

Name General Counsel Chad Collins

Topic NFHS Summer Meeting Attendance

NFHS Summer Meeting

Sessions Attended Legislative Issues, Athletic Associations working with Performing Arts Associations, Sports Medicine (Mental Health), Assistants' Roundtable, Soccer Interpreters Meeting, Sports Medicine (Heat and other issues), and Legal Session (presenter)

Takeaways to help Board and Staff In most all respects, Kentucky continues to be out in front of issues. This national meeting also helps us see that as well as gives us the opportunity to interact with other states outside of our region (Section 2) that are similar to Kentucky. Not unexpectantly, they manage many issues similarly to Kentucky. Overall, this event continues to be a valuable experience for both staff and board members as they all prepare for the upcoming school year.

General Commentary It is an increasing matter where state legislatures are becoming even more involved with athletics. It is reassuring that Kentucky;s more proactive approach of being open to talk is clearly the best approach. Many state's are very resistant and even combative and the result is having rules and legislation forced onto the associations with no input whatsoever. As many have noted since the pandemic, the mental health of students has been a focal point and participation in athletics is a primary tool in managing this issue. It is clear this is a skill set that everyone needs more training and understanding in. In the Legal Session, I was afforded the opportunity to speak about Title IX and how a "sport" is currently defined or evaluated today. Competitive Cheer continues to evolve and clearly make strides to establishing itself as a "sport". Other presenters looked at student records, as well as the important of AEDs and EAPs.

When getting together with colleagues from other states, it is clear that some are in an environment where they are undervalued and the rules are constantly under fire. For example, a number of states have seen their "transfer rule" completely nullified and taken out of their hands by the state. In Kentucky, while not everyone wants the same rule, it is clear a rule is preferred and our continuing efforts to monitor and improve the rule has never been more important. However, the most profound and emphasized point made at this meeting is the value of the opportunities we all work to provide students in our states. It is always helpful to get this re-enforcement as we so often narrow our attention on the immediate issue of the moment.