

## BYLAWS of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

*Specific case situations are contained in this section of the KHSAA Handbook which are interpretations and rulings which have been made in accordance with applicable provisions of the KHSAA Constitution. These interpretations supplement the printed rules but do not in any manner substitute for the actual rule. Many of these rulings have established precedent for the interpretation or enforcement of these provisions, and remain in place until further altered, re-interpreted, or otherwise set aside. Specific inquiries not addressed by published interpretations should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Interpretive questions or eligibility rulings shall be requested and issued in writing.*

### BYLAW 1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters in the school that concern eligibility, and inter-school contests. The Principal of each member school may annually designate an individual at the school to serve as the Designated Representative for the purpose of conducting the interscholastic program at that school. The Principal or Designated Representative shall sign all forms requiring authorized signature. If a member school principal fails to make the designation prior to August 31, the building principal shall automatically be the Designated Representative for the current year.

#### **Case BL-1-1- What role does the Principal play in the management of the Association and the regulation of eligibility in the member school?**

*The Commissioner and Board of Control expect the member school principal to be ultimately responsible for all aspects of the athletic program, whether it is rules enforcement and reporting or eligibility certification. It is important that each member school through its Principal exercise the principles of institutional control detailed in Bylaw 33 in order for the Association to continue as a fully functioning membership organization.*

#### **Case BL-1-2- What are the student eligibility requirements as mentioned in the KHSAA bylaws?**

*The KHSAA student eligibility regulations are Bylaws 2 (Physician's Certificate), 3 (Age), 4 (Enrollment), 5 (Minimum Academic Requirement), 6 (Transfer Rule), 7 (Foreign Exchange), 8 (Contestant on Other Teams, Post Season and All-Star Games), 9 (Other Eligibility Requirements and Regulations), Bylaw 10 (Recruitment), 11 (Practice of Sportsmanship), and 12 (Awards). The applicability of some of these regulations (i.e. Bylaws 6 and 7) may differ based on participation in a Sport vs. Sport-Activity. See Case BL-6-9.*

### BYLAW 2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, PARENTAL CONSENT AND INSURANCE

#### Sec. 1) Physical Examination and Parental Consent Requirements

The Superintendent or Principal shall have each student who is trying for a place as a participant on an athletic team or cheerleading squad present a physician's certificate certification signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or chiropractor if performed in the scope of practice (as defined in KRS Chapter 312) which shall state that he or she is physically fit to participate without undue risk. The parent's consent for the child's participation and acknowledgment of receipt of the eligibility rules as promulgated by the Association and Kentucky Board of Education regulations in writing shall also be required on KHSAA Form GE04.

#### Sec. 2) Requirement for Insurance

A student, prior to participation or trying for a place on an athletic team or cheerleading squad shall have in place medical insurance with coverage limits up to the deductible of the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance program and that insurance shall remain in force throughout participation. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure and certify that each student has insurance coverage throughout the school year.

#### **Case BL-2-1- Is it permissible for a student to participate in interscholastic athletics (sport or sport activity) during the defined limitation of seasons (Bylaw 25) without a physician's certificate or written parental permission?**

*No. Bylaw 2 requires the student to have a physician's certificate and written parental consent and acknowledgement of the rules before he/she may participate in interscholastic athletics. The forms are provided by the KHSAA for the member schools and are available on the KHSAA website (GE04). The physician's certificate is valid for one year from the examination date. Decisions as to the requirement for participants in out of season activities are at the discretion of the member school.*

#### **Case BL-2-2- Is it permissible for other health care providers to perform the physical exam for high school athletics in addition to Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy?**

*Yes. The exam approval form, KHSAA Form GE04, shall be signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, and may also be signed by a chiropractor if performed in the scope of practice (as defined in KRS Chapter 312).*

#### **Case BL-2-3- Is it permissible for a student to participate in interscholastic athletics (sport or sport activity) during the defined limitation of seasons (Bylaw 25) without medical insurance?**

*No, it is a requirement to have medical insurance up to the Catastrophic Insurance deductible prior to trying out, practicing, or participating for a KHSAA member school during the defined limitation of seasons (Bylaw 25) in any sport or sport activity. Each member school and school district shall take the necessary steps to make sure that each of its student-athletes is insured to the limits of the deductible on the KHSAA Catastrophic policy, which is currently \$25,000. Decisions as to the requirement for participants in out of season activities are at the discretion of the member school.*

#### **Case BL-2-4- What is a participant as defined by Bylaw 2?**

*A participant is a person desiring to be a member of the school team in a sport or sports activity and to compete in that team's scrimmages or contests. This applies to all sports and sport activities, including cheer, whether competitive or in-game support.*

### BYLAW 3. AGE

#### Sec. 1) Age Restriction

Pursuant to KRS 156.070 (2) (e), a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. A student who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

#### Sec. 2) Waiver Provision

The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner may waive the provisions of this bylaw and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if the written documentation is provided to clearly demonstrate that the student:

- Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual education program developed by an admissions and release committee (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
- Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC committee recommendation; and
- Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9).

The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner shall not adopt administrative procedures that allow for waiver of this rule under any other condition.

#### **Case BL-3-1- Why is there an age restriction?**

*To ensure equality of competition and opportunity, a standard must be established at some point to determine the cutoff date for age eligibility. Use of a specific cut-off date gives notice to*

*all parties involved in interscholastic athletics and maintains equality of participant eligibility between schools.*

*An age limitation requirement:*

- 1) *Provides commonality between student-athletes and schools in interscholastic competition;*
- 2) *Inhibits "redshirting" or failing to make normal progress through school;*
- 3) *Allows the participation of younger and less experienced players;*
- 4) *Enhances the opportunity for more students to participate;*
- 5) *Promotes quality of competition;*
- 6) *Avoids over-emphasis on athletics; and*
- 7) *Helps to diminish the inherent risk of injury association with participation in athletics.*

**Case BL-3-2- Are rulings related to Bylaw 3 (Age) appealable through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure other than the published exception stipulated in KRS 156.070?**

*No. Bylaw 3 as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education expressly prohibits appeals concerning this bylaw. In addition, with the adoption of HB215 from the 1998 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly has placed this provision in KRS 156.070 in the form of state law with the only exception being the provisions passed by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly.*

**Case BL-3-3- How can a principal verify the age of a player?**

*The Principal can refer to the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the state in which the player was born. In the absence of a state record, he/she shall refer to the earliest available school enrollment and census records.*

**Case BL-3-4- What is the primary school program as used in KRS 156.070 (2) (e) as amended by the 2007 Kentucky General Assembly?**

*KRS 158.031 and 704 KAR 3:340 defines "primary school program" as "that part of the elementary school program which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they are ready to enter the fourth grade" (PK-3).*

**BYLAW 4. ENROLLMENT**

**Sec. 1) Maximum Number of Semesters**

- a) A student promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9) shall have four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first promotion by the school provided the student is eligible according to this and all other Association bylaws. The eligibility shall conclude with the completion of the spring sports season following the fourth year. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial promotion by the school from grade eight (8).
- b) The Ruling Officer and the Commissioner through the Due Process Procedure, may grant additional eligibility in the case where it has been documented by the attending physician, Principal and Superintendent that severe illness or injury has prevented the student from receiving necessary education services and the right to an education has therefore been impacted rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege. The grant of eligibility may only be made in the cases in which the student-athlete would remain eligible by all other Association bylaws. This provision shall not include additional eligibility strictly for loss of participation due to sports related injuries. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial promotion by the school from grade eight (8).

**Sec 2) Ineligibility for Repeating Students**

A student having been enrolled in the fourth (4th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall begin in the first year enrolled in that grade. A student repeating a grade for any reason is ineligible to participate in

interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after being promoted from grade nine (9). Policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below high school interscholastic athletics shall be determined by the school council pursuant to KRS 160.345 (2) (i).

**Sec 3) Eligibility for Participation While Enrolled Below Grade 9**

A pupil in grades 4-8 may play on the high school team if that participation is not in conflict with Section (2) above, and the time so played shall not be counted on the eight (8) semester limit. EXCEPTION: A student below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football or soccer, and a student enrolled below grade seven (7) may not participate on the varsity level in wrestling. The provisions of this restriction shall not apply to non-varsity teams participating in these sports.

**Sec. 4) Responsible Parties**

Any public elementary or secondary school or school employee or official who knowingly allows participation of an ineligible player under the provisions of this bylaw, or who, through reasonable diligence, should have known of that ineligibility, shall be considered in noncompliance with state accreditation standards or guilty of willful neglect of duty or breach of contract. This provision shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches including an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent, or a school board member.

**Sec. 5) Requirement for Enrollment**

On Friday of each grading period, a student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be enrolled as a full-time student in at least four hours of instruction as provided in Kentucky Board of Education regulation 702 KAR 7:125 (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation at the member school he or she desires to represent in order to be eligible for athletics.

**Sec. 6) Deadline for Enrollment**

A student shall have enrolled as a bona fide full-time undergraduate student no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester.

**Sec. 7) Enrollment Elsewhere**

A student who is enrolled or connected with any other school than the one he or she represents shall not take part in any contest. In the case of an all-boys high school, girl cheerleaders from affiliated neighboring girls school may be accepted.

**Case BL-4-1- Why is there a requirement that limits the number of semesters and stipulates a maximum participation requirement?**

*Without a clearly defined limit, avenues remain open for red-shirting, deception, legal maneuvering, and other athletics-driven motivations for a student to remain in school rather than proceeding on into college or into the work force thereby denying the participation of a student who is otherwise "next in line" to play.*

*A maximum participation requirement is in place because it:*

- 1) *promotes timely progress toward graduation by discouraging students from delaying or interrupting their high school education;*
- 2) *disallows students to enroll for one single semester each school year to increase athletic ability and skill;*
- 3) *diminishes risks stemming from unequal competition;*
- 4) *places emphasis on the year-long academic mission of the school;*
- 5) *promotes harmony and fair competition among member schools by maintaining equality of eligibility affording each student the same number of semesters of athletic eligibility;*
- 6) *increases the number of students who will have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics;*
- 7) *is conducive to the prevention of red-shirting;*
- 8) *helps avoid exploitation by coaches or boosters who otherwise might seek to obtain transfers or to delay a student's normal progress through school; and*
- 9) *prevents displacement of younger student-athletes by older students wishing to protract unfairly their high school careers.*

**Case BL-4-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt additional stipulations regarding enrollment and residence that are more stringent than KHSAA rules?**

Yes. While a school or school district cannot establish a standard that is more lenient than the KHSAA requirements, a school or school district may set other residence requirements. School and school districts may choose to address issues including but not limited to a strictly defined feeder pattern for its middle schools to high schools, permanent residence location requirements and other issues which are deemed by that school or school district to be needed. For those requirements which are more stringent than the KHSAA rules, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.

**Case BL-4-3- How is the determination made regarding eligibility under Bylaw 4 when a student comes in from a non-member school system in Kentucky or when promotion/retention records are not available?**

Students enrolling at KHSAA member schools after having been enrolled in non-KHSAA school districts (home school, non-member school) are placed into the proper class according to documented procedures within the school district of the KHSAA member school. From that point, the provisions of Bylaw 4 apply and the student will have only one year of eligibility per remaining grade, and shall meet the provisions of all other KHSAA bylaws.

**Case BL-4-4- When is a waiver available under Bylaw 4, Sec. 1 and are there legal provisions for gaining additional semesters for those students retained by the parents or due to athletic injury?**

Unless basic education services are not available to the student-athlete due to illness or injury, each student shall be limited to four consecutive years of opportunity for participation in high school sports. Without this clearly defined limit, other athletic-driven motivations for a student to remain in school rather than proceeding on into college or into the work force exist and thereby deny the participation opportunity of a student who is otherwise "next in line" to play. Additional semesters are available only in tightly crafted exceptions contained in the bylaw.

Holding a student back and allowing the student to practice or play sports is strictly prohibited and goes against the basic principles of fair play. In addition, the repeating student at any level is prohibited from practice or play, and beginning with the first promotion from grade eight (8), the four-year count of eligibility has begun. According to OAG82-473 opinion, the promotion and retention of students in all grades are the direct and sole responsibility of the Principal through policy developed by the local board of education. There are no provisions in the bylaws for other types of repeating in order to allow for additional semesters due to sports related injuries. Kentucky Department of Education regulations place the responsibility for promotion or retention of a student on school personnel and not parents. Once "promoted" from the eighth grade, a student's four consecutive calendar year (8 semesters) athletic eligibility period begins.

Verification and documentation as to the retention/promotion decision is solely the responsibility of school personnel and will be based solely on the written record by the school in which the student was enrolled at the time of retention or promotion. Documentation of the promotion/retention decision may include such things as STI/Infinite Campus records or other written documentation and shall always be available for review until the student graduates.

The necessary written verification shall come from the attending physician at the time of the injury or illness that resulted in deprivation of educational services.

The KHSAA Board of Control reaffirmed in July of 1999 that athletics is indeed a privilege and not a right, and in fact, waivers shall only be granted in the case where the right to basic education services is impacted due to illness or injury rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege.

**Case BL-4-5- Is it permissible for students to have more than four years (eight (8) semesters) of eligibility in order to participate in interscholastic competition after being promoted from grade eight(8)?**

No, a student is eligible only for the first four consecutive years (eight (8) semesters) after initial promotion from grade eight (8), even if they do not participate in athletics during one or more of those years.

The four consecutive years of eligibility in Bylaw 4, Section 1 begin upon the earlier of "promotion" from the eighth grade or enrollment in grade nine. For example, if a student enrolls in the ninth grade after completing the seventh grade, the four consecutive years of eligibility begin upon date of enrollment in the ninth grade

**Case BL-4-6- Is it permissible for a repeating student to represent a KHSAA member school under any conditions in interscholastic athletics?**

No. Student-athletes may not represent a member school as a participant at any level if they are repeating a grade.

**Case BL-4-7- Is it permissible for a student who is repeating a grade (below grade nine) to play interscholastic sports for the middle school / junior high school?**

That determination is left to the discretion of the local school based decision-making body for the school in accordance with adopted SBDM policies. However, those students who are repeating a grade at any level are prevented in all situations from representing a KHSAA member school in a scrimmage or contest at any level (grades 9-12) during the year being repeated whether or not that student played interscholastic sports at any level during the first year in the grade.

**Case BL-4-8- Is it permissible for students below grade nine (9) to participate for a high school team?**

Yes, in sports except for football, soccer and wrestling, provided that the elementary school, middle school or junior high school where the student is enrolled is under the direct administrative supervision of the same board of education as the member school the student desires to represent. If the local Board of Education has an adopted and enforced defined feeder pattern for the middle/junior high school students under the Board, participation at the high school level is restricted to the schools within that pattern (feeder school). See Case Situations BL-4-10 and BL-4-11 for special restrictions regarding football, soccer and wrestling.

**Case BL-4-9- Is it permissible for a local school board to place restrictions and limits on participation in sports other than football, soccer and wrestling?**

No. KRS 156.070 (2) bans the KHSAA or Kentucky Board of Education from implementing any prohibition on 7th and 8th graders participating in high school sports, and as interpreted, leaves that determination to the Local Board of Education or SBDM Council. However, that same statute and subsequent Attorney General Opinions specifically ban a prohibition against students playing on more than one school-sponsored team at the same time. Specifically exempted from this statute are the sports of football, soccer and wrestling, whose participants may be restricted if they are enrolled below grade nine. Students enrolled below grade nine (9) may not participate at the varsity level in football or soccer, and students below grade seven (7) may not participate in wrestling at the varsity level. Further definitions concerning "varsity level" in football, soccer and wrestling are contained in interpretations.

**Case BL-4-10- What restrictions are in place in football and soccer for students below grade nine (9)?**

Students in grades seven (7) or eight (8) within a feeder school or within the local system may not participate in any activity (practice, scrimmage or game) designated by either team as "varsity (first team)" in football or soccer. These 7th and 8th grade students may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after a varsity scrimmage or contest in the sports of football or soccer. Only those students

enrolled in the member school and in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area. Students in grades seven (7) or eight (8) may not participate (practice, scrimmage or play) on non-varsity (freshman, junior varsity, etc.) level teams in football or soccer if any member of the team they are representing or the team they are competing against is enrolled in any grade above grade ten (10). It is the obligation of the school desiring to allow the seventh or eighth grade student to participate with the non-varsity team to ensure compliance with this provision. Students below grade seven (7) may not participate (practice, scrimmage or play) on any high school level team (freshman, JV, varsity) in football or soccer. The original provisions of this legislation by the Kentucky General Assembly were in place to protect these students from unnecessary exposure to potential injury due to maturation differences, in both practices and games.

**Case BL-4-11- What restrictions are in place in wrestling for students below grade (7)?**

Students below grade seven (7) within a feeder school or within the local system may not participate in any activity (practice, scrimmage or game) designated by either team as "varsity (first team)" in wrestling. These students below grade seven (7) may not wear the game uniform (in whole or part), or be involved in pre-game activities or any other contest related activity prior to, during or after a varsity scrimmage or contest in the sport of wrestling. Only those students enrolled in the member school and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above may be involved in those activities or wear the uniform or other school clothing in the proximity of the team area. The original provisions of this legislation by the Kentucky General Assembly were in place to protect these students from unnecessary exposure to potential injury due to maturation differences, in both practices and games.

**Case BL-4-12- What does the expression "full-time student according to regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education" mean in Section 3 of Bylaw 4?**

The KHSAA requires students to be enrolled as full-time students according to the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The KHSAA expects all of its member schools to comply with all applicable rules from KDE, but the KHSAA does not become involved in enforcement of regulations or policies that are not a part of the KHSAA Handbook or other duties directly charged to the KHSAA through relevant regulations. The stipulation requires that students shall be enrolled as a full-time student (in at least four hours of instruction (240 minutes) out of the six hour instruction day) per day earning credits toward graduation.

