

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Fall Football

**Positive Developments
and Highlights**

Specific to the championships- Despite extreme cold for the state finals, the games were successful. The cooperation of the University of Kentucky is very unusual for the Power 4 schools working with state associations and this partnership tremendously benefits the association and the participants. For the regular season, the season completed smoothly and in the end, the playoffs were executed without major issues.

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

Three teams have already withdrawn from postseason play for the coming alignment period (Ohio County, Thomas Nelson, Holmes) but will be included in the 2027-2028 alignment proposals when that time comes. Participation is very high in most schools, however Kentucky participation rates are starting to mirror national issues around its more urban schools.

**Championship
Update/Review**

The playoff early rounds were challenging with the new KHSAA360 school data system but issues were resolved and all assignments made in a timely manner. One extreme positive is that the bookkeepers are more able to readily pay officials regardless of association, but instructional tips for the bookkeepers are not being passed down by the Athletic Directors and this will be a focus of future communication. The final round games were very competitive as was the design of the playoff bracketing and advancement system. Regular commentary is at a minimum now that the board has approved the adjacent district pairings at the request of the school survey. There will always be schools desiring to edit the system to help their own situation, but the concern level is much lower now

**Officials
Update/Review**

The number of football officials was approximately the same as the past few years with more than 800 total. However, the average age is over 50 and this represents a bit of a warning to continue recruiting efforts for the next wave of retirements. The playoff first rounds were officiated with five officials with only a couple of games moved off of Friday to request seven. All other games used the appropriate number of seven officials. Even at recent meetings, states that permit crews of six mention that the missing coverage in the defensive backfield is a problem.

**Staff and Worker
Update**

Worker expenses were slightly higher as those that worked outdoor assignments on the setup day and Friday were given a small extra stipend due to the extreme weather conditions.

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

Attendance as expected with the weather, was slightly down from recent years but more than stable enough to pay all costs associated with the championships.

**Noteworthy Changes /
Anticipates Changes**

None at this time