

---

## **POLICY- SPORTS AND SPORT ACTIVITY DETERMINATION AND SANCTIONING/SPONSORSHIP**

---

### **SEC. 1) REQUIREMENTS FOR SANCTIONING A HIGH SCHOOL SPORT OR SPORT-ACTIVITY**

- a) The KHSAA Board of Control sanctions (approved for practice and play and provides the Catastrophe Insurance for) all sports and sport-activities for which the KHSAA sponsors a state high school championship. Under this definition, the sports of baseball (coed), basketball (boys/coed and girls), cross country (boys/coed and girls), field hockey (girls), football (coed), golf (boys/coed and girls), lacrosse (boys/coed and girls), soccer (boys/coed and girls), softball (fastpitch girls), swimming (boys/coed and girls), tennis (boys/coed and girls), track and field (boys/coed and girls), volleyball (boys/coed and girls) and wrestling (boys/coed and girls) are insured.
- b) The sport-activities of archery, bass fishing, bowling, competitive cheer, dance and Esports competition are sanctioned, and are insured for KHSAA region and state competitions only.
- c) This sanctioning shall allow students to participate in these sports and sport-activities as long as they are compliant with all applicable KHSAA bylaws regarding student eligibility.

### **SEC. 2) CURRENTLY SANCTIONED SPORTS AND SPORT-ACTIVITIES**

- a) The sports sanctioned by the KHSAA are baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball (fastpitch), swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball and wrestling.
- b) The sport-activities sanctioned by the KHSAA are archery, bass fishing, bowling, competitive cheer, dance and interscholastic Esports competition.

### **SEC. 3) METHOD OF DETERMINING INTEREST IN NEW HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OR SPORT-ACTIVITIES**

- a) The KHSAA shall survey its membership every five (5) years to measure desire for a new offering or elimination of an existing offering.
- b) The KHSAA Limitation of Seasons shall not address a specific sport or sport-activity unless and until it meets the desired participation threshold to allow for the maximum opportunity to expose the sport to growth.
- c) The Board of Control may authorize a specific survey during the interim period between Emerging sport and Sport-activity surveys based on a majority vote of the Board of Control.

### **SEC. 4) SCHOOLS NECESSARY TO START NEW HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS OR SPORT-ACTIVITIES**

- a) Unless otherwise approved by the Board of Control to address specific previously underrepresented populations, in order for the KHSAA to begin discussions concerning the possible sponsoring of a new state championship in a new sport or sport-activity, there shall be at least fifteen (15) percent of the member schools desiring to participate in championship play by showing a favorable response on the interest survey and the sport or sport-activity having currently participating schools in at least six (6) defined basketball/board election regions.
- b) One of the key components for consideration is the presence of an already existing, organized statewide championship sponsored by another group.
- c) The presence of this number of schools does not, in and of itself, guarantee the addition of championship play in that sport or sport-activity.
- d) The Commissioner shall designate contact staff for any sport or sport-activity that is not an existing championship offering and has a demonstrated interest of ten (10) percent of the member schools but less than fifteen (15) percent of the member schools, as such sport or sport-activity shall be considered an emerging sport or sport-activity.
- e) The Board of Control must review all factors surrounding the possible addition, including a fiscal analysis and the possible impact of the addition on member school compliance with Title IX.

#### SEC. 5) SCHOOLS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL SPORT OR SPORT-ACTIVITIES

- a) In order for the KHSAA to continue a playoff system for a sport or sport-activity, and unless there is otherwise prevailing action by the Board of Control to address specific previously underrepresented populations, there shall be at least ten(10) percent of the member schools desiring to participate in championship play by showing a favorable response on the interest survey or by currently participating and the sport or sport-activity having participating schools in at least three basketball regions.
- b) The presence of this amount of schools does not in and of itself guarantee the continuation of championship play in that sport or sport-activity.
- c) The Board of Control must review all factors surrounding the continuation of the sport or sport-activity, including a fiscal analysis and the possible impact of the addition on member school compliance with Title IX.

#### SEC. 6) GENDER REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- a) Pursuant to Acts Chapter 198 (SB83) of the 2022 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, as stated in KRS 156.070, Sec. 1 (2)(g):
  - (1) The sports and sport-activities of the KHSAA are classified as either Boys/Coed or Girls;
  - (2) The sex of the student for the purpose of determining eligibility is determined by that statute;
  - (3) The sports and sport-activities of the KHSAA designated for girls for students in grades (7) through (12) shall not be open to members of the male sex and no provision shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of any student to participate in a sports or sport-activity designated as boys or coed.

#### SEC. 7) SEASON DETERMINATION

- a) The fall sports and sport-activities are: cross country (boys/coed and girls), field hockey (girls), football (boys/coed), golf (boys/coed and girls), pickleball (boys/coed and girls, beginning 2027-2028), soccer (boys/coed and girls), volleyball (girls) and Esports first season (boys/coed);
- b) The winter sports and sport-activities are: basketball (boys/coed and girls), swimming (boys/coed and girls), indoor track and field (boys/coed and girls), wrestling (boys/coed and girls), competitive cheer (divisions and dance (divisions); and
- c) The spring sports and sport-activities are: baseball (boys/coed), lacrosse (boys/coed and girls), softball (fastpitch girls), tennis (boys/coed and girls), track and field (boys/coed and girls), volleyball (boys/coed), archery (boys/coed and girls), bass fishing (boys/coed and girls), girls' flag football (beginning 2027-2028) and Esports second season (boys/coed).
- d) For the purpose of spring sport participation and integration with Title IX, baseball and softball are not considered the same sport and thus, baseball is considered to be boys/coed.

#### SEC. 8) BYLAWS APPLYING TO BOTH SPORTS AND SPORT-ACTIVITIES

- a) All bylaws apply to all sports and sport-activities at the varsity level with the exception of the following Bylaws that only apply to the sports with specific allowances and exceptions for the non-varsity levels (junior varsity and freshmen) are contained in the bylaws:

Specific Bylaw 3 (Maximum Number of Years); Bylaw 6 (Transfer Rule- Citizens Of The U.S. and D.C. and Other Students Previously Enrolled In Member Schools); Bylaw 7 (Transfer Rule- Students Having J-1/F-1 Status and Transfer Rule- Non-U.S. Students Not Having J-1/F-1 Status); Bylaw 10 (Amateur/Awards); Bylaw 11 (Financial Aid); and Bylaw 22 (Contests, Sanctions, Contracts, Rules, Forfeitures, Faculty To Accompany).