

Commissioner Julian Tackett

**Topic**

Attendance on Behalf of KHSAA

**Attendance for KHSAA**

**Meeting\_Session  
Attended**

KAAA Spring Conference

The Commissioner was again invited to bring the staff to the closing meeting of KAAA (formerly KHSADA) on Friday morning. Staff reviewed litany of information for the more than 125 high school Athletic Directors for nearly 90 minutes.

The first brief segment was managed by a guest of the KHSAA, long-time Associate AD and Senior Womens Administrator in UK Compliance, Sandy Bell. Sandy continues to work as a special assistant to Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart with her current primary project being the development of STUNT, a variation of Cheer. The advantage of STUNT is that has now been approved as a championship for the NCAA for which scholarships are offered. This is a head to head, side by side competition between two schools and as it is not the traditional cheer competition, can use students of all sizes and abilities, and COUNTS toward Title IX opportunities for schools. Sandy will be a valuable resource for all that decide to participate, and STUNT will be on the triennial survey in 2024-2025.

**Takeaways to help  
Board and Staff**

The next segment was by far the longest portion of the briefing as the Commissioner and Mr. Catron briefed those in attendance about the remarkable progress made by ArbiterSports in the development of their school data system, especially their coach's tools. The presentation was lengthy and thorough and there were plenty of opportunities for discourse. The delegates were very appreciative of the information and the update, and advised to continue to use Mr. Catron as their primary support person throughout this transition this summer and in the future.

Associate Commissioner Cope and the other assistant Commissioners gave updates about their key areas and appeared to be well received by those in attendance.

This is always a very helpful session for both the attendees and the staff to remain current with the needs of the schools as another year wraps up. The KHSAA was also happy, based on donated product from the NFHS Foundation, to provide nearly 30 Wet Bulb Globe Devices to the member schools, a nearly \$500 value, at no charge to those randomly drawn schools

**General Commentary**

At the meeting, the incoming KAAA President advised that he would be sending a proposal for additional partner opportunities between the KHSAA and KAAA relative to mentoring newed ADs. As we had observed, the turnover rate among ADs is very high, and partnering to help mitigate that would be mutually beneficial.