

# Cornerstone Christian Academy Embarks on New Era with KHSAA Transition



SHELBYVILLE — It is a step to offer broader opportunities for its athletes.

Cornerstone Christian Academy is officially transitioning its athletic program from the Kentucky Christian Athletic Association (KCAA) to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), marking a

pivotal step in the school's sports history. The decision aims to provide broader opportunities for student-athletes while addressing challenges associated with the KCAA.

"This is our 41st year as a school, and transitioning to the KHSAA has been a consideration for some time," said Matt Maxwell, Cornerstone's athletic director. "This is actually the third time we've started the process, but this time we're completing it. The move allows us to access better opportunities for our students, from competition levels to the variety of sports offered."

**Addressing Key Challenges** Maxwell highlighted travel demands and limited competition as major factors influencing the decision. With only 14 schools in the KCAA, Cornerstone teams often faced lengthy trips to places like Hopkinsville and Somerset to compete.

"The travel was tough on our families and our students," Maxwell explained. "In addition, the league became heavily focused on just two sports — volleyball and basketball — leaving little room for growth in other areas."

Another driving factor was the need to provide more sports opportunities. KHSAA membership opens the door to a wider array of athletic programs, including esports, golf, and potentially boys' volleyball, which has already drawn student interest.

"We've seen excitement from our students about these new opportunities," Maxwell added. "This year, we started an esports team, and I have several boys looking to play golf next year. These are opportunities the KCAA just couldn't offer."

**Balancing Optimism with Realism** While the transition brings new

opportunities, it also comes with challenges. With only about 50 students in its high school, Cornerstone must be strategic in competing against larger schools.

"We don't have the same enrollment numbers as the majority of public schools," Maxwell noted. "We won't be competitive at the state level right away, but our participation in the All 'A' tournaments and the Kentucky Christian Athletic Conference (KCAC) will give our students chances to compete at levels appropriate for us."

The KCAC is a new conference within KHSAA that includes smaller Christian schools, offering a more balanced competitive environment for Cornerstone athletes.

**Community Reaction** The announcement has generated both excitement and concerns among students and parents. While many are thrilled about the increased opportunities, some are worried about the school's ability to compete.

"My responsibility as athletic director is to find teams we can compete with," Maxwell said. "It's a new process for our families, but I believe we can help our students get better and achieve their goals."

**Looking Ahead** The move to KHSAA also introduces Cornerstone to the Unified Division, which promotes inclusive sports opportunities for students with disabilities. Maxwell sees this as a meaningful addition to the school's athletic offerings.

While the transition comes with challenges, Cornerstone Christian Academy is optimistic about the future.

"This is a new chapter for our school," Maxwell said. "It's about more

than just winning games — it's about providing opportunities for our students to grow and succeed both on and off the field."

The 2024-2025 school year will be the first in which Cornerstone participates fully as a member of the KHSAA, signaling a new era for the school's athletic program. It is not competing in the same basketball district as Shelby County and Collins.