**Case BL-4-13- For the purposes of Bylaw 4, when is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school and how is enrollment verified for a student?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

The student may be considered enrolled at the school that is receiving the state funding for that student. (i.e. the ADA appropriation or SEEK funding)

In the case of a school that does not receive state funding, enrollment shall be verified by documented proof of full-time attendance at the school.

**Case BL-4-14- How do Bylaw 4, Section 5 and Bylaw 5, Section 3 relate to schools with nontraditional (block) schedules?**

A student shall be enrolled as a full-time student (four of six hours) in the member school or defined feeder school within the restrictions of Bylaw 4, and passing in four full credit hours (240 minutes) worth of classes as defined in Bylaw 5. For example, if a student were attempting four full credits of one and one-half hours each, he/she would need to pass three (four and one half hours) worth. As another example, the periods are 80 minutes; he/she would need to pass three. It is imperative when interpreting this rule that the amount of credits attempted and class length is considered when

determining the eligibility of a student-athlete as the student shall pass 240 minutes of class (four full credit hours).

**Case BL-4-15- What are the primary motivating factors in Bylaw 4, Sec. 3 and 4 requiring full-time enrollment at a member school?**

A student enrollment requirement promotes loyalty and school spirit which lends itself to cohesion of the student body; helps promote amateurism by drawing athletes only from each school's normal student population; avoids professionalism and over-emphasis on athletes; discourages "team shopping", which wrongfully skews the relationships among student-athletes and coaches; and secures role models for other students. An attendance requirement also helps ensure that students will adhere to a school's attendance plan that, in turn, prompts students to maintain the academic standard required for participation and promotes graduation in a common time frame.

**Case BL-4-16- Under what conditions may the twenty-day requirement contained in Bylaw 4 be waived?**

When it can be shown clearly that the student was prevented from enrolling during the twenty-day period because of circumstances beyond his/her control.

**Case BL-4-17- Is it permissible for a student to participate for a member school while enrolled in another school that does not offer a particular sport?**

No, a student shall be enrolled as a full-time student and receiving credit through the member school at which participation is desired, or be a student at a "feeder" school in the same school district as defined within Bylaw 4 and its interpretations. Specific guidance as to the feeder pattern definitions can be found in Case Situations related to Bylaw 10.

**Case BL-4-18- Is it permissible for a student enrolled at a private or parochial school below grade nine to represent a member school in competition in grades 9-12?**

Yes, if that student is enrolled as a full-time student at a "feeder" school as defined within Case Situation 10-3 (9). This provision requires a student to be enrolled in a school under the same local Board of Education as the member school at which participation is desired, and participation opportunities are further restricted if that local Board of Education has a defined feeder pattern for the schools under its jurisdiction. If the student is enrolled at a school that is not under the same local Board of Education, participation at the high school level is not possible.

**Case BL-4-19- Is it permissible for a student enrolled at a private or parochial school below grade nine to represent a school in competition exclusively for students below grade nine?**

That decision would be left to the local Board of Education of the public school district or its related School Based Decision Making organizations.

**Case BL-4-20- Is it permissible for a home-schooled student to participate in interscholastic athletics at a KHSAA member school?**

No, unless that student is also enrolled full-time (minimum four hours of instruction) at that local high school or under that local Board of Education. In order to represent a member school, a student shall be a full-time student at a KHSAA member school or at a feeder school under the same local Board of Education as the member school.

**Case BL-4-21- Are there rules regarding a home-bound student participating in interscholastic athletics at a KHSAA member school?**

Yes. In order to represent a member school, a student shall be a full-time student at a KHSAA member school or at a feeder school under the same local Board of Education as the member school as defined within Bylaw 4 and its interpretations. In accordance with 704 KAR 7:120, Section 2, part (6), "Eligibility for home/hospital instruction shall cease if the student works or participates in athletic activities." Schools and school districts are reminded that a student who practices or plays

*in an athletic scrimmage or contest is no longer able to be in home bound instruction once such participation occurs.*

**Case BL-4-22– Is it permissible for a student enrolled in an alternative, A6 or other type program school to participate in interscholastic athletics at a KHSAA member school?**

*No, not unless that student is enrolled full-time (minimum four hours of instruction) at that local high school or under that local Board of Education for which they desire to participate. The A6 and other alternative-type schools are separate entities with their own unique school identification numbers and data, and as such, are considered to be outside the scope of students who can participate for another school. In order to represent a member school, a student shall be a full-time student at a KHSAA member school or at a feeder school under the same local Board of Education as the member school as defined within Bylaw 4 and its interpretations.*

**BYLAW 5. MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT**

**Sec. 1) Proper Grade Level Requirement for Students in All School Districts**

On the first day of each school year, a student shall be at his or her proper grade level. To be considered to be at the proper grade level, a student shall have been enrolled as a full-time student during the previous grading period, and shall be on schedule to graduate with his or her class on the first day of school. For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer and correspondence work, shall be complete by the first day of the school year for the student body.

a) Eligibility During First Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the ninth grade to be considered to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

b) Eligibility During Second Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 10) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

c) Eligibility During Third Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 11) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

d) Eligibility During Fourth Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 12) to be on schedule to graduate, that student shall have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

**Sec. 2) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements**

a) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one school year. The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) above may be reinstated a maximum of one time. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he or she is ineligible. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year.

b) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one semester. The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of

subsections (a) through (d) of Sec. 1 may be reinstated a maximum of one time in schools operating on a two-semester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the semester in which he or she is ineligible due to the provisions of Sec. 1. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent semester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1 above. Eligibility to practice and compete in contests shall be effective with the first day of the semester following the recording of the requirements to the student's permanent record.

c) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one trimester.

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) in Sec. 1 may be reinstated a maximum of one time in schools operating on a three-trimester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the trimester in which he or she is ineligible due to the provisions of Sec. 1. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent trimester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1. Eligibility to practice and compete in contests shall be effective with the first day of the trimester following the recording of the requirements to the student's permanent record.

**Sec. 3) Continual Progress During the School Year**

On a weekly basis, a student shall be making continual progress during the school year in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday. Special tests or recitations shall not be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

To be making continual progress, a student shall have passed in four hours of instruction units as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) during the previous credit period that closed during the school year (trimester or semester). To be making continual progress the student shall also be passing cumulatively for the current credit period in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation.

**Sec. 4) Pre-Secondary School Students**

A pre-secondary school student (grades 4-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which he or she is currently enrolled and be in compliance with all other bylaws in order to be eligible.

**Case BL-5-1- Why is there a Minimum Academic Requirement as contained in Bylaw 5?**

*Participants in the interscholastic athletic program are expected to be student-athletes. High school sports are not intended to be a "farm team" for college and professional sports, but a complementary activity to the total learning experience. Standards shall be in place to ensure that in addition to sports participation, a student shall be on schedule to graduate with his/her class. As class systems change (block and other alternative schedules), these requirements shall be continually reviewed to make certain that all students are meeting the necessary requirements to graduate from high school and be positive contributors to society. Athletics serves as a deterrent for many students to become involved in less-desirable elements of society. A young person shall be a student first and an athlete second.*

**Case BL-5-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt an academic standard that is different from the KHSAA Minimum Academic Requirement?**

Yes. The school or school district cannot establish a standard that is lower than the KHSAA minimal standard, but a school or school district may set a higher requirement. The KHSAA requirement for participation is that a student shall be at proper grade level, and on schedule to graduate in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics and make continual progress during the school year.

Schools are strongly encouraged to be sure that the normal promotional requirement for advancement to the following grade concurs with eligibility requirements for that grade. This will help ensure that students promoted to the next grade are in fact eligible in that particular grade and that the locally adopted standard does not fall below the requirements of Bylaw 5.

**Case BL-5-4- How is Section 1 of Bylaw 5 interpreted to determine eligibility of a student on the first day of school? On the first day of school, guidance counselors or other personnel shall use the following chart to determine eligibility based on the local districts requirements for graduation.**

Any number of credits required which cannot be matched directly to the credits of the school shall be rounded to the next possible number. For example, if 9.45 is required, but the school only gives half and full credits, 9.5 would be required. If that same school only gave full credits, 10 would be required.

Graduation Requirement	First Year (Normally Grade 9)	Second Year (Normally Grade 10)	Third Year (Normally Grade 11)	Fourth Year (Normally Grade 12)	Required to reinstate after complete year ineligible	Required to reinstate after semester ineligible	Required to reinstate after trimester ineligible
20	Promoted from 8	4.00	9.00	14.00	5.00	3.00	2.00
21	Promoted from 8	4.20	9.45	14.70	5.25	3.15	2.10
22	Promoted from 8	4.40	9.90	15.40	5.50	3.30	2.20
23	Promoted from 8	4.60	10.35	16.10	5.75	3.45	2.30
24	Promoted from 8	4.80	10.80	16.80	6.00	3.60	2.40
25	Promoted from 8	5.00	11.25	17.50	6.25	3.75	2.50
26	Promoted from 8	5.20	11.70	18.20	6.50	3.90	2.60
27	Promoted from 8	5.40	12.15	18.90	6.75	4.05	2.70
28	Promoted from 8	5.60	12.60	19.60	7.00	4.20	2.80
29	Promoted from 8	5.80	13.05	20.30	7.25	4.35	2.90
30	Promoted from 8	6.00	13.50	21.00	7.50	4.50	3.00
31	Promoted from 8	6.20	13.95	21.70	7.75	4.65	3.10
32	Promoted from 8	6.40	14.40	22.40	8.00	4.80	3.20

**Case BL-5-5- How are credit hours and credits computed when a student changes from a traditional format to an alternative format school (i.e. 6 hour day to block schedule day) or vice-versa?**

A student's eligibility status shall be determined by converting either to or from the traditional system when dealing with transfer students. This shall be done in accordance with accepted policy for computing graduation progress, and no special consideration can be given to student athletic participants.

In the case of a school raising or changing its graduation requirements, according to past meetings of guidance counselor focus groups, this conversion can be done by taking the number of credits required for graduation under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits required under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent number to be used in determining standing. For students changing from a traditional to a block system, or vice versa, it can also be done by taking the number of credits possible per year under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits possible per year under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent number to be used in determining standing.

For students who have been in multiple school systems with multiple credit systems, the process can be done by taking the academic record of each school year, dividing the number of credits earned at the school of that particular year, by the

For those requirements which are a higher requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.

**Case BL-5-3- Are subjects or credit hours involved in the Scholarship Rule (Minimum Academic Requirement)?**

Credit hours (commonly referred to as Carnegie units) as applicable to graduation are the standard of measurement to be used for determining eligibility. To be eligible, a student shall be passing currently in the required number of full-credit subject hours applicable to graduation and shall be at his/her proper grade level according to Bylaw 5. However, their equivalent in units of credit accepted for graduation may be substituted. All credit calculations are based on totals at the time the credit is recorded to the transcript. In the case of end of course assessments, determination shall be made once the final credits are applied in compliance with state regulations.

number of credits possible to have been earned that particular year at that school, and then taking that fractional value times the number of credits possible at the new school. Doing this calculation for each year and then adding together the results yields an "apples to apples" comparison in terms of credits needed by a student to be on schedule for graduation.

The policy or conversion shall be approved by the School based Decision Making organization at the school and shall be in place for all students and not restricted to student-athletes.

**Case BL-5-6- Is it permissible for summer school or correspondence courses to satisfy the academic requirements of Bylaw 5, Section 1?**

Yes, due to the fact that the verification date under Bylaw 5, Section 1 is the first day of school, summer school or accredited correspondence courses may be used to make up a failure or deficiency in the academic work of the preceding year. The course(s) shall be completed, grade received and credit recorded prior to the first day of school for the student body.

In addition, schools shall be mindful of recent changes in the core-content requirements for the NCAA Clearinghouse as certain correspondence courses previously acceptable for credit may not be acceptable within the core curriculum required for certification. Though this does not at this time impact high school eligibility, it creates the scenario where a credit may apply to high school graduation, but not be applicable to college admission or qualification.

**Case BL-5-7- If a student is ineligible at the beginning of the school year according to Bylaw 5, Section 1, can this student become eligible during the school year?**

Yes. A student may be reinstated at the end of the semester/trimester depending upon the school academic curriculum provided that there are opportunities for the entire student body to add permanent credits to the transcript at those breaks. Schools with a semester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each semester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of the semester. Schools with a trimester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each trimester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of each trimester. Schools with a year-long calendar where credits are only recorded at the end of the year do not have a mid-year reinstatement opportunity for athletes ineligible on the first day of school. A student-athlete who is ineligible due to failing to maintain normal progress as defined in Section 1 may have eligibility reinstated for the following and subsequent semesters/trimesters/years providing he/she meets all provisions for reinstatement in Bylaw 5.

**Case BL-5-8- Is it possible for a student to be eligible according to Bylaw 5 during the senior year and yet not graduate?**

Yes, depending upon that particular student's class load and progress, he/she could be eligible by Sec. 1 of this bylaw, complete the required number of courses each year including the final year, and still not graduate, and yet remain eligible throughout the year. This bylaw represents a minimum standard, and as such, schools are empowered to make a tougher regulation that could prevent such an occurrence.

**Case BL-5-9– When do schools perform the weekly grade check to determine the continual progress provisions of Bylaw 5?**

Each year, when a school applies for membership, school representatives are to designate the one specific day of each week that grades will be checked, and eligibility will then be determined for the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period).

**Case BL-5-10– How is weekly eligibility determined for students who were not passing at the last grade check prior to breaks during the school year?**

Until school has resumed and a school has checked grades on the first weekly grade check opportunity, any student who was not passing four hours of instruction as of the last valid grade check is not academically eligible. That student however, may be eligible if during the interim prior to the next weekly grade check, grades recorded to the permanent record are officially posted to indicate that the student did in fact pass in four (4) hours of instruction as required. Schools are cautioned to remember that KHSAA Bylaw 9 states that any student not eligible to play in the team's next scrimmage or contest is not eligible to practice with the squad.

**Case BL-5-12– How is academic eligibility determined during the summer after July 15 and prior to the start of school?**

The academic record of each student desiring to participate in practice or competition in contests or scrimmages after July 15 and prior to the start of classes in the fall shall be checked to ensure that the student is on schedule to graduate per Bylaw 5, Section 1. If the student's grades and credits in any offering are not a part of the permanent record, those grades or credits may not be used to determine eligibility. In accordance with Bylaw 9, a student who is not eligible to participate in contests or scrimmages is not eligible to practice or play.

**Case BL-5-13- Is there a special academic rule for those students below grade nine (9)?**

Yes, Bylaw 5, Section 4 contains specific language relative to the participation of students below grade nine (9).

twelve (12) and has participated in any varsity contest in any sport at any school following enrollment in grade nine (9) and who then transfers schools shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

The Ruling Officer and Commissioner have discretion (but are not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one or more of the following exceptions in Section 2 has been met. Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school.

Sec. 2) Discretionary Exceptions for Waiver

a) BONA FIDE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE- The period of ineligibility may be waived if there has been a bona fide change in residence by the parents and student that precedes a student's change of schools.

For purposes of this bylaw, a bonafide change of residence means the moving of the permanent residence of the entire family of the student and the student's parents from one school district or defined school attendance area into another school district or defined school attendance area prior to a change in enrollment of the student. A student who becomes emancipated does not have a bona fide change of residence by virtue of his or her emancipation and change of residence for purposes of this bylaw.

b) DIVORCE- The KHSAA shall not recognize a legal separation as grounds for waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event of a dissolution of marriage (i.e. a final and legally binding divorce decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) of the parents and a change in the residence of the student pursuant to a court order granting custody of the child to one of the parents with whom the student shall reside. In the event joint custody is awarded to both parents, for purposes of this bylaw, the student shall initially be eligible where either parent resides.

The eligibility of a student may be restored one-time if, after establishing eligibility and complying with the initial court order granting joint custody, a student relocates to permanently reside with the other custodial parent. The grant of eligibility shall only apply to the member school in which the residence of the custodial parent is located. After this one time move by the student to the other custodial parent all subsequent moves between parents shall require a period of ineligibility of one year.

c) CHANGE OF CUSTODY- The KHSAA shall not recognize guardianship or similar arrangements made, for purposes of this bylaw. The period of ineligibility may be waived if it is shown that custody of the student has been taken from one or both parents and given to the other parent or a third person by a court of competent jurisdiction and under circumstances indicating: (1) the parent(s) are unfit or (2) the court finds that the health and welfare of the student would be better served by the change in custody.

d) DEATH- The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event the death of one or both of the student's custodial parents creates the circumstances that the transfer to another secondary school is deemed appropriate.

e) BOARDING SCHOOLS- The period of ineligibility may be waived on a one-time basis for students entering a boarding school on a full time basis as a boarding school student.

f) NON ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FOR AN ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR- The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event that the transferring student did not participate in an interscholastic contest at any level in any sport while enrolled in grades nine through twelve at the sending school during the entire academic school year immediately preceding the change in schools.

g) REASSIGNMENT BY BOARD OF EDUCATION- The period of ineligibility may be waived if the student has changed schools through a properly documented reassignment of the Board of Education to another school. To meet this exception for a reassignment, reasons for the assignment may include the closing or opening of a school due to consolidation, merger, opening of a new school, or another type or opening or closing or

**BYLAW 6. TRANSFER RULE- DOMESTIC STUDENTS**

Sec. 1) Domestic Student Transfer

Any student who has been enrolled in grades nine (9) through

assignment through KRS 158.6455 or other applicable adopted regulation. That assignment may be to the public school district should a private, parochial or independent school close.

