaw, and waivers of tuition for nondomestic students meeting all federal laws and regulations who are ruled eligible under Bylaw 7 or Bylaw 8;
- b) Receives merit aid based on an unapproved merit aid test;
- c) Receives merit aid based on a merit aid test not administered on an approved merit aid test date;
- d) Receives merit aid greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of the tuition at the member school;
- e) Receives merit aid from a member school that has already given merit aid to the greater of five (5) percent of its student body or five students;
- f) Receives financial aid that is not available to the entire student body by published objective criteria;
- g) Receives financial aid from a funding source that is not under the custody and control of the member school or its governing board;
- h) Receives any financial aid other than the permitted need-based aid or merit aid detailed above from a member school, any other entity governed by that member school's governing board or any representatives of the member school;
- i) Receives any financial aid that is indirectly or directly related to athletic achievement or ability;
- j) Has any part of the financial obligation to the member school paid directly or indirectly by individuals outside of the student's immediate family; or
- k) Does not agree to complete disclosure of financial records as defined in this bylaw upon request of the KHSAA and its officials, employees and agents.

### Sec. 3) FINANCIAL AID RESTRICTIONS AND REPORTING

All member schools shall annually report detailed financial aid information to the KHSAA including:

- a) Tuition schedule or other fees applicable to the student body at the member school;
- b) The merit aid test being utilized by the school and the merit aid test date; and
- c) A detailed listing of the amount of financial aid awarded by the member school including;
  - (1) The need-based aid each student-athlete is eligible to receive based on the report of the approved independent agency;
  - (2) The merit aid given to each student and the qualifying score used to make the determination;
  - (3) The amount of need-based aid awarded to each student; and
  - (4) A specific listing of the sports in which each student participates.

### Sec. 4) SPECIAL PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

A member school may petition the Board of Control for approval of a specific program existing prior to the adoption of this rule or



a program that can be documented to be unrelated to athletics that does not create an advantage to the school and provided that program is available to all students within the school based on objective criteria.

**Case BL-11-1– What are the key provisions regarding the awarding of aid to student-athletes and the purpose of Bylaw 11?**

*Awards given for need-based financial aid for which the student body is generally eligible and are therefore permissible, shall be determined by a neutral evaluation of the student or family financial record by one of six agencies. The need analysis may not include room and board expenses.*

*Awards given for achievement per prescribed standardized tests as detailed in Bylaw 11 (merit aid) are limited to 25% of the total tuition for the student each year.*

**Case BL-11-2– Are member schools required to submit financial aid information to the Association?**

*Upon request, all KHSAA member schools (public and private) shall annually submit to the KHSAA office a financial aid report with information about awards programs, source of funds, awarding of funds and benefits to athletes.*

**Case BL-11-3- Which agencies are approved to evaluate the needs of an applicant for need based financial aid?**

*The only permitted agencies are:*

*FACTS Grant in Aid Agency (Lincoln, NE);  
Financial Aid for Student Tuition (FAST) (Wilmington, DE);  
Financial Aid Independent Review (FAIR) (Rosemount, MN);  
Independent School Management (ISM) (formerly Family Financial Needs Assessment, Hernando, MS);  
Private School Aid Service (PSAS) (Lakewood, OH);  
School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSSFA) (Princeton, NJ); and  
Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS) (St. Paul, MN).*

*In addition, the Board of Control may approve other agencies to process parental or student data for the purpose of financial analysis. The use of any other agency not approved would render the aid invalid with respect to the ability to award the funds and remaining in compliance with Bylaw 11.*

**Case BL-11-4- Which tests are permitted to be used for the assessment to determine merit aid under Bylaw 11?**

*The only permitted tests are:*

*Education Records Bureau (ERB, CTP);  
High School Placement Test (HSPT);  
Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE);  
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS, Riverside Publishing);  
Pearson Education Assessment (PEA);  
Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSTAT);  
School and College Ability Test (SCAT);  
Stanford Achievement Test, 10th Edition; and  
Terra Nova (McGraw Hill).*

*In addition, the Board of Control may approve other tests to be used for the merit assessment. The use of any other test not approved would render the aid invalid with respect to the ability to award the funds and remain in compliance with Bylaw 11.*

**Case BL-11-5– Is it permissible for funds from nonschool sources to be incorporated into financial aid awards for student-athletes?**

*Bylaw 11 does not expressly prohibit the use of funds developed or raised from outside sources from being used for financial aid programs. However, such aid shall always be managed and distributed exclusively by member school personnel solely through the member high school financial aid program and within the limits of Bylaw 11.*

*Aid given directly to students by outside entities not permitted in the bylaw would render the student-athlete ineligible. This includes any aid in excess of the merit aid limits or need based index calculation as detailed in the Bylaw.*

**Case BL-11-6- Are there restrictions on which family members can pay the tuition or offer financial assistance to a student within Bylaw 11?**

*Yes. Immediate family members are allowed to be involved in the payment of tuition and providing assistance, but this is restricted to the student and the student's father, mother, brother, sister, step-father, step-mother, step-brother, step-sister, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, grandparent.*

**Case BL-11-7- What are the criteria used for a Board of Control to consider a waiver of the limitation on merit aid for specific programs under Bylaw 11, Sec. 4?**

*A specific merit aid program will be considered through the petition process if the specific program:*

*Existed with the merit test based awards limitations greater than 25% prior to the adoption of Bylaw 11;*

*Has been in continuous operation since the adoption of Bylaw 11 (with all participants not being permitted to play interscholastic athletes because of exceeding the 25% limitation);*

*Is subject to an annual review with the school by the Association to ensure competitive equity; and*

*Is annually confirmed by the Board of Control.*

**BYLAW 12. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, PARENTAL CONSENT AND INSURANCE**

**Sec. 1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENTS**

- a) The Superintendent or Principal shall have each student who is trying for a place as a participant on a sport or sport-activity team present a physician's certificate signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or chiropractor (if performed in the scope of practice as defined in KRS Chapter 312) which shall state that he or she is physically fit to participate without undue risk.
- b) The parent's consent for the child's participation and acknowledgment of receipt of the eligibility rules as promulgated by the Association and Kentucky Board of Education regulations in writing shall be required on KHSAA Form GE04.
- c) The permission shall acknowledge that the student and the parents are aware of the education material available from the KHSAA, Centers for Disease Control, and other agencies regarding the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the continuance of play after concussion or head injury.

**Sec. 2) REQUIREMENT FOR INSURANCE**

- a) A student, prior to participation or trying for a place on a sports or sport-activity team shall have in place medical insurance with coverage limits up to the deductible of the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance program and that insurance shall remain in force throughout participation.
- b) It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure and certify that each student has insurance coverage throughout the school year.

**Case BL-12-1- Why is there a requirement for a preparticipation physical examination and written permission from the parents and the student-athlete prior to participation?**

*The NFHS Board of Directors and the KHSAA Board of Control, acting on the longtime counsel of the Kentucky Medical Association, have stated that preparticipation physical evaluations for high school student-athletes are a necessary and desirable precondition to interscholastic athletic practice and competition.*

*The KHSAA reviews student-athlete evaluation procedures not less than every three years. Such reviews are conducted in consultation with the Kentucky Medical Association and physicians practicing in the fields of pediatrics, orthopedics or cardiology.*

*The KHSAA, working in consultation with the Kentucky Medical Association, has concluded that a specific preparticipation physical evaluation should be required and the appropriateness of any sport-specific assessment of a student-athlete's*

musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and body maturation status should be done solely by those authorized by statute.

**Case BL-12-2- What is a participant as it relates to the requirements for a physician clearance, parental permission or requirements for insurance as detailed in Bylaw 12?**

A participant is a person desiring to be a member of the school team in a sport or sport-activity and to compete in that team's practices, scrimmages or contests as defined within Bylaw 23.

**Case BL-12-3- What provisions are in place for the requirements of Bylaw 12 during those periods outside of the Bylaw 23 Limitation of Seasons for each sport or sport activity?**

Decisions as to the requirement for participants in out of season activities are at the discretion of the member school.

**Case BL-12-4- What is the minimum medical insurance that each student must have prior to being able to participate?**

All students must have medical insurance up to the Catastrophic Insurance deductible of \$25,000 prior to trying out, practicing, or participating for a KHSAA member school during the defined limitation of seasons (Bylaw 23) in any sport or sport-activity.

**Case BL-12-5 - How often must an annual physical examination be performed?**

KRS 156.070 (2)(d) requires an annual examination by the health care providers listed in that statute and Bylaw 12, Sec. 1(a). Per that statute, the KHSAA nor any other agency may adopt any other provisions contrary to that annual requirement. The examination shall be considered valid for 395 days beyond the date of administration (one year plus thirty (30) days).

### **BYLAW 13. AGREEMENT REGARDING PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CONTRACTS**

**Sec. 1) RESTRICTIONS ON SIGNING A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT**

- a) A student of a KHSAA member school shall not sign a professional baseball contract until the day following his graduation, or if he has left school, until the day following the graduation of his class; nor shall any representative of professional baseball initiate or participate in any negotiations which would violate the student's high school athletic eligibility; except that a student that has been out of school one year or longer may, with the consent of his or her parents, apply to the Major League Baseball Commissioner for permission to sign a contract and if, in the judgment of the Major League Baseball Commissioner, the circumstances justify it, he shall approve the application and so notify all major league baseball clubs.
- b) A player may be signed to a professional contract fifteen (15) days subsequent to the day of the Major League Baseball Commissioner's notice.
- c) Any school whose employee or official encourages or collaborates in negotiations that violate this agreement shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27.

### **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**

A student awaiting a ruling regarding eligibility under Bylaws 6, 7 or 8 shall not be eligible to compete, including practice, during the periods defined by Bylaw 23. All other practice by ineligible student-athletes who are otherwise permitted to be on the sport or sport-activity roster of the member school shall be determined by the member school.

**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.

**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 those students eligible 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, remains eligible for educational services from a Kentucky public school district and is not summarily eligible for athletics. 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.

### **BYLAW 15. PRACTICE OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

**Sec. 1) SPORTSMANSHIP OBLIGATION**

- a) It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public.
- b) The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation.
- c) Any violation of this rule in any interscholastic contest shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.
- d) The schedule of contest(s) for a player or coach to be suspended shall be set by the schedule at the time of the ejection and contest(s) may not be added or deleted after the suspension to alter the contests during which the penalty is then served.

**Sec. 2) ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT/VIDEOTAPING**

- a) It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representative(s) uses or allows the use of illegal equipment which gains a competitive advantage in the contest and which is expressly prohibited by the rules adopted for that sport.
- b) This shall also include the on-site recording of past or future opponents in any electronic form without the expressed consent of all involved teams.
- c) A violation of this provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner's office in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 27.

**Sec. 3) REQUIREMENT FOR REINSTATEMENT**

- a) Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner or one of the Assistant Commissioners.

**Sec. 4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT AND PERMANENT SUSPENSION**

- a) The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal of the school that student attends.
- b) When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he or she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his or her representative and to the KHSAA office.

- c) If the Commissioner finds upon investigation that the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender shall be permanently disqualified.

**Case BL-15-1- What is the obligation of school officials with regard to sportsmanship?**

School officials shall practice the highest principles of sportsmanship, and shall make every effort to teach this type of behavior to their players, members of the student body, and fans. Officials shall be protected and scrimmages or contests conducted in an orderly manner. A violation of this rule may be cause for suspension.

**Case BL-15-2- Is it permissible for a player ejection by officials in athletic scrimmages or contests to be protested to the Commissioner or the Board of Control?**

No. A judgement call by the official, right or wrong, shall prevail. The Commissioner's office will intercede only when ejected players or coaches have been misidentified, when the situation involves an incident or fight where video is available to ensure accurate punishment per the Board of Control video review policy (including additional identification of incident participants), or when an administrative misapplication of a playing rule has resulted in an erroneous ejection. Misapplication could include applying the penalty of ejection to a foul for which the playing rules preclude such a decision.

**Case BL-15-3- Is the Association staff permitted to use videotape to review situations related to fights and other incidents to help determine the proper identify of those involved in unsporting incidents?**

Yes. Per published Board of Control policy, such video may be used. Per the NFHS playing rules, the game officials' jurisdiction extends through the lead official's declaration of the end of the contest. The contest officials retain clerical authority over the game through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the game officials had jurisdiction.

Because state associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the game officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play, the KHSAA has an adopted policy. The KHSAA will use all methods and evidence available to help properly determine the persons involved, and the appropriate course of action.

**Case BL-15-4- What is required of contest officials and member schools in the event of an ejection?**

The game official(s) shall complete the ejection report via the KHSAA website within twenty-four hours of the ejection.

These reports shall be made promptly since the player or coach is disqualified from further competition at that level until reinstated by a member of the Commission.

An official or school may be fined, suspended or otherwise penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27 for failing to properly and timely report a disqualification or request reinstatement.

**Case BL-15-5- What procedure is followed by a member school in the case of an ejection in order to request reinstatement?**

The administrators at a member school should receive a report via email regarding the ejection. There will be directions in the email to login to the secure KHSAA online system and request reinstatement.

The member school principal or designated representative of the school with whom the player or coach is affiliated shall complete the required information on the KHSAA website requesting reinstatement.

**Case BL-15-6- What is the member school obligation in the case of an unreported disqualification?**

KHSAA member school representatives are obligated to impose the minimum suspension penalty for the ejection per these published guidelines, even in those rare cases when an ejection is not reported in a timely manner, including ejections which occur during out of state contests or those during school breaks. School administrators should contact the Association

office with any questions.

Whether or not a timely report is received, the obligation of the member school administration is to adhere to the penalty provisions.

**Case BL-15-7- If a coach or other nonplayer is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension and what may occur during the suspension?**

(1) The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite when the ejection occurs.

(2) The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day. (i.e., the freshmen coach ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at the field during any subsequent games that day).

(3) The suspended coach or nonplayer may not participate in another contest at any level (JV, Freshman, Varsity, etc.) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission.

(4) Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension.

(5) When a coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, the coach is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility. In football and soccer for example, this means leaving the field and stadium area; in basketball, this implies leaving the building altogether (not simply relocating to another room); in other sports, completely leaving the venue.

(6) An ejected coach may not have any further communication with the game officials following the game.

(7) During the subsequent suspension period of any nonplayer (coach, administrator, etc.) the coach may not be on school property where the contests are being played and may not be at the venue if contests are played at a nonschool site. The nonplayer may not communicate with the team at any point from the beginning of the contest until the end of the contest.

(8) Following the date of ejection, there shall be a minimum three additional games/meets/contests suspension for any coach or nonplayer ejected from a scrimmage or contest in every sport or sport-activity except football.

(9) Following the date of ejection, there shall be a minimum two additional games/meets/contests suspension for any coach or nonplayer ejected from a scrimmage or contest in football.

(10) For all coaches or nonplayers sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, the penalty shall be for the entire meet schedule, not for a single event.

(11) If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests.

(12) If the ejection was for the final game/contest of the season and was a coach or nonplayer, the person ejected shall serve the required suspension in the next varsity level contest at the member school for the suspended individual.

(13) For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum four-game/contest suspension (three-games for football) and may be cause for additional penalties that may include suspension for the remainder of the season.

(14) For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Case BL-15-8- If a player (participant) is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension?**

(1) The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite when the ejection occurred.

(2) The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day. (i.e., a freshman ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach participant ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at field during any subsequent games that day).

(3) The ejected participant may not participate in another contest at that level (JV, Freshman, Varsity, etc.) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission.

