

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Sports Report

Sports Report

Sport

Fall Football

**Positive Developments
and Highlights**

Other than occasional issues with weather, the season has operated pretty smoothly.

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

Input from the membership indicates that, especially in some of our smaller schools, participation numbers are getting dangerously low, with two teams playing each other this year in week 11, with less than 16 players each. With the full implementation of House Bill 563, according to the member schools, there has been a lot of movement of students to larger schools where perceived opportunities to advance further in the playoffs are better. This is not just a situation in football, and is something that merits continual review

**Championship
Update/Review**

Six schools that qualified for the postseason opted not to play. This is not unusual, as we have had a handful of schools withdraw each year since the pandemic return. One was a bit unusual in that a larger school withdrew from the 6A playoffs. However, we must remember that this was a school playing up because it's part of a consolidation plan for future years. I know there were several issues that contributed to the school's decision to withdraw, as we had maintained rather constant communication with them.

We may need to review the competition rules as we align football for 2027. While in no sport do we mandate postseason participation, we need to continue to examine deadlines for withdrawal, as football is unique in its tournament structure. And we shouldn't consider reducing the number of postseason teams based on performance during the season until we are ready to eliminate the 10-run baseball/softball games, 35-point basketball opening-round games, and other similar results in other sports. The first-round breakdown of margin of victory was comparable to past years, but overall participation numbers in football remain near all-time highs, based on roster reviews. It is notable and perhaps relevant for future discussion that the margin of victory for first-round games played within the district is less than the margin for those games played in "sister-districts", and the reasons for that could be multi-fold.

.In visiting with representatives of the coaches Association, we may also want to rethink our bracketing thoughts or at least gather membership input on those thoughts, for our smallest class. Football coaches have long been opposed to a first-round bye. While the casual fan may think it's the proper thing to do to bring three teams instead of 4, the coaches do not like that interruption in preparation as they get going in the postseason. However, in Class 1A, given the number of withdrawals each

year, is it time for us to consider a different system or bracketing for the smallest class? There doesn't seem to be any sentiment among members to add more teams to Class 6A, unless it is a school seeking a more favorable position for competitive reasons. But the Class 1A and the withdrawal of teams is likely just a function of school size, but something that should be reviewed.

Final preparations are being made for the state finals at UK and the board will receive information on these finals in the coming days. The contract with the University is a rolling four year contract, and we are extremely pleased that they continue to offer their stadium to us at a very reasonable cost, unlike most of the other states in this power four conference

**Officials
Update/Review**

The officiating numbers are good, but not where they once were. Our decision two years ago to assign only 5 officials to the first round has allowed our first round to be serviced without schools having to move games. This has been a good decision.

Our assigning secretaries have again proven very flexible, especially last week during round one, when so many schools decided to move their games to Thursday. It was noted that earlier in the year, schools were extremely resistant to moving games off Friday in order to handle the officiating shortage, but more than happy to move when it looked like rain might impact their play. They will likely be reminded of that in the future

**Noteworthy Changes /
Anticipates Changes**

nothing at this time but will be a more relevant report at a later time

	Average Margin of Victory							
	Format	Overall	6A	5A	4A	3A	2A	1A
25	Out	32.7	36.3	29.1	35.8	33.6	28.9	32.1
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