- h) **TRANSFER FROM NON-MEMBER SCHOOL** – The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring from a non-member school located in Kentucky whose athletic participation has been limited primarily to other non-member schools.
- i) **MILITARY ASSIGNMENT**- The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring in a situation where documentation is presented to verify that the change in education and living arrangements is directly related to an order from any branch of the United States military service, including the reserve components.

**Sec. 3) Specific Restrictions Resulting in Denial of Waiver**

Satisfying of one of the exceptions (Section 2, a through i) shall not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted:

- a) If the change in schools is to nullify or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in the student's ineligibility at the sending school;
- b) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the enrollment at the new school;
- c) If the change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
- d) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility; or
- e) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school.

**Sec. 4) Other Transferring Student Restrictions and Procedures**

- a) The Commissioner's office may appoint or hire a committee or investigator to conduct any inquiry or investigation concerning any issues arising under this bylaw or any other bylaw.
- b) If any member school files a written objection to the factual validity of the certification before the conclusion of the period of time to which the period of ineligibility would normally apply, along with the specific, detailed basis for the objection, then a complete investigation shall be conducted by the KHSAA and a ruling shall be issued through the Commissioner's office.
- c) A student enrolled in grades 4-12 who has participated in a first team game shall not be eligible to represent a second member school during that school year unless that student would qualify for a waiver of the period of ineligibility in accordance with provisions (Section 2, a through i) above.
- d) A student is ineligible for athletics in this state if he or she transfers from another state if the student was or would have become ineligible in the state from which he or she transfers.

**Case BL-6-1- What is the transfer rule (Bylaw 6)?**

*Bylaw 6, Transfer Rule, states that any student who changes schools after enrolling in grade 9 and after participating in a varsity contest in any sport, shall be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment at the new school. There is only limited authority to waive the period of ineligibility under the circumstances outlined in Bylaw 6 and the Due Process Procedure.*

**Case BL-6-2- Why is there a transfer rule?**

*Nearly every state has a transfer rule to protect the integrity of the interscholastic program. These rules are necessary for several reasons including, but not limited to, the following principles:*

- 1) *these rules prevent and deter transfers due to recruiting or athletic reasons;*
- 2) *these rules protect the opportunities of bona fide resident students;*
- 3) *these rules provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework for athletic competition in an academic setting;*
- 4) *these rules provide uniform standards for all schools to follow;*
- 5) *these rules support the educational philosophy that athletics is a privilege which should not assume a dominant position in a school's program;*
- 6) *these rules keep the focus of educators and students on the fact that students attend schools to receive an education first,*

*and participate in athletics second;*

- 7) *these rules maintain the fundamental principle that a high school student should live at home with parents or custodian in the event of parental death or incapacitation, and attend school in the school district in which they reside;*
- 8) *these rules reinforce the view that a family is a strong and viable unit and as such is the best place for students to live while attending high school;*
- 9) *these rules serve as a deterrent to students running away from, or avoiding discipline that has been imposed; and*
- 10) *these rules prevent manipulation of a residence change or other exception solely or primarily for the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation and serve to ensure the integrity of the rules adherence process.*

**Case BL-6-3- What is the procedure for requesting a ruling on a student who has transferred in to a member school?**

*The Receiving School is the KHSAA member school in which the student is enrolled and for which he/she is requesting eligibility. The Sending School is normally the most recent school in which this student was enrolled and participated in interscholastic athletics. However, for students who have attended multiple schools, the Sending School is the last school at which the student participated in varsity athletics after enrolling in grade nine (9). The following process will be utilized for students who transfer into KHSAA member schools following initial entry in grade 9.*

- 1) *The Principal or Designated Representative of the Receiving school shall initiate the process of requesting eligibility by completing KHSAA Form GE04. The Principal or Designated Representative shall adhere to all instructions and verifications contained in that form, and ensure that the form is distributed to all required parties including the receiving school; and*
- 2) *The Principal or Designated Representative of the Receiving School shall be responsible for submitting the form and all required documentation to the KHSAA. Upon receipt, the form will be reviewed by the Commissioner's Office and a ruling will be issued.*

**Case BL-6-4- Is there any special documentation that needs to be sent along with the transfer request when the member school sends the request to the KHSAA?**

*In many cases, there will be additional material that needs to be sent, and it is dependent upon which exception to Section 2 of the Transfer Rule that the member school desires to request.*

*If the exception desired relates to the bonafide change of residence provisions, additional written documentation may be required to accompany the form to verify the circumstances surrounding the bonafide change which may include sales documents, contracts or rental agreements.. It may also be required that certification be presented regarding the future use of the former residence in specific cases.*

*If subsection (b) (Divorce) or subsection (c) (Custody change) exceptions are being requested, copies of final court orders clearly showing the need for a change in schools due to the action of the court may be required.*

*If subsection (e) (Boarding School) exceptions are being requested, a copy of a letter(s) from the Principal(s) or Court Order may be required to be submitted.*

*If subsection (g) (Reassignment by Board of Education) exceptions are being requested, copies of the adopted Board of Education policies as well as meeting minutes may be required to be submitted.*

*If subsection (i) (Military Assignment) is being requested, copies of the military orders may be required to be submitted.*

**Case BL-6-5- What is the period of ineligibility under Bylaw 6 and restrictions during that period?**

*The period of ineligibility under Bylaw 6 is one full year of ineligibility beginning on the date of enrollment at the new school. If a student seeking a waiver of the one year period is granted such waiver, and the conditions change during the one year following enrollment at the new school, a new ruling may be issued. The expectation of the published exceptions is that the circumstances resulting in the waiver continue to exist for*

one year. It is the obligation of school personnel to monitor the facts surrounding students receiving the waiver, and report to the Association if the circumstances change in order to request a new ruling.

If an ineligible student participates in interscholastic athletics during the usual period of ineligibility, the KHSAA may toll the one year period of ineligibility after the anticipated expiration date in an amount of time equal to the time the student participated while ineligible. For example, if a student participates in interscholastic athletics for six months during the usual period of ineligibility, the KHSAA may toll the period of ineligibility after the anticipated expiration date for six months. Depending on the circumstances of each case, this time might be applied immediately after the expiration of the normal one-year period of ineligibility or delayed until a particular sports season. This interpretation is necessary, fair and reasonable because the ineligible student may have participated in and affected the outcome of games, including tournament games, that cannot be replayed and deprived properly eligible student of opportunities to participate that cannot later be restored.

**Case BL-6-6– At what point are the facts to be determined when a ruling is to be made in a Bylaw 6 case?**

Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school

**Case BL-6-7– When is a student enrolled at a KHSAA member school for the purposes of Bylaw 6?**

A student is enrolled at a KHSAA member school when that student sits for class in the new school.

In addition, a student may be considered enrolled at a KHSAA member school when the student registers at the new school, is on the student enrollment listing of a member school, and not on the listing of another school.

In the case of enrollment during periods when classes are not being held (i.e. summer), the student may be considered to be enrolled at the new school when formal application has been made and accepted as verified by the new Principal. The student shall also at that time be officially withdrawn and off the enrollment listing of the former school.

**Case BL-6-8- What is a domestic student as defined in Bylaw 6?**

A domestic student is a resident of one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia. All other persons shall be subject to the provisions of Bylaw 7, Non-Domestic students.

**Case BL-6-9- What does the word “sport” as used in Bylaw 6 represent with respect to athletic participation and the applicability of Bylaw 6?**

The Board of Control has directed that the provisions of Bylaw 6 that call for participation in a varsity sport as a determinant restricts application to those sports which the KHSAA sanctions and these are separate and apart from Sports Activities. “Sport” includes baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball (fast pitch), swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track, volleyball and wrestling. Sport Activities include bowling and cheerleading. Bylaw 6 and 7 do not apply to those students whose participation is solely in Sport Activities.

**Case BL-6-10– Is there a link between Bylaw 6 (Transfer Rule) and Bylaw 10 (Recruiting) as for the enforcement by the Association?**

No. These are separate and distinct bylaws. However, it is possible that a transferring student could have a change in residence or meet another documented exception and still be ineligible if a Bylaw 10 violation is determined in the case. And, the absence of a Bylaw 10 violation (recruiting) does not relate to the enforcement of Bylaw 6.

**Case BL-6-11- Is a student immediately eligible who has played interscholastic sports (varsity, grades 9-12) when he/she moves in from out of state and the family has also moved?**

No, each student who changes schools after enrolling in grade nine and representing a varsity team shall be ruled eligible in order to try-out, practice or play with / for the team.

If a student has played for an out of state school or an in-state non member school and has represented that school at the varsity level against other schools in interscholastic competition, then the student is subject to the provisions of Bylaw 6.

**Case BL-6-12- What is a boarding school as defined in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(e)?**

A boarding school is defined as a school that has an enrolled resident boarding school population in the ninth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades of at least ten (10) percent of the full-time student body. A boarding school shall have appropriate dormitory facilities to house, feed and provide general living accommodations for boarding students, and shall have properly trained supervisory personnel on duty at all times.

A boarding school shall be recognized as a boarding school in its own literature and shall be verified by the Kentucky Department of Education or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A boarding student, to qualify for the exception, shall spend at least an average of five (5) days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.

Only those schools that qualify as boarding schools as defined herein may provide any assistance for room and board to students who participate in interscholastic athletics and only if such assistance is based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.

**Case BL-6-13- Are there restrictions on coaches or other individuals within a school being involved with students who are seeking the exception under Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(e)?**

Coaches and other individuals employed by or associated with a boarding school's athletic program shall not serve as the boarding supervisor or otherwise live with boarding students in school housing.

**Case BL-6-14- What verification is desired by the Ruling Officer/Hearing Officer/Commissioner when a student is seeking eligibility under Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(e)?**

The Ruling Officer/Hearing Officer/Commissioner may seek verification that the move to or from the Boarding school is by directive of the Principal (sending) or an order from a court of competent jurisdiction in order for exception (e) to apply. There may also be addition evidence requested to support the request for a waiver.

**Case BL-6-15- Is it required that students who have not competed for a complete school year have a transfer form completed?**

Yes. Even if the school has knowledge that the student would qualify for exception (f) of Sec. 2 of Bylaw 6, a transfer form shall be completed so that this can be verified in writing. The same is true of athletes who enroll at a receiving school and subsequently do not play during the next calendar year. Even though the rule allows for them to be eligible after one year, a transfer form shall be completed. However, if the student has not competed for an entire school year as verified on the form, no ruling from the KHSAA is necessary and the student may be considered eligible.

**Case BL-6-16- How are magnet schools and board selected program enrollments interpreted with regard to Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 (g)?**

The Association attempts to ensure that its regulations are not an inhibitor to a school trying a creative, magnet, and traditional or other type of special program for student or school improvement. Representatives of those local boards of education shall ensure that the listing of magnet, traditional, ROTC, and other selective, board approved and designated programs are submitted to the Commissioner's office where they will remain on file to ensure the accurate processing of such requests.

**Case BL-6-17– Does Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(g) allow for automatic exception waiver of the period of ineligibility for students transferring due to the provisions of No Child Left Behind?**

No, there is no specific exception enumerated within the rule.

However, transfers in these situations are handled on a case by case basis through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure by reviewing exception (g) of Bylaw 6 and documentation will be requested as to the directive from the Superintendent regarding such transfer and the specific school to which the student is assigned.

**Case BL-6-18- How is Bylaw 6 interpreted in the case of a school consolidating or splitting into multiple schools?**

The action by the local Board of Education in the opening of a new school or closing of the old schools will automatically apply the provisions of Bylaw 6, Section 2, exception (g) without forms needing to be processed by the KHSAA.

When multiple schools are consolidated within a district, the students entering the consolidated school are considered eligible at the consolidated school under this exception, provided they are eligible to attend the consolidated school per local board of education policy. Subsequent to the first day of school, the KHSAA transfer rule provisions shall apply.

In the case of a member school splitting into multiple schools within a district, the students shall be eligible at the school assigned by the board of education or the school where the student first attends within the district if such attendance and eligibility is allowed under local board of education policy. Subsequent to the first day of school, the KHSAA transfer rule provisions shall apply.

**Case BL-6-19- How is Bylaw 6 applied to out of state students, and does exception (h) in Section 2 of Bylaw 6 apply to students transferring from out of state schools?**

Students transferring from out of state schools are subject to the provisions of Bylaw 6 if they participated in any varsity game in any sport at any out of state school following enrolment in grade nine (9).

Exception (h) is not available for students transferring from out of state schools. "Non member school" in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 (h) means a school located in Kentucky that is not a member of the KHSAA. This exception was passed by the KHSAA member schools in an effort to accommodate students who had been enrolled at small schools located in Kentucky that were not members of the KHSAA and had participated against similarly situated schools.

**Case BL-6-20- Is there a special exception allowing for a waiver of the period of ineligibility for students transferring due to a change in military status for the custodial parent(s)?**

Yes. Exception (i) in Section 2 specifically allows for eligibility to be granted in the cases where it can be documented that the change in education is directly related to an order from any branch of the United State military service, including the reserve components. Specific verification may be requested, including but documentation of a Permanent Change of Station or Change of Duty Status.

This exception may also be applicable in the case where transfer is made necessary by implementation of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children.

**Case BL-6-21- What does "reasonably precipitate" mean under Bylaw 6, Sec. 3 (e) and can a student delay enrolling at the receiving school if the family changes residence during the middle of a grading period?**

The bonafide change of residence exception in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(a) is not available if the change in residence by the student and the parents does not "reasonably precipitate" the transfer to the receiving school (see Sec. 3 (e)). "Reasonably precipitates" means, among other things, that a student cannot delay transferring after a change in residence for an unreasonable amount of time.

The "reasonably precipitates" provision gives the Ruling Officer/Commissioner discretion to waive the period of ineligibility under Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(a) if the change in residence occurs at a point during a grading period (semester) when the student would incur academic difficulties to transfer schools provided that the student transfers schools at the next available grade period (semester) break. A student who delays transferring until

after that time will not have had a change in residence that "reasonably precipitates" the transfer of schools.

The "reasonably precipitates" provision also gives the Ruling Officer/Commissioner discretion to waive the period of ineligibility under Bylaw 6, Sec. 2(a) if the change in schools is due to a change in military orders for the custodial parent(s) of the student-athlete as verified by the documented change in orders provided by the particular branch of service.

In addition, it should be noted the "reasonably precipitates" language also refers to the timing of the transfer as it relates to any documented exception. The rule as written and interpreted, calls for the exception being satisfied (i.e., residence change, divorce, custody action, etc.) to occur first, and thereby result in the need to change schools. The documented exceptions are not published to provide a guide for circumvention of the one-year period of ineligibility, but rather to show that there are instances where changing circumstances necessitate a change in schools.

**Case BL-6-22- Is it permissible for a student who changes schools during a season to represent a second school in the sport that year?**

No, he/she is ineligible under the provisions of Bylaw 6, Section 4 (c). The Ruling Officer/Commissioner may waive the period of ineligibility only under the specific enumerated exceptions outlined in Bylaw 6, Section 2.

**BYLAW 7. TRANSFER RULE- NON-DOMESTIC STUDENTS**

**Sec. 1) Foreign Exchange Students**

Foreign exchange students attending school in Kentucky shall be considered ineligible for the first calendar year following enrollment.

a) If placed in a KHSAA member school under the auspices of approved student exchange programs or in other circumstances approved by the Board of Control within Board policy, these students may be declared eligible and not be subject to the initial one-year period of ineligibility.

b) In order to be considered for a waiver, the following conditions shall exist

- 1) The student shall be in compliance with all U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations;
- 2) The student shall be in the first and only year as an exchange student;
- 3) The student shall not be a graduate of a the 12th or terminating grade or its' equivalent in either the U.S. or his or her home country;
- 4) The student shall be in possession of a complete transcript of records that has been translated into English prior to the request for eligibility;
- 5) The student shall be in possession of a J-1 student education visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service;
- 6) The student's placement shall not have been a "direct placement" into a KHSAA member school;
- 7) The student's host family shall not pay any tuition or fee normal to the attendance at the KHSAA member school, all fees shall be paid by the student's family;
- 8) All travel fees shall be paid by the student's family; and
- 9) The student's host family shall not include members of the coaching staff at the KHSAA member school at which participation is desired and shall not include exchange agency representatives.

c) To be considered for approval by the Board of Control, a foreign exchange program shall assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes.

d) The student, the principal or designated representative of the member school, and a representative of the placement agency shall sign and attest to certification that the athlete complies with the eligibility rules of the KHSAA and shall not be eligible under any circumstances for more than one year of athletic participation if the first year period of ineligibility is waived.

**Sec. 2) Additional Eligibility for Exchange Students**

Any student having made election to apply for the waiver of the first year of ineligibility and having been granted a waiver of the

normal period of ineligibility under subsection (a) above shall not be eligible, under any circumstances, for more than one (1) school year while enrolled in grades 9-12 in Kentucky.

Sec. 3) Students Not Coming Through Exchange Programs

Any student desiring to participate in athletics who does not meet the criteria listed in Bylaw 7 may seek a waiver of the one-year ineligibility period through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure.