- (4) Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension.
- (5) When a participant is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, the participant is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility unless the specific playing rules of the sport call for a different penalty option or the student would be placed in a position of not being supervised. In those cases, the administration of the player's team is responsible for ensuring that the student participates in no other unsportsmanlike activity or the school itself may face additional penalty under Bylaw 27.
- (6) An ejected participant may not have any further communication with the game officials following the game.
- (7) During the subsequent suspension period, suspended players may attend contest(s), but may not be in the game uniform or other school identifiable clothing and may not participate in any sport-related activity (warm-up activity) prior to or during the game, and will be classified as nonplayer personnel during that contest as it relates to playing rules enforcement. It is a local school determination as to whether or not this student may be in the vicinity of the bench or team area.
- (8) Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum two additional games/meets/contests suspension for any participant ejected from a contest in all sports and sport-activities except football.
- (9) Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum one additional contest suspension for any participant ejected from a scrimmage or contest in football.
- (10) For participants sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, this penalty shall be for the entire meet schedule, not for a single event.
- (11) If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests.
- (12) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and the ejected participant is a senior, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next varsity interscholastic contest(s) in any KHSAA sanctioned sport.
- (13) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a participant, and this was in varsity (first team) competition and the ejected student is not a senior, the full penalty shall carry over to the next varsity season in the sport in which the participant was participating when ejected.
- (14) If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and this was NOT a varsity (first team) contest, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next interscholastic varsity level contest(s) in any KHSAA sanctioned sport.
- (15) For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum three-game/contest suspension (two-games for football) and may be cause for additional penalties that may include suspension for the remainder of the season.
- (16) For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Case BL-15-9- Has the Board of Control adopted any procedure in conjunction with the Commissioner's office for sports or schools with multiple ejections in the same school year?**

Yes. On the third ejection in a single sport during three separate contests by representatives of the same school, such school will be required to have an administrative conference with the Supervisor of Officials and the sport contacts for the specific sport. Based on location, the conference may be held at the KHSAA or via phone/video conference. Such will also be accompanied by an additional penalty within Bylaw 27 against the member school, including fines, reprimands or probation.

Following this penalty, any additional ejection in that sport will require a conference and professional development with those individuals at the KHSAA office and additional penalty.

On the fifth ejection in all sports during five separate contests during the school year by representatives of the same school, such school will be required to have an administrative conference with the Supervisor of Officials and the sport contacts for the

specific sport. Based on location, the conference may be held at the KHSAA or via phone/video conference. Such will also be accompanied by an additional penalty within Bylaw 27 against the member school, including fines, reprimands or probation.

Following this penalty, any additional ejection in that sport will require a conference and professional development with those individuals at the KHSAA office and additional penalty.

**Case BL-15-10- Does an ejection in a scrimmage have the same penalty as a contest?**

Yes. The two allowable scrimmages are not an "open opportunity" for unsportsmanlike conduct. Persons ejected from any scrimmage are penalized in the first regular season varsity contest(s) and are not penalized in subsequent scrimmages.

**Case BL-15-11- Is it a violation for a coach to remove his team from the floor or field if he believes that such removal is for the safety of his players or for an official to end a game prior to the end of regulation time?**

Yes. Removal of a team from the floor or field without the permission of the official(s) is a violation of Bylaw 15, Practice of Sportsmanship. A school or school representative violating this rule may be suspended or otherwise penalized.

If the game is called because of unsporting acts by any player, coach, team representative or other direct representative of a member school, it will be considered a violation of this bylaw. Such shall be reported by the contest official to the KHSAA and reported by the effected schools within 24 hours of the incident.

Officials will be penalized by the Association for terminating a contest before the normal end of regulation play without trying to secure the assistance of game management or security to rectify the problem. Such penalty will be governed by the Officials Division Licensing policies.

**Case BL-15-12- Is it a violation for school personnel to criticize game officials through the media or vice-versa?**

Yes. Many times criticisms are offered with regard to officiating. Done properly, criticism through the proper administrative channels can be used constructively. However, public media comments (including social media) that criticize officials by name, specific position or by reference as the contest officials are damaging to the recruitment and retention of officials. Individual incidents of this type will be investigated by the KHSAA and the school or individuals shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27. Coaches and officials will be held to the restrictions and policies concerning the use of social media, which shall be considered media for the purpose of applying these restrictions. Member schools will be fined for inappropriate comments by coaches through the media (including social media).

**Case BL-15-13- What is the Association's position with regards to racial and ethnic slurs and profanity by participants?**

The KHSAA recognizes the cultural diversity of its participants, coaches, officials and spectators. The Board of Control encourages each of its member schools to educate its participants and all parties involved in the sports program as to the need for a united approach to solving problems. Prejudice on the basis of sex, race, creed or ethnic origin cannot be tolerated.

In addition, it is a renewed point of emphasis for all contest officials to enforce sportsmanship rules related to the use of profanity by coaches and participants. Such conduct and language should not be allowed, and should be appropriately punished within the playing rules.

**Case BL-15-14- Are there any state laws or regulations applicable to officials and unsportsmanlike conduct against officials, including assault?**

Yes. Action taken during the 1998 session of the Kentucky General Assembly (HB 90) enacted KRS 518.090 that now specifically lists the assault of a sports official as a crime. Officials, right or wrong in their judgment and application of the rules, shall be

protected and allowed to perform their duties.

A person is guilty of assault of a sports official when he intentionally causes physical injury to a sports official: (a) Who was performing sports official duties at the time the physical injury was perpetrated; or (b) If the physical injury occurs while the sports official is arriving at or departing from the athletic facility at which the athletic event occurred.

For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or in a similar capacity that may be known by another title, and who is duly registered as or is a member of a national, state, regional, or local organization engaged, in part, in providing education and training to sports officials.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant assembles with five (5) or more persons for the purpose of assaulting a sports official, in which case it is a Class D felony.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a second or subsequent offense, be guilty of a Class D felony.

## **BYLAW 16. RECRUITMENT/UNDUE INFLUENCE**

### Sec. 1) PROVISIONS ON RECRUITING/UNDUE INFLUENCE

- a) A pupil (domestic or foreign) at any grade level shall not be recruited to a member school of the KHSAA for the purpose of participating in athletics. Recruiting is defined as an act, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, a school, including impermissible contact, which attempts to influence a student to transfer to a member school for the purpose of participating in athletics, including the offer of improper benefits not available to all members of the student body.
- b) It shall also be defined as recruiting to provide improper benefits not available to all members of the student body to an already enrolled student to influence that student to remain at a member school including recruitment under the guise of academics.
- c) An athletic coach or any other member of the school staff or team member (including parents and boosters) shall not influence a student even if the student, his or her parents or any intermediary from another school makes the initial contact. In this situation, a coach or staff member (paid or unpaid) should immediately refer the person(s) to the school principal.
- d) Influencing a student shall include the promise or instilling the expectation of an athletic advantage, playing time, employment of the student or the student's parents or relatives, housing for the student or the student's parents, scholarships or financial aid for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible, providing other improper benefits, making improper contacts or any other material or athletic reward for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible.
- e) A school official utilizing an intermediary including a peer, another school employee, a student, a parent or a citizen, for the purpose of recruiting a student-athlete shall be in noncompliance.

### Sec. 2) PENALTY

- a) Any representative of a member school knowingly allowing the recruitment of a student for the purpose of participating in athletics or who should have known of this recruitment shall be guilty of willful neglect of duty, misconduct, or breach of contract.
- b) This shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches, including an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent or a school board member.
- c) This requirement shall also apply to students or their parents.

#### **Case BL-16-1- Why does Bylaw 16 (Recruitment) exist?**

The major reason for Bylaw 16 and its interpretations is to attempt to maintain as level a playing field as possible. The major enforcement theme is not only "initial contact", but rather is "exceeding what is normal and appropriate."

Initial contact as it applies to student-athletes can be a violation, but is only one of many things that can exceed what is normal and appropriate. One of the primary keys is not treating

"athletes" or "prospective student-athletes" differently than students who are not athletes. Students are not to be singled out based on their potential athletic ability.

High school athletics is not the same as colleges recruiting high school athletes for college athletics. High school athletics exist for an entirely different reason. High school coaches should not view high school students in the same manner as college coaches view high school seniors. All administrators and coaches shall realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics, the principles behind KHSAA rules etc., and to maintain a level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students.

#### **Case BL-16-2- Who are considered school representatives or those with a direct connection to a member school?**

School representatives or those with a "direct connection" include, but are not limited to: coaches or others connected with the high school or high school team to include booster club parents and members, alumni, school board members and officers, parents of high school players, booster club representatives and students.

#### **Case BL-16-3- What is a feeder school as used when reviewing permissible contact?**

For a school to be considered a "feeder" school, it must be under the same local board of education as the member school, and enroll students below grade nine. A student enrolled at a nonfeeder school shall not be enrolled at a feeder school irrespective of past enrollment patterns of that nonfeeder school. Applying to a school does not waive this definition as there is a clear line between applying and actually being enrolled. School and school districts may choose to define a more restrictive feeder pattern for its middle schools to high schools which if violated, constitute the student not being "connected".

#### **Case BL-16-4- When is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school for the purposes of Bylaw 16?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

In addition, a student may be considered enrolled at a KHSAA member school when the student registers at the new school, is on the student enrollment listing of a member school, and not on the listing of another school.

In the case of enrollment during periods when classes are not being held (i.e. summer), the student may be considered to be enrolled at the new school when formal application has been made and accepted as verified by the new Principal and the student is officially withdrawn and off the enrollment listing of the former school.

#### **Case BL-16-5- What are permissible contacts by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program or school?**

Permissible contacts include:

- (1) Public high school representatives contacting students at feeder public schools (elementary, middle school, junior high school) where there is a defined feeder pattern;
- (2) Nonpublic school representatives contacting students at feeder nonpublic schools (elementary, middle school/junior high school) where there is a defined feeder pattern;
- (3) A representative of the school initiating a meeting with students at a school that is defined as a feeder school or meet with students who are zoned to attend that school the following year provided such is approved by the Principal of the school at which the student is currently enrolled. This visit shall be cleared by principals of both schools and shall not be specific to athletic opportunities;
- (4) Any student or family or individual that contacts a coach about attending a school where he or she coaches who is then informed that they are being referred to the principal, admissions department or guidance department; and
- (5) Any meeting with coaches regarding athletes or prospective athletes or their families which is at the request of the family to the individual(s) responsible for admissions and takes place

at the school in the presence of the Principal or Designated Representative.

**Case BL-16-6- What is impermissible contact and what are some examples by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program or school whether or not the prospective student has an athletic participation record?**

A person or persons exceeding what is appropriate or normal or offering any incentive or inducement to a student or the student's family with or without that student having an athletic participation record shall be considered to have had impermissible contact and be in violation of this bylaw.

Impermissible contact includes but is not limited to any contact between a non-enrolled parent or student and a member school coach or other athletic representative without an immediate referral to the appropriate school personnel (Principal, Guidance Counselor, Admissions Personnel or other non-athletically related school administration).

The fact that an unenrolled student or that student's family has shown an initial interest in attending a school or playing for a team (such as signing up for mentoring, shadowing, testing or a facility tour) does not allow any member of the coaching staff or anyone else affiliated with that athletic program to be involved with that student until the student is fully enrolled at the school.

Specific examples of impermissible contact with students include:

- (1) Contact or communication concerning potential enrollment or athletic participation at the school, other than the initial referral to school administration if approached by the family or the student in the schools' defined feeder pattern;
- (2) Contact with any student not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern concerning potential enrollment at the school which is initiated by a coach or any others with a connection to the athletic program;
- (3) Contact with any student not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern by individuals (including the parent of a current player) who might be interested in the school's athletic program that attempts to influence a student or his/her parents;
- (4) Coaching, managing and/or otherwise directing sports-specific athletic activities in which the non-enrolled student is a participant outside of the scope and allowable contact periods contained in Bylaw 23;
- (5) The use of school facilities, uniforms, transportation or equipment including other "school team opportunities", such as tournaments and leagues by students not enrolled in the school's defined feeder pattern;
- (6) High school exhibit and/or promotion space or materials specific to the schools' athletic program or a specific athletic team including mass mailings or communication (electronic or otherwise) that cannot be restricted to exclude non-feeder pattern individuals;
- (7) School representatives attending grade school, junior high or middle school games for the purpose of evaluating specific student-athletes not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern or for the purpose of promoting the member school's athletic program or at a time when not permitted by Bylaw 23;
- (8) Contact prior to, during, or after practices, scrimmages or contests at elementary schools, middle and junior high schools except where there is the same defined feeder pattern involving the schools;
- (9) Requesting students, parents, boosters or alumni from a school to discuss the merits of a school's athletic program with a prospective student-athlete not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern or member of his/her family;
- (10) Providing transportation for a student not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern or other inducement to take a qualifying examination at a school or to meet with school officials, etc.;
- (11) Entering into discussions or offers of financial aid with a student not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern, or the student's family, whether or not that aid is available to the

general student body;

- (12) Contacting any prospective student-athlete not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern (at any grade level above, in or below grade 9) or his/her parents/family by phone, email, text, social media, fax, in person, by letter or by other means;
- (13) Making athletic facilities (including weight rooms and other training facilities) available to students not enrolled in the schools' defined feeder pattern during the school year;
- (14) Nonpublic school representatives contacting students enrolled at the public schools (or his/her family) or enrolled at any school not in the schools' defined feeder pattern without permission of the public school principal. Permission for such contact in any case, shall come from the feeder school principal and shall be approved by the KHSAA member school principal; and
- (15) Public schools representatives contacting students enrolled at nonpublic schools (or his/her family) or enrolled at any school not in the school's defined feeder pattern without permission of the private school principal. Permission for such contact in any case, shall come from the feeder school principal and shall be approved by the KHSAA member school principal.

NOTE: It is not considered a violation for a coach or other school representative to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high or middle school of the same system that is a feeder to the high school at which the coach is employed to coach.

**Case BL-16-7- What are some examples of improper benefits that may not be provided to enrolled student-athletes or non-enrolled prospective student-athletes (or family members) by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program including the booster organization?**

No special benefit may be given to student-athlete or prospective student-athletes (below grade 9, or grades 9-12) including:

- (1) Money or any item of tangible benefit or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition, room, board, textbooks, or clothing during the regular school year or summer school;
- (2) Offer or acceptance of any benefit (financial or otherwise), or privilege not afforded to non-athletes;
- (3) Offer or acceptance of employment opportunity (including summer or nonschool period work), or pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service;
- (4) Offer or acceptance of free transportation;
- (5) Offer or acceptance of a residence or housing provisions, free or reduced rent, moving expenses, or assistance in locating housing;
- (6) Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship;
- (7) The host family or other community representative paying for the housing of a nondomestic student except for the host family's primary domicile or paying any required fees for the transportation, registration or placement of a nondomestic student;
- (8) Underwriting travel fees or providing transportation to a non-enrolled student to a school function;
- (9) Special gifts including apparel representative of the school or school's athletic interests;
- (10) Paying the entry fee for camps or competition events for students to participate who are not enrolled within that school's defined feeder pattern; and
- (11) Offering opportunities for non-enrolled students outside the defined feeder pattern to use free passes or tickets or complimentary admission to attend high school athletic practices, scrimmages or contests without a previous affirmative request for admission. As an example, schools could offer students a voucher to attend a contest after they have taken the initiative to participate in an otherwise permissible voluntary activity (tour, open house, meeting, school visit) but cannot summarily ignore charged admission without such voucher. However, schools could not use mass

mailings or communication (electronic or otherwise) that cannot be restricted to exclude non-feeder patten individuals and offer admission to contests. Another allowable example would be to permit all members of a specific league/school/team to attend a game in uniform or with some other means of general identification and admission without regard to any selective means of identifying the recipient.

## **BYLAW 17. CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

### **Sec. 1) VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

- a) The principal or Designated Representative of the school shall be responsible for certifying the eligibility of all contestants.
- b) Before certifying the eligibility of a player, a principal or Designated Representative shall verify the player's age and all other requirements contained in these Bylaws.
- c) The statement of facts concerning a player on the eligibility list of his or her first year of competition shall be considered authoritative and may not be changed in later eligibility lists for that year or in later years except to carry out the purposes of the Bylaws in providing a cumulative record, or, when authorized by the Commissioner to correct an error.
- d) Prior to the certification of the eligibility of a student, the principal or Designated Representative shall have on file the physician's certificate, the parental consent, and the parental acknowledgment required by Bylaw 12.

### **Sec. 2) DUTY OF A NEW PRINCIPAL OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE**

A new principal or Designated Representative before certifying to the eligibility of his or her players, if there is reason to question any of the information, shall secure from the Commissioner's office, a copy of the original certification for that player.

