



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 ° www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

July 22, 2024

Principal James Campbell
and
Designated Representative James Conway

Ashland Blazer High School
1500 Blazer Blvd
Ashland, KY 41102

STATUS – KHSAA BYLAW VIOLATIONS – DIRECT MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION – MATTER
OFFICIALLY CLOSED BY ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr. Campbell and Mr. Conway,

Please accept this correspondence in summary of the closure of any issues related to the sanctions imposed on Ashland Blazer as a result of violations confirmed by a letter to the school on January 18, 2023.

- While none of these violations were directly related to the Principal, James Campbell, the Designated Representative, James Conway, or any other currently employed Ashland Blazer or Ashland Independent Schools staff member, these individuals have clearly been responsible for adherence to the Association requirements in a comprehensive manner.
- The original violations were solely attributable to the conduct of the then-head basketball coach and any sanctions were "institutional" in nature, and not specific to any individual coach or administrator. This coach is no longer employed at the school.
- The penalties issued as a part of this ruling included Probation (Enhanced Monitoring), Membership review, and a Fine.
- More specifically, the terms of the two-year enhanced monitoring required the school to ensure the basketball coaching personnel engage in training with the KHSAA "to review bylaws related to Bylaw 16".
- All required training was completed and documented during the 2023-2024 school year, with all required attendees, and many additional individuals who were not originally compelled by this office to attend being present. This is clearly a sign of institutional control and compliance with Bylaw 1 within the school athletic program.
- Any delay in the training was attributable to communication shortfalls, both with the KHSAA and Ashland Blazer, on the follow-up for this matter and clearly a matter of omission vs. commission.
- To follow-up on this matter, a specific member of the KHSAA staff, Associate Commissioner Butch Cope, was assigned to work with Mr. Conway to implement a program to satisfy this requirement and such has been verified and will be reported to our Board of Control at its next meeting.
- The fine that was part of the sanctions was received during the 2023-2024 school year.
- This previous matter is self-contained and will not impact the consideration of any other matter that may come before the Association in the interim unless related to the boys' basketball program.

As an aside, we have already received the information relative to the 2024-25 coaching training that has been held. This in-depth session highlighted not only the KHSAA rules, but the expectations of Ashland Blazer and its administration. This is a tremendously positive proactive step which should serve as a model for all other member schools.

All required components of the 2023 final order have been completed as requested, and as the person responsible per state regulation for the imposition of penalties related to the KHSAA and its regulations, you may consider this matter closed.

Please be assured that both Mr. Cope and myself remain available to assist your school at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Tackett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julian Tackett
Commissioner

xc: Sean Howard, Superintendent, Ashland Independent Schools
KHSAA Board of Control
KHSAA Executive Staff