**Case BL-7-1- What are the approved programs for Foreign Exchange Students?**

Students placed in KHSAA member schools by the United States Department of State may be declared eligible by the Association. In addition, the Board of Control has adopted the list provided by the Center for Standards of International Educational Travel (CSIET). For more information, contact the CSIET website by going to <http://www.csiet.org/>. An agency may be removed from the listing at any time for non-compliance with the basic rules regarding random placement of student and other Federal provisions. At this time, this list contains the following approved agencies—

Full Approval

Abbey Road Programs, Inc  
Academic & Cultural Exchange  
Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange  
AFS-USA  
American Academic and Cultural Exchange, Inc.  
American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)  
AIFS Foundation-Academic Year in America  
American Cultural Exchange Service  
American Intercultural Student Exchange  
Amicus International Student Exchange  
Aspect Foundation  
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs  
American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers (ASSIST)  
Association for Teen-Age Diplomats  
AYUSA International  
Azumano International  
Center for Cultural Interchange  
Council for Educational Travel, USA  
Council on International Educational Exchange  
Cultural Academic Student Exchange, Inc.  
Cultural Homestay International  
Education Travel & Culture  
Educational and Cultural Interactions  
Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT/SHARE!)  
EF Foundation for Foreign Study  
Face The World Foundation  
F.L.A.G.  
Forte International Exchange Association  
The Foundation for Academic Cultural Exchange  
Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange  
German American Partnership Program, Inc. (GAPP)  
Global Insights  
International Cultural Exchange Services  
International Experience USA  
International Fellowship  
International Student Exchange  
Laurasian Institution  
Nacel Open Door  
NorthWest Student Exchange  
NW Services PEACE Program  
Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations (OCEAN)  
Pacific Intercultural Exchange  
PAX- Program of Academic Exchange  
Peace4Kids, Inc. (Promoting Educational / Cultural Enrichment)  
Quest International  
Reflections International  
Rotary Central States Youth Exchange Program  
Rotary District 7120 Youth Exchange Program  
Rotary District 7150 Youth Exchange Program  
Rotary Districts 5950 and 5960 Youth Exchange  
Rotary ESSEX (Eastern States Exchange)  
Rotary Ohio-Erie Youth Exchange Program  
Rotary YES/SCANEX

Rotary Youth Exchange Florida, Inc.  
South Central Rotary Youth Exchange  
States' 4-H International Exchange Programs  
STS Foundation  
Student American International  
Terra Lingua USA  
(The) Traveling School  
United Studies Student Exchange  
World Experience  
World Heritage  
World Link  
Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA)  
Provisional  
Educational Merit Foundation  
Next International Cultural Exchange  
Visions in Action  
(The) Zource

**Case BL-7-2- Will the KHSAA recognize the "direct placement" of a student into a Kentucky school by a foreign exchange agency for the purpose of granting athletic eligibility?**

No, if a student is "directly placed" into a Kentucky school, that student will not be allowed to have the one year ineligibility period waived under Bylaw 7. The determination concerning direct placement is made based on the facts present at the time of the ruling. The intent and spirit of the foreign exchange exception to the ineligibility period is to have students placed into schools on a random basis. This is further evidenced by the requirement that agencies shall place students in Kentucky schools on a random basis in order to appear on the CSIET approved agency listing.

For purposes of this bylaw, Direct Placements are those placements in which either the student or the sending organization in the foreign country is party to an arrangement with any other party, including school personnel, that arranges for the student to attend a particular school or live with a particular host family. Direct placements shall also include any situation where any placement agent is also acting as the host family.

**Case BL-7-3- How does a foreign student not coming through an agency request eligibility?**

A foreign student who does not come through an approved Foreign Exchange Agency shall directly apply to the KHSAA for an eligibility determination under the documented provisions of the KHSAA Due Process Procedure. The Hearing Officer has the discretion (but is not required) to recommend a waiver of the period of ineligibility per the KHSAA Due Process Procedure. Appeals of this type should be directed to the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505.

**BYLAW 8. BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL CONTESTANTS ON OTHER TEAMS, POST SEASON AND ALL-STAR GAMES**

Any student who, after enrolling in grade nine (9), has been a contestant in football or basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in that sport may not participate on any non-school sponsored team or in any all-star game in that sport or any variation of that sport from the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in that sport (including KHSAA sanctioned postseason) by that school unless it has been sanctioned by the Board of Control.

Following the team's last scheduled game (including post season), there are no restrictions on play in that specific sport for the student-athletes.

**Case BL-8-1- For the purposes of Bylaw 8, when are the seasons for basketball and football?**

For the interpretation of this rule, the basketball and football seasons are considered to start on the opening date of school. Student-athletes who have both been enrolled in grade nine, and participated in a contest at the high school level (freshman, JV or varsity) cannot participate in outside competition during this time.

**Case BL-8-2- How do schools report inadvertent violations of this rule by a student-athlete?**

*It is the obligation of a member school to promptly report any violation of KHSAA rules to the Commissioner's office in writing regardless of circumstance. The student is immediately ineligible to continue representing that school until the Commissioner's office can consider the matter.*

**Case BL-8-3- Does Bylaw 8 apply to participants in any sport other than basketball or football?**

*No. There are no restrictions on the student-athletes in sports other than football and basketball as it relates to outside competition during the season or prior to the season beginning. No member of the coaching staff at the high school level may be involved in the coaching of any student representative of that school in outside competition.*

**Case BL-8-4- Is it permissible for a student who has not yet represented a school in basketball after enrolling in grade 9 to then play in an outside league in basketball during the school year prior to the season?**

*Yes, Bylaw 8 does not restrict student-athletes until he/she has been enrolled in grade nine and played for a team in a contest at any level (grades 9-12) within the school.*

**Case BL-8-5- Is it permissible for a football or basketball player who has been enrolled in grade 9 or above and then represented a member school at any level to participate in an organized outside contest after the start of the school year to the end of the high school season?**

*No. From the first day of school through the end of the high school season, these student-athletes may not compete in any organized game type competition setting (where score is kept or posted, or officials are present).*

*These provisions do not prevent individual athletes, at his/her own expense from attending individual instructional activity. Such activity may include individual play, skill development, drills or "pick-up" type of scrimmage action, but players may not be assigned to teams or groups in these activities except in a random manner and the activity shall be treated at all times as "open" play.*

**Case BL-8-6- Are there any exceptions to the participation restrictions in Bylaw 8 for females in fall basketball exposure events?**

*Yes. Due to the fact that current NCAA rules allow for an opportunity within Bylaw 8 for boys' basketball players with eligibility remaining to attend and participate in activities that are basketball-specific and a comparable opportunity does not exist for females due to existing NCAA rules and restrictions, the Commissioner and Board of Control have previously ruled that an exception be allowed. That exception allows girls' basketball players with eligibility remaining and having previously participated at any level on a high school team, to travel to and participate in, activities during the fall NCAA open evaluation period for non-scholastic events. The specific dates for such a period are available through the NCAA website, and for 2011-2012 are October 7-9.*

**Case BL-8-7- Are there any exceptions to the restrictions contained in Bylaw 8 for participants in officially sanctioned Olympic Development Activities?**

*Yes. The Board of Control has authorized the Commissioner to consider, on a case by case basis, waivers to any restrictions contained in Bylaw 8 and Bylaw 25 that would allow participation by an enrolled student or employed coach in officially sanctioned U.S. Olympic Development activities. Such organizations as USA Basketball, USA Track and Field and other similar groups that have officially sanctioned activities can request, through the appropriate member school, that these restrictions be waived and participation allowed.*

**BYLAW 9. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS****Sec. 1) Graduates and College Students**

Any student who has graduated from a secondary school, or who

has ever played on a college team, is thereafter ineligible to play on a high school team.

**Sec. 2) Practice of Ineligible Students**

Unless ineligible due to the provisions of Bylaw 11 (Sportsmanship, having been ejected from a contest), any student who is not eligible for competition during a team's next contest/meet/match/game shall not practice with the team.

**Sec. 3) Conduct- Student or Other Representative Under Penalty**

Any student, contest official or other official school representative who is under penalty or discipline or whose conduct discredits the school or the KHSAA shall not be eligible.

**Case BL-9-1- Is it permissible for a student to play on a school team after he/she has graduated from high school?**

*Yes, but only to complete the spring sports season including baseball, softball, tennis, and track of the student-athlete's senior year. Any participant is eligible to continue participating in KHSAA sponsored state championship competition even if their spring semester has ended or graduation has been held. Only students eligible during as of the final weekly grade check may compete on any of the teams mentioned.*

**Case BL-9-2- Is it permissible for a student who is not eligible to participate in a game practice with the team?**

*No. If a participant is ineligible he/she may not try-out, practice, or participate in games or scrimmages until eligible and minimum practice periods (i.e. ten days for football) do not begin accumulating until the ruling is complete. In addition, those students may not be issued any competition equipment necessary for the sport or any other items specific to participation in the sport.*

*Ineligible persons practicing with the team or participating in any manner while representing the school potentially jeopardize the insurance coverage, including catastrophic and liability insurance, of all participants and the liability coverage of the school and school system. The only exception to this policy is the allowable practice of otherwise eligible students who are not eligible for the team's next contest due to the penalty for sportsmanship violations (Bylaw 11)*

**Case BL-9-3- Does the Association have an adopted stance regarding sexual harassment and other inappropriate behavior by representatives of the athletic staff?**

*Yes, the Board of Control has adopted the policy that if any complaints regarding sexual harassment or other inappropriate behavior are reported or discovered by representatives of the Association, such shall be referred to the employing school superintendent for action.*

**BYLAW 10. RECRUITMENT****Sec. 1) Foreword**

A pupil (domestic or foreign) at any grade level shall not be recruited to a member school of the KHSAA for the purpose of participating in athletics, including recruitment under the guise of academics.

**Sec. 2) Definition**

Recruiting is defined as an act, on behalf of or for the benefit of, a school, which attempts to influence a student to transfer to a member school for the purpose of participating in athletics. A school official utilizing an intermediary including a peer, another school employee, a student, a parent or a citizen, for the purpose of recruiting a student athlete shall be in noncompliance.

- An athletic coach or any other member of the school staff shall not influence a student even if the student, his or her parents or any intermediary from another school makes the initial contact. In this situation, a coach or staff member (paid or unpaid) should immediately refer the person(s) to the school principal.
- Influencing a student shall include the promise or instilling the expectation of an athletic advantage, playing time, employment of the student or the student's parents or relatives, housing for the student or the student's parents, scholarships or financial aid for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible, or any other material or athletic reward for which other

members of the student body are not generally eligible.

### Sec. 3) Penalty

Any representative of a member school knowingly allowing the recruitment of a student for the purpose of participating in athletics or who should have known of this recruitment shall be guilty of willful neglect of duty, misconduct, or breach of contract. This shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches, including an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent or a school board member. This requirement shall also apply to students or their parents.

#### **Case BL-10-1- Why does Bylaw 10 (Recruiting) exist?**

*The major reason for Bylaw 10 and its interpretations is to attempt to maintain a level playing field. The major enforcement theme is not only "initial contact", but rather is "exceeding what is normal and appropriate."*

*Initial contact as it applies to student-athletes can be a violation, but is only one of many things that can exceed what is normal and appropriate. One of the primary keys is not treating "athletes" or "prospective student-athletes" differently than students who are not athletes. Students are not to be singled out based on their potential athletic ability.*

*High school athletics is not the same as colleges recruiting high school athletes for college athletics. High school athletics exist for an entirely different reason. High school coaches should not view high school students in the same manner as college coaches view high school seniors. All administrators and coaches shall realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics, the principles behind KHSAA rules etc., and to maintain a level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students.*

#### **Case BL-10-2- Who are considered school representatives or those with a direct connection to a member school?**

*School representatives or those with a "direct connection" include, but are not limited to: coaches or others connected with the high school or high school team to include booster club parents and members, alumni, school board members and officers, parents of high school players, booster club representatives and students.*

#### **Case BL-10-3- What are permissible contacts by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program or school?**

*Permissible contacts include:*

- 1) Public high school representatives contacting students at feeder public schools (elementary, middle school, junior high school) where there is a defined feeder pattern;
- 2) Non-public school representatives contacting students at feeder non-public schools (elementary, middle school / junior high school) where there is defined feeder pattern;
- 3) A representative of the school may initiate a meeting with students at a school that is defined as a feeder school or meet with students who are zoned to attend that school the following year. This visit shall be cleared by principals of both schools and shall not be specific to athletic opportunities; and
- 4) Any student or family or individual that contacts a coach about attending a school where he or she coaches shall be informed that they need to be referred to the principal, admissions department or guidance department if they have an interest. Any meeting with coaches regarding athletes or prospective athletes or their families shall be at the request of the family to the individual(s) responsible for admissions and shall take place at the school.

#### **Case BL-10-4- What is impermissible contact and what are some examples prior to enrollment (neither enrolled in the school nor enrolled in a feeder school under the same Board of Education) by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program or school whether or not the prospective student has an athletic participation record?**

*A person or persons exceeding what is appropriate or normal*

*or offering any incentive or inducement to a student or the student's family with or without that student having an athletic participation record shall be considered in violation.*

*Impermissible contact includes but is not limited to any contact between a parent or student and a member school coach or other athletic representative without an immediate referral to the appropriate school personnel (Principal, Guidance Counselor, Admissions Personnel or other non-athletically related school administration).*

*The fact that a student or student's family has shown an initial interest (such as signing up for mentoring, shadowing, testing or a facility tour) does not allow any member of the coaching staff or anyone else affiliated with that athletic program to be involved with that student until the student is fully enrolled at the school.*

*Specific examples of impermissible contact include:*

- 1) Contact or communication concerning potential enrollment or athletic participation at the school, other than the initial referral to school administration if approached by the family or the student;
- 2) Contact concerning potential enrollment at the school which is initiated by a coach or others with a connection to the athletic program;
- 3) Contact by individuals (including the parent of a current player) who might be interested in the school's athletic program that attempts to influence a student or his/her parents;
- 4) Coaching, managing and or otherwise directing sports-specific athletic activities in which the non-enrolled student is a participant outside of the scope and allowable contact periods contained in Bylaw 25;
- 5) The use of school facilities, uniforms, transportation or equipment including other "school team opportunities", such as tournaments and leagues;
- 6) High school exhibit and or promotion space or materials specific to the schools' athletic program or a specific athletic team;
- 7) Attending grade school, junior high or middle school games for the purpose of evaluating specific student-athletes, for the purpose of promoting the member school's athletic program, or at a time when non permitted by Bylaw 25;
- 8) Contact prior to, during, or after scrimmages or contests at elementary schools, middle and junior high schools except where there is the same defined feeder pattern involving the schools;
- 9) Requesting students, parents, boosters or alumni from a school to discuss the merits of a school's athletic program with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family;
- 10) Providing transportation or other inducement to take a qualifying examination at a school or to meet with school officials, etc.;
- 11) Entering into discussions or offers of financial aid whether or not that aid is available to the general student body;
- 12) Contacting any prospective student athlete (at any grade level above, in or below grade 9) or his/her parents/family by phone, email fax, in person, by letter or by other means;
- 13) Making athletic facilities (including weight rooms and other training facilities) available during the school year;
- 14) Non-public school representatives contacting students enrolled at the public schools (or his/her family) without permission of the public school principal. Permission for such contact in any case, shall come from the feeder school principal and shall be approved by the KHSAA member school principal; and
- 15) Public schools representatives contacting students enrolled at non-public schools (or his/her family) without permission of the private school principal. Permission for such contact in any case, shall come from the feeder school principal and shall be approved by the KHSAA member school principal.

*NOTE: It is not considered a violation for a coach or other school representative to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high or middle school of the*

same system that is a feeder to the high school at which the coach is employed to coach.

**Case BL-10-5- What are some examples of impermissible benefits that may not be provided to student-athletes or prospective student-athletes (or his/her family members) by coaches, athletic directors and other individuals with a connection (direct or indirect) to the athletic program including the booster organization?**

No special benefit may be given to student athlete or prospective student athletes (below grade 9, or grades 9-12) including:

- 1) Money or any item of tangible benefit or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition, room, board, textbooks, or clothing during the regular school year or summer school;
- 2) Offer or acceptance of any benefit (financial or otherwise), or privilege not afforded to non-athletes;
- 3) Offer or acceptance of employment opportunity (including summer or non-school period work), or pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service;
- 4) Offer or acceptance of free transportation;
- 5) Offer or acceptance of a residence or housing provisions, free or reduced rent, moving expenses, or assistance in locating housing;
- 6) Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship;
- 7) The host family or other community representative paying or the housing of a non-domestic student except for the host family's primary domicile or paying any required fees for the transportation, registration or placement of a non-domestic student;
- 8) Underwriting travel fees or providing transportation to a non-enrolled student to a school function;
- 9) Special gifts including apparel representative of the school or school's athletic interests;
- 10) Paying the entry fee for camps or competition events for students to participate who are not enrolled within that school's defined feeder pattern; and
- 11) Offering opportunities for non-enrolled students outside the defined feeder pattern to use free passes or tickets to attend high school athletic scrimmages or contests.

**BYLAW 11. PRACTICE OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

**Sec. 1) Sportsmanship Obligation**

It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public. The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation. Any violation of this rule in any interscholastic contest shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.

**Sec. 2) Illegal Equipment**

It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representative(s) uses or allows the use of illegal equipment which gains a competitive advantage in the contest and which is expressly prohibited by the rules adopted for that sport. A violation of this provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner's office in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 33, Penalties.

**Sec. 3) Requirement for Reinstatement**

Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation shall be reinstated by the Commissioner or one of the Assistant Commissioners prior to returning to interscholastic contests. Any student or coach using insulting language to another player or coach or to any official in any interscholastic contest, or who has been ruled out of a contest because of unsportsmanlike tactics,

shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner or one of the Assistant Commissioners.

**Sec. 4) Reporting Requirement and Permanent Suspension**

The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner's office by the principal of the school that student attends. When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he or she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his or her representative and to the KHSAA office. If the Commissioner finds upon investigation that the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender shall be permanently disqualified.

**Case BL-11-1- What is the obligation of school officials with regard to sportsmanship?**

School officials shall practice the highest principles of sportsmanship, and shall make every effort to teach this type of behavior to their players, members of the student body, and fans. Officials shall be protected and scrimmages or contests conducted in an orderly manner. A violation of this rule may be cause for suspension.