### **Sec. 3) ANNUAL PARTICIPATION LIST**

- a) Each principal or Designated Representative of a member school shall submit to the Commissioner at the end of the school year (not later than May 30) a list of the names of all students who participated in any first team contest in any sport during the season.
- b) This participation list shall be submitted on a form supplied by the Association, and shall be completed in its entirety for each student.

### **Sec. 4) CERTIFICATION OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

If any school plays an ineligible player when the facts were available and could have been known to a principal or Designated Representative, that school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 27.

### **Case BL-17-1- How does the principal certify eligibility and entries?**

*A roster of players and coaches is to be entered on the KHSAA website. No student-athlete is eligible to participate in a contest at any level unless currently included in the online eligibility system.*

*Within the rules of the particular sport (detailed in the Competition rules), additions and deletions may be made throughout the regular season. Each sport has specific deadlines which shall be followed for postseason roster entries, including specific event entries in some sports. The Principal or Designated Representative should be familiar with the restrictions for each sport.*

*The standard game contracts (KHSAA Form GE14) allow the member schools to request the exchange of eligibility lists/rosters as a condition of the contract. This is not a state requirement for all contests and should be delineated in the contract. Exchange of eligibility lists is done using the online roster system reports.*

*Each Principal shall also develop a mechanism to check eligibility under KHSAA Bylaw 5.*

*At the close of each academic year, each member school shall compile an Annual Participation List which shall be compiled from the online roster system and shall list all of the individuals who competed at any level in practice, scrimmages or contests for the school at the freshmen, junior varsity or varsity during that school year. The list shall specifically designate those players who have engaged in a varsity contest during the year for the purpose of verifying transfer restrictions if necessary.*

### **Case BL-17-2- If a principal unknowingly plays an ineligible player, shall the school be penalized?**

*Each case is reviewed on its own merits whenever a student is found to have played while ineligible. Pursuant to Bylaw 17, Sec. 4, a student who enters a scrimmage or contest and is not eligible, when the facts were present to prevent such an error, the school shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27.*

## **BYLAW 18. SUPPLYING INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **Sec. 1) SUBMISSION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

- a) A superintendent, principal, student, or Designated Representative shall, when requested, supply the Commissioner with any information related to the athletic program at a member school.
- b) A failure to comply within a reasonable time may forfeit the school's membership in the Association, or the school may be penalized in accordance with approved Association penalty codes.

### **Sec. 2) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION**

- a) Each member school shall annually certify that it will comply with any and all of the rulings of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, Hearing Officer and Board of Control as they relate to the athletic program at a member school.
- b) This compliance shall include student eligibility matters, Board policy directives related to health and safety of student-athletes, and other programs as may be instituted by the convened Board of Control.

### **Sec. 3) REQUIRED REPORTS**

- a) Each principal or Designated Representative shall file with the Commissioner, during, or at the end of each school year, all participation lists and all other reports required by the Association.
- b) A membership certificate shall not be issued to any school until the provisions of this bylaw have been fulfilled.

### **Case BL-18-1- Are schools required to compile reports regarding the Financial Aid, Heat Index, Title IX and the Title IX reporting requirements, or other sports specific reports?**

*Yes. In accordance with Bylaw 18, these reports are required to be compiled. The Commissioner's office will direct the membership as to which reports are to be submitted to the office by prescribed deadlines and which reports are to be maintained on file at the member school. Other reports may be added as requirements and requested by the Board of Control with notice to the membership.*

### **Case BL-18-2- Are students or their parents compelled to file written responses or answer eligibility inquiries?**

*Yes. In accordance with Bylaw 18, these reports are required to be submitted when requested as necessary to verify the eligibility of a student.*

## **BYLAW 19. COMPARABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Sec. 1) REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS TO SPONSOR**

- a) If a member school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity that is similar to a sport for which NCAA members offer an athletic scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which the scholarships are offered.
- b) The athletic activities that are similar to sports for which NCAA members offer scholarships are: Girls' fastpitch softball as compared to slow pitch.

### **Sec. 2) REQUIREMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE ATTEMPTS TO SPONSOR:**

- a) To qualify as having "sponsored" a sport, a school shall be able to demonstrate the following:
  - (1) If similar versions of a particular sport exist and there are differences in the scholarship opportunities at the NCAA level in that sport, a survey shall be taken of the student population at reasonable times and places to determine the level of interest in the sport(s); and
  - (2) If that survey reveals sufficient interest to field the normal squad required for play in the particular sport, and if any

version of the sport is to be played, the school shall make facilities, staff and other allowances to properly field a team in the version of the sport for which the NCAA members offer scholarships.

**Case BL-19-1- Are schools required to sponsor fastpitch softball if that school offers softball?**

*The provisions of HB490 which amended KRS 156.070 and have been incorporated into KHSAA Bylaw 19, require that if a school offers a sport comparable to one for which NCAA schools offer scholarships, it shall offer the version of the sport in which scholarships are offered.*

**Case BL-19-2- Are schools required to have a girls' basketball team if that school fields a boys' team?**

*Yes, KRS 157.350 makes no reference to "sponsoring" and states under subsection (5) KRS 157.350 (5) Any secondary school which maintains a basketball team for boys for other than intramural purposes, shall maintain the same program for girls. Though this statute in particular addresses those schools accepting SEEK funding, all members of the KHSAA, irrespective of the state funding issue, are compelled to comply with this requirement.*

**BYLAW 20. OFFICIALS DIVISION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Sec. 1) OFFICIALS WHO LICENSE:**

- a) Any person who officiates in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball (slow and fast pitch), swimming, volleyball and wrestling in grades 9 through 12 between member schools of the Association shall be licensed by the Commissioner and shall carry an official card indicating that licensing.
- b) All officials in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be required to join a local officials association as described in the KHSAA Officials' Guidebook.

**Sec. 2) REQUIREMENT TO USE LICENSED OFFICIALS**

- a) Only officials licensed with the Officials Division of the Association shall be assigned or employed to officiate in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, volleyball or wrestling in all competition involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
- b) The Commissioner may approve exceptions to this policy in writing.

**Sec. 3) OFFICIAL SCRATCHES**

- a) A member school shall have the privilege of scratching a limited number of officials (scratches) that it does not desire to have as contractors on the athletic contests of that school.
- b) The amount of scratches per school/coach is determined by the Regional Policy Board and in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Control.
- c) Scratches properly submitted in a timely fashion shall be honored by the Assigning Secretary and the officials shall not be assigned to a home, away or neutral site contest in the sport during that season.

**Sec. 4) RULES CLINICS**

Each official licensed with the KHSAA shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic (in person or online) conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which he or she is licensed.

**Sec. 5) CANCELLATION OF OFFICIATING LICENSE**

The KHSAA may cancel or refuse the license renewal of any official in any sport for cause as detailed in the KHSAA Officials Guidebook.

**Sec. 6) ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENTS**

- a) An official shall accept assignments in the amount of time and in the manner prescribed by the local officials association to which he or she belongs.
- b) The penalty for an official's failure to work an assigned game, unless providentially prevented from doing so, may be cause for up to a one-year suspension in that sport.

**Sec. 7) VIOLATION OF ASSIGNING CONTRACTS**

The Board of Control shall protect both the officials and the schools against violations pertaining to assignments.

**Sec. 8) LOCAL POLICY BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

The Commissioner may establish as many bureaus as deemed necessary in each sport in order to assign officials to games in accordance with the Federal Court Decree of 1971 and policies adopted by the Board of Control.

**Sec. 9) GOVERNANCE**

The Officials Guidebook and the Board of Control Adopted Policies and Procedures shall govern all officials licensed with the KHSAA.

**Sec. 10) COACHES/OTHERS CONNECTED NOT TO OFFICIATE**

Coaches or persons connected with the competing schools shall not officiate at contests, unless the written consent of all competing schools is given.

**Case BL-20-1- Are there rules, statutes or documents that govern licensed KHSAA officials, assigning secretaries and the KHSAA Officials Division?**

*Yes. The Officials Division exists because of the 1971 Federal Consent Decree that resulted from a matter initially litigated regarding Officials' Assignments. This decree is found in the KHSAA Policies and Procedures section of the Handbook. In addition, each year the Board of Control annually approves the Officials Guidebook, a comprehensive set of regulations and standards which govern the Officials Division. These provisions also require compliance with criminal records checks and other information as may be requested by the Association.*

**Case BL-20-2- Is it permissible for administrators or other school personnel to officiate in contests involving their team?**

*No. In the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball and volleyball, coaches (paid or unpaid) are prohibited from officiating in contests involving their schools, as are principals, superintendents, assigning secretaries and other parties directly affiliated with the competing schools unless approval from all teams is received in writing. For the interpretation of these rules, a contest is defined as a regular season contest, game, tournament, or any postseason game or tournament in which his or her school is participating.*

*For the purpose of the individual sports of cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track and wrestling, the use of such persons as officials is almost a requirement for a successful meet and to have enough staff to administer all meet functions. Event managers are strongly encouraged to monitor the placement of coaches within events where they might have authority over one of their own athletes, and to make adjustments to the schedule of events or to the assignment of officials in order to prevent conflicts of interest. If a school is notified in advance that a coach will be involved in officiating and chooses to come to that contest, they are considered to have agreed to the use of the coach as an official.*

**Case BL-20-3- Is a school obligated to use licensed baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling officials?**

*The use of licensed officials is a requirement in these sports, the penalty for violation being possible suspension of the school, school representatives or the official. If there is any question about an official being licensed, he/she should be asked to show his/her license.*

*Individuals officiating a high school contest, while not properly licensed with the KHSAA, may be fined as well as the member school being penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27.*

*Member schools should refer to the KHSAA website for updated officials listings.*

*The Commissioner's office may also impose a fine on any assigning secretary who assigns an unlicensed official to a contest.*

**Case BL-20-4- Are licensed officials required to be used for scrimmage contests in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, volleyball or wrestling?**

*No. However, if anyone other than the participating coaches act in the role of officials at a scrimmage, they must be licensed with the KHSAA. Coaches of the participating schools acting in the role of an official and supervising the play by the student-*



athletes are not required to be licensed.

## BYLAW 21. PROTESTS

Protests against the judgement decisions of contest officials made during the course of game or meet shall not be considered.

### **Case BL-21-1- Is it permissible for decisions of officials in athletic scrimmages or contests, including ejections, to be protested to the Commissioner or the Board of Control?**

*No. The decision of the official, right or wrong, shall prevail. The Commissioner's office will intercede only when ejected players or coaches have been misidentified, when the situation involves an incident or fight where video is available to ensure accurate punishment per the Board of Control video review policy (including additional identification of incident participants), or when an administrative misapplication of a playing rule has resulted in an erroneous ejection. Misapplication could include applying the penalty of ejection to a foul for which the playing rules preclude such a decision.*

### **Case BL-21-2- Is the Association staff permitted to use videotape to review situations related to fights and other incidents to help determine the proper identity of those involved in unsporting incidents?**

*Yes. Per published Board of Control policy, such video may be used. Per the NFHS playing rules, the game officials' jurisdiction extends through the lead official's declaration of the end of the contest. The contest officials retain clerical authority over the game through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the game officials had jurisdiction.*

*Because state associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the game officials' jurisdiction has ended, or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play, the KHSAA has an adopted policy. The KHSAA will use all methods and evidence available to help properly determine the persons involved, and the appropriate course of action.*

## BYLAW 22. CONTESTS, SANCTIONS, RULES, FORFEITURES, FACULTY TO ACCOMPANY

### Sec. 1) CONTESTS AGAINST IN-STATE OPPONENTS

- a) KHSAA member schools may only compete in contests in KHSAA-sanctioned sports against schools located in Kentucky that are current members of the KHSAA.
- b) Any KHSAA member school that engages in an athletic contest in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport with a school located in Kentucky that is not a member of the Association shall be subject to all penalties contained in Bylaw 27.
- c) All contests within Kentucky played by KHSAA member schools in a KHSAA sanctioned sport shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control. Approval for any exemptions shall come through the Commissioner.

### Sec. 2) WITH SCHOOLS IN OTHER STATES

- a) All opponents of KHSAA schools in all contests in baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be current members of the NFHS voting state association of that state or shall be opponents who are not eligible to be members of that home state association that is a voting member of the NFHS but are permitted to play the member schools in that state.
- b) Member schools of the KHSAA shall adhere to all restrictions contained in the National Federation of State High School Associations' sanctioning policy when playing any contest or scrimmage against an out of state opponent in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport.
- c) All contests within Kentucky in a KHSAA-sanctioned sport against schools from out of state that are played by KHSAA member schools shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control. Approval for any exemptions shall come through the Commissioner.

### Sec. 3) CONTRACTS

- a) Official written contracts supplied by the office of the Commissioner (or approved electronic substitutes), shall be used for all contests between members of the Association, and the contract shall include statements to the effect that contracting parties are members of the Association.
- b) The Association shall not undertake to enforce oral contracts or oral agreements to changes in written contracts, or contracts that do not use the official written contract form.
- c) The recipient of a contract for an athletic contest between two member schools of the KHSAA shall return the contract, either signed or unsigned, to the sender within thirty (30) days after having received it. The contract shall become void if not returned within this time period.
- d) All contracts between member schools shall contain a specific date for each contest covered in the contract. A contract in which the words "corresponding date" appears, rather than a specific date, shall not be enforced.
- e) The superintendent, principal or Designated Representative shall countersign all contracts to engage in interscholastic contests. Contracts signed by any other individual will not be enforced by the KHSAA.
- f) Provisions may be made for a forfeit fee to be paid by the school that fails to follow the terms of a contract. The Commissioner shall suspend from the Association a school that fails to pay during the same season a stipulated forfeit fee, and the suspension shall remain in effect until the Board of Control removes it.
- g) If a written contract using the official contract form is canceled by reason of suspension of the school, the Board of Control shall determine the financial liability involving the suspended school.

### Sec. 4) RULES GOVERNING CONTESTS

- a) National Federation of State High School Association Rules shall govern all contests involving member schools if an official set of rules is issued for that sport.
- b) Unless modified through the competition rules adopted by the Board of Control, contests in tennis shall be governed by the rules of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and contests in golf shall be governed by the rules of the United States Golf Association.
- c) The Board of Control shall adopt competition rules for all sport-activities in which the KHSAA conducts a championship.

### Sec. 5) WAIVING OF RULES

School officials of member schools shall not by mutual agreement waive or modify any of the rules of the Association (including playing rules) for any contest sanctioned by the Association.

### Sec. 6) FAILURE TO PLAY A SCHEDULED CONTEST

If a school fails to carry out its contract to play a regularly scheduled contest, the contest shall be forfeited to the offended school.

### Sec. 7) REQUIREMENT TO ACCOMPANY TEAM TO CONTESTS

The principal, coach or another individual approved by the local Board of Education shall accompany the team to all contests. His or her expenses, when he or she accompanies the contestants, shall be paid in the same manner as those of the contestants. Individuals fulfilling this requirement shall adhere to the requirements of KRS 161.185.

### **Case BL-22-1 - What is a contest as referenced in Bylaw 22?**

*A contest is one of the allowable regular season games/meets/tournaments/matches detailed in KHSAA Bylaw 23.*

### **Case BL-22-2 - What is a school as defined in the KHSAA Constitution?**

*A school is an entity which is recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education (or corresponding Department of Education in another state or country) as an institution whose primary purpose is the education of high school aged students.*

### **Case BL-22-3 - What is a KHSAA sanctioned sport as used in Bylaw 22?**

*The sanctioned sports of the KHSAA are those sports approved by the Board of Control as a sports championship. At press time, those include: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball and Wrestling. Sport-activities are not the*

same as sports when applying this Bylaw. The sport-activities currently sanctioned by the Board of Control for championship play are Archery, Bass Fishing, Bowling and Competitive Cheer.

**Case BL-22-4 - May a KHSAA member school play in a scrimmage in a sport against a nonmember school in Kentucky, an out of state or foreign school team that does not join that state association, or an outside team such as an alumni group?**

Yes. Only contests that count against the limitations of Bylaw 23 are restricted to member schools..

