

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Agency Amendment to 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics

Date: September 2023

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To approve an agency amendment to 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics, for the purpose of amending the regulation approved by the KBE at its June 2023 meeting in order to incorporate newly developed policies from the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) related to student safety.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the KBE approve the proposed agency amendment to 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070; 702 KAR 7:065

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

702 KAR 7:065 designates the KHSAA as the KBE's agent for management of middle and high school athletics. At its June 2023 meeting, the KBE approved amendments to 702 KAR 7:065 as recommended by the KHSAA and its membership. Since that time, the KHSAA recommends additional revisions to the KHSAA Board of Control Adopted Policies, a document incorporated by reference in 702 KAR 7:065.

Summary of Issue:

The KHSAA recommends additional revisions to the KHSAA Board of Control Adopted Policies, a document incorporated by reference in 702 KAR 7:065. Since these changes are substantive in nature, KBE approval is required to file an agency amendment, updating the document incorporated by reference.

The recommended changes all relate to health and safety for student athletes. The following summarizes the recommended changes included in the KHSAA Board of Control Adopted Policies:

Page 25, Required Emergency Action Plans: Section 4 was added with a checklist for schools to have when preparing for a contest. This is designed to assist schools with the implementation of HB 331 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Page 27, KMA/KHSAA Procedure for Avoiding Heat Injury/Illness. This was updated after

consultation with the KHSAA Sports Medicine Committee, as well as the Korey Stringer Institute which is a leading advocacy group in this area. The changes reflect a shift to the use of the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), which is a more comprehensive measure of the environmental conditions when measuring heat index. While these devices have historically been cost-prohibitive and difficult to obtain, circumstances have now changed. The device that measures WBGT is now priced similarly to the heat index device and is more readily available.

Page 33, Air Quality. In light of the recent fires in Canada and the movement of the smoke creating concerns across the United States, KHSAA recommends utilizing air quality guidelines found in the Air Quality Index and reviewed by the NFHS Sports Medicine Committee.

Budget Impact:

Minimal, if any.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

KHSAA Membership
Sports Medicine Committee

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Todd G. Allen, General Counsel
Office of Legal Services
Email: Todd.Allen@education.ky.gov
(502) 564-4474



Commissioner of Education

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