**Case BL-11-2- If a student or coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, who makes the report on this incident?**

The game official(s) shall complete the ejection report via the KHSAA website within twenty-four hours of the ejection.

The member school principal or designated representative of the school with whom the player or coach is affiliated shall complete the required information on the KHSAA website requesting reinstatement.

These reports shall be made promptly since the player or coach is disqualified from further competition at that level until reinstated by a member of the Commission.

An official or school may be fined, suspended or otherwise penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33 for failing to properly and timely report a disqualification or request reinstatement.

**Case BL-11-3- What is the member school obligation in the case of an unreported disqualification?**

Whether or not an ejection is reported in a timely manner (including ejections which occur during out of state contests), the KHSAA member school is obligated to impose the minimum suspension penalty for the ejection per Case BL-11-7 or Case BL-11-8. Administrators should contact the Association office with any questions.

**Case BL-11-4- If a coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension?**

The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day. (i.e., the freshman coach ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at field during any subsequent games that day). The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite at the level of play at which the ejection occurred. The suspended coach may not participate in another contest at that level (JV, Freshman, Varsity, etc.) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission. Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension. When a coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest or during the time suspended following an ejection, the coach is to leave the vicinity of the playing area and remove himself/herself completely from the area of the playing facility. In football and soccer for example, this means to leave the field and stadium area; in basketball, this implies leaving the gym altogether; in other sports, completely leaving the venue. An ejected coach may not have any further communication with the team members or game officials following the game.

Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum three additional games/ meets/contests suspension for any coach ejected from a contest.

For all adults sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, the penalty shall be for the entire meet schedule, not for a single event.

If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests.

If the ejection was for the final game/contest of the season and

was NOT concerning a student-athlete, the person ejected shall serve the required suspension in the next varsity level contest at the member school of employment for the suspended individual.

For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum four-game/contest suspension and may be cause for additional penalties that may suspension for the remainder of the season.

For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Case BL-11-5- If a player (participant) is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, how long is the suspension?**

The suspension is in effect for any further interscholastic competition on that day. (i.e., a freshman ejected during the first game may not be in the gym for the subsequent varsity game, baseball/softball coach participant ejected in first game of multiple game tournament may not be at field during any subsequent games that day). The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite at the level of play at which the ejection occurred. The participant may not participate in another contest at that level (JV, Freshman, Varsity, etc.) until being reinstated by a member of the Commission. Following review, the Commission may extend the suspension.

Following the day of ejection, there shall be a minimum two additional games/ meets/contests suspension for any participant ejected from a contest.

For participants sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, this penalty shall include the entire meet schedule not for a single event.

If the ejection was during one of the two preseason scrimmages, the penalty shall be served during the first regular season contests.

If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and the ejected student is a senior, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next interscholastic contest(s) in any KHSAA sanctioned sport.

If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and this was in varsity (first team) competition and the ejected student is not a senior, the full penalty shall carry over to the next season in the sport in which the student was participating when ejected.

If this was the final game/contest of the season, the ejection was for a student, and this was NOT a varsity (first team) contest, the full penalty shall carry forward to the next interscholastic varsity level contest(s) in any KHSAA sanctioned sport.

For the second ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be a minimum three-game/contest suspension and may be cause for additional penalties that may suspension for the remainder of the season.

For the third ejection during a sports season, the suspension shall be cause for additional penalties including suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Case BL-11-6- What is the responsibility of a coach or player who has been ejected from a scrimmage or contest and is serving the mandatory suspension for being ejected.**

During the suspension period of any non-player (coach, administrator, etc.) the coach may not be on school property where the contests are being played and may not be at the venue if contests are played at a non-school site. The non-player may not communicate with the team at any point from the beginning of the contest until the end of the contest.

Suspended players may attend the contest(s), but may not be in the game uniform or other school identifiable clothing and may not participate in any sport-related activity (warm-up activity) prior to or during the game, and will be classified as non-player personnel during that contest as it relates to playing rules enforcement. It is a local school determination as to whether or not this student may be in the vicinity of the bench or team area. This is considered a minimum penalty, and may be more severe if the actions of the suspended person warrant such treatment.

**Case BL-11-7- Does an ejection in a scrimmage have the same penalty as a contest?**

Yes. The two allowable scrimmages are not an "open opportunity" for unsportsmanlike conduct. Persons ejected from any scrimmage are penalized in the first regular season varsity contests.

**Case BL-11-8- Is it a violation for a coach to remove his team from the floor or field if he believes that such removal is for the safety of his players?**

Yes. Removal of a team from the floor or field without the permission of the official(s) is a violation of Bylaw 11, Practice of Sportsmanship. A school or school representative violating this rule may be suspended or otherwise penalized.

**Case BL-11-9- Is it a violation of Bylaw 11 if an official ends a game prior the end of regulation time?**

If the game is called because of unsporting acts by any player, coach, team representative or other direct representative of a member school, it will be considered a violation of this bylaw. Such shall be reported by the contest official to the KHSAA and reported by the effected schools within 24 hours of the incident. Officials will be penalized by the Association for terminating a contest before the normal end of regulation play without trying to secure the assistance of game management or security to rectify the problem. Such penalty will be governed by the Officials Division Licensing policies.

**Case BL-11-10- Is it a violation for school personnel to criticize game officials through the media or vice-versa?**

Yes. Many times criticisms are offered with regard to officiating. Done properly, criticism through the proper channels can be used constructively. However, public media comments that criticize officials by name or by specific position are damaging to the recruitment and retention of officials. Individual incidents of this type will be investigated by the KHSAA and the school or individuals may be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33. Coaches and officials will be held to the restrictions and policies concerning the use of social media, which shall be considered media for the purpose of applying these restrictions.

**Case BL-11-11- What is the Association's position with regards to racism and other types of unethical prejudice?**

The KHSAA Board of Control adopted the following statement on racial and cultural diversity -- "The KHSAA recognizes the cultural diversity of its participants, coaches, officials and spectators. The Board of Control encourages each of its member schools to educate its participants and all parties involved in the sports program as to the need for a united approach to solving problems. Prejudice on the basis of sex, race, creed or ethnic origin cannot be tolerated."

**Case BL-11-12- Are there any state laws or regulations applicable to officials and unsportsmanlike conduct?**

Yes. Action taken during the 1998 session of the Kentucky General Assembly (HB 90) enacted KRS 518.090 that now specifically lists the assault of a sport official as a crime. Officials, right or wrong in their judgment and application of the rules, shall be protected and allowed to perform their duties.

A person is guilty of assault of a sports official when he intentionally causes physical injury to a sports official: (a) Who was performing sports official duties at the time the physical injury was perpetrated; or (b) If the physical injury occurs while the sports official is arriving at or departing from the athletic facility at which the athletic event occurred.

For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or in a similar capacity that may be known by another title, and who is duly registered as or is a member of a national, state, regional, or local organization engaged, in part, in providing education and training to sports officials.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant assembles with five (5) or more persons for the purpose of assaulting a sports official, in which case it is a

Class D felony.

A person who is guilty of assault of a sport official shall, for a second or subsequent offense, be guilty of a Class D felony.

**Case BL 11-13- Is it a violation for a school to videotape an opponent without permission or use otherwise illegal equipment such as cleats that exceed the size limit in football?**

Yes. Such acts would be considered a violation of Bylaw 11, the practice of sportsmanship. Any school representative taping a contest of an opponent with which they are not currently engaged in competition without the permission of that opponent, is an unethical and unsportsmanlike act. The same is true of the usage of illegal equipment, particularly that which could lead to a competitive advantage outside the rules.

**BYLAW 12. AMATEUR/AWARDS**

Sec. 1) Amateur Status

A student who represents a member school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from said participation.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

- a) Competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted);
- b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value not approved by this Association;
- c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or other gifts of monetary value not specifically approved by Section 2 or 4 of this rule (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted);
- d) Signing a professional playing contract in that sport; or
- e) Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs.

Sec. 2) Awards

- a) Awards governed herein and received by a student-athlete while representing a member school include awards received by a student-athlete while enrolled during the academic year as a regular student or awards received by a student-athlete while representing the school at any other time.
- b) Awards received by a student-athlete participating in an event while not representing the school, shall conform to the regulations of the recognized amateur athletic organization(s) associated with the event. If no limit exists for the amateur organization, the limit shall be \$300. At no time shall the student-athlete be permitted to receive cash for this type of participation.
- c) Awards presented by a member school conference, or approved agency shall be uniform for all team members receiving the award.

Sec. 3) Impermissible Awards shall include:

- a) An individual may not receive a cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash equivalent item (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or trace or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletic participation;
- b) Gift certificates and merchandise items that cannot be properly personalized shall be prohibited; and
- c) Cash or any other award that an individual cannot receive under these rules may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different agency or individual.

Sec. 4) Type of Awards

- a) Awards for recognition of interscholastic athletics participation (letter awards) may be presented each year by a member school. In addition, the school may present senior awards and awards in recognition of special attainments or contribution to a team's competitive season (i.e., scholar-athlete, most improved player, etc.)
- b) Awards for participation in special events (post season tournaments) and established regional or national recognition awards (Mr./Miss Basketball, All-State, etc.) may be presented only by the management of the event, awards program, or by a school that has had or will have a team or individual participate

in the event or sport.

- c) The total value of any award presented for high school competition shall not exceed \$300, except awards presented by the Association or a member school for participation in KHSAA sponsored events.
- d) Schools or conferences may not present individual awards to student-athletes for specialized performances in particular contests or events or during a limited time period (i.e., "player of the game" or "player of the week"). However, an organization, business firm or other outside agency may recognize a student-athlete's outstanding performance in a particular contest or during a particular time by presenting a certificate, plaque or medal valued at less than \$50. It is not permissible for an organization to provide any other tangible item or award.

**Case BL-12-1- What is the limit on the value of an award received by a student-athlete for competition outside of the representation of his/her high school?**

These limits vary from sport to sport within the purview of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport. For example, golfers should check with the United States Golf Association (USGA), while tennis players should check with the United State Tennis Association (USTA). These limits are revised regularly, and are studied for their impact on the overall program. The KHSAA also recognizes the legality of such programs as Scholarship Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpin (SMART) managed for the United States Bowling Congress and recognizes this as a permitted NGB.

**Case BL-12-2- Does the association have a recommendation on how school personnel shall handle out of season play inquiries from athletes and coaches who want to enter events which offer cash for prizes?**

Nothing in the KHSAA Handbook prohibits a student from playing in such events and mere participation is not a rules violation. However, in light of recent situations at the high school and college level, we would offer several suggestions for Athletic Directors, Principals and Coaches to pass along to the student athletes.

- 1) Recommend strongly that these students should not participate in such events. Even the appearance of possible "cash for play" rewards lends itself to suspicion and allegations of the violation of Bylaw 12 and the PERMANENT loss of amateur status;
  - 2) Remind the students of the provisions of KHSAA Bylaw 12 in that they cannot accept cash, gift certificates or things that cannot be properly personalized and in addition, they cannot have the money or prizes deferred to a later date or given in someone else's name;
  - 3) If they insist on participation, request that event organizers denote a list, and post prominently such list, of those students who are competing in the competition, but will not be accepting prizes;
  - 4) Make sure the students understand that they may accept specific prizes up to the limit of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport, but cannot under any circumstances, accept a gift voucher or simply be given an amount to spend.
- Number (4) above appears to be the most frequently violated from the anecdotal evidence available to the Association, as for example, a golfer is told he can go to the pro shop, and spend up to \$50 for finishing third in a tournament. This is not legal and potentially renders the athlete PERMANENTLY ineligible at all amateur levels. If for example, the prize was predetermined that the third place finisher was to receive a golf bag as displayed at the 18th hole, then if that bag is under the NGB limit for golf (assume it had a price of \$80), then it could be accepted. But that same golfer could not be allowed to go spend \$80 in the pro shop. While this may seem like a minute difference, member school representatives should do everything possible to protect the amateur status of our competitors.

## BYLAW 13. FINANCIAL AID

### Sec. 1) Definitions for this bylaw

- a) Tuition— means the amount of necessary fees, costs and other charges to attend a member school as determined by that member school's published scale of charges. The tuition at the member school shall be the same for all students in like situation irrespective of participation in athletics and shall not include room and board expenses.
- b) Classification of Schools- means the classification of the member schools as follows: (1) A1- District operated general program or multi-program schools; (2) D1- Kentucky Department of Education operated schools (Blind and Deaf); (3) F1- Federal Dependent Schools; (4) J1- Roman Catholic schools; (5) M1- Other Religious schools and (6) R1-Private non-church related schools.
- c) Public Schools- means the member schools receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Public schools shall include the member schools which are classified as A1, D1 or F1.
- d) Non-Public Schools— means the member schools not receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Those schools shall include the member school which are classified as J1, M1 and R1.
- e) Non-Public School Zone – means the zone to which each non-public school is assigned. The four current non-public school zones are Covington, Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro. These non-public school zones shall be comprised of the counties contained in the geographic alignment related to the archdiocese of the same name.
- f) Non-Public School Governing Board— means the entity having oversight over the member school. For purposes of this bylaw, the "governing board" of a non-public school shall be determined by the school type. For J1 schools, the "governing board" shall be the archdiocese and geographic references shall be the counties included in the non-public school zone of the school. For the R1 and M1 schools, the "governing board" shall be as defined by the governance structure of the institution.
- g) Immediate Family— means the student and the student's father, mother, brother, sister, step-father, step-mother, step-brother, step-sister, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, grandparent.
- h) Financial Aid— means any and all aid given to a student which reduces tuition, including awards, reductions and waivers.
- i) Need-Based Aid— means the amount of financial aid that an independent financial analysis of the student's financial aid application demonstrates that the student needs to pay tuition to attend a member school, provided the analysis is performed by an agency approved by the Board of Control.
- j) Merit Aid— means financial aid awards given by the member school based solely on academic/test performance which are available to the entire student body through a competitive application process and that the selection of the recipient(s) is based on published objective criteria which may not include athletic achievement or ability.
- k) Merit Aid Test – means the academic assessment or placement test approved by the Board of Control prior to its administration.
- l) Merit Aid Test Window – means the range of dates submitted by each member school for the administration of the merit aid test.
- m) Financial Records— means the records related to any financial aid analysis of the student including the immediate family's records of the method and sources for all tuition payments.

### Sec. 2) Impermissible Financial Aid

A student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student:

- a) Receives financial aid beyond the limits defined in Section 1 (a) except for merit aid allowed under this bylaw, and waivers of tuition for non-domestic students ruled eligible under Bylaw 7, Transfer Rule- Non Domestic Students;
- b) Receives merit aid based on an unapproved merit aid test;
- c) Receives merit aid based on a merit aid test not administered on an approved merit aid test date;
- d) Receives merit aid greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of the tuition at the member school;
- e) Receives merit aid from a member school that has already given merit aid to the greater of five (5) percent of its student body

or five students;

- f) Receives financial aid that is not available to the entire student body by published objective criteria;
- g) Receives financial aid from a funding source that is not under the custody and control of the member school or its governing board;
- h) Receives any financial aid other than the permitted need-based aid or merit aid detailed above from a member school, any other entity governed by that member school's governing board or any representatives of the member school;
- i) Receives any financial aid that is indirectly or directly related to athletic achievement or ability;
- j) Has any part of the financial obligation to the member school paid directly or indirectly by individuals outside of the student's immediate family; or
- k) Does not agree to complete disclosure of financial records as defined in this bylaw upon request of the KHSAA and its officials, employees and agents.

A member school may petition the Board of Control to approve a program not meeting the specifications listed in provisions (a) through (h) provided that program is available to all students within the school based on objective criteria.

### Sec. 3) Financial Aid Restrictions and Reporting

All member schools shall annually report detailed financial aid information to the KHSAA including:

- a) Tuition schedule or other fees applicable to the student body at the member school;
- b) The merit aid test being utilized by the school and the merit aid test date; and
- c) A detailed listing of the amount of financial aid awarded by the member school including:
  - 1) The need-based aid each student-athlete is eligible to receive based on the report of the approved independent agency;
  - 2) The merit aid given to each student and the qualifying score used to make the determination;
  - 3) The amount of need-based aid awarded to each student; and
  - 4) A specific listing of the sports in which each student participates.

### Sec. 4) Special Program Review Process

A member school may petition the Board of Control for approval of a specific program existing prior to the adoption of this rule or a program that can be documented to be unrelated to athletics that does not create an advantage to the school.

#### **Case BL-13-1– What are the key provisions regarding the awarding of aid to student-athletes and the purpose of Bylaw 13?**

*Awards given for need-based financial aid for which the student body is generally eligible and are therefore permissible, shall be determined by a neutral evaluation of the student or family financial record by one of six agencies. The need analysis may not include room and board expenses.*

*Awards given for achievement per prescribed standardized tests as detailed in Bylaw 13 (merit aid) are limited to 25% of the total tuition for the student each year.*

#### **Case BL-13-2– Are member schools required to submit financial aid information to the Association?**

*Upon request, all KHSAA member schools (public and private) shall annually submit to the KHSAA office a financial aid report with information about awards programs, source of funds, awarding of funds and benefits to athletes.*

#### **Case BL-13-3- Which agencies are approved to evaluate the needs of an applicant for need based financial aid?**

*The permitted agencies at press time are:*

*FACTS Grant in Aid Agency (Lincoln, NE);  
Financial Aid for Student Tuition (FAST) (Wilmington, DE);  
Financial Aid Independent Review (FAIR) (Rosemount, MN);  
Independent School Management (ISM) (formerly Family Financial Needs Assessment, Hernando, MS);  
Private School Aid Service (PSAS) (Lakewood, OH);  
School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSSFA) (Princeton, NJ); and  
Tuitions Aid Data Services (TADS) (St. Paul, MN);*

In addition, the Board of Control may approve other agencies to process parental or student data for the purpose of financial analysis. The use of any other agency not approved would render the aid invalid with respect to the ability to award the funds and remaining in compliance with Bylaw 13.