**Case BL-22-5 - May a KHSAA member school play in a contest in a sport against a nonmember school in Kentucky, an out of state school that does not join that state association, or an outside team such as an alumni group?**

No.

**Case BL-22-6 - May a KHSAA member school participate in a contest in a sport against a non-US territory school-based team (foreign) team?**

Yes, provided the following are true:

- (1) Such event is sanctioned within the policies and procedures of the National Federation of State High School Associations sanctioning rules and regulations; and
- (2) the opponent is a school based entity and not listed as a club team on any international registry.

**Case BL-22-7 - Why is there an NFHS policy requiring sanctioning of interstate events?**

- (1) Interscholastic programs should serve educational goals. To this end, schools have an obligation to conduct certain threshold inquiries about events in which their students may participate.
- (2) On occasion, additional inquiries and oversight may be appropriate at the conference, district, state or national levels. In order to perform their "inquiry and oversight" functions fairly and efficiently, decision-makers at various levels have developed sanctioning procedures.
- (3) The specific purposes served by event-sanctioning procedures include the following:
  - a. Sanctioning enhances the likelihood that events will adhere to sound and detailed criteria which meet the specific requirements of a school or a group of schools based upon experience and tradition.
  - b. Sanctioning serves to promote sound regulation of the conditions under which students and teams may compete.
  - c. Sanctioning is a means of encouraging well-managed competition.
  - d. Sanctioning adds an element of "due diligence" that encourages compliance with state association rules and regulations.
  - e. Sanctioning protects the welfare of student-athletes.
  - f. Sanctioning protects the existing programs sponsored by member schools and thereby promotes the opportunity for larger numbers of student-athletes to gain the benefits of interscholastic competition.
  - g. Sanctioning helps reduce the abuses of excessive competition.
  - h. Sanctioning promotes uniformity in obtaining approval for events.
  - i. Sanctioning helps protect students from exploitation. Interstate event sanctioning at the NFHS level promotes financial transparency and equivalency of treatment of participating high schools. NFHS sanctioning forms are available on the NFHS website ([www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)).

**Case BL-22-8 - May a KHSAA member school play in a contest in a sport against an out of state school that is located in the United States, Mexico or Canada?**

Yes, with the following restrictions and provisions:

- (1) In baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, softball or volleyball, the opponent(s) must be a member of that state's Association that is the voting member of the NFHS, or on an approved list of opponents for the members of that state association indicating compliance with all standard eligibility rules.

(2) KHSAA member schools are responsible for ensuring that contests are properly sanctioned whether the game is hosted in Kentucky or the out of state school;

(3) The KHSAA adheres to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) sanctioning policy. NFHS sanction is required in all sports if KHSAA schools participate in any of the following types of contests:

- a. any interstate event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community;
- b. nonbordering events if five (5) or more states are involved;
- c. nonbordering events if more than eight (8) schools are involved; or
- d. any event involving two (2) or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country (exceptions are Canada and Mexico which are considered "bordering states").

(4) For contests in Kentucky where NFHS sanction is required, the following steps must be taken:

- a. If the contest(s) is (are) to be played in Kentucky and the event requires NFHS sanction, the host school should go to the KHSAA website which will link to the NFHS website for completion of the forms and payment of fees (The KHSAA receives no portion of this NFHS fee); and
- b. This shall be completed and sent to the NFHS along with the requisite fee in the NFHS published timeline to ensure the minimization of costs to the host school and to allow for an orderly flow of communication among all effected parties.

(5) For contests in Kentucky where NFHS sanction is not required, the following steps must be taken:

- a. If the contest(s) is (are) to be played in Kentucky, involves out of state schools and does not require NFHS sanction but involves only those schools in states contiguous with Kentucky, the host school shall ensure that the rules of the opponent's state association with regard to sanctioning are followed; and
- b. Some state high school associations (i.e., Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia) have additional requirements for schools participating against their member schools, and the KHSAA staff can assist in facilitating those requests.

(6) For contests played outside of Kentucky where NFHS sanction is required, the following step(s) must be taken:

If the contest(s) is (are) played outside of Kentucky and NFHS sanctioning is required, the KHSAA member school shall ensure that the host school contacts the NFHS to initiate the sanction process.

(7) For contests played outside of Kentucky where NFHS sanction is NOT required, the following steps must be taken:

- a. If the contest(s) is (are) played outside of Kentucky and NFHS sanctioning is not required and involves only schools in states contiguous with Kentucky, no additional sanctioning is needed on the part of the KHSAA;
- b. Some state high school associations (i.e., Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia) have additional requirements for schools participating against their member schools, and the KHSAA staff can assist in facilitating those requests.

**Case BL-22-9 - Are there special restrictions for the playing of teams from outside of the United States, not including school based teams from Canada and Mexico?**

Bylaw 22 contains the requirements for opponents in contests.

These rules require that member schools only play against schools that are members of the home state association.

KHSAA member schools only play against opponents that are school teams made up solely of members from a single specific school, where none of the competitors have completed the final/terminating grade in the home country, and where the opponent is strictly a school based team and not a club, travel or professional team. The same restrictions apply to out of country travel and play in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.

The KHSAA member school will be responsible for insuring the legality of the opponents and that the procedures of the NFHS sanctioning policy are followed.

**Case BL-22-10 - Are KHSAA schools required to use form GE14 for scheduling contests or to make written amendments to contracts in the case of contract postponement/cancellation?**

No, the form is not required. However, the association will not arbitrate or attempt to intercede in any dispute regarding a cancelled contest or other logistic dispute if the contest does not involve a properly completed and executed GE14 or its electronic equivalent using an alternative scheduling system. Included in the proper requirements are the proper signatures of the Principal or Designated Representative of the member schools.

In addition, the association will not arbitrate or attempt to intercede in any dispute regarding a cancelled contest or other logistic dispute if scheduling amendments are agreed by the parties, but not executed in writing between the schools. Contract amendments verified by electronic mail exchange that modify prior properly executed contract forms will be reviewed and assistance offered by the Association as necessary.

**Case BL-22-11- What does the expression "corresponding date" mean as it relates to scheduling contests and how does it relate to contract enforcement?**

Corresponding date charts are published for all KHSAA sports in an effort to aid athletic administrators in planning future schedules. It should be noted that contracts cannot be enforced by the Association that call for "corresponding dates" rather than specific playing dates.

**Case BL-22-12- Does a forfeit win/loss or game cancelled by mutual agreement count against the maximum number of games that can be played?**

- (1) If the forfeit is declared and the contracted forfeit provisions applied after the first legal playing date, the game shall be counted against the win/loss record, and against the limit of games.
- (2) Games canceled by school administrations and forfeit fees paid before the first playing date do not count against records or limits.
- (3) Games canceled by school administrations by mutual consent without forfeit provisions do not count against records or limits.
- (4) In districts that have voted to seed in those sports that permit seeding for postseason placement, the majority decision to seed shall be interpreted and enforced as an inherent and immediately implied contract to play all contests upon implementation of the seeding plan and within the specifics of the plan.
- (5) Seeded district games that are forfeited shall be counted against the limit of games and shall count on the win/loss record irrespective of the teams when the contract is cancelled, no matter what terms under which the contract is cancelled and whether or not a formal contract is entered into between the competing teams.

**Case BL-22-13 Is the restriction on the accompanying of a student by the principal, coach or faculty representative listed in Sec. 7 a KHSAA regulation or state law?**

This bylaw is patterned to ensure conformity with KRS 161.185 which states "Boards of education shall require a certified or classified staff member who is at least twenty-one years of age to accompany students on all school-sponsored or school-endorsed trips." This stipulation governs accompaniment, and does not supersede or replace any regulation regarding driver qualification. This permission should be in writing and should be documented by minutes of the local Board of Education.

**BYLAW 23. LIMITATION OF SEASONS**

**Sec. 1) GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING ALL SPORTS AND SPORT-ACTIVITIES**

- a) Playing During School Hours  
School Time shall not be lost for travel to or from, or participation in, any regular season interscholastic athletic contest.
- b) Schedule of Contests on Consecutive Days  
Contests shall be scheduled so that there are not four consecutive

days of competition on any Monday through Thursday period while school is in session.

c) Specific Definitions for Ending of School

For all interpretations and regulations concerning the ending of the school year, including restrictions on coaching involvement, the end of the school year shall be defined as the earlier of the last day of school or May 31.

d) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Contests

Any school violating provisions of this Bylaw by playing too many contests shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 27 but shall remain eligible for tournament play during the current season.

e) Specific Penalties for Violations- Too Many Scrimmages

Any school violating scrimmage limitations may be placed on probation, prohibited from participating in preseason scrimmages in that sport for two (2) seasons, and may be prohibited from taking part in KHSAA state championship competition or other penalties in accordance with Bylaw 27. The second violation shall result in automatic suspension.

f) Organized Play and Involvement of Members of the Coaching Staff Out of Season

(1) During the school year but outside the defined limitations for each sport or sport-activity, the following activity is expressly prohibited on the campus of a member school if the competition involves at least fifty (50) percent of the normal playing squad being from that member school (e.g., 6 or more in football or soccer, 3 or more in basketball, 5 or more in baseball or softball):

- a. coaches may not coach members of that school's team;
- b. member school facilities may not be used for organized competition;

(2) Members of the high school coaching staff (paid or unpaid) shall not be prohibited from sport specific observation and evaluation (but not coaching) of any player who has played for a grade nine (9) through grade twelve (12) team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity) from the first day of school through the last day of school provided that play is under the direct control of the same local board of education as the coach is employed and provided that play is not in conflict with other KHSAA bylaws.

**Sec. 2) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- BASEBALL- BOYS**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized baseball practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Wednesday of the first state basketball tournament.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six (36) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 3) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- BASKETBALL- BOYS AND GIRLS**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized basketball practice prior to October 15.
- b) Prior to the opening game of regular season play, a basketball team may have only two (2) scrimmages or practice games with players other than members of the squad.
- c) The first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday twelve weeks before the week of district tournament.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty (30) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play.

Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

- f) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (b) or (d) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame Classic contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.

Sec. 4) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- CROSS COUNTRY- BOYS AND GIRLS

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.  
 b) There shall be no more than two scrimmage or practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.  
 c) The first meet of the season shall not take place prior to the Monday nine weeks before the week of the Regional Cross Country Meet.  
 d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) meets including invitational meets to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (region).  
 e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 5) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- FIELD HOCKEY- GIRLS

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.  
 b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.  
 c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Friday prior to the Monday nine weeks before the week of the Regional tournament.  
 d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-four (24) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (region).  
 e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 6) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- FOOTBALL

- a) Organized practice shall be structured in football as follows:  
 (1) Football drill work and practice activity shall be defined in the following five categories:  
 Level 0-"Air"-Players run a drill unopposed without contact;  
 Level 1-"Bags" – Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface;  
 Level 2-"Control" – Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact; one player is pre-determined the 'winner' by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet;  
 Level 3-"Thud" – Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill; and  
 Level 4-"Live Action"-Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.  
 (2) Contact and non-contact shall be defined as follows:  
 "Contact" will be defined as drills run at the Level 3-"Thud" and Level 4-"Live Action" level, and Drills run at the Level 0-"Air", Level 1-"Bags" and Level 2-"Control" level shall be defined as "Non-Contact"  
 All drills in shells (shorts, shoulder pads and helmets) shall be "Non-Contact".  
 In helmets-only, only Level 0-"Air" and Level 1-"Bags" drills may be conducted  
 (3) From the end of the season through the day prior to the first day of spring practice; and from the last day after spring practice through May 31:

- a. Schools shall not issue football equipment included in NFHS Rule 1-5 other than the helmet (provided only enrolled students are present at the activity) with the exception of an all-star game or individual camp as detailed;  
 b. Schools shall not organize or participate in any football activities that allow players to be in football gear included in NFHS Rule 1-5 other than the helmet, even if contact does not occur; and  
 c. No session shall be held where attendance is taken or where attendance is implicitly or explicitly required.  
 d. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance provided by the Association is not in effect during this period; and  
 e. Heat index monitoring guidelines shall be complied with during any activity.  
 (4) From June 1 through June 24:  
 a. Schools shall not issue football equipment included in NFHS Rule 1-5 other than the helmet, with the exception of an all-star game or individual camp as detailed;  
 b. Schools shall not organize or participate in any football activities that allow players to be in football gear included in NFHS Rule 1-5 other than the helmet, even if contact does not occur;  
 c. Activity during this period shall not include contact (Level 3-"Thud" or Level 4-"Live Action");  
 d. No session shall be held where attendance is taken or where attendance is implicitly or explicitly required;  
 e. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance provided by the Association is not in effect during this period; and  
 f. Heat index monitoring guidelines shall be complied with during any activity.  
 (5) During the period beginning on the day immediately following the dead period (Bylaw 24), July 10 through July 31:  
 a. Schools may participate in non-contact interscholastic simulations (i.e. 7 on 7) and such participation does not count against scrimmage limitations provided that the first practice in full gear has not been conducted and drills using Level 3-Thud and Level 4-Live Action Level have not been conducted;  
 b. The school issued helmet may be used during these activities, but no other equipment included in NFHS Rule 1-5 may be used;  
 c. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in effect for these simulations if other schools are involved; and  
 d. Heat index monitoring guidelines shall be complied with during any activity.  
 (6) Preseason acclimation and acclimatization and during season practice in football shall be as follows:  
 a. Heat index monitoring guidelines shall be complied with during any activity;  
 b. Beginning July 10, the first legal organized practice wearing a helmet may be conducted. The first five (5) days of organized practice shall be in helmets only and the total practice time in helmets shall not exceed three (3) hours. Only Level 0-"Air" and Level 1-"Bags" drills shall be conducted. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in place for these drills and practice sessions;  
 c. Beginning July 22, practice may be conducted in shells (shorts, helmets, shoulder pads) for each player who has had at least five days in helmets only. Only Level 0-"Air", Level 1-"Bags" and Level 2-"Control" drills shall be conducted. No single practice session shall be longer than three (3) hours. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in place for these drills and practice sessions;  
 d. Beginning August 1, practice may be conducted in full gear for all players who have had at least three practices wearing shells (helmets and shoulder pads). Level 0-"Air", Level 1-"Bags", Level 2-"Control", Level 3-"Thud" and Level 4-"Live action" drills may be conducted however Level 3-"Thud" and Level 4-"Live action" drills may only be conducted in one practice per day; and  
 e. Beginning July 22, practice periods shall adhere to the following restrictions:  
 i. Shall not have multiple contact practices on any day where Level 3-"Thud" and Level 4-"Live action" drills are

