

General Counsel Chad Collins

Topic

NFHS Summer Meeting Attendance

NFHS Summer Meeting

Sessions Attended

Officials' Division, Sports Medicine, Assistants' Workshop, Foundations, Soccer, and Legal Session (Presenter)

Takeaways to help Board and Staff

In many respects, Kentucky has been proactive in addressing many of the issues that continue to be included in the NFHS Summer Meeting Topics. This is not only reassuring but also allows staff to continue to improve these programs throughout the Commonwealth. Included in this year's topics was the creation and operation of Foundations by other state associations in the country. This was timely as we are in the process of reviewing and revamping our foundation.

Mental health, heat, and access to AEDs concerns continue to be a common topic in Sports Medicine today. There appears to be a continuing trend of students facing issues that became prevalent during the pandemic. At the same time, the issue was likely always there, but we have a better frame of reference to now identify and begin to understand these challenges. With heat, our policies continue to be ahead of many states as we have had such a policy and have allowed it to evolve for nearly 20 years evening seeing the need to recognize the WBTC Temperature and its value in ensuring students are safe while participating in athletics.

General Commentary

There is also no slowing in the attention and concern for issues related to female student-athletes. Whether it is the fact that Title IX has recently seen its 50th anniversary or that a majority of state legislatures have been active in defining female participation, these matters continue to see litigation at the highest levels. While the Commonwealth is not immune to this, it is positioned to adjust and adapt to today's challenges in an effort to ensure that students get the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics in unprecedented numbers.

I was also afforded the honor and opportunity to present at this year's event. I presented along with a small panel of other State Association Counsel. My topic was how to interact and deal with the Office of Civil Rights when they contact our schools or Association. Other topics presented included students with disabilities, Title IX, and the use of artificial intelligence.

As we begin the 2024-2025 school year, the KHSAA Staff and members of the Board of Control who had the opportunity to attend this year's NFHS Summer Meeting benefited not only from the information presented but also by interacting with our respective colleagues and counterparts from across the nature. This continues to be an excellent opportunity for all who attend.