**Case BL-13-4- Which tests are permitted to be used for the assessment to determine merit aid under Bylaw 13?**

The permitted tests at press time are:  
 Education Records Bureau (ERB, CTP);  
 High School Placement Test (HSPT);  
 Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE);  
 Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS, Riverside Publishing);  
 Pearson Educations Assessment (PEA);  
 Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSTAT);  
 School and College Ability Test (SCAT);  
 Stanford Achievement Test, 10th Edition; and  
 Terra Nova (McGraw Hill).

In addition, the Board of Control may approve other tests to be used for the merit assessment. The use of any other test not approved would render the aid invalid with respect to the ability to award the funds and remaining in compliance with Bylaw 13.

**Case BL-13-5- Is it permissible for funds from non-school sources to be incorporated into financial aid awards for student-athletes?**

Bylaw 13 does not expressly prohibit the use of funds developed or raised from outside sources from being used for financial aid programs. However, such aid shall always be managed and distributed exclusively by member school personnel solely through the member high school financial aid program and within the limits of Bylaw 13.

Aid given directly to students by outside entities not permitted in the bylaw would render the student athlete ineligible. This includes any aid in excess of the merit aid limits or need based index calculation as detailed in the Bylaw.

**Case BL-13-6- Are there restrictions on which family members can pay the tuition or offer financial assistance to a student within Bylaw 13?**

Yes. Immediate family members are allowed to be involved in the payment of tuition and providing assistance, but this is restricted to the student and the student's father, mother, brother, sister, step-father, step-mother, step-brother, step-sister, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, grandparent.

## BYLAW 14. CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

### Sec. 1) Eligibility Lists

The principal or Designated Representative of the school shall certify the eligibility of all contestants. Not later than Wednesday of the week preceding the week of the contest, each principal or Designated Representative shall mail to the other, upon request, a statement to the effect that the persons named are eligible, under the rules of the Association, to represent the school on the date specified. This statement shall be made on the standard eligibility blank supplied by the Association (KHSAA Form GE15) if required by the game contract. Requests for the exchange of eligibility blanks may be indicated on the game contract form at the time it is signed.

### Sec. 2) Verification of Eligibility

Before certifying the eligibility of a player, a principal or Designated Representative shall verify the players age by referring to the vital statistics records of the state in which the player was born, or in the absence of a state record, the earliest available school enrollment or census record. This requirement shall apply both to original certifications, and to the certification of an athlete who has been received by transfer from another school.

### Sec. 3) Permission to Change Certification

The statement of facts concerning a player on the eligibility list of his or her first year of competition shall be considered authoritative and may not be changed in later eligibility lists for that year or in later years except to carry out the purposes of the Bylaws in providing a cumulative record, or, when authorized by the Commissioner to correct an error. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as waiving the requirement in

Section 2 of this bylaw.

### Sec. 4) Acknowledgment of Receipt of Eligibility Rules

Prior to the certification of the eligibility of a student, the principal or Designated Representative shall have on file the physician's certificate, the parental consent, and the parental acknowledgment required by Bylaw 2.

### Sec. 5) Unauthorized Change

If an unauthorized change in a certification results in the use of an ineligible player by the school that made the change, the school shall be suspended from the Association as provided for in Section 8 of Bylaw 1.

### Sec. 6) Duty of a New Principal

A new principal or Designated Representative before certifying to the eligibility of his or her players, if there is reason to question any of the information, shall secure from the Commissioner's office, a copy of the original certification for that player. If failure to observe the requirements of Section 2 or Section 6 of this Bylaw results in the use of an ineligible player, the school involved shall be suspended from the Association as provided for in Section 8 of this Bylaw.

### Sec. 7) Annual Participation List

Each principal or Designated Representative of a member school shall submit to the Commissioner at the end of the school year a list of the names of all students who participated in any first team contest in any sport during the season. This participation list shall be submitted on a form supplied by the Association, and shall be completed in its entirety for each student.

### Sec. 8) Certification of Ineligible Player

If any school plays an ineligible player when the facts were available and could have been known to a principal or Designated Representative, that school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 33.

If a player enters a contest under an assumed name or when not properly certified, he or she shall be permanently ineligible, and his or her school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 33.

### Case BL-14-1- How does the principal certify eligibility and entries?

A roster of players and coaches is to be entered on the KHSAA website. Within the rules of the particular sport (detailed in the Tournament Rules), additions and deletions may be made throughout the regular season. Each sport has specific deadlines which shall be followed for postseason roster entries, including specific event entries in some sports. The Principal or Designated Representative should be familiar with the restrictions for each sport.

The standard game contracts (KHSAA Form GE14) allow the member schools to request the exchange of eligibility lists / rosters as a condition of the contract. This is not a state requirement for all contests and should be delineated in the contract. Exchange of eligibility lists is done using the online roster system.

Each Principal shall also develop a mechanism to check eligibility under KHSAA Bylaw 5.

At the close of each academic year, each member school shall compile an Annual Participation List which shall be compiled from the online roster system and shall list all of the individuals who competed at any level for the school during that school year. The list shall include name of each player who has engaged in a varsity contest during the year and all other information called for on the form.

### Case BL-14-2- If a principal unknowingly plays an ineligible player, shall the school be penalized?

Each case is reviewed on its own merits whenever a student is found to have played while ineligible. Pursuant to Bylaw 14, Sec. 8, a student who enters a scrimmage or contest and is not eligible, when the facts were present to prevent such an error, the school shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33.

## BYLAW 15. REQUESTS FOR RULINGS

The principal or Designated Representative shall direct all requests for rulings and interpretations to the Commissioner in writing. In all

cases in which players are involved, the names of the players and all possible pertinent information shall be given.

**Case BL-15-1- How shall requests for rulings be made?**

*Requests shall be made in writing to the Commissioner, with all pertinent information given. Rulings will not be made on hypothetical cases, nor will they be made by telephone. Official rulings will only be made in writing. While the staff will strive to interpret the bylaws to aid schools in the administration of the athletic programs, a written ruling shall supersede and take precedence over any verbal interpretation.*

**Case BL-15-2- How does the KHSAA deal with calls from parents or students regarding eligibility?**

*The KHSAA staff prioritizes calls from the member school representatives. The KHSAA staff receives hundreds of phone calls and electronic mail messages each week from member schools. Because the KHSAA exists to serve those schools, responding to their inquiries is the top priority. The large volume of calls from parents and students has dramatically effected our ability to serve the member schools. School administrators will remain the first and preferred contact resource for parents and students. The KHSAA will refer calls from parents or students to the appropriate school personnel, and ask that the administrator contact the KHSAA if there is a need for more clarity or a specific answer.*

**BYLAW 16. REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS, PROTESTS**

Sec. 1) Reporting of Violations

Any person wishing to report a violation of the KHSAA Constitution, Bylaws or Tournament rules shall do so in writing. If evidence is presented to warrant an investigation, the Commissioner shall ensure that an investigation is performed. The Commissioner's office shall notify the principal or superintendent of the protested school, telling him or her the exact nature of the charges made. If an investigator is appointed to gather evidence in connection with the protest, he shall provide a copy of the report to the Commissioner, and a copy shall be made a part of the official school records with the Association and shall be made available to the principal or superintendent of the schools involved upon request.

Sec. 2) Protests

Protests against the decision of contest officials made during the course of game or meet shall not be considered.

**Case BL-16-1- Is it permissible for decisions of officials in athletic scrimmages or contests to be protested to the Commissioner?**

*No. The decision of the official, right or wrong, shall prevail. This is based on decisions made at the national level when protests have been referred to the National Federation office.*

**Case BL-16-2- How does the KHSAA review and respond to anonymous calls and letters?**

*Bylaw 16 requires all material submitted regarding the KHSAA for protests and reporting of violations to be in writing. If such reports are anonymous, the letters shall be forwarded by the Commissioner's office to the school administrator of the school in question, with no further action taken by the KHSAA unless that administrator reports a violation or further substantiated information is received. Anonymous callers shall be informed that the KHSAA staff has no authority to act on anonymous calls unless the caller is willing to provide credible substantiative evidence to warrant further review.*

**BYLAW 17. SUPPLYING INFORMATION**

A superintendent, principal, student, or Designated Representative shall, when requested, supply the Commissioner with any information related to the athletic program at a member school. A failure to comply within a reasonable time may forfeit the school's membership in the Association, or the school may be penalized in accordance with approved Association penalty codes. Each member school shall annually certify that it will comply with any and all of the rulings of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, Hearing Officer and Board of Control as they relate to the athletic program at a member school. This compliance shall include student eligibility

matters, Board policy directives related to health and safety of student athletes, and other programs as may be instituted by the convened Board of Control. This certification shall not apply to any matter on review by any court.

**Case BL-17-1- Are schools required to submit reports regarding the Financial Aid, Heat Index, Title IX and the Title IX reporting requirements, or other sports specific reports?**

*Yes. In accordance with Bylaw 17, these reports are required to be submitted by the timelines distributed by the Commissioner's office. Other reports may be added as requirements and requested by the Board of Control with notice to the membership.*

**Case BL-17-2- Are students or their parents compelled to file written responses or answer eligibility inquiries?**

*Yes. In accordance with Bylaw 17, these reports are required to be submitted when requested as necessary to verify the eligibility of a student.*

**BYLAW 18. COUNTERSIGNING CONTRACTS**

The superintendent, principal or Designated Representative shall countersign all contracts to engage in interscholastic contests.

**BYLAW 19. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS**

Each principal or Designated Representative shall file with the Commissioner, during, or at the end of each school year, all participation lists and all other reports required by the Association. A membership certificate shall not be issued to any school until the provisions of this bylaw have been fulfilled.

**BYLAW 20. MEMBER OF THE FACULTY TO ACCOMPANY TEAM TO CONTESTS**

The principal or coach or another member of the faculty shall accompany the team to all contests. His or her expenses, when he or she accompanies the contestants, shall be paid in the same manner as those of the contestants.

**Case BL-20-1- Is the restriction on the accompanying of a student by the principal, coach or faculty representative a KHSAA regulation or state law?**

*This bylaw is patterned and adopted after KRS 161.185 which states "Boards of education shall require a principal, coach, member of the faculty or a member of the administrative staff to accompany students on all school-sponsored or school-endorsed trips." This stipulation governs accompaniment, and does not supersede or replace any regulation regarding driver qualification.*

**BYLAW 21. RULES GOVERNING CONTESTS**

National Federation of State High School Association Rules shall govern all contests involving member schools if an official set of rules is issued for that sport.

**BYLAW 22. SPECIFIC SPORT REGULATIONS**

Sec. 1) Girls Basketball

The Board of Control shall sanction and sponsor a girls' basketball playoff to determine a state champion.

Sec. 2) Comparable NCAA Opportunities

If a member school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity that is similar to a sport for which NCAA members offer an athletic scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which the scholarships are offered. The athletic activities that are similar to sports for which NCAA members offer scholarships are: Girls fast pitch softball as compared to slow pitch.

To qualify as having "sponsored" a sport, a school shall be able to demonstrate the following:

- a) If similar versions of a particular sport exist and there are differences in the scholarship opportunities at the NCAA level in that sport, a survey shall be taken of the student population at reasonable times and places to determine the level of interest in the sport(s).

- b) If that survey reveals sufficient interest to field the normal squad required for play in the particular sport and if any version of the sport is to be played, the school shall make facilities, staff and other allowances to properly field a team in the version of the sport for which the NCAA members offer scholarships.

Sec. 3) Type of Ball to be Used

The molded ball is the official basketball and shall be used in all regular season and tournament games.

**Case BL-22-1- Are schools required to sponsor fast pitch softball if that school offers softball?**

The provisions of HB490 which amended KRS 156.070 and have been incorporated into KHSAA Bylaw 22, require that if a school offers a sport comparable to one for which NCAA schools offer scholarships, it shall offer the version of the sport in which scholarships are offered. In order for a school to enter a team in the slow pitch region or state championship tournament, that school shall play not less than ten fast pitch softball regular season contests, and shall also participate in not less than ten slow pitch contests.

**Case BL-22-2- Are schools required to have a girls' basketball team if that school fields a boys' team?**

Yes, KRS 157.350 makes no reference to "sponsoring" and states under subsection (5) KRS 157.350 (5) Any secondary school which maintains a basketball team for boys for other than intramural purposes, shall maintain the same program for girls. Though this regulation in particular, addresses those schools accepting SEEK funding, all members of the KHSAA, irrespective of the state funding issue, are compelled to comply with this requirement.

**BYLAW 23. SANCTIONS**

Sec. 1) Contests Within State

All contests within Kentucky played by KHSAA member schools shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control including Article VIII of the KHSAA Constitution. Approval for any exemptions shall come through the Commissioner. The Commissioner or Board of Control shall not sanction (approve for play) any meet, tournament, game, or all-star contest unless a member school, conference, group of member schools, or coaches association is the sponsor. The legal sponsor shall have full control over planning, supervision, and disposition of finances. A member school shall not take part in any tournament, game, or contest from which any outside organization derives a financial profit from ticket sales.

Sec. 2) Interstate Contests

Member schools of the KHSAA shall adhere to all restrictions contained in the National Federation of State High School Associations' sanctioning policy when playing any contest or scrimmage against an out of state opponent.

**Case BL-23-1- What are the rules regarding the sanctioning of contests with out of state teams?**

All KHSAA member schools are responsible for ensuring that contests are properly sanctioned. The KHSAA adheres to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) sanctioning policy. NFHS sanction is required if KHSAA schools participate in any of the following types of contests:

- 1) Any interstate events involves two (2) or more schools and is cosponsored by, or titled in the name of, an organization outside the high school athletic community (e.g. a University, Theme Park, Athletic Shoe Apparel Company, etc.);
- 2) Any event involving non-bordering state schools if five (5) or more states are involved; or
- 3) Any event involving non-bordering state schools if more than eight (8) teams are involved; or
- 4) Any event involving two or more teams which involves a team from a foreign country.

**IN KENTUCKY AND NFHS SANCTION REQUIRED**

If the contest(s) is (are) to be played in Kentucky and the event requires NFHS sanction, the host school should go to the KHSAA website which will link to the NFHS website for completion of the forms and payment of fees. This shall be completed and sent to the NFHS along with the requisite fee sixty (60) days prior to the event to ensure the minimization

of costs to the host school and to allow for an orderly flow of communication among all effected parties. Requests submitted inside of sixty (60) days will be assessed a higher fee. The KHSAA receives no portion of this fee.

**IN KENTUCKY AND NFHS SANCTION NOT REQUIRED**

If the contest(s) is (are) to be played in Kentucky, involves out of state schools and does not require NFHS sanction but involves only those schools in states contiguous with Kentucky, the host school shall ensure that the rules of the opponent's state association with regard to sanctioning are followed. Some state high school associations (i.e. , Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia) have additional requirements for schools participating against their member schools, and the KHSAA staff can assist in facilitating those requests. KHSAA member schools may only compete against schools from other states that are members of that state association.

**OUT OF STATE AND NFHS SANCTION IS REQUIRED**

If the contest(s) is (are) played outside of Kentucky and NFHS sanctioning is required, the KHSAA member school shall ensure that the host school contacts the NFHS to initiate the sanction process.

**OUT OF STATE AND NFHS SANCTION IS NOT REQUIRED**

If the contest(s) is (are) played outside of Kentucky and NFHS sanctioning is not required and involves only schools in states contiguous with Kentucky, no additional sanctioning is needed on the part of the KHSAA. Some state high school associations (i.e. , Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia) have additional requirements for schools participating against their member schools, and the KHSAA staff can assist in facilitating those requests. KHSAA member schools may only compete against schools from other states that are members of that state association in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball.

**Case BL-23-2- How far in advance shall NFHS sanctioning be requested?**

The National Federation policy states that sanctioning is required through their office not later than sixty (60) days prior to the event. Inside of this time frame, the fees for processing escalate. For this reason, it is imperative that the requests be made early (start the process at least sixty (60) days prior) so that approval is not denied due to the lateness of the request. Requests submitted inside of sixty (60) days will be assessed a higher fee. The KHSAA receives no portion of this fee.

**BYLAW 24. FORFEITS**

Sec. 1) Use of an Ineligible Player

If a student is declared ineligible, all contests in which he or she has played while ineligible shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

Sec. 2) Failure to Play a Scheduled Contest

If a school fails to carry out its contract to play a regularly scheduled contest, the contest shall be forfeited to the offended school.

Sec. 3) Failure to Follow Terms of Contract

Provisions may be made for a forfeit fee to be paid by the school that fails to follow the terms of a contract. The Commissioner shall suspend from the Association a school that fails to pay during the same season a stipulated forfeit fee, and the suspension shall remain in effect until the Board of Control removes it.

Sec. 4) Liability to Suspended School

If a contract is canceled by reason of suspension of the school, the Board of Control shall determine the financial liability involving the suspended school.

**Case BL-24-1- Does a forfeit win/loss or game cancelled by mutual agreement count against the maximum number of games that can be played?**

If the forfeit is declared and the contacted forfeit provisions applied after the first legal playing date, the game shall be counted against the win/loss record, and against the limit of games.

Games canceled by school administrations and forfeit fees paid before the first playing date do not count against records or limits.

