



Fwd: KSCA Survey, Discussion and Thoughts

1 message

Bridenbaugh, Sarah <sbridenbaugh@khsaa.org>
To: Julian Tackett <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 10:48 AM

Sarah Bridenbaugh
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#TogetherWePlay



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From: **Tracy Spickard** <tracy.spickard@franklin.kyschools.us>
Date: Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 9:27 AM
Subject: KSCA Survey, Discussion and Thoughts
To: Bridenbaugh, Sarah <sbridenbaugh@khsaa.org>

Sarah,

In follow up to our conversation last week, with the questions you forwarded, I developed a survey for our KSCA members in which we had a very strong response and participation from our member coaches across the state. In addition to the survey implementation, we held a virtual meeting last night with our officers, regional representatives and other advisory members. We had good discussion and want to share some of that along with the results of the survey population with you as we move forward.

Survey Results:

- 1) Regarding the question with the season ending the week of June 20 with the state tourney ending on June 26, IF this is an absolute necessity in the event we experience a considerable delayed start to the season and/or we encounter temporary shut downs along the way, then yes, the vast majority are willing and support finishing in late June. However, it's important to note that it is the desire of our group that be a "last resort" type option in general.
- 2) With the issue of having play dates over the two normal weeks of spring break, nearly 100% of the response was YES, definitely utilize those two weeks as regular play dates.
- 3) Concerning the question of the possibility of condensing the District/Region and only advancing the district winner to regional play, our member coaches are VERY MUCH (well over 90%) AGAINST moving to this type of format. We absolutely need to preserve the format of both the district winner and runner-up advancing to the regional tournament.
- 4) Finally, while not as much as an overwhelming majority, still nearly 3/4 of the member schools are in support of less than 5 weeks of preseason practice if that becomes necessary to benefit and preserve the schedule calendar. That scenario has been implemented with fall sports and teams handled it appropriately and successfully, and we believe the same could hold true for spring sports as well.

With all of that said, and in consideration of the results of presented questions and issues given to us, as well as the current state we are in related to Covid-19, it is the overwhelming consensus of our softball member schools to maintain the existing calendar that allows for a full 9-week season given the dates in place. The schools understand that there could be more overlap than normal given the delays and potential further push back with winter sports. However, our member coaches are willing to tackle that obstacle, and have the outlook that it could give their programs a chance to provide additional opportunities for more athletes and assist in developing depth to their roster. Furthermore, when you consider the overlap of athletes, in the big picture, you are not talking about a substantial amount of student-athletes.

As so many coaches, school administrators, board of control members, and KHSAA staff have expressed, it is imperative that we place a very high priority on spring sports as we move forward to navigate the times ahead. No other sports season has suffered the way in which spring sports did last school year. Those student-athletes were stripped of so many opportunities when the pandemic surfaced and in many situations, opportunities that involved college scholarships. We understand that winter sports are a factor, and basketball in particular, is a driving force in the operations and livelihood of the KHSAA, but we ask that not hinder or prevent protecting those student opportunities in spring sports.

If the virus forces changes or alterations in the spring sports schedule in order to protect the safety of our athletes, coaches, and community, then we can certainly work and formulate a solution. We must advocate and support those individuals who have already lost so much due to Covid. The softball coaching community certainly appreciates all of the efforts made from the KHSAA and board of control to help lead us through these difficult times. We have faith and hope for a season of renewed passion and appreciation for the opportunities our student-athletes have longed for and worked so very hard for during these trying times.

Please feel free to call me and we can chat more when you are free. Thanks so much for all that you do!

Tracy Spickard
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KSCA Co-Executive Director