



Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Bluegrass State Games Request

1 message

Brian Miller <bmill@bluegrasssports.org>

Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 2:46 PM

To: Butch Cope <bcope@khsaa.org>, Julian Tackett <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Butch and Julian,

As we concluded the 2018 Bluegrass State Games, we have been look at ways to grow the event and offer more contests during the Spring and Fall instead of 5 weekends in the summer.

We love our partnership with the KHSAA on Soccer, Cross Country and Volleyball and want to work with the KHSAA to expand that relationship into other sports.

This letter asks for the KHSAA to allow Swimming and Diving, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field, Archery and Bowling exempt into the State Games. We know we'll need to host these events in different windows and are prepared to do so.

We'd like to start this process with Wrestling and Swimming and Diving this winter. UK has opened their facility for Swimming and Diving and the KBA is under new ownership and will allow to host wrestling.

Thanks for all you do and your consideration of adding exemptions to additional sports!



Brian Miller

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July 31, 2018

Mr. Julian Tackett
Commissioner, KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505



Dear Commissioner Tackett:

The 34th edition of the Bluegrass State Games (BGSJ) is rapidly concluding and we are examining ways to grow the games and continue to cement our position as one of the top State Games in the country. The KHSAA and the BGSJ have enjoyed a long and healthy relationship throughout the years and we truly appreciate that partnership. For many years, we have worked in close concert to the benefit of both organizations.

The purpose of this letter is to request the KHSAA consider expanding our existing relationship. Currently, the KHSAA recognizes three BGSJ sport exemptions in its bylaws, cross country, volleyball, competitive cheer and soccer. The soccer tournament had 170 teams last year and our volleyball tournament had 140 teams. We have great participation and receive great feedback from the schools.

We would like to expand that exemption to include the following KHSAA sanctioned sports, which would be hosted at various times throughout the calendar year:

Fall Sports (Field Hockey, Golf and Dance)

- Winter Sports (Swimming and Diving and Wrestling)
- Spring Sports (Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field)
- Sport Activities (Archery, Bowling)

By granting these exemptions, we will not only grow the BGSJ participation among Kentucky's youth, but can extend similar benefits to the KHSAA, coaches, players and officials, that we provide under our current exemptions, such as:

- Opportunity for officials' training and evaluation at no cost to the KHSAA
- Opportunity for schools to compete against teams outside their own region
- Opportunity to participate in a trusted event with a proven track record
- Opportunity for student-athletes to better prepare for their upcoming seasons

We understand that each KHSAA sport has its own guidelines and nuances that would need to be taken into account. We also know that these events would need to be held outside of the traditional State Games Summer Calendar but look forward to developing the games to be a year-round endeavor.

Thank you in advance for taking time to consider this request and I am available at your convenience to further discuss.

Regards,

Brian J. Miller

Brian Miller
President/CEO,
Bluegrass Sports Commission/Bluegrass State Games