*Games canceled by school administrations by mutual consent without forfeit provisions do not count against records or limits. In districts that have voted to seed in those sports that permit seeding for postseason placement, the majority decision to seed shall be interpreted and enforced as an inherent and immediately implied contract to play all contests upon implementation of the seeding plan and within the specifics of the plan.*

*Seeded district games that are forfeited shall be counted against the limit of games and shall count on the win/loss record irrespective of the teams when the contract is cancelled, no matter what terms under which the contract is cancelled and whether or not a formal contract is entered into between the competing teams.*

## **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.
- b) Schedule of Contests on Consecutive Days  
Contests shall be scheduled so that there are not four consecutive days of competition on any Monday through Thursday period while school is in session.
- c) Specific Definitions for Ending of School  
For all interpretations and regulations concerning the ending of the school year, including restrictions on coaching involvement, the end of the school year shall be defined as the earlier of the last day of school or May 31.
- d) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Contests  
Any school violating provisions of this Bylaw by playing too many contests shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33 but shall remain eligible for tournament play during the current season.
- e) Specific Penalties for Violations- Too Many Scrimmages  
Any school violating scrimmage limitations may be placed on probation, prohibited from participating in preseason scrimmages in that sport for two (2) seasons, and may be prohibited from taking part in KHSAA state championship competition or other penalties in accordance with Bylaw 33. The second violation shall result in automatic suspension.
- f) Involvement of Members of the Coaching Staff Out of Season  
Members of the high school coaching staff (paid or unpaid) shall not be prohibited from sport specific observation and evaluation (but not coaching) of any player who has played for a grade nine (9) through grade twelve (12) team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity) from the first day of school through the last day of school provided that play is under the direct control of the same local board of education as the coach is employed and provided that play is not in conflict with other KHSAA bylaws.

### **Sec. 2) Sports Specific Limitations- Baseball- Boys**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized baseball practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.  
NOTE: See Case Situation BL-25-31 regarding the start of regular season competition for 2012 and 2013.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six (36) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

### **Sec. 3) Sports Specific Limitations- Basketball- Boys and Girls**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized basketball practice prior to October 15.
- b) Prior to the opening game of regular season play, a basketball team may have only two (2) scrimmages or practice games with players other than members of the squad.

- c) The first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the state football semifinals,
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty (30) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State) which shall be no earlier than the conclusion of the twelfth (12th) regular season playing week and not later than the conclusion of the thirteenth (13th) regular season playing week, depending upon the KHSAA Corresponding Dates Calendar and the scheduling of the state basketball tournaments, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- f) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (b) or (d) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame Classic contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.

### **Sec. 4) Sports Specific Limitations- Cross Country- Boys and Girls**

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two scrimmage or practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first meet of the season shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 8.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) meets including invitational meets to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (region)..
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

### **Sec. 5) Sports Specific Limitations- Football- Boys**

- a) Organized practice in helmets-only shall not begin prior to July 15. Organized practice in pads (contact practice) shall not begin prior to the earlier of August 1 or seven (7) week days (not counting Saturdays and Sundays) prior to the opening day of school (which shall be defined as the day prior to the classes starting for the student body), but under no circumstances can be prior to the last Monday in July.  
After contact practice (practice in pads) has begun and prior to the first day of classes for the students, school shall not conduct multiple on-field practice sessions in pads (e.g., two-a-days or three-a-days) on consecutive days (e.g., two-one two-one format).  
After the opening day of the school year, a school shall not conduct multiple on-field practice sessions in pads (e.g., two-a-days or three-a-days) on a day in which school is in session. All schools shall submit all required documentation to verify the proper execution of the practice regulations, including scrimmage, contact, and Heat/Humidity Measurement and Compliance Programs.
- b) After contact practice (practice in pads) has begun, there shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games per member school (grades 9-12) after contact practice has begun and prior to the opening varsity game of the season with players other than members of the squad.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Friday of NFHS corresponding week 8 (Week 1).
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of ten (10) regular season games and the opportunity to play regular season games shall conclude at the end NFHS corresponding week 17. Any school may play one of the allowable regular season games during Week 0 (NFHS corresponding week 7) provided that the total schedule does not exceed ten (10) regular season games and that the allowable number of scrimmages in subsection (b)

is reduced to one. Any KHSAA school that chooses to compete for a district title and is placed in a classification where only four (4) weeks are needed to complete the playoffs may play an additional regular season contest (total of 11 contests), the last of which can be played during the first round of the playoffs for the other classifications:

- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- f) Each player, in order to be eligible to participate against another school, shall have taken part in a minimum of ten (10) practice periods extending over a period of ten (10) days during the preceding three weeks.
- g) Every player shall have five (5) days of practice without pads (helmet only, non-contact) to become acclimatized to heat conditions immediately prior to the first of the five (5) required days of practice in pads (contact).
- h) Each football school may conduct ten (10) practice periods of not more than two (2) hours in length and not more than one practice per day over ten (10) days during three consecutive calendar weeks, which shall be chosen by the school on or before December 15. The three consecutive calendar weeks shall not begin prior to the Monday following the school's elimination from postseason play in basketball, and shall not conclude later than the last day of school. Any period of time when school is not in session on a week day, including testing and breaks, shall not count as one of the ten (10) permitted days, and practice may not be conducted on those days. All equipment authorized by the football playing rules may be used during this period. There shall be no inter-school competition during this period, and all participants shall be eligible according to all KHSAA eligibility rules.

In order to conduct the spring practice sessions:

- 1) No student below grade nine may participate nor may seniors participate;
  - 2) Dates shall be reported to the KHSAA on supplied forms;
  - 3) Only students currently eligible by all KHSAA rules including Bylaws 2 through 12 may participate;
  - 4) Intrasquad games may be held but shall be counted as one of the ten practice sessions; and
  - 5) There shall be no school or coach imposed penalty for any player who chooses not to participate.
  - 6) There shall be no mandatory participation by any person on a spring sports eligibility list (or entering any spring sport scrimmage or contest) and no mandatory participation by any other person not appearing on a spring sports roster.
  - i) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (b) or (d) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame and Museum contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.
- Sec. 6) Sports Specific Limitations- Golf- Boys and Girls
- a) Organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
  - b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
  - c) The first match shall not take place before the Monday eight weeks prior to the Monday of the week of the first round of the KHSAA sanctioned postseason play.
  - d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty (20) rounds of golf against other school representatives (minimum nine holes) to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (region). Any team reaching this limitation shall have its regular season end immediately. Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this date shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents.
  - e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team

may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 7) Sports Specific Limitations- Soccer- Boys and Girls

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 7.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-one (21) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 8) Sports Specific Limitations- Softball- Girls (Fastpitch)

- a) Following the opening day of school there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year. NOTE: See Case Situation BL-25-31 regarding the start of regular season competition for 2012 and 2013.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six (36) games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 9) Sports Specific Limitations- Softball- Girls (Slow Pitch)

- a) Following the opening day of school there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-six (36) regular season games to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship competition in fastpitch softball.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

Sec. 10) Sports Specific Limitations- Swimming- Boys and Girls

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 1.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first meet shall not take place prior to November 15.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of fifteen (15) meets to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall

- be no further practice or competition during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 11) Sports Specific Limitations- Tennis- Boys and Girls
- Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
  - There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
  - The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.  
NOTE: See Case Situation BL-25-31 regarding the start of regular season competition for 2012 and 2013.
  - The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-two (22) matches to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this limit is reached shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents. Any four (4) invitational tournaments shall count as one (1) match each against this limit. All dual matches shall count as one (1) match each against this limit.
  - The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 12) Sports Specific Limitations- Indoor and Outdoor Track- Boys and Girls
- Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to December 1.
  - There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets held by each team and these shall be held on or before the Monday of NFHS calendar week 38.
  - The first meet (indoor or outdoor) shall not take place before the Monday of NFHS Calendar Week 28.
  - The season shall consist of a maximum of nineteen (19) meets, to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). All meets, regardless of format or of being indoor or outdoor meets, shall count against the limit of meets.
  - The opportunity to participate in regular season outdoor contests season shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 13) Sports Specific Limitations- Volleyball- Girls
- The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
  - There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
  - The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 6
  - The season shall consist of a maximum of thirty-five (35) matches to be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (district).
  - The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- Sec. 14) Sports Specific Limitations- Wrestling- Boys
- Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 15.
  - There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
  - The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 21

- The season shall consist of a maximum of seventeen (17) matches in each weight class to be held prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region). Tournaments or contests involving three (3) or more schools shall count as one (1) match toward the match limit.
  - The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
  - The KHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations shall establish official weight classes.
- Sec. 15) Specific Limitations- Other Sport Activities- Cheerleading (Spirit)
- The first organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
  - Cheerleaders shall be limited to a maximum of three competitions during the school year, not including in-game competitions, that each are sponsored by an organization that adheres to and enforces the Stunt Limitations of the National Federation Spirit Guide. This does not include in-game competitions. The KAPOS Sweet Sixteen® and KAPOS At-Large Competitions shall not count toward the three-competition limit. Any preliminary competitions that progress to a district, region, state or national level shall be considered as one competition.
  - The opportunity to cheer or enter cheerleading contests ends at all levels (grades 9-12) for that academic year on or before April 1. After April 1, schools are permitted to designate a single two-week tryout period following which there shall be no further practice or competition until the end of the academic school year.

***Case BL-25-1- What is the expectation of KHSAA member schools as it relates to missed school time for regular season 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.*

*Decisions on travel (and the possible allowances or restrictions therein) are solely the discretion and control of the member school. Monitoring and definitions regarding the restrictions related to "school time" must be done at the local level in compliance with Kentucky Department of Education regulations.*

*Member schools reported for violating these restrictions will be referred to the Kentucky Department of Education. The restrictions on missed school time were placed into KHSAA Bylaws by the Kentucky Board of Education as a reiteration of the necessity to prioritize school time, but are not the Association's jurisdiction to enforce and apply sanction. This stance is necessary due to ever changing rules and regulations about what constitutes school time, and the fact that the member schools are in better position to monitor this regulation as they implement new and revised methods of delivering instruction. If further clarification is needed relative to local policies which may be in place as to what constitutes School Time, please have the appropriate district personnel contact the Kentucky Department of Education.*

***Case BL-25-2- Is it permissible for students to 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 non-participant. 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 non-participant. 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.

**Case BL-25-4- Does the limit on consecutive day scrimmages or contests extend to varsity and non-varsity teams and players?**

Yes. Each team at each level within a school and each student-athlete, shall have one day (Monday through Thursday) during the season when school is in session, when the team does not hold a scrimmage or contest nor is the individual student-

athlete competing or playing. This restriction applies to all levels of play not each level of play.

The intent of the rule is that each student-athlete shall be guaranteed at least one night (Monday through Thursday) where participation in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest is not required, to allow for time to properly attend to academic pursuits and other priorities.

**Case BL-25-5- What is the penalty if a school exceeds the limit of games?**

A school exceeding the limitation of games / contests / meets shall be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33.

**Case BL-25-6- What are the sanctioned championships of the KHSAA where a championship is sponsor or the KHSAA otherwise sanctions?**

The Association sanctions (authorizes play) all events for which the KHSAA sponsors a state high school championship including:

- 1) In the fall: cross country (boys and girls), golf (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), volleyball (girls) and football (boys);
- 2) In the winter: basketball (boys and girls), wrestling (boys), swimming (boys and girls) and bowling (boys and girls); and
- 3) In the spring: baseball (boys), softball (girls), tennis (boys and girls) and track (boys and girls, indoor and outdoor).

The Association sanctions (authorizes play) all events for competitive cheer when the competition is conducted in compliance with the National Federation Spirit Guide.

**Case BL-25-7- What is the season, limit of contests and restrictions for non-varsity teams?**

Non-varsity teams have the same restrictions on beginning of practice, beginning of contests and number of games as the varsity teams.

**Case BL-25-8- Is there a designated "tryout" or conditioning period for KHSAA sports for member schools?**

No. Tryouts are an organized or semi-organized means of selecting team members for the coming season. Provisions of that rule stipulate a beginning date for practice, which implicitly prohibits practice during the school year prior to that date. Tryouts are considered to be part of organized practice and shall be held during the official practice period spelled out in Bylaw 25. Nothing can be required between the first day of school and the first legal date for practice.

There is also no "conditioning period" as some coaches seem to erroneously tell kids and parents. Student-athletes cannot be held accountable for missing this time outside of the limitation of seasons and cannot be made to "make-up" missed activity as it cannot be required.

**Case BL-25-9- What is a scrimmage and what is the purpose of allowing them in the preseason?**

A scrimmage is a semi-organized opportunity to participate in a sport in game conditions prior to the opening contest of the season. Scrimmages are designed to be controlled opportunities for participation NOT exhibition games. While many state associations prohibit preseason competition between schools, it is felt that this is the best means of acclimating to game conditions and preparing for the season while ensuring competitive fairness and equal participation opportunities.

**Case BL-25-10- What are the limitations on the allowable scrimmages?**

The following are the limitations and regulations on allowable scrimmages:

- 1) Each school is limited to a total of two preseason scrimmages of any type against competitors not eligible to be on the team's roster at all levels of play (grades 9-12) in each sport;
- 2) Both scrimmages (or one if that is the school choice) shall be held prior to the first varsity contest in a sport;
- 3) The total elapsed time from the start of each scrimmage until the end shall be no longer than three consecutive hours (Start to finish, including any breaks) and all competition activity shall be held at the same site. This time limit is not playing time, but elapsed time on the clock and starts when the first team

member at any level engages a person from another other team in any manner. The restriction allows for participation in any fashion with outside opponents for a single, continuous, three hour period. It is possible that the varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams could oppose each other in game simulation settings and only be charged with one scrimmage if the TOTAL amount of time scrimmaged for all team levels combined from start to finish is less than three hours. The three hour time measurement shall be suspended in the event that inclement weather forces cancellation after a scrimmage has begun and shall resume when warm-up activities resume following the suspension;

- 4) The limitation is for all levels of play (grades 9-12) at a school, not each level of play;
- 5) Coaches at different levels within a school (freshman, JV and Varsity) and at sites where many teams are present should coordinate the schedule of scrimmages to ensure that these students are given opportunities during the three-hour scrimmage limit. The scrimmage sessions are primarily designed to prepare the varsity team for regular season play, as the entire non-varsity season can be considered "scrimmage-like" as no state championship competition is held;
- 6) The scrimmage limitations include any team camp or similar activity held during the defined practice period for a sport. Teams attending camps at the same site should exercise extreme caution not to violate scrimmage limitations. The total scrimmage time involving team members, regardless of levels of play, is subject to a total time limit of three consecutive hours;
- 7) Coaches shall be on the field or in the vicinity of the playing floor or area;
- 8) Schools may, at the discretion of the host school, charge admission, sell concessions and pay officials;
- 9) It is recommended that officials be utilized for all scrimmage contests. If officials are utilized (other than coaches exercising normal supervisory duties), they shall be KHSAA licensed officials;
- 10) All scrimmage contests shall be reported to the KHSAA if the Association makes requests for such reports; and
- 11) Violators of scrimmage limitations and regulations may be penalized in accordance to the prescribed penalties in Bylaw 25 as well as the provisions of Bylaw 33.

**Case BL-25-11- Are there any exceptions to the scrimmage rules contained in the Limitation of Seasons for the Bluegrass State Games?**

Yes. High school teams in cross country, cheer, soccer, and volleyball, together with their coach(es) may participate in the Bluegrass State Games. Such play shall not count against the two scrimmage limitation provided that the organizers of the games adhere to all health and safety recommendations of the KHSAA (including the Heat Index program), and provided there are not a limit on the number of schools that may enter.

**Case BL-25-12- Are there any exceptions to the restrictions contained in Bylaw 25 for participants in officially sanctioned Olympic Development Activities?**

Yes. The Board of Control has authorized the Commissioner to consider, on a case by case basis, waivers to any restrictions contained in Bylaw 8 and Bylaw 25 that would allow participation by an enrolled student or employed coach in officially sanctioned U.S. Olympic Development activities. Such organizations as USA Basketball, USA Track and Field and other similar groups that have officially sanctioned activities can request, through the appropriate member school, that these restrictions be waived and participation allowed. Such shall also include the Ryder Cup official competition between the PGA of America and PGA European Tour.

**Case BL-25-13- How is the determination made as to how to count a game/meet/event against the Limitation of Seasons?**

In these sports, a game/meet/contest counts against the Limitation of Seasons any time a student-athlete represents a member school competing against any representative(s) of

another school after the start of practice and prior to the end of the season as defined within KHSAA Bylaw 25.

- 1) The following are examples of activities which would be subject to classifying the student-athlete as being a "representative" of the school:
  - a) Wearing of school uniform and school-issued playing equipment;
  - b) Transportation to or from the contest using school transportation;
  - c) Representing the school by entering an event under the name of the school;
  - d) Representatives of the school entering an event in which entries are allowed only by school representatives;
  - e) Attendance of, transportation by, coaching or other assistance by, any member of the school coaching staff from that sport; or
  - f) Any school vs. school competition in any KHSAA sport or sport activity as defined within Bylaw 25.
- 2) After the start of practice and prior to the first contest against an outside opponent, such activity may be classified as a scrimmage as long as the activity is in compliance with C/S 25-10 and within the specific scrimmage limitations for that sport.
- 3) All play shall be classified as the same level by all participants in scrimmages, contests, games, meets and tournaments and shall remain classified at the same level through the completion of the event. For example, one school cannot classify a contest as a junior varsity game, and the opponent classify the contest as a varsity game or one classify the activity as a scrimmage and one classify it as a contest. As another example, a school cannot classify some games in an event (such as a tournament) as varsity games and others as non-varsity games. Events shall be constructed such that all competition is held at the same level for all competing teams.
- 4) Seeded district contests to determine postseason bracketing may never be counted as non-varsity contests.
- 5) It shall be counted as a contest or scrimmage if the activity involves competition with or against any person who is not on the school participation list for that gender in that sport.

