

LIMITATION OF SEASONS CLARIFICATION

Bylaw 25. Limitation of Seasons

Sec. 1) General Provisions Concerning All Sports

a) School Time shall not:

Be lost for travel to or from, or participation in, any regular season interscholastic athletic contest.

Case BL-25-1- What is the expectation of KHSAA member schools as it relates to missed school time for regular season and district tournament contests?

The KHSAA annually solicits verification through the membership application from school administrators that these provisions have not been violated in order to comply with Kentucky Board of Education reporting requirements. The KHSAA expects all of its member schools, including those not normally subject to all rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Education to adhere to the attendance regulations of the Department of Education.

Member schools violating Bylaw 25, Section 1(a) will be reported to the Kentucky Department of Education when discovered. Repeat offenders may be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 33 with primary emphasis on Fines to the member school and Suspension of the Head Coach for failing to adhere to these restrictions.

Case BL-25-2– May students be counted present for participation / attendance at regular season and KHSAA district level events?

No. Though this issue is not one over which the Association or its Board of Control has direct jurisdiction, KRS 159.035(2)(b) clearly states that the educational enhancement opportunities allowed by that statute may not include interscholastic athletics. If a student does leave school before the scheduled end of the day for any reason, the time missed is recorded in the daily attendance log of the school as an attendance event for that student. Although local board policy may allow the student to 'make-up' any missed work, the absence record remains. When the student is participating in or attending an athletic event, the local school board (not school council) attendance policy controls whether it is counted as an excused or unexcused absence. For example, the local board policy might choose to record an excused absence for those students participating on a high school athletic team that is playing in a state championship and not record an excused absence for attendance by a nonparticipant.

It is also possible that the Board policy to allow an excused absence for attendance by non-participants with verification. The impact of excused versus unexcused absence is that with an excused absence the student may have the ability to make up the missed school work.

If the school's team is involved in a very popular event, such as the state high school basketball tournament, and a significant portion of the student body will be attending the tournament and thus

missing school, the local board has discretion as to whether to close school that day(s) in anticipation of low school attendance, and amend the school calendar to make up the instructional time.

If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.

Case BL-25-3– Are there allowances for students to be counted present for participation / attendance at KHSAA region or state event? Yes. In accordance with KRS 158.070 (7) (b), any member of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team who competes in a regional tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly scheduled school day may be counted present at school on the date or dates of the competition, as determined by local board policy, for a maximum of two (2) days per student per year. The student shall be expected to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.

When the student is participating in or attending an athletic event, the local school board (not school council) attendance policy controls whether it is counted as an excused or unexcused absence. For example, the local board policy might choose to record an excused absence for those students participating on a high school athletic team that is playing in a state championship and not record an excused absence for attendance by a nonparticipant.

It is also possible that the Board policy to allow an excused absence for attendance by non-participants with verification. The impact of excused versus unexcused absence is that with an excused absence the student has a right to have the opportunity to make up the missed school work, but has no such right with an unexcused absence.

If the school's team is involved in a very popular event, such as the state high school basketball tournament, and a significant portion of the student body will be attending the tournament and thus missing school, the local board has discretion as to whether to close school that day(s) in anticipation of low school attendance, and amend the school calendar to make up the instructional time.

If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.