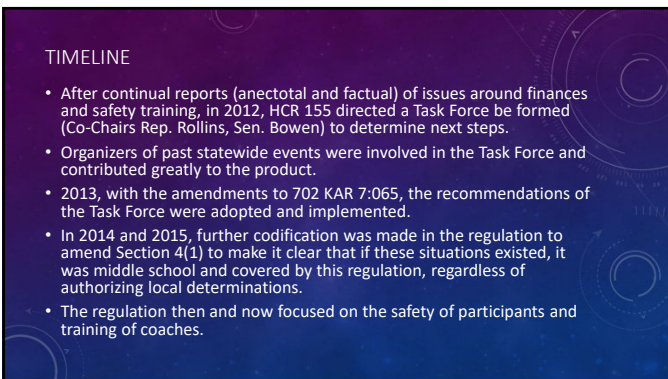


TIMELINE

- Middle School Athletics existed with minimal organization through early 2000, with local conferences, associations and other school groupings managing contests and competition.
- In the mid to late 2000s, a championship tournament purporting to be "statewide" was begun by a third-party organization
- Various groups, particularly in public education, began to express concerns about the need for additional regulation, particularly around the sport of football, which had been rocked by two student-athlete deaths at the high school level around that time, including additional legislation for required training in 2009.
- HCR 155 passed the 2011 General Assembly, directing the KHSAA to study and then implement, the sports safety bill and sports safety course



TIMELINE

- After continual reports (anecdotal and factual) of issues around finances and safety training, in 2012, HCR 155 directed a Task Force be formed (Co-Chairs Rep. Rollins, Sen. Bowen) to determine next steps.
- Organizers of past statewide events were involved in the Task Force and contributed greatly to the product.
- 2013, with the amendments to 702 KAR 7:065, the recommendations of the Task Force were adopted and implemented.
- In 2014 and 2015, further codification was made in the regulation to amend Section 4(1) to make it clear that if these situations existed, it was middle school and covered by this regulation, regardless of authorizing local determinations.
- The regulation then and now focused on the safety of participants and training of coaches.

RELEVANT REFERENCES

- KRS 156.070 –
 - <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=53912>
- 702 KAR 7:065 –
 - <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/702/007/065/>
- KRS 160.380 –
 - <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=54986>

REGULATION 702 KAR 7:065 SECTION 4

- (1) specified conditions under which it is considered middle school
- (2) Required all middle school coaches to comply with the regulations and statutes of high school coaches including (2)(h)(2) – age of 21, background check provisions, and current certificate in CPR/AED/First Aid.
- (3) Safety requirements around required physical exam; Compliance with Heat Illness and Concussion protocol; Football contact limitations and acclimation requirements; restrictions on contact drills in preseason practice; a limit of season in line with high schools; helmet recertification requirements; baseball pitching limitations; face protection for softball 1st, 3rd and catcher and a requirement to use licensed officials.

REGULATION 702 KAR 7:065 SECTION 4

- (4) a Middle school Advisory Committee (currently being reconstructed due to pandemic staff attrition and general high turnover rate in middle school administrators;
- (5) Financial reporting for middle school events including tax status;
- (6) Notice to middle schools on Title IX;
- (7) Notice to middle schools on safety training;
- (8) An age restriction for participation based on grade level, congruent with state statute on high school age restriction;
- (9) Require each local district to set policies on participation below grade six (no lower than grade five); a limitation of seasons on scrimmages and contests, and the length of the competitive season (not to exceed the high school limits);

REGULATION 702 KAR 7:065 SECTION 4

- (10) Requiring meetings related to middle school athletics to be in compliance with Open Meetings Laws;
 - (11) Issue annual report to KBE on status of interscholastic athletics (including with high school reporting)
 - (12) Permit schools to join local conferences and associations that have developed rules designed to implement this regulation
 - (13) Require the dead period to apply to middle school athletic
- NO OTHER REQUIREMENTS EXIST

GENERAL

- HIGHLIGHTS
 - Locally controlled within constraints of the regulation
 - Inconsistent in many ways, some of which likely contribute to a lack of parity
 - KHSAA designated staff facilitates district inquiries
 - Current concern about declining participation since 2019-20, which is national trend
- QUESTIONS?