**Case BL-25-14- What are the special allowances for counting a game/meet/event against the Limitation of Seasons in cross country or track or toward the postseason meet minimum?**

A meet shall be counted against the limit of meets in cross country or track (indoor or outdoor) if any of the following conditions exist:

- 1) It is sponsored by a KHSAA member high school (or co-sponsored) or legally conducted by an outside entity as a team entry event in accordance with the NFHS sanctioning process;
- 2) An athlete is wearing the school issued uniform;
- 3) A school entity pays the entry fee for the student;
- 4) A school representatives accompanies the student-athlete or transports the student athlete to the competition;
- 5) A member of the school coaching staff is present and offering instruction, advise, evaluation or refinement of skills or exercising other duties defined as "coaching" within the sport rules; or
- 6) The event by its format, allows entries or fees to be solely based on representatives of school based competition.

**Case BL-25-15- Is there a minimum period for team and individual practice in any sport other than football?**

No. Athletes in other sports are not required to have a minimum number of practice sessions or dates prior to competition against another school.

**Case BL-25-16- What is coaching as used in Bylaw 25?**

Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at a time the athletes are participating in skills (either preparatory or specific to that sport) in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. Coincident participation by a coach and an athlete in a sport such as a golf outing, where the coach and athlete(s) are not entered as a entry or group, or in an activity such as

distance running with many runners but no direct coaching, would not specifically be considered coaching.

**Case BL-25-17- What are the restrictions during the school year outside of the defined Limitation of Seasons (off-season) when the school's team members are participants or school coaches are involved?**

The "off-season" is the period during the school year for each sport or sport/activity that is outside the defined start and end dates for the sport or sport/activity as detailed in Bylaw 25. The restrictions begin on the first day of school and end on the earlier of the day following the last day of school or May 31; The following general provisions apply to the off-season in all KHSAA sports and sport/activities:

- 1) There is no insurance coverage (catastrophic medical or other) expressed or implied by the KHSAA;
- 2) Any restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, head or assistant, and at all levels;
- 3) No activity may be required for the student-athlete in that particular sport and there may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for non-participation;
- 4) There may be no organized activity (where sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated) that is restricted solely to the members or prospective members of any sports team; and
- 5) Nothing about these interpretations allow for the use of specific school issued football gear during this period except during the allowable spring practice window, and the use of the helmet during specific periods enumerated in other published interpretations.
- 6) Nothing about these interpretations allow for the use of specific school issued baseball and softball catching gear during this period except during the specific periods enumerated in other published interpretations.
- 7) Nothing about these interpretations change any of the provisions of Bylaw 8 that prohibit players in basketball and football from participating in an organized game for any other entity from the start of school to the end of the season (including KHSAA postseason play)

During the "off-season", a member of the coaching staff, member school representative(s), group of school representatives, or school or team-related booster group MAY NOT:

- 1) Pay the entry fee for a team or individuals into a practice, league, camp or tournament;
- 2) Pay other necessary fees for competition including umpire/official payments and game or facility management;
- 3) Provide or fund transportation (school or otherwise) for team members to go to games, or tournaments;
- 4) Allow the use of school issued apparel that contains the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness or allow the use of the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness in any other facet of athletic activity;
- 5) Allow the use of school issued baseball and softball catching gear, or any football gear defined in NFHS Rule 1-5 by team members. See Case Situations BL-25-19, BL-25-23 and BL 25-24.
- 6) Allow the use of the school facility for organized competition involving individuals eligible to be on the team's roster at any level of play (grades 9-12) in each sport without the approval of the school principal and unless such competition is conducted in compliance with all local district policies as approved by the Superintendent; or
- 7) Allow the use of the school facility for paid sports specific instruction by one or more members of the coaching staff.

All other restrictions related to the scheduling, composition, pool and use of available personnel including coaches, and other logistical arrangements are the jurisdiction of the building Principal in compliance with all local district policies for any activity held within that local school facility or off-site activities where the coach and team members are simultaneously present, in compliance with Bylaw 1 of the Association.

**Case BL-25-18- Is it permissible for a local policy board, officials' association impose a time limit on softball or baseball games at the varsity level?**

No. The NFHS playing rules establish the time frames and requirements. At the non-varsity level, the local regional policy board of the host school may establish game time or inning limitations for different levels below varsity.

Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for baseball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of softball. Any time limit (or lack of limit) adopted for softball at any level shall also be applied to the same level of baseball. Time limits (or play limits such as a limit of innings) can only be imposed in non-varsity baseball or softball games if the same limit applies to both sports under the jurisdiction of that policy board,

**Case BL-25-19- What are the restrictions on school issued sports-specific equipment in baseball and softball during the school year outside of the defined Limitation of Seasons (off-season) when the school's team members are participants or school coaches are involved? .**

Baseball and Softball activity may not utilize school issued catching gear.

**Case BL-25-20- Is there a minimum period for team and individual football practice when practice begins for the fall?**

Yes. Any player, to be eligible for participating in his/her first game or scrimmage against an outside opponent, shall have taken part in a minimum of ten practice periods extending over a period of ten days during the three weeks preceding participating in his/her first scrimmage or contest against outside competition.

Every player shall have five (5) days of practice without pads to become acclimated to heat conditions prior to the first day of practice with pads and shall have five (5) days of practice in pads prior to a game or scrimmage against an outside opponent. Players participating in other outdoor fall sports after July 15 (soccer or cross country), or those serving in official military preparedness activities after July 15 may allow days involved in those activities to count toward the five required days out of pads.

**Case BL-25-21- When does contact football practice begin?**

The first date of contact practice is based on the first full day of classes for the student body in each school. Contact practice begins seven days prior to the first official day (which is the first day prior to students). The following is the calendar for the next several years.

2011	
First day of School for the student body	First practice in pads
July 25-July 29, 2011	July 25, 2011
August 1- August 4, 2011	July 25, 2011
August 5, 2011	July 26, 2011
August 8, 2010	July 27, 2011
August 9, 2011	July 28, 2011
August 10, 2011	July 29, 2011
August 11 or later	August 1, 2011
2012	
First day of School for the student body	First practice in pads
August 9 or earlier, 2012	July 30, 2012
August 10, 2012	July 31, 2012
August 13 or later, 2012	August 1, 2012

**Case BL-25-22- What is the first date for non-varsity football playing of contests (JV and Freshman)?**

Non-varsity games can be played beginning the day following the team's first regular season varsity contest. A school playing in week 0 could not play against a school who doesn't play until week 1 in a non-varsity game until after the week 1 varsity game had been played.

**Case BL-25-23- What equipment can be worn, what activities can occur, and what restrictions are in place for football practice and the wearing of football gear.**

**Definitions**

- 1) "No Equipment Period" activity is a period where no football gear, including the helmet, can be worn.
- 2) "Helmet-Only Period" activity is a practice period where only a helmet is worn. During this helmet-only period, no full contact drills or other activity can occur which would result in a player completing a tackle, or being blocked or tackled to the ground. Padded and protective equipment such as pads held by a single player (but not blocking sleds and other structures designed for work with full pads) can be used.
- 3) "Practice in Pads Period" is practice when the remainder of the football gear (other than the helmet) specified in NFHS Rule 1-5 is worn and activity during the session is not restricted with regard to contact.

The following are the allowances for the wearing of pads:

- 1) From the team's elimination from postseason play until the first official day of spring practice is a No Equipment Period.
  - a) No gear may be worn. This does not preclude the issuance of gear to individual athletes for activities such as an all-star contest.
  - b) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- 2) The Official Spring Practice Period as designated by Bylaw 25 is a Practice in Pads Period.
  - a) Coaches are highly advised to use the first two days of this period for acclimation to contact and re-introduction of the rigors of football to the student-athletes.
  - b) The KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in effect during this period.
- 3) From the end of the Official Spring Practice Period to May 31 is a No Equipment Period.
  - a) No gear may be worn. This does not preclude the issuance of a helmet to a student for participation in a skills combine as described in Case BL-25-23.
  - b) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- 4) From the earlier of the day following the last date of school or June 1, through June 24 is a Helmet-Only period.
  - a) A football player may wear a helmet during any football specific drill or session that is supervised or attended by any member of the high school coaching staff, but may wear no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5.
  - b) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- 5) From June 25 to July 9 (inclusive of those dates) is the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 26).
  - a) There can be no practice (individual or team) and no equipment may be issued.
  - b) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- 6) July 10 to July 14 is a Helmet-Only Period.
  - a) The helmet may be issued and worn, but no other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5 may be issued or worn.
  - b) There is no KHSAA catastrophic insurance during this period.
- 7) July 15 to the first day of contact is a Helmet-Only Period.
  - a) No other gear as defined by NFHS Football Rule 1, Section 5 may be worn and the restrictions of the definition of a Helmet Only Period must be observed.
  - b) Legal, on-campus, non-contact, non-interscholastic activity is covered by the KHSAA catastrophic insurance.
  - c) Non-contact game simulations may be conducted and not applied to scrimmage limitations provided that the first contact practice has not been conducted. The KHSAA catastrophic insurance is not in effect for these simulations if other schools are involved.
- 8) The earlier of August 1 or seven week days prior to the first date of school for the student body through the team's elimination from postseason play is the defined season. This is a practice in pads period (including acclimation days required

by Bylaw 25)

- a) All other pads as defined in Rule 1-5 in addition to the helmet can be worn;
- b) It is recommended that the first two to three days of this period be with shoulder pads only, followed by a non-contact day, followed by the addition of the rest of the equipment;
- c) Full contact practice may begin for all individuals who have previously (after July 15) had five days of supervised non-contact practice in order to become acclimated to heat and acclimated to practice;
- d) Teams cannot conduct multiple contact practice sessions on consecutive days. If multiple contact practices (up to a maximum of two) are held on a day, then only one contact practice session can be held on the following day;
- e) On days when there are multiple contact practice periods, there shall be a minimum three hour break between contact periods.
- f) There is not a restriction on the number of non-contact practices conducted on any day;
- g) Any play involving at least one player from more than one team shall count as a scrimmage; and
- h) Provided all practice and activity are compliant with KHSAA rules, the KHSAA catastrophic insurance is in place.

**General Reminders**

- 1) Nothing about Bylaw 25 or its interpretations prevents a school from allowing equipment to be issued to students to attend individual camps at other sites and outside of the KHSAA Dead Period.
- 2) Nothing about Bylaw 25 or its interpretations prevents individual camp attendance by players using school owned equipment outside of the dead period or team camp attendance within the contact window and subject to the scrimmage limitations.

**Case BL-25-24- What are the restrictions on what can be done by coaches with football players at single-day combines, workouts, clinics and other skill testing and evaluation activities between the last game of the season and the end of the school year?**

The following restrictions are in place if the coach is present:

- 1) No football specific equipment as defined in NFHS rule 1-5 may be used including but not limited to, playing equipment (shoes, shoulder pads) other than a helmet for protection;
- 2) No sports specific drills can be performed if any football equipment other than the helmet, is worn;
- 3) No contact or simulated contact may occur;
- 4) Participation on the part of the student-athlete cannot be mandatory; and
- 5) There are no restrictions on seniors who have completed their eligibility.

**Case BL-25-25- Are football playing schools required to hold spring football practice?**

No, this is an optional practice period.

**Case BL-25-26- What is postseason play as defined in spring football practice period?**

The "elimination from postseason play in basketball" means the elimination of both boys' and girls' teams from post season play in basketball. For example, if a boys' basketball team loses the first game of a district but the girls' remain alive into regional or state play, the spring practice period cannot begin until the girls are eliminated.

**Case BL-25-27- Do all of the restrictions of Bylaw 25 and its interpretations apply to cheerleading?**

Yes.

**Case BL-25-28- How does a cheerleading squad competing in more than one preliminary competition attempting to qualify for a state or national competition count against the limit of three?**

Each attempt would count as one of the allowed three competitions.

**Case BL-25-29- Is it permissible for a cheerleading squad to compete in a final competition of a progressive event after April 1 if the preliminary competition was held prior to April 1?**

No. All competition shall be completed prior to April 1.

**Case BL-25-30- Is it permissible for cheer squads to conduct additional tryouts after the two-week period in April after the school year is over?**

Yes. After the school year is over, the squad may but is not compelled to, hold additional tryout periods, or make allowances for those students who were not enrolled in the school at the time of tryouts.

**Case BL-25-31- Is it permissible for cheer squads to attend competitions that do not comply with NFHS rules?**

No. The high school cheer coach cannot coach athletes in any of the three allowable competitions (KAPOS plus three additional) if those competitions do not comply with NFHS rules, including but not limited to, stunt limitations. Bylaw 25 restricts the coach of the high school squad from coaching in outside competition other than those four allowed competitions at anytime during the school year. Individual squad members participating for outside organizations are not covered by any insurance coverage provided by the Association.

**Case BL-25-32- Has the Board of Control made any special accommodations with the spring sports schedule in anticipation of the potential conflicts with end of course assessments and other testing changes coming for the member schools?**

Yes. With the full implementation of end of course assessments beginning in 2011-2012 (with specific subjects), the Board of Control has recognized the inherent timing conflicts between some of the KHSAA spring activities and the academic needs of the students. This has been even more apparent in recent years with increasing conflicts between KHSAA championship rounds and graduations ceremonies and other activities. The Board of Control voted in July, 2011 to allow the spring sports of baseball, softball and tennis to begin regular season play on the Wednesday of the first state basketball tournament during 2012 and 2013. This change results in the Board's movement of state championship play in track and tennis having minimal effect on the ability of the member schools to have a full schedule of contests within the parameters of Bylaw 25. A proposal to permanently amend Bylaw 25 to allow for this scheduling option will be forthcoming to the membership.

**Case BL-25-33- Has the Board of Control adopted an interim Limitation of Seasons for Bowling until action can be taken at the Annual Meeting?**

Yes. The season closely mirrors the other winter sports to allow for ease of management within the athletic program. Until official action is taken by the membership, the following will serve as the Limitation of Seasons

**Sports Specific Limitations- Bowling**

- Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 15.
- There shall be no more than two (2) practice dates prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 23.
- The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-two (22) dates of competition including invitational tournaments prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (region).
- The opportunity to participate in regular season contests shall end at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned postseason events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**BYLAW 26. SUMMER SPORTS AND SPORTS/ACTIVITIES**

**Sec. 1) School Team Play in Summer (Non Dead Period)**

Member schools may participate in sanctioned play during the summer to complete spring seasons in baseball, softball, tennis and track and may begin sanctioned regular season play and practice as defined by Bylaw 25 prior to the opening of school in cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer and volleyball. Only participants eligible during the spring semester may compete on the school teams. All KHSAA eligibility rules apply, and full control of the summer program shall remain with the participating high school and the principal of that school.

**Sec. 2) Restrictions on Football and Boys' Basketball**

Beginning June 1, 2010, students shall not participate in any school vs. school (in any format) competition in football between the earlier of the last day of school and June 1 through June 24. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps and accepted open gym or field activities where no inter-school competition is involved. Students shall not participate in any school vs. school (in any format) competition in boys' basketball between the end of the dead period and July 31. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps and accepted open gym/field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.

**Sec. 3) Summer Dead Period**

Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year in any KHSAA sanctioned sport or cheerleading squad during the period beginning with June 25, and going through July 9. School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in any KHSAA sanctioned sport during this period. These restrictions shall not apply to postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year.

**Case BL-26-1- What is the purpose of Bylaw 26, Section 1?**

Several sports begin prior to the beginning of the school year or may extend beyond the school year. This legislation empowers the school to begin the season before school starts, or play through postseason elimination in spring sports.

**Case BL-26-2- How is Bylaw 26, Section 1 interpreted for summer play?**

**GENERAL RULES REGARDING SUMMER PLAY-** Individual athletes and athletic teams representing member schools may participate in non-school competition following the conclusion of the school year provided that such competition is not in conflict with other KHSAA Bylaws. School based play during the summer (other than fall sports after July 15) is governed by the local Board of Education (except for the Dead Period restrictions) and the local Board of Education assumes all responsibility.

**INSURANCE COVERAGE DURING THE SUMMER-** Insurance coverage provided by the Association, including but not limited to the Catastrophic Insurance Plan does not apply to students participating in such activities as Amateur Athletic Union and other non-school or out of season play in the summer. The provisions of the Association insurance plan do not cover students attending individual or team camps during the summer in any sport prior to the first legal day of practice. This summer exclusion also applies to members of the cheerleading squad.

**Case BL-26-3- According to Bylaw 26, Section 1, is it possible for the student to complete play on a school team after he/she graduates from high school?**

Yes. Any participant is eligible to continue participating in KHSAA sponsored state championship competition in baseball, fast pitch softball, tennis and track, even if their spring semester has ended. Only students eligible during the spring semester may practice or compete on any of the teams mentioned.

**Case BL-26-4- According to Bylaw 26, Section 1, may practice and play be held in KHSAA sports or sport activities prior to the start of school?**

Yes. Students may begin official practice and play for fall KHSAA sports and sport activities in cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, and volleyball as part of the school team even if the school year has not yet begun. Only students eligible at the conclusion of the spring semester may practice or compete on any of the teams in these fall sports on the school team until school resumes.

Allowances and restrictions for play and practice by student-athletes in the fall sports (cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, and volleyball) prior to July 15 and in all other sports for the duration of the summer period after the end of the previous school year and prior to the start of school are governed by the local Board of Education (except for the Dead Period restrictions) and the local Board of Education assumes all responsibility and liability.

**Case BL-26-5- How long do the restrictions on basketball teams last according to Bylaw 26, Section 2?