

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Attendance on Behalf of KHSAA

Attendance for KHSAA

**Meeting_Session
Attended**

NFHS Legal Meeting and Summit

**Takeaways to help
Board and Staff**

Again this year, the Commissioner, Associate Commissioner and General Counsel attended the NFHS Legal Meeting in Indianapolis in April. This is a vital session for the Association as we are able to see what is going on around the country and likely, what the next issues will be that face the association. A significant portion of this year's meeting focused on the changing landscape of transfer rules and the increased intervention of state legislatures into the work of associations whose members fail to modernize their rules, particularly regarding student movement. With education choice being the predominant issue in many states, these associations are being pushed to strike a difficult balance between freedom of movement between schools, and the negative impact of athletic advantage that this can cause. The net result overall is that participation in sports always declines when the same teams win continually or the gap between schools widens. This will always be a delicate balance.

Some state associations continue to deal with issues around transgender student participation, particularly those where the associations (mostly independent, non-profit groups) do not have legislative determinations in statute regarding gender. One of the key things coming forward from the NFHS is a case for state associations, to help educate government constituencies, state association members and the general public as to the need for self-governance by the membership bodies. This may prove key in some of these disputes.

A troubling concern among states that was discussed at length is the increasing friction between state associations and their legislatures. While the KHSAA is blessed with a tremendous relationship with the General Assembly and KDE/KBE, we have to be every mindful of the shifting philosophical winds that come with changes in those groups. Simply standing pat on past rules, etc. while others are evolving will eventually lead to conflict. No less than five state associations are facing issues where if the association and its membership doesn't get on board with that state's legislative philosophy, they may face differing forms of takeover. In one example, a state has already had its school-based board members replaced with all at-large members, and in another, that is currently being discussed.

One other area of continual discussion is membership disparity in terms of success among schools of similar student population. In many cases, a success factor is being implemented and teams are being moved into higher (or lower) classes based on recent success (or lack of success). In other

cases, teams who draw a significant percentage of their students from outside the school district boundary are having factors added to their enrollments when determining classes. And still others are adding classes / divisions to try and deal with that issue to ensure in-class disparity isn't as great. While Kentucky only classifies football and track/cross country, we should keep an eye out for trends in that area as we address issues.

General Commentary

The Commissioner (capably assisted by Mr. Collins) led a session on AI in state association work, able to share tools that states could use to increase efficiency while recognizing that the work on developing criteria to use within AI would always be a human function.