

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Fall Football

Positive Developments and Highlights

Regular season has completed without too much disruption or incident

Issues of Concern (legal, playing Rules, fiscal management, etc.)

Many questions throughout the year regarding Guardian Cap. Even have had suggestion that they be "required" equipment. The literature and reviews are mixed as we have presented to you earlier. Various studies argue about the efficacy of the devices and there is much concern about them leading to a feeling of invincibility and having athletes take extra risk. They are permitted by playing rules. The NFHS Rules Committee meets in February with technology and technological advances expected to be a big topic of discussion.

Championship Update/Review

The state championship games will be held at Kroger Field in Lexington, as part of a rolling extendable four-year commitment from the University for a variety of facilities. We are into round 2 as of this meeting, with Round 3 being the round of re-bracketing. Participation is extremely strong statewide, although there are metropolitan areas where participation has not rebounded completely from the pandemic adjustments. It is passed along by various coaches that the reduction in squads and seasons at the younger level is still impacting high school participation as these students get older. Participation numbers are attached. The first round games had a slightly less average margin of victory than 2023, but the margin of around +/-30 points remain consistent. See the chart attached. There will always be discussion about this round with the "old guard" saying that you should bring less teams, others reminding people that all teams advance or postseason in all other sports, and a third group decrying any system that would give a team a bye due to not playing for a couple of weeks. This last point is the continued reason to look at withdrawal timelines and parameters that impact teams and hosts which will be a part of this agenda topic.

Officials Update/Review

For the second year, first round playoff games were restricted to five officials unless teams were willing to play on another night. The assigners around the state did a fantastic job with relatively short notice in getting all Friday night games staffed with five officials for the first round. This was problematic in a few 2 vs. 3 seed games that really needed the appropriate coverage of 7 officials, but in the end, is a workable middle ground. The game is quite simply better managed and officiated with 7 officials from

a variety of perspectives. All games rounds 2 through 5 will have 7 officials as they have for several years.

The schools for the most part did a great job basically stepping back and allowing the staff to manage the playoffs from a data perspective. Almost all schools submitted the FB106 schedule form in a timely manner which let staff keep a good look at changes for both the teams, sites, officials and brackets. Every single game time impacts about five different data points, and the school cooperation is essential. As he assigners continue to adapt to the changes with the adoption of the KHSAA360/ArbiterSports data management system, operations will continue to smooth out for all.

Lastly, football officials throughout the state were very appreciative of the revisions in the pay schedule that were approved by the Board, particularly in postseason. The postseason games do not represent budgeted receipts or expenses for most schools and the early indicators are that this change did not impact the games in a negative financial way.

**Staff and Worker
Update**

Workers have been contacted for the football finals and most positions are filled. The initial organizational meeting for the playoffs was held this week and the University staff is ready to host again. Most preparations on their end will finalize after their last home football game on Thanksgiving weekend.

**Fiscal and Budget
Issues and Review
(attendance, etc.)**

None at this time. Tickets will be on sale late this week for the finals.

	Average Margin of Victory							
	Format	Overall	6A	5A	4A	3A	2A	1A
24	Out	32.2	30.2	26.7	29.0	37.4	32.8	37.3
23	Out	34.8	31.4	38.4	35.1	33.3	33.3	37.5
22	Out	31.8	29.9	34.4	33.7	29.4	32.1	30.7
21	In	30.2	32.4	27.1	31.9	31.4	29.7	28.5
20	In	26.2	13.3	31.2	26.3	31.8	24.3	26.7
19	In	29.7	26.8	29.9	24.8	33.4	28.3	35.5
18	Out	32.8	31.9	29.9	31.3	30.9	40.1	32.5
17	Out	31.9	27.8	30.0	26.8	29.6	42.1	35.6
16	Out	34.5	35.1	29.6	33.5	31.3	37.8	40.3
15	Out	32.0	31.8	27.6	27.1	32.1	36.5	37.1
14	Out	31.3	27.2	26.3	32.6	24.8	33.1	44.3
13	Out	32.3	35.3	21.3	38.0	30.6	23.9	44.8
12	Out	34.2	32.8	28.4	39.1	30.6	30.1	44.3
	Average	31.8	29.6	29.5	31.7	30.7	32.6	36.5

School Year	All at All Levels	All at Varsity Level Only	9-12 at All Levels	9-12 at Varsity Level Only	All at All Levels	All at Varsity Level Only	9-12 at All Levels	9-12 at Varsity Level Only
2023-2024	222	222	222	222	13,366	12,104	13,321	12,099
2022-2023	223	223	223	223	13,261	12,011	13,180	12,004
2021-2022	222	222	222	222	13,066	11,969	13,003	11,937
2020-2021	223	223	223	223	12,905	11,508	12,832	11,496
2019-2020	224	224	224	224	13,277	11,847	13,164	11,847
2018-2019	221	221	221	221	13,075	11,674	13,023	11,667
2017-2018	221	221	221	221	13,304	11,859	13,257	11,851
2016-2017	221	221	221	221	13,767	12,073	13,723	12,071
2015-2016	221	221	221	221	14,336	12,237	14,292	12,226
2014-2015	221	221	221	221	13,966	12,166	13,917	12,163
2013-2014	221	221	221	221	13,801	11,980	13,748	11,976
2012-2013	223	222	223	222	13,315	11,374	13,258	11,368