

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Topic

Attendance on Behalf of KHSAA

Attendance for KHSAA

**Meeting_Session
Attended**

NFHS Summit and Legal Meeting

**Takeaways to help
Board and Staff**

Continuing to stay abreast of issues around the country is always helpful and keeps our state on the leading edge

General Commentary

The Commissioner, Senior Associate Commissioner Butch Cope, and General Counsel Chad Collins attended the 2026 NFHS Summit and legal meeting.

A good deal of time was spent on relationships within the associations and their member schools regarding championships. Several states are involved in litigation and/or legislation related to the conduct of their championships, and all seem to be a bit of a moving target when it comes to finding a pattern to emulate.

There was also considerable discussion across groups about staff burnout due to frustration with dealing with the various constituencies in the different associations. The overwhelming sentiment was that everybody is just a little bit on edge, and again,, every school around the country not just here, seems to want very restrictive rules if a student decides to leave their school and very lenient rules if a student decides to enroll at their school

Also, another large portion of the meeting dealt with transfer restrictions, as it has for several years. No state is attempting to tighten down its transfer rules, and all seem to be headed towards some leniency without removing all restrictions. One thing that really stood out throughout the conversation is that associations are having to shift their operational focus.

Resources previously used to manage long-standing transfer restrictions are now being refocused on addressing issues of undue influence by coaches. As we have seen at the other levels, as the movement of students increases, there seems to be a direct correlation between coaches, particularly paraprofessional coaches, getting involved in activities that exert undue influence on a student's moving or leaving.

The vast majority of states have a much shorter period of ineligibility for students subject to what's left of their transfer rules. And a number of them, like Kentucky, are trying to target mid-season transfers, which seems to be the source of so much commentary.

We also received an update on the recent action in the West Virginia legislature, which was extremely helpful. West Virginia's legislature put in a free open opportunity to transfer a couple of years ago, and in general, after two years, felt it was an unmitigated disaster. So the West Virginia office was successful in working with its membership and the legislature on a proposal

we would like to at least discuss here. The basics of that proposal are that a student can transfer by a certain deadline in the fall, once during their high school career and be eligible. But once the school year starts, and for any subsequent transfer, the old restrictions are in place. This is a balance between getting to the in-season transfers and addressing the ability of people to move without restriction once.

The Commissioner was again to conduct a session for all state directors and attorneys on the use of artificial intelligence in the workplaces of our state associations. We were on the early-adopting end of that more than five years ago, and it has been an efficiency driver for us with our smaller staff and expanded offerings. Mr. Collins also participated in that session and shared general counsel from around the country with some legal issues they may want to be aware of.

Staff are always appreciative of the opportunity to be personally and professionally developed by attending this seminar, and it should be required of the Commissioner every year