- conducted;
- ii. On days when two practices of any type are held, a total limit of 5 hours per day of practice, not including the mandatory break shall be allowed, with no single practice exceeding three (3) hours. Water breaks, rest breaks and injury treatment shall not count against the 5-hour limit. Weight training, conditioning, required meetings, required sport and skill specific film study, and teaching period/walk through simulations without equipment shall count against 5-hour limit;
  - iii. On days when only one practice of any type is held, a total limit of 3 hours per day of practice shall be allowed. Water breaks, rest breaks and injury treatment shall not count against the 3-hour limit. Weight training, conditioning, required meetings, required sport and skill specific film study, and teaching period/walk through simulations without equipment shall count against 3-hour limit;
  - iv. A 3-hour break is required after a contact practice where Level 3-"Thud" and Level 4-"Live action" drills are conducted during which no activity shall be held and the athletes are located where cooling and recovery is possible. During this break, there shall be no gear worn, and no activity that in any way simulates football or football drills. This restriction is in place regardless of where the practice occurs including camps, home practices, or other workout areas. This period is solely for rest/recovery;
  - v. Weight training, conditioning, meetings, film study, and teaching period/walk through simulations without equipment shall not be conducted during the three-hour required break;
  - vi. Beginning on Monday of the week the first scrimmage is played by the school, each school may participate in "Thud" or "Live Action" drills and game time simulations (not including contests or legal scrimmages) for no more than ninety-minutes per team, per week;
  - vii. A non-contact simulation (7 on 7) or any other type of competition against another school in any form shall not be held with the exception of the two (2) allowed scrimmages, and the allowable games;
  - viii. After the opening day of the school year, a school shall not conduct multiple on-field practice sessions on the same day; and
  - ix. All schools shall upon request, submit any required documentation to verify the proper execution of the practice regulations, including scrimmage, contact, and Heat/Humidity Measurement and Compliance Programs.
- b) After August 1 and prior to the opening varsity game of the season, there shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games per member school (grades 9-12) with players other than members of the squad.
  - c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Friday eleven (11) weeks prior to the week of the first round of the football playoffs.
  - d) The season shall consist of a maximum of ten (10) regular season games and the opportunity to play regular season games shall conclude at the end NFHS corresponding week 17. Any school may play one of the allowable regular season games during Week 0 (normally NFHS corresponding week 7) provided that the total schedule does not exceed ten (10) regular season games and that the allowable number of scrimmages is reduced to one.
  - e) Provided that at least one classification within the KHSAA conducts playoffs that last five (5) weeks, any school that chooses to compete for a district title and is placed in a classification where only four (4) weeks are needed to complete the playoffs may play an additional regular season contest (total of 11 contests), the last of which shall be played during the first round of the playoffs for the other classifications.
  - f) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play.
- Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- g) Each player, in order to be eligible to participate against another school and to become acclimatized and acclimated, shall have taken part in a minimum of five (5) practices over five (5) days in helmets only, three (3) practices in helmet and shoulder pads over three (3) days followed by three (3) contact practices over three days. A contact practice on the date of a contest shall not count as one of the required practices in allowing the student to play in that contest.
  - h) Each football school may elect to conduct spring football practice under the following conditions:
    - (1) A school may conduct ten (10) spring practice periods of not more than two (2) hours in length and not more than one practice per day over ten (10) days during three consecutive calendar weeks, which shall be chosen by the school on or before December 15;
    - (2) Failure to submit the schedule by December 15 will result in a loss of the ability to conduct spring football practice.
    - (3) The three consecutive calendar weeks shall not begin prior to the Monday following the school's elimination from postseason play in basketball, and shall not conclude later than the last day of school on the original school calendar.
    - (4) Any period of time when school is not in session on a week day, including testing and breaks, shall not count as one of the ten (10) permitted days, and practice shall not be conducted on those days.
    - (5) All equipment authorized by the football playing rules may be used during this period.
    - (6) There shall be no interscholastic competition during this period, and all participants shall be eligible according to all KHSAA eligibility rules.
    - (7) Once dates are established by the school, the dates shall not be changed except by request of the member school Principal, and only if the newly requested period begins not later than the Monday following the conclusions of the originally scheduled school spring break.
    - (8) Practice sessions shall conform to the following rotation of types of practice:
      - a. Two days Non-Contact (0-"Air", 1-"Bags", 2-"Control");
      - b. Two days Contact (3-"Thud", 4-"Live Action");
      - c. One day Non-Contact (0-"Air", 1-"Bags", 2-"Control");
      - d. Two days Contact (3-"Thud", 4-"Live Action");
      - e. One day Non-Contact (0-"Air", 1-Bags, 2-"Control"); and
      - f. Two days Contact (3-"Thud", 4-"Live Action").
    - (9) A student below grade nine or in grade 12 shall not participate;
    - (10) Only students currently eligible by all KHSAA rules including Bylaws 2 through 12 may participate;
    - (11) Intrasquad games may be held but shall be counted as one of the ten practice sessions; and
    - (12) Any student who has neither participated in organized competition in a KHSAA sanctioned winter or spring sport, nor has documentation of supervision by a coach qualified under Bylaw 25 in a minimum of 8 conditioning workouts after the previous season and before the start of spring practice (including competition on a competitive weight lifting team at the school), shall have two (2) days of practice in helmets only and two (2) additional days in shells (helmets and shoulder pads) for acclimation prior to wearing the remainder of the allowable football gear;
    - (13) There shall be no mandatory participation (including school or coach imposed penalty) by any person on a spring sports eligibility list (or entering any spring sport scrimmage or contest) or any other student desiring not to participate.
  - i) Following the season and until organized practice begins for the next season, no football gear other than the helmet may be issued used by a member of the team for any activity except for the approved spring football practice period and issuance of gear to a specific individual for attendance/participation in a specific event at an off campus facility.
    - (1) Football gear as defined in NFHS rule 1-5 (including shoulder pads and other protective gear) may be issued to a player who has previously played for the team to participate in an

individual camp or all-star game between the last day of the previous season and before July 31 provided no more than four players from any school participate in the same sessions at that camp.

(2) The gear shall be returned by the individual immediately following the camp. No football gear as defined in NFHS rule 1-5 (including shoulder pads and other protective gear) may be issued for any event involving any person not enrolled at that school that is held at a KHSAA member school or at a facility utilized for games by a member school except for the all-star game/individual camp exception detailed above. This includes camps sponsored by outside entities if a member school's coaches are present or any equipment is issued to participants.

(3) There is no opportunity for any team activity in football gear at camps where representatives of any other school are present except for the noncontact game simulations as detailed above. There is no allowance for full contact camps for teams or issuing other equipment to individuals except as detailed in the all-star game/individual camp exception.

j) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (b) or (d) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame and Museum contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.

**Sec. 7) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- GOLF- BOYS AND GIRLS**

a) Organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.  
 b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.  
 c) The first match shall not take place before the Friday prior to the Monday of the week nine weeks prior to the first round of the KHSAA sanctioned postseason play.

d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty (20) rounds of golf against other school representatives (minimum nine holes) to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (region). Any team reaching this limitation shall have its regular season end immediately. Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this date shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents.

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 8) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- SOCCER- BOYS AND GIRLS**

a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.  
 b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.  
 c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday eight weeks before the week of district tournaments.  
 d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-one (21) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 9) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- SOFTBALL- GIRLS (FASTPITCH)**

a) Following the opening day of school there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.  
 b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.  
 c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Wednesday of the first state basketball tournament.  
 d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six (36) games

to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 10) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- SWIMMING AND DIVING- BOYS AND GIRLS**

a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 1.

b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.

c) The first meet shall not take place prior to November 15.

d) The season shall consist of a maximum of fifteen (15) meets to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region).

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or competition during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 11) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- TENNIS- BOYS AND GIRLS**

a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.

b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.

c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Wednesday of the first state basketball tournament.

d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-two (22) matches to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this limit is reached shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents. Any four (4) invitational tournaments shall count as one (1) match each against this limit. All dual matches shall count as one (1) match each against this limit.

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 12) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- INDOOR AND OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD- BOYS AND GIRLS**

a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to December 1.

b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets held by each team and these shall be held on or before the Monday of NFHS calendar week 38.

c) The first meet (indoor or outdoor) shall not take place before the Monday of NFHS Calendar Week 28.

d) The season shall consist of a maximum of nineteen (19) meets, to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). All meets, regardless of format or being an indoor or outdoor meet, shall count against the limit of meets.

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season outdoor contests season shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 13) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- VOLLEYBALL- GIRLS**

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday nine weeks before the week of district tournament.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-five (35) matches to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 14) SPORTS SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- WRESTLING- BOYS
- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 21.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of seventeen (17) matches in each weight class to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). Tournaments or contests involving three (3) or more schools shall count as one (1) match toward the match limit.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- f) The KHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations shall establish official weight classes.
- Sec. 15) SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- OTHER SPORT-ACTIVITIES- ARCHERY
- a) The first organized practice shall not take place prior to October 1.
- b) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further official practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 16) SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- OTHER SPORT-ACTIVITIES- BASS FISHING
- a) The first organized practice shall not take place prior to October 1.
- b) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further official practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 17) SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- OTHER SPORT-ACTIVITIES- BOWLING
- a) The first organized practice shall not take place prior to October 1.
- b) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further official practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 18) SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS- OTHER SPORT-ACTIVITIES- COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING (INTERSCHOLASTIC SPIRIT)

- a) The first organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) The opportunity to enter competitive cheerleading contests ends at all levels (grades 9-12) for that academic year on April 1, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further official practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year..

**Case BL-23-1 - What is a KHSAA sanctioned sport as used in Bylaw 23?**

*The sanctioned sports of the KHSAA are those sports approved by the Board of Control as a sports championship. At press time, those include: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball and Wrestling. Sport-activities are not the same as sports when applying this Bylaw. The sport-activities currently sanctioned by the Board of Control for championship play are Archery, Bass Fishing, Bowling and Competitive Cheer.*

**Case BL-23-2- What is the expectation of KHSAA member schools as it relates to missed school time for regular season contests?**

*The KHSAA annually solicits verification through the membership application from school administrators that these provisions have not been violated in order to comply with Kentucky Board of Education reporting requirements. The KHSAA expects all of its member schools, including those not normally subject to all rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Education to adhere to the attendance regulations of the Department of Education.*

*Decisions on travel (and the possible allowances or restrictions therein) are solely the discretion and control of the member school. Monitoring and definitions regarding the restrictions related to "school time" must be done at the local level in compliance with Kentucky Department of Education regulations.*

*Member schools reported for violating these restrictions will be referred to the Kentucky Department of Education. The restrictions on missed school time were placed into KHSAA Bylaws by the Kentucky Board of Education as a reiteration of the necessity to prioritize school time, but are not the Association's jurisdiction to enforce and apply sanction. This stance is necessary due to ever changing rules and regulations about what constitutes school time, and the fact that the member schools are in better position to monitor this regulation as they implement new and revised methods of delivering instruction. If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place as to what constitutes school time, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.*

**Case BL-23-3- Is it permissible for students to be counted present for participation/attendance at regular season and KHSAA district level events?**

*Not within the KHSAA Bylaws and policies. Schools must comply with the policies of the Kentucky Department of Education regarding attendance. It should be noted that KRS 159.035(2)(b) clearly states that the educational enhancement opportunities allowed by that statute may not include interscholastic athletics. If a student does leave school before the scheduled end of the day for any reason, the time missed is recorded in the daily attendance log of the school as an attendance event for that student. Although local board policy may allow the student to 'make-up' any missed work, the absence record remains.*

*When the student is participating in or attending an athletic event, the local school board (not school council) attendance policy controls whether it is counted as an excused or unexcused absence. For example, the local board policy might choose to record an excused absence for those students participating on a high school athletic team that is playing in a state championship and not record an excused absence for attendance by a nonparticipant. It is also possible that the*

Board policy is to allow an excused absence for attendance by nonparticipants with verification. The impact of excused versus unexcused absence is that with an excused absence the student may have the ability to make up the missed school work, but has no such right with an unexcused absence.

If the school's team is involved in a very popular event, such as the state high school basketball tournament, and a significant portion of the student body will be attending the tournament and thus missing school, the local board has discretion as to whether to close school that day(s) in anticipation of low school attendance, and amend the school calendar to make up the instructional time.

If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.

**Case BL-23-4- Are there allowances for students to be counted present for participation/attendance at KHSAA region or state events?**

Yes. In accordance with KRS 158.070 (6) (b), any member of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team who competes in a regional tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly scheduled school day may be counted present at school on the date or dates of the competition, as determined by local board policy, for a maximum of two (2) days per student per year. The student shall be expected to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.

When the student is participating in or attending an athletic event, the local school board (not school council) attendance policy controls whether it is counted as an excused or unexcused absence. For example, the local board policy might choose to record an excused absence for those students participating on a high school athletic team that is playing in a state championship and not record an excused absence for attendance by a nonparticipant. It is also possible that the Board policy is to allow an excused absence for attendance by nonparticipants with verification. The impact of excused versus unexcused absence is that with an excused absence the student has a right to have the opportunity to make up the missed school work, but has no such right with an unexcused absence.

If the school's team is involved in a very popular event, such as the state high school basketball tournament, and a significant portion of the student body will be attending the tournament and thus missing school, the local board has discretion as to whether to close school that day(s) in anticipation of low school attendance, and amend the school calendar to make up the instructional time.

If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.

**Case BL-23-5- Does the limit on consecutive day scrimmages or contests extend to varsity and nonvarsity teams and players?**

Yes. Each team at each level within a school and each student-athlete, shall have one day (Monday through Thursday) during the season when school is in session, when the team does not hold a scrimmage or contest nor is the individual student-athlete competing or playing. This restriction applies to all levels of play not each level of play.

The intent of the rule is that each student-athlete shall be guaranteed at least one night (Monday through Thursday) where participation in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest is not required, to allow for time to properly attend to academic pursuits and other priorities.

**Case BL-23-6- What are the restrictions during the school year outside of the defined Limitation of Seasons (off-season) when the school's team members are participants or school coaches are involved?**

Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at a time the athletes are participating in skills (either preparatory or specific

to that sport) in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. Coincident participation by a coach and an athlete in a sport such as a golf outing, where the coach and athlete(s) are not entered as a entry or group, or in an activity such as distance running with many runners but no direct coaching, would not specifically be considered coaching.

The "off-season" is the period during the school year for each sport or sport-activity that is outside the defined start and end dates for the sport or sport-activity as detailed in Bylaw 23. The restrictions begin on the first day of school and end on the earlier of the day following the last day of school or May 31.

Activity during the off-season by member school coaches has the following continuing restrictions:

- (1) Any restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, head or assistant, and at all levels;
- (2) Participation in any activity may not be mandatory for the students and there may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation;
- (3) No school owned or issued equipment (catching gear for baseball/softball) may be used;
- (4) No school uniforms, mascots, team identifying apparel or transportation may be used;
- (5) No coach or school/school system may provide or fund transportation for these players to play in outside leagues, even if personal transportation is utilized;
- (6) No funds may be used for participation in organized play including payments for officials, field usage, field preparation, etc. Payment by booster groups is the same as payment by the school and cannot be used to circumvent this requirement;
- (7) There is no insurance coverage with regard to the KHSAA Catastrophe Policy;
- (8) The activity cannot be restricted solely to members or prospective members of a team;
- (9) No member of the coaching staff may be paid for sports specific instruction at a school owned facility;
- (10) Nothing about these interpretations allow for the use of specific school issued football, baseball or softball gear during this period except during the allowable time periods of Bylaw 23;
- (11) Nothing about these interpretations change any of the provisions of Bylaw 9 that prohibit players in basketball and football from participating in an organized game for any other entity from the start of school to the end of the season (including KHSAA postseason play); and
- (12) All activity must have approval from the school principal. All other restrictions related to the scheduling, composition, pool and use of available personnel including coaches, and other logistical arrangements are the jurisdiction of the building Principal in compliance with all local district policies. This applies to any sport or sport-activity held within that local school facility or off-site activities where the coach and team members are simultaneously present, in compliance with Bylaw 1 of the Association.

The following situations would NOT be permitted due to these restrictions:

- (1) School Team A going to School Team B's field/gym and play a game with umpires;
- (2) School Team A going to School Team B's field/gym and play a game as part of a "Fall League" or "Outside League"; and
- (3) Any activity expressly prohibited by the school Principal.

With these restrictions in mind, the following activities would be permitted:

- (1) Coaches may provide voluntary individual instruction to students that have previously represented the school;
- (2) Participate in an organized league at a nonschool facility;
- (3) A school leasing its athletic facility to an outside league/group (not affiliated with the school) provided there is an existing, written agreement for fair market value for the usage, and such does not eliminate the other restrictions;
- (4) Players and coaches from one school participating in a league at the city park play against another team that has players and coaches from another school; and
- (5) Members from School A receive instruction from members of



School A coaching staff on site at the school facility provided all participants were from School A.

**Case BL-23-7- How is the determination made as to how to count a contest against the Limitation of Seasons?**

In these sports, a contest counts against the Limitation of Seasons any time a student-athlete represents a member school competing against any representative(s) of another school after the start of practice and prior to the end of the season as defined within KHSAA Bylaw 23.

- (1) The following are examples of activities which would be subject to classifying the student-athlete as being a "representative" of the school:
  - a. Wearing of school uniform and school-issued playing equipment;
  - b. Transportation to or from the contest using school transportation;
  - c. Representing the school by entering an event under the name of the school;
  - d. Representatives of the school entering an event in which entries are allowed only by school representatives;
  - e. Attendance of, transportation by, coaching or other assistance by, any member of the school coaching staff from that sport; or
  - f) Any school vs. school competition in a contest in any KHSAA sport or sport-activity as defined within Bylaw 23.
- (2) After the start of practice and prior to the first contest against an outside opponent, such activity may be classified as a scrimmage.
- (3) All play shall be classified as the same level by all participants in scrimmages, contests, games, meets and tournaments and shall remain classified at the same level through the completion of the event. For example, one school cannot classify a contest as a junior varsity game, and the opponent classify the contest as a varsity game or one classify the activity as a scrimmage and one classify it as a contest. As another example, a school cannot classify some games in an event (such as a tournament) as varsity games and others as nonvarsity games. Events shall be constructed such that all competition is held at the same level for all competing teams.
- (4) Seeded district contests to determine postseason bracketing may never be counted as nonvarsity contests.
- (5) It shall be counted as a contest or scrimmage if the activity involves competition with or against any person who is not on the school participation list for that gender in that sport.

**Case BL-23-8- What is the season, limit of contests and restrictions for nonvarsity teams?**

Nonvarsity teams have the same restrictions on beginning of practice, beginning of contests and number of games as the varsity teams.

**Case BL-23-9- What is the first date for nonvarsity playing of contests (JV and Freshman)?**

Nonvarsity games can be played beginning the first available date for play by the varsity.

**Case BL-23-10- Is there a designated "tryout" or conditioning period for KHSAA sports for member schools?**

No. Tryouts are an organized or semi-organized means of selecting team members for the coming season. Provisions of that rule stipulate a beginning date for practice, which implicitly prohibits practice during the school year prior to that date. Tryouts are considered to be part of organized practice and shall be held during the official practice period spelled out in Bylaw 23. Nothing can be required between the first day of school and the first legal date for practice.

There is also no "conditioning period" as some coaches seem to erroneously tell kids and parents. Student-athletes cannot be held accountable for missing this time outside of the limitation of seasons and cannot be made to "make-up" missed activity as it cannot be required.

**Case BL-23-11- What are the limitations on the allowable scrimmages?**

A scrimmage is a semi-organized opportunity to participate in a sport in game conditions prior to the opening contest

of the season. Scrimmages are designed to be controlled opportunities for participation NOT exhibition games. While many state associations prohibit preseason competition between schools, it is felt that this is the best means of acclimating to game conditions and preparing for the season while ensuring competitive fairness and equal participation opportunities.

The following are the limitations and regulations on allowable scrimmages:

- (1) Each school is limited to a total of two preseason scrimmages of any type against competitors not eligible to be on the team's roster at all levels of play (grades 9-12) in each sport;
- (2) Both scrimmages (or one if that is the school's choice) shall be held prior to the first varsity contest in a sport;
- (3) The total elapsed time from the start of each scrimmage until the end shall be no longer than three consecutive hours (Start to finish, including any breaks) and all competition activity shall held at the same site. This time limit is not playing time, but elapsed time on the clock and starts when the first team member at any level engages a person from another other team in any manner. The restriction allows for participation in any fashion with outside opponents for a single, continuous, three hour period. It is possible that the varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams could oppose each other in game simulation settings and only be charged with one scrimmage if the TOTAL amount of time scrimmaged for all team levels combined from start to finish is less than three hours. The three hour time measurement shall be suspended in the event that inclement weather forces cancellation after a scrimmage has begun and shall resume when warm-up activities resume following the suspension;
- (4) The limitation is for all levels of play (grades 9-12) at a school, not each level of play;
- (5) Coaches at different levels within a school (freshman, JV and Varsity) and at sites where many teams are present should coordinate the schedule of scrimmages to ensure that these students are given opportunities during the three-hour scrimmage limit. The scrimmage sessions are primarily designed to prepare the varsity team for regular season play, as the entire nonvarsity season can be considered "scrimmage-like" as no state championship competition is held;
- (6) The scrimmage limitations include any team camp or similar activity held during the defined practice period for a sport. Teams attending camps at the same site should exercise extreme caution not to violate scrimmage limitations. The total scrimmage time involving team members, regardless of levels of play, is subject to a total time limit of three consecutive hours;
- (7) Coaches shall be on the field or in the vicinity of the playing floor or area;
- (8) Schools may, at the discretion of the host school, charge admission, sell concessions and pay officials;
- (9) It is recommended that officials be utilized for all scrimmage contests. If officials are utilized (other than coaches exercising normal supervisory duties), they shall be KHSAA licensed officials;
- (10) All scrimmage contests shall be reported to the KHSAA if the Association makes requests for such reports; and
- (11) Violators of scrimmage limitations and regulations may be penalized in accordance to the prescribed penalties in Bylaw 23 as well as the provisions of Bylaw 27.

**Case BL-23-12- Are there any exceptions to the scrimmage rules contained in the Limitation of Seasons for the Bluegrass State Games or for officially sanctioned Olympic Development Activities?**

Yes. High school teams in cross country, cheer, soccer, and volleyball, together with their coach(es) may participate in the Bluegrass State Games. Such play shall not count against the two scrimmage limitation provided that the organizers of the games adhere to all health and safety recommendations of the KHSAA (including the Heat Index program), all opponents are member schools or qualified nonmember schools as defined in CS-BL-23-9 and provided there is not a limit on the number of schools that may enter.

The Board of Control has authorized the Commissioner to consider, on a case by case basis, waivers to any restrictions contained in Bylaw 9 and Bylaw 23 that would allow participation by an enrolled student or employed coach in officially sanctioned U.S. Olympic Development activities. Such organizations as USA Basketball, USA Track and Field and other similar groups that have officially sanctioned activities can request, through the appropriate member school, that these restrictions be waived and participation allowed. Such shall also include the Ryder Cup official competition between the PGA of America and PGA European Tour.

**Case BL-23-13- What is the minimum period for team and individual practice in the preseason in any sport other than football, or sport-activity?**

In all sports other than in football, and in all sport-activities, there are no required minimum number of practice sessions or dates prior to competition against another school.

**Case BL-23-14- What are the special allowances for counting a game/meet/event against the Limitation of Seasons in cross country or track or toward the postseason meet minimum that is listed in the Competition Rules?**

A meet shall be counted against the limit of meets in cross country or track (indoor or outdoor) if any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) It is sponsored by a KHSAA member high school (or co-sponsored) or legally conducted by an outside entity as a team entry event in accordance with the NFHS sanctioning process;
- (2) An athlete is wearing the school issued uniform;
- (3) A school entity pays the entry fee for the student;
- (4) A school representative accompanies the student-athlete or transports the student-athlete to the competition;
- (5) A member of the school's coaching staff is present and offering instruction, advise, evaluation or refinement of skills or exercising other duties defined as "coaching" within the sport rules; or
- (6) The event, by its format, allows entries or fees to be solely based on representatives of school based competition.

**Case BL-23-15- Is it permissible for a local policy board, officials' association to impose a different time limit on softball or baseball games at the varsity level?**

No. At the varsity level, the NFHS playing rules establish the time frames and requirements.

At the nonvarsity level, the local regional policy board of the host school may establish game time or inning limitations for different levels below varsity. Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for baseball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of softball. Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for softball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of baseball. Time limits (or play limits such as a limit of innings) can only be imposed in nonvarsity baseball or softball games if the same limit applies to both sports under the jurisdiction of that policy board.

**Case BL-23-16- What equipment can be worn, what activities can occur, and what restrictions are in place for basketball at various times of the school year?**

The following are the allowances and timelines for the wearing of gear and the conducting of practice or practice-like activity based on specific time of the year:

- (1) From the team's elimination from postseason play through the end of the school year, is a supervised play period and the following stipulations are in place:
  - a. Any on-campus game simulation where another school is involved (school vs. school) must not involve more than three players from a single team; and
  - b. There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- (2) From the earlier of the day following the last date of school or June 1, through June 24, the following stipulations are in place:
  - a. Play is governed by decisions made at the local level. There are no restrictions on coaching, uniforms, expenditures

or the other things inherent with the Dead Period or the July period. Nothing during this period can be mandatory, and there can be no penalty, expressed or implied, for nonparticipation; and

- b. There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- (3) From June 25 to July 9 (inclusive of those dates) is the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24) with the following restrictions:
  - a. The restrictions of Bylaw 24, Sec. 3 (Summer Dead Period) and its interpretations are in place;
  - b. There can be no practice (individual or team) and no equipment or facilities may be issued; and
  - c. There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- (4) July 10 to July 31 is the Bylaw 24, Sec. 2 period:
  - a. The restrictions of Bylaw 24, Sec. 2 (Restrictions on Football and Boys' Basketball) and its interpretations including the fact that school money cannot be expended for basketball activities are in place;
  - b. No organized basketball activity may occur at a member school, and
  - c. There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- (5) August 1 to October 15 is a supervised activity period:
  - a. Any on-campus game simulation where another school is involved (school vs. school) must not involve more than three players from a single team; and
  - b. There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- (6) October 15 until the elimination of the team from postseason play is the defined season:
  - a. Required and supervised practice, scrimmages and contests may occur during this period;
  - b. Any play involving at least one player from more than one team shall count as a scrimmage; and
  - c. Provided all practice and activity are compliant with KHSAA rules, the KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in place.

**Case BL-23-17- What is postseason play as defined in spring football practice period if a school chooses to select their dates following the end of basketball postseason play?**

The "elimination from postseason play in basketball" means the elimination of both boys' and girls' teams from postseason play in basketball. For example, if a boys' basketball team loses the first game of a district but the girls' remain alive into regional or state play, the spring practice period cannot begin until the girls are eliminated.

**Case BL-23-18- Can a representative of a school request to change spring practice dates after December 15?**

The spring practice dates are to be selected as part of the school calendar process to eliminate conflicts with other teams. Only in the case of reconditioned equipment being unavailable for the selected days, or an authorized request by the Principal of the member school will a date change be authorized, and no revision will allow for the starting of the three week period to be beyond the Monday following the school originally calendared spring break as submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education.

**Case BL-23-19- Is it permissible for a school team in a KHSAA Sport-Activity to compete in a final competition of a progressive event if the preliminary competition involved or was held as part of the KHSAA sanctioned and sponsored competition?**

Yes.

**Case BL-23-20- Is it permissible for a school team in a KHSAA Sport-Activity to compete in a final competition of a progressive event if the preliminary competition did not involve or was not held as part of the KHSAA sanctioned and sponsored competition?**

No.

## **BYLAW 24. SUMMER SPORTS AND SPORT- ACTIVITIES**

### **Sec. 1) SCHOOL TEAM PLAY IN SUMMER (NON DEAD PERIOD)**

Member schools may participate in sanctioned play during the summer to complete spring seasons in baseball, softball, tennis and track and may begin sanctioned regular season play and practice as defined by Bylaw 23 prior to the opening of school in cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer and volleyball. Only participants eligible during the spring semester may compete on the school teams. All KHSAA eligibility rules apply, and full control of the summer program shall remain with the participating high school and the principal of that school.

### **Sec. 2) RESTRICTIONS ON FOOTBALL AND BOYS' BASKETBALL**

Students shall not participate in any organized team activity or organized or semi-organized team competition in football in any format between the earlier of the last day of school and June 1 through the day prior to the start of the dead period. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps (with per team limits on participation) and accepted open gym or field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.

Students shall not participate in any organized team activity or organized or semi-organized team competition in boys' basketball between the end of the dead period and July 31. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps (with per team limits on participation) and accepted open gym/field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.

### **Sec. 3) SUMMER DEAD PERIOD**

Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year in any KHSAA sanctioned sport or sport-activity during the period beginning with June 25, and going through July 9. School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in any KHSAA sanctioned sport during this period. These restrictions shall not apply to postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year.

#### **Case BL-24-1- What is the purpose of Bylaw 24?**

*Section 1 of Bylaw 24 is critical to clarify the allowances for those sports that begin prior to the beginning of the school year, extend beyond the school year, or start their practice/contests prior to the start of the following school year. This rule empowers the school to begin the season before school starts, or play through postseason elimination in spring sports.*

*Section 2 of Bylaw 24 was passed by the membership as a means of addressing a burgeoning issue in boys' basketball and football, wherein the small population of available male athletes were being forced to make choices due to the wishes of adults, many of whom may not have had the overall best interests of the student-athletes as their number one goal. The rule specifies a period where school based competition (including anything that could remotely be perceived as required or using school facilities) cannot be held in football (June prior to the Dead Period), and cannot be held in basketball (July, after the Dead Period).*

*Section 3 of Bylaw 24, the Dead Period was developed following a nearly year long task force review in the middle-1990s to address a growing issue where year-round athletics was eroding family opportunities for a break from participation, and outside entities were beginning to sponsor a growing amount of school based summer competition. In addition, over the years, many sometimes overzealous coaches required their players to play scores of games throughout the summer, in addition to a year-round workout regimen. While this may seem to be in the best interest of developing sports talent, such is not the purpose of high school athletics.*

*High school sports are to supplement classroom learning and allow for in-season competitive opportunities, not a year round Olympic or professional development period. Families were complaining that they could not plan vacations and family*

*outings because of coaches' requirements and athletes were complaining of burn out. In addition, schools were increasingly concerned with liability issues related to the summer. In a survey conducted by the KHSAA, 80% of superintendents, principals and athletic directors who returned the survey indicated they supported a "dead period" in the summer. Initial responses were overwhelmingly in support of a four (4) week dead period. The primary intent of the regulation is to eliminate, for an approximately two (2) week period, the leverage a coach has over his/her high school athletes.*

#### **Case BL-24-2- Does Bylaw 24 apply to KHSAA Sport-Activities?**

*Yes. Any sport or sport-activity governed by the KHSAA Limitation of Seasons (Bylaw 23) is restricted by this rule and its interpretations.*

#### **Case BL-24-3- How is Bylaw 24, Section 1 interpreted for play in the summer held after the end of the school year and prior to the start of the next school year?**

*The following are the general provisions regarding summer play:*

- (1) Any participant is eligible to continue participating in KHSAA sponsored state championship competition in baseball, fastpitch softball, tennis and track and field, even if their spring semester has ended. Only students eligible during the spring semester may practice or compete on any of the teams mentioned;*
- (2) Individual athletes and athletic teams representing member schools may participate in nonschool competition following the conclusion of the school year provided that such competition is not in conflict with other KHSAA Bylaws;*
- (3) School based play during the summer (other than fall sports after July 15) is governed by the local Board of Education (except for the Dead Period restrictions) and the local Board of Education assumes all responsibility; and*
- (4) Students may begin official practice and play for fall KHSAA sports and sport-activities as part of the school team even if the school year has not yet begun.*

*The following describes the parameters for KHSAA catastrophic insurance coverage for the summer:*

- (1) Insurance coverage provided by the Association, including but not limited to the Catastrophic Insurance Plan, does not apply to students participating in such activities as Amateur Athletic Union and other nonschool or out of season play in the summer.*
- (2) The provisions of the Association insurance plan do not cover students attending individual or team camps during the summer in any sport prior to the first legal day of practice.*
- (3) This summer exclusion also applies to members of the cheerleading squad.*

#### **Case BL-24-4- What are the restrictions on football practice and the use of equipment from June 1 to June 24 in compliance with Bylaw 24, Sec. 2?**

*These restrictions are:*

- (1) A football player may not be issued any football gear, including the helmet (except for the individual camp exception detailed in Bylaw 25), and no organized activity can be held related to football on school grounds by team members;*
- (2) School or booster funds may not be expended during this period;*
- (3) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in football. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;*
- (4) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no school expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;*
- (5) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;*
- (6) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;*
- (7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized football competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;*

- 8) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized football competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- 9) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of football activity;
- 10) There can be no organized competition against any other school or any other type of team;
- 11) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents; and
- 12) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.

**Case BL-24-5- What are the restrictions on boys' basketball practice and the use of equipment from July 10 to July 31 in compliance with Bylaw 24, Sec. 2?**

These restrictions are:

- (1) A basketball player may not be issued any basketball gear and no organized activity can be held related to basketball on school grounds by team members;
- (2) School or booster funds may not be expended during this period;
- (3) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in basketball. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;
- (4) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no school expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- (5) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;
- (6) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;
- (7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized basketball competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- (8) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized basketball competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- (9) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of basketball activity;
- (10) There shall be no organized competition against any other school or nonschool team;
- (11) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents;
- (12) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period; and
- (13) Girls' basketball is not effected by these restrictions.

**Case BL-24-6- What restrictions are in place for the member schools during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Section 3) including restrictions on facilities?**

The following restrictions are in place for member school representatives (including groups of schools and school representatives, booster organizations) during the dead period, and apply to all persons connected with the member school, including coaches:

- (1) School or booster funds may not be expended during this dead period;
- (2) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in any sport during the Dead Period. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for nonparticipation during that period;
- (3) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament. There can be no expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- (4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or

- facility management fees may not be paid;
- (5) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;
- (6) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- (7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- (8) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of athletic activity;
- (9) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents; and the students and coaches cannot be together in any of these type of activities;
- (10) School owned or issued equipment shall not be issued to or used by any athlete with eligibility remaining, including but not limited to football or baseball catching gear;
- (11) There cannot be money spent on travel to or from a camp, clinic or other activity during the Dead Period, even if none of the practice, competition or evaluation occurs during the Dead Period as this is an expenditure of school funds or resources in support of athletics;
- (12) There cannot be distribution of equipment to student-athletes nor distribution of uniforms or other items during the Dead Period; and
- (13) There can be no direct communication to any student-athlete by a coach or member of the coaching staff/team regarding activities that are being held either during the dead period, or after. This includes all form of communication, verbal and written, as well as using any medium including social media.

**Case BL-24-7- What specific restrictions are in place for coaches (paid or unpaid, at any level grade 9-12) including the sport-activities for the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Section 3) if the activity involves a student enrolled at the member school where a coach is employed?**

The following restrictions are in place for all coaches, paid or unpaid, head or assistant:

- (1) No coach may coach a student-athlete in any setting if that student-athlete has previously represented the high school (varsity, jv or freshmen) and if sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated;
- (2) No coach in a sport at a school may coach other individuals who are enrolled in grades 9-12 but may not have yet played for the school;
- (3) A coach may not pay the entry fee for a team into a league, camp or tournament;
- (4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid by the coach;
- (5) A coach may not provide transportation or funding for transportation for team members to go to games, camps, tournaments or any other type of play;
- (6) No member of the coaching staff may assist in making game-like preparations for the school facility including but not limited to, baseline marking, outfield line marking, batter's box marking, maintenance of the mound and base cut-outs; or the use of school facilities or equipment for such setup. This does not preclude the coaching staff or others participating in nonsports specific off-season turf or other facility maintenance;
- (7) No fund raising activity may be held during the period which would require the student-athlete and the coach to be present. These activities are inherently or specifically mandatory for the student-athletes and may not be held during the dead period. Simply stating that something is not mandatory does not in and of itself make the activity legal. Even if an activity is totally optional, it is not permitted for the coach(es) and student-athletes to be together during this period;

- (8) There can be no coaching of athletes in a particular sport by coaches from the same school who coach in another sport. Coaching, for the purposes of the Dead Period, is defined as any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, practiced or evaluated. Attendance at a scrimmage or contest is included in the definition of coaching. This coaching restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid. This restriction prohibits the delegation or assignment of activities by any member of the coaching staff to other individuals, including student-athletes who may or may not be participating. All coaching restrictions are in place whether the activity is conducted within, or outside of the school. The coaching prohibition is on the institution, not the individual;
- (9) There can be no observation of student-athletes who are enrolled at the coach's high school, even if such observation is in conjunction with outside employment such as camps, leagues or clinics. The only exception is detailed in the allowable activities concerning the observation (including transportation) of the coach's children (blood or by marriage) who are on the playing roster and actively participating on the regular high school team at a member school; and
- (10) There may be no formal or informal communication between a coach and any member of the team during this period, including telephone, email, other electronic means or in person contact if the communication relates in any way to participation. This restriction includes upcoming meetings, plans, motivational contact or any other contact during this period.

**Case BL-24-8– What specific restrictions are in place for student athletes in KHSAA Sports and Sport-Activities (Bylaw 24, Section 3)?**

The following restrictions are in place for student-athletes during the dead period:

- (1) A student-athlete may not wear school issued or school identifying apparel, including sleeves, jerseys, pants, catching gear or hats during games, camps or tournaments; and
- (2) The school nickname or school name may not be used on nonschool issued apparel during this time.

**Case BL-24-9– What activities are permitted during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 24, Section 3)?**

The following activities are permitted by member school representatives (including booster organizations) during the dead period:

- (1) School facilities may be used for nonhigh school aged summer leagues, tournaments and camps provided 1) a documented market value lease agreement exists; 2) players from that school are not involved in any manner if a high school coach is involved; and 3) coaches from that high school are not involved in any manner if a player is involved;
- (2) A school may hold a celebratory activity or activities commemorating participation in the KHSAA State Tennis, Track, Softball or Baseball State Championships (Final state events, not qualifying rounds). The events shall be celebratory in nature, featuring recognitions of the athletes and squad members. No practice, play or future season planning or activities may occur;
- (3) A school may conduct its annual mass physical exams during this period provided there is no contact with any member of the coaching staff for any reason and this is not the sole opportunity provided to the students at that member school;
- (4) Coaches who have a son or daughter (blood or by marriage) participating may attend contests. Even with attendance allowed, this person cannot be involved in coaching the team;
- (5) Coaches may be involved with outside activities and leagues as long as there is no contact with members of his/her high school team and as long as the coach is not in attendance when any of his/her players are participating. Coaches should be cautioned against using this type of activity in violation of Bylaw 10, Recruitment;
- (6) Member schools may allow camps to be conducted for nonhigh school students on school athletic property by high school coaches during this period provided there is no contact

- with any athlete who had participated at any level within the school athletic program, regardless of the grade or age of the student. The members of the high school team may only work at such a camp if the high school coaching staff is not present;
- (7) Coaches may serve as a paid contest official;
- (8) Students who are members of the same high school team may participate together in outside competition as long as a member of the high school coaching staff does not coach them or attend the contests; and
- (9) A participant (or participants) on a school team in a KHSAA Sport-Activity may compete in a final competition of a progressive event if the preliminary competition was held involving KHSAA sanctioned and sponsored competition.

**BYLAW 25. REQUIREMENT FOR COACHES AND OTHERS WORKING WITH HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS INCLUDING ATHLETIC DIRECTORS**

Sec. 1) DEFINITIONS

a) Level 1 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position at the high school level shall be categorized as Level 1 if that individual is a certified teacher and member of the regular school system faculty and meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties:

- (1) Is employed a minimum of three (3) regular periods for teaching classes, which may include physical education;
- (2) Is employed for supervision of study halls; or
- (3) Is exercising responsibilities in other activity assignments within the school schedule.

b) Level 2 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position at the high school level shall be categorized as Level 2 if that individual meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties and does not meet the qualifications of Level 1:

- (1) Shall be a high school graduate and 21 years of age as detailed in KRS 156.070(f)(2);
- (2) Shall not be a violent offender or convicted of a sex crime as defined by KRS 17.165 that is classified as a felony;
- (3) Shall submit to a criminal record check under KRS 160.380;
- (4) Shall meet one of the following additional qualifications:
  - i. Have graduated from a public or accredited high school and hold a provisional or standard teaching certificate;
  - ii. Have completed sixty-four semester hours of college credit from an accredited college or university as documented by an official transcript;
  - iii. Be a graduate from a public or accredited high school and be in compliance with the local district standards for serving as an approved substitute teacher as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board; or
  - iv. Be a graduate from a public or accredited high school and complete all Board of Control prescribed electives as detailed. Level 2 coaches approved under this shall complete these requirements prior to coaching in the first interscholastic contest; and
- (5) Prior to assuming duties, Level 2 coaches shall successfully complete training provided by the local school district. The training shall include information on the physical and emotional development of students of the age with whom the Level 2 coach will be working, the district's and school's discipline policies, procedures for dealing with discipline problems, and safety and first aid training. Follow up training shall be provided annually.

c) Head Coach

As referred in this regulation, the head coach at the high school level shall be the head varsity coach designated by the school or Board of Education unless otherwise noted in the bylaw.

d) Athletic Director

As referred in this regulation, the Athletic Director is a classified or certified position or contractor hired to oversee work related to the interscholastic athletic program.

Sec. 2) HIRING AND EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHING POSITIONS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

a) Required Level

Level 1 or 2 individuals (head and assistant) may be assigned as the head or assistant coach in any sport or sport-activity (including cheerleading).

b) KHSAA Member School Obligations in Hiring

(1) The Superintendent shall ensure that all assignments for coaching duties comply with all applicable state and local policies.

(2) The hiring process shall ensure that in considering those individuals seeking coaching duties, the most qualified individual shall be assigned. In considering qualifications, the qualifications desired for the position, the references, interviews and experience of those seeking the duties, and the education background shall be considered.

c) Compensation for Coaches at the High School Level

Any person assigned to coaching duties at any level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education and the entire coaching salary shall be paid through that board in accordance with local Board of Education policy.

Sec. 3) POST HIRE REQUIREMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING COACHING DUTIES

a) C.P.R. and AED Training for Coaches at the High School Level

All coaches (head and assistant) at any level in all sanctioned sports and sport-activities (including cheerleading) shall provide documentation of successful completion of a C.P.R. course including the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator and the requisite First Aid Training, conducted by an instructor or program approved by a college or University, the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other bona fide accrediting agency. Initial certification shall use in-person instruction and certification shall be timely and appropriately updated as required by the approving agency.

b) Coaches Education Program for Coaches at the High School Level

(1) A Coaches Education Program has been approved as the coaching education program in Kentucky. The program shall include a course of study to include a KHSAA approved Coaches Education Program, KHSAA rules information and local district policies. The cost of attending the KHSAA Coaches Education Program shall be the responsibility of the individual coach(es). Local school districts or local schools may, upon successful completion of all coaching education requirements including all examinations, reimburse the coaches for the expense of attending the course.

(2) Level 1 individuals assigned to duties as a coach (head or assistant), who are hired as a member of the school system faculty for the first time following the 1995-96 school year shall take and complete all requirements for the Kentucky Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

(3) Level 2 individuals (Sec. 1, subsection b(4)) assigned to duties as a coach (head or assistant) shall take and complete all requirements for the KHSAA Approved Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

c) Sports Safety Training and Medical Symposium Updates for Coaches at all Interscholastic Levels

(1) Each coach (head and assistant, including cheerleading) at all levels (grades 9-12) shall be required to complete a sports safety course and medical symposium update consisting of training on how to prevent common injuries.

(2) All member schools of the KHSAA shall pay the necessary expenses of coaches for the required attendance at the sanctioned sports safety course and sports medicine symposium update.

(3) The course shall meet the following criteria:

- i. The content of the course shall include the elements specified in KRS 160.445 including the risk of concussion and head injury;

- ii. The course shall be taught by a Certified Athletic Trainer, Registered Nurse, Physician or Physician's Assistant licensed to practice in Kentucky;

- iii. The course material and content shall be updated every thirty (30) months; and

- iv. Each coach having completed the course shall re-certify by taking the course not less than once every two (2) years.

(4) Successful completion of the course shall constitute a passing score.

(5) Each coach of a sport or sport-activity at all interscholastic levels shall have successfully completed the sports safety course and medical symposium update prior to assuming coaching duties.

(6) The penalty for noncompliance with this section shall be suspension from coaching duties.

d) KHSAA Rules Clinic for Coaches at the High School Level

(1) All coaches (head and assistant) shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which they coach and the school desires to enter a team in postseason play, provided these clinics are conducted under the authorization of the Commissioner.

(2) The penalty for noncompliance with this section shall be suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year or any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 25.

e) Continual Education and Improvement

As approved by the school or school system, each coach shall be required to demonstrate attendance and participation in continual improvement activities involving the teaching of skills and tactics, evaluation of opponents, and opportunities for adaptation of updated systems to enhance the student participation experience.

Sec. 4) HIRING AND EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

a) All persons designated as high school Athletic Directors shall comply with any adopted regulations as governed by the local Board of Education.

b) Compensation for Athletic Directors at the High School Level

Any person assigned to duties as an Athletic Director at the high school level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education and the entire salary shall be paid through that board in accordance with local Board of Education policy.

Sec. 5) POST HIRE REQUIREMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING DUTIES AS AN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

a) Continual Education and Improvement for Athletic Directors hired for the first time prior to August 1, 2016:

(1) Each Athletic Director shall be required to annually demonstrate attendance and participation in continual improvement activities involving twelve (12) hours of educational programs validated by local board approved credit and produced by:

- a. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association;
- b. the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association;
- c. The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; or
- d. The Kentucky Department of Education.

b) Continual Education and Improvement for Athletic Directors hired for the first time after August 1, 2016:

(1) For the first three years holding the position of Athletic Director, each Athletic Director shall be required to annually demonstrate attendance and participation in continual improvement activities involving eighteen (18) hours of educational programs validated by local board approved credit and produced by:

- a. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association;
- b. the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association;
- c. The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; or
- d. The Kentucky Department of Education.

(2) After completing three years holding the position of Athletic Director, each Athletic Director shall be required to annually demonstrate attendance and participation in continual

improvement activities involving twelve (12) hours of educational programs validated by local board approved credit and produced by:

- a. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association;
- b. The Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association;
- c. The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; or
- d. The Kentucky Department of Education.

#### **Case BL-25-1- What is coaching as used in Bylaw 25?**

Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at a time the athletes are participating in skills (either preparatory or specific to that sport) in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. Coincident participation by a coach and an athlete in a sport such as a golf outing, where the coach and athlete(s) are not entered as a entry or group, or in an activity such as distance running with many runners but no direct coaching, would not specifically be considered coaching.

#### **Case BL-25-2- What is a Coach as referred in Bylaw 25?**

Coaching is the teaching, training, development or execution of specific processes, including any and all skills, tactics, techniques or strategies, by which an individual attempts to improve the individual or a team's ability to perform in sports or sport-activity competition. It is not required that the teaching, training, development or execution be solely specific to the skills and tactics of the sport, but could also include position specific training, overall physical conditioning training or general aspects applicable to all sports. Individuals who perform these functions specifically on behalf of the coach or school, even at outside venues, shall be considered to be coaching.

Any person, paid or unpaid, that performs these functions is considered a coach.

This includes specialized instructors such as hitting and catching coaches, cheer instructors, goalie coaches and other individuals who are providing instruction. All persons meeting these definitions of a coach are subject to the restrictions and requirements of Bylaw 25.

#### **Case BL-25-3- What is a Head Coach as referred in Bylaw 25?**

The Head Coach is the head varsity coach for each sport unless stated specifically within the provision of the rule. A person's designation as "head junior varsity coach" is simply an assistant coach with respect to this rule.

#### **Case BL-25-4- Are Sport-Activities coaches required to meet the requirements of Bylaw 25?**

Yes, all requirements within Bylaw 25 also apply to Archery, Bass Fishing, Bowling and Competitive Cheer coaches.

#### **Case BL-25-5- What restrictions are in place for those individuals that a school chooses to utilize (not as a coach) who do not meet the provisions of a Level 1 coach or a Level 2 coach?**

Persons assigned to duties as assistants within the program shall be limited to the following responsibilities upon approval of such assignment by the proper school authorities and in compliance with all adopted regulations. This shall not preclude any person qualifying as a Level 1 or Level 2 coach from performing these tasks.

- (1) Under the supervision of a Level 1 or 2 coach, persons not meeting the provisions of a Level 1 or 2 coach can assist with the program by:
  - a. Helping develop plans for daily and long range athletic activities;
  - b. Helping guide participants towards a harmonious team spirit;
  - c. Alerting the coaches to the special needs of individual athletes;
  - d. Providing assistance with supervision of athletes during periods of team travel;
  - e. Recommending the purchase of equipment, supplies, and uniforms as appropriate for the health, safety, and welfare of student-athletes; and
  - f. Performing other non-coaching duties assigned by the

principal, athletic director.

- (2) No person other than those employed as a Level 1 or 2 coach shall be allowed to participate in any supervisory capacity with interscholastic Sport or Sport-Activity teams, perform any other "coaching duty" as prescribed by the playing rules within a sport, nor shall any otherwise qualified person exceed his respective duties as set forth in this Bylaw.

#### **Case BL-25-6- What professional development activities are required by the Board of Control for those coaches with less than sixty-four (64) hours of college as required in Bylaw 25, Sec. 1(b)(4)(iv)?**

In addition to the base requirements including age, high school graduation and background check, the following Professional development shall be required prior to the first contest:

- (1) Completion of the NFHS Coaching Principles Course;
- (2) Completed the following courses via [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com):
  - a. Engaging Effectively with Parents,
  - b. Teaching and Modeling Behavior,
  - c. Teaching Sports Skills OR a sports specific course, and
  - d. Concussions in Sports;
- (3) Additional requirements as may be specified by the local school board.

#### **Case BL-25-7- Is it permissible for a person who is employed in one district, but serves as a full-time teacher in another district, to be employed to coach?**

Yes, this person can be hired. However it should be noted that if these schools were not in the same school district under the same Board of Education, this person would be considered a Level 2 coach for the purposes of this bylaw. These provisions also apply to competitive cheer (spirit).

#### **Case BL-25-8- Is it permissible for a coach at a high school level team to coach another level within the school district outside of the Limitation of Seasons for the sport?**

Yes. As hiring decisions are to be made at the local level, any provisions preventing a coach from being involved with his/her own players in play outside of the high school team DO NOT APPLY to other levels of play where the coach is hired by the same local Board of Education for interscholastic play. For example, the high school coach (any member of the staff) COULD be hired to coach the middle school basketball team within the same local Board of Education even if a member of that middle school team had played on the high school level (freshman, JV or varsity).

Schools are cautioned that involving school coaches with nonhigh school teams, particularly in middle schools which feed more than one high school, should be monitored to ensure that problems related to Bylaw 16 (Recruitment) do not surface due to this coaching.

#### **Case BL-25-9- What restrictions are in place for schools who hire coaches who are retiring as teachers but want to remain in coaching?**

Individuals retiring from service to Kentucky schools, either as members of the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System, or the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, should consult the system with regard to re-employment provisions. Certified employees will need to have a KTRS Form E30 approved, which can only be done post-retirement, in order to comply with the regulations of the system. In addition, school representatives should note that a retired coach who is no longer teaching in the district becomes a Level 2 Coach and is required (if not already completed) to successfully complete the Coaching Education program and other Level 2 requirements.

#### **Case BL-25-10- Does retiring, resigning or otherwise being relieved of coaching duties waive any of the requirements for coaching if the coach is later asked to come back into coaching in that sport at that school?**

No. A coach resigning, retiring or being otherwise relieved of coaching following a sports season does not relieve himself/herself of the responsibilities such as medical symposium attendance if in fact they are rehired for the following year.

**Case BL-25-11- Does the KHSAA have regulations regarding job postings for the hiring of coaches?**

No. Bylaw 25 includes the requirements for those holding positions, but hiring, posting and employment policies are established at the local school district level. Schools shall comply with published rules on all postings within the district, as well as all other KDE hiring regulations.

**Case BL-25-12- Are coaches required to be paid a salary and how do member schools hire coaches?**

No, there are no salary requirements. Bylaw 25 restrictions apply whether or not the coach is paid, regardless of the level (varsity, JV, freshman). Bylaw 25 states that "any person assigned to coaching duties at any level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education, and the entire coaching salary shall be paid through such board in accordance with local Board of Education Policy." The provisions specifically address all Level 1 and Level 2 coaches. These coaches shall be designated, appointed, approved, or hired within the published policies of the Local Board of Education. Coaching salaries (including whether or not coaches are paid) are the jurisdiction of the Board of Education through the budgeting process. There may be some cases, at the discretion of the school and school system, where Level 1 or 2 coaches are appointed at no salary. This is permissible as long as they have been duly designated through the policies of the local school or Board of Education. If a salary is paid, it shall be paid entirely through the local Board of Education.

The KHSAA has no jurisdiction as to whether or not persons that are neither Level 1 nor Level 2 are used within the athletic program. Local Board of Education policies should address persons that do not meet the requirements of a Level 1 or 2 coach, and the terms and conditions of their designation shall be in accordance with applicable state law.

**Case BL-25-13- Is it permissible for a coach to receive in-service credit for Sports Safety Course, Medical Symposium or Coaching Education Attendance?**

This is a local district option. The Kentucky Department of Education no longer has specific approval for certain types of in-service credit. According to the department, the four basic (traditional) days and the additional five days, if part of the approved program of in-service in a district, may count in any manner approved by the local district. Such things as workshops and conferences, particularly on timely topics such as HIV and blood borne pathogen education, are not only approvable, but also encouraged by the department. The important key is the inclusion in the local district in-service or professional development program.

**Case BL-25-14- Who has to take the coaching education course?**

If a person has not remained continuously on the faculty at the school or within the school system he/she desires to coach since 1995-96, they shall take the course. This includes Level 1 head and assistant coaches (who were not on the 1995-96 faculty), and Level 2 head and assistant coaches. Whether or not the person was a coach on the staff is irrelevant to this requirement as faculty status is the determinant.

**Case BL-25-15- If a coach has completed the Coaching Education course and changes schools or districts, do they have to re-take the course?**

No. The coaching certification is a one-time certification and is not required to be repeated if all of the requirements have been completed.

**Case BL-25-16- Is a school compelled to pay the required fee for a coach to take the required Coaching Education course?**

No, this is a local district option. The payment (or reimbursement) of the fee is not mandatory. Districts who are paying the fee for the coaches may not reimburse the fee to the coaches until all requirements including the applicable tests, are completed.

**Case BL-25-17- What is the Sports Safety Course and who is required to take the course?**

HB383 of the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly required each

coach to complete a Sports Safety Course in order to coach, and to remain current by taking an approved course every two years. The course shall be taught by a Medical Doctor, a Doctor of Osteopathy, Registered Nurse or Certified Athletic Trainer. A coach that has not taken and successfully completed the course will not be able to coach at practice or contests. Coaches must remain current in the requirement to be able to be at practice or competition.

**Case BL-25-18 - How does a GED count toward the high school graduation requirement for being a Level 2 coach?**

This is a local district decision. The district may choose to recognize the GED in terms of its employment requirements or not to recognize the GED, but in the hiring of coaches, the decision of accepting or not accepting the GED as proof of graduation shall be consistent with the employment of other positions in the district.

**BYLAW 26. RULINGS, REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS****Sec. 1) REQUESTS FOR RULINGS**

The principal or Designated Representative shall direct all requests for rulings and interpretations to the Commissioner in writing. In all cases in which players are involved, the names of the players and all possible pertinent information shall be given.

**Sec. 2) REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS**

Any person wishing to report a violation of the KHSAA Constitution, Bylaws or Competition rules shall do so in writing. If evidence is presented to warrant an investigation, the Commissioner shall ensure that an investigation is performed. The Commissioner's office shall notify the principal or superintendent of the protested school, telling him or her the exact nature of the charges made. If an investigator is appointed to gather evidence in connection with the protest, he shall provide a copy of the report to the Commissioner, and a copy shall be made a part of the official school records with the Association and shall be made available to the principal or superintendent of the schools involved upon request.

**Case BL-26-1- How shall requests for rulings be made?**

Requests shall be made in writing to the Commissioner, with all pertinent information given. Rulings will not be made on hypothetical cases, nor will they be made by telephone. Official rulings will only be made in writing. While the staff will strive to interpret the bylaws to aid schools in the administration of the athletic programs, a written ruling shall supersede and take precedence over any verbal interpretation.

**Case BL-26-2- How does the KHSAA deal with calls from parents or students regarding eligibility?**

The KHSAA staff prioritizes calls from the member school representatives. The KHSAA staff receives hundreds of phone calls and electronic mail messages each week from member schools. Because the KHSAA exists to serve those schools, responding to their inquiries is the top priority. The large volume of calls from parents and students has dramatically effected our ability to serve the member schools. School administrators will remain the first and preferred contact resource for parents and students. The KHSAA will refer calls from parents or students to the appropriate school personnel, and ask that the administrator contact the KHSAA if there is a need for more clarity or a specific answer.

**Case BL-26-3- How does the KHSAA review and respond to anonymous calls and letters?**

Bylaw 26 requires all material submitted regarding the KHSAA for protests and reporting of violations to be in writing. If such reports are anonymous, the letters shall be forwarded by the Commissioner's office to the school administrator of the school in question, with no further action taken by the KHSAA unless that administrator reports a violation or further substantiated information is received. Anonymous callers shall be informed that the KHSAA staff has no authority to act on anonymous calls unless the caller is willing to provide credible substantiated evidence to warrant further review.



## **BYLAW 27. IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES**

### **Sec. 1) AUTHORITY TO PENALIZE**

- a) If Association rules and regulations have been violated, penalties may be imposed on the offending schools or individual within the defined parameters of this bylaw, the KHSAA Due Process Procedure, and KRS Chapter 13B. These penalties may be by the Commissioner's office, the KHSAA Hearing Officer or the Board of Control dependent upon the specifics of the bylaw, KHSAA Due Process Procedure, or KRS Chapter 13B.
- b) Each member school of the KHSAA through its Principal shall ensure that its athletic program remains compliant with KHSAA rules and that there is institutional control over the interscholastic athletic program.

### **Sec. 2) EXCEPTION TO PENALTY AUTHORITY FOR COURT ORDERED PLAY**

A member school, student, coach, or administrator shall not be punished or sanctioned, in any manner, by the KHSAA for allowing a student to play in an athletic contest or practice with the team during a time when an order of a court of competent jurisdiction permits the student to participate or otherwise stays or enjoins enforcement of a final KHSAA decision on eligibility.

### **Sec. 3) RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

Any member elementary or secondary school or school employee or official who knowingly allows participation of an ineligible player under the provisions of this bylaw, or who, through reasonable diligence, should have known of that ineligibility, shall be considered in noncompliance with state accreditation standards or guilty of willful neglect of duty or breach of contract. This provision shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches including an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent, or a school board member.

### **Sec. 4) PENALTY OPTIONS**

For violation of any rule or regulation by any member school or school designated staff, student-athlete, official, or other representative, the penalty as may be called for under the specific rule or regulation, or, in case no specific penalty is called for, disciplinary action, including warning, reprimand, probation, suspension, or payment of a fine may be imposed.

#### **a) FINE**

- (1) A fine may be levied in lieu of, or in addition to, any other penalty imposed upon the school and may only be levied against a member school.
- (2) The Board of Control shall adopt a schedule of fines and publish said schedule annually in the Association Handbook.
- (3) The fine schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the Association or received by the school as a result of postseason competition.
- (4) A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may only be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Board of Control.

#### **b) FORFEIT**

- (1) The forfeit of contests or meets may be included in penalties assessed for violation of Association rules.
- (2) In addition, if a student is declared ineligible, all contests in which he or she has played while ineligible shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

#### **c) WARNING**

A warning may be issued which is written notification that a violation, or an inexcusable or unethical action, has occurred, is a matter of record, and that the action shall not be repeated.

#### **d) LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

- (1) A written reprimand of the individual, program, or school may be issued if a violation of the rules has occurred which was preventable.
- (2) The action is a matter of record, and warnings that repeat actions of this type may be cause for further penalty.

#### **e) PROBATION**

- (1) Probation is a more severe penalty and may be described in the following manner. Normally, an individual or a school on probation is on conditional Association membership, but may be permitted to engage in a regular schedule, sanctioned events, or district, regional and state championships. This

is provided that the individual or school has taken steps to ensure the problem which placed the individual or school on probation has been alleviated and will not re-occur.

- (2) Additionally, a school on probation may be restricted to limits on scrimmages, regular season contests or postseason competition as may be deemed appropriate.

#### **f) SUSPENSION**

- (1) An individual participant, coach, specific sport or school may be suspended from competition or from scrimmage participation.
- (2) This penalty may range from the elimination of individual or team(s) participation in games, tournaments, meets or state championship competition, to suspension of the school from the Association.
- (3) Individuals or teams suspended may not engage in contests with member schools of the Association, or with any other school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

#### **g) REIMBURSEMENT**

- (1) A fine may be levied equal to the amount of itemized legal fees expended by the Association in defense of its rules in a court of law in cases where a school or school system is directly or indirectly involved in the legal challenge of an association rule which has passed via the proper Constitutional process and in which case, the Association prevails in court.
- (2) If the Association, its Commissioner, or other persons associated or employed by the Association are named as a party, or if the Association intervenes in any action to enforce a ruling, bylaw or other provision, it shall be presumed that the school where the student attends or the coach or other person is employed or is otherwise associated or connected, is involved in the legal challenge.
- (3) The presumption of involvement may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.
- (4) Involvement includes providing testimony, staff, staff legal counsel or funds for counsel, or direct filings by or on behalf of the school or school system.
- (5) If the Association conducts an investigation regarding any player, coach, assistant coach, paraprofessional, booster, supporter or other person associated with a team, program or member school, and the investigation results in any penalty being imposed by the Association, the school may be required to pay all costs of that investigation.
- (6) The costs may include the costs, fees and expenses charged by an investigator, and the costs, fees and expenses charged by the Association's legal counsel.

#### **h) PERMANENT SUSPENSION**

Any coach, participant or other school representative may be permanently suspended from involvement in interscholastic athletics in this state if found by competent and conclusive evidence to be guilty of assaulting a sports official.

#### **i) REDISTRIBUTION**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor and as an extension to the fine penalty listed above, it may be directed that a portion or all of the net proceeds received from a postseason contest or tournament be returned to the host or redistributed to the other contest or tournament participants.

#### **j) VACATE/STRIKE**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor, it may be directed that Individual records and performances be vacated or stricken; team records and performances including place finishes be vacated or stricken; or Individual or team awards be returned to the Association.

#### **k) SHOW CAUSE ORDER**

An individual coach (head or assistant, paid or unpaid) or athletic department representative (including all school employed personnel) may be issued a show-cause order for violations of KHSAA bylaws. Such order may also be issued for coaches, athletic department representatives or other personnel who fail to file complete information as requested, file false, misleading or inaccurate information or otherwise impede the discovery of facts related to a matter under review. This order may specify that for a period of time, any KHSAA imposed penalties against the coach, athletic department representative or school

employed personnel will remain in force if the person is hired by another KHSAA member school. The Principal or Designated Representative of the new school desiring to hire the individual must submit in writing, the acceptance of these sanctions. If the member school wishes to avoid the sanctions imposed on that individual, the Principal or Designated Representative of the member school must appear before the Board of Control and show cause as to why the member school should not be penalized.

---

**Case BL-27-1- What are the possible penalties under Bylaw 27 for the violations of KHSAA rules?**

*Through the Due Process Procedure, the Commissioner may impose penalties under Bylaw 27, including each of the ten listed options. When cases are before the Board of Control, the Board has the same penalty options available.*

*Suspension, either of an individual or a program, is one of those penalties and could involve removal and restriction from contests or a reduction in schedule.*

*Other penalty options include Fine, Forfeit, Warning, Letter of Reprimand, Probation, Reimbursement, Permanent Suspension, Redistribution, Vacating/Striking and Show Cause Order. Each of these is described in detail in Bylaw 27.*

**Case BL-27-2- What is a contest official as described in the permanent suspension provisions?**

*A contest official could be one of the game officials (referees), scorers, timers, or other game management personnel working in an official capacity at the contest.*

**Case BL-27-3- Are penalties from the KHSAA necessary when schools violate rules that are more stringent than KHSAA standards?**

*No. This is a situation between the member schools and is not a matter for Association review. For example, if a school has a more stringent academic requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard and then inadvertently allows a player to compete who is eligible by KHSAA rules, but not by local rules, KHSAA penalties do not apply. However, the offending school should report these situations to the opponents and take whatever agreed action is necessary.*

---