

Name Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic Officials Division Report

Officials Report

From Mr. Tackett and Mr. Cope

The office has been involved in the comprehensive project of moving the licensing of officials from its own internally developed system, used in some form or fashion since 1985, to a third-party vendor. The vendor is ArbiterSports, a vendor familiar to both our schools and officials for many years as the source of truth for specific game assignments.

This move is necessary for a number of reasons, but will not be without speed bumps along the way.

This will again integrate the work of member schools into a single source for all things officiating. Although their primary functions of schedule entry remain with the KHSAA system due to its inextricable integration with Title IX and Annual reports, this will again reduce the number of redundant tasks for many of our ADs. Though some will choose other third parties for other tasks, they are doing so intentionally. As a matter of fact, this partnership with Arbiter opens up the Arbiter Game scheduling management system to our schools for no charge, a package that previously cost our schools hundreds of dollars per year. This move will also mean "one-stop shopping" for our officials. Officials will no longer need to log in to multiple platforms as everything will work through ArbiterSports.

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The staff's work has also led to a situation where our past data has been synchronized to approximately the 98th percentile, which provides a safety net should Arbiter ever decide to go a different way with business.

The other primary benefit is that it will free up time for our developer. Even with some anticipated staff expansion, there are no funds to provide for a full-time software developer at current market rates for the association. The Association budgets \$70,000 per year for web development and for that, gets two days per week of dedicated software development and database design. Therefore, the current amounts per year being spent on officiating development are detracting from other work that can be done to further modernize the association's operations.

Mr. Cope has led the internal work around this transition along with the Commissioner, but it is also using additional staff resources in our support staff and IT staff. This transition should see its first phase completed this week and allow for the reopening of fall sports licensing for all officials. This will be followed almost immediately by winter sports licensing and then after the spring championships, the spring sports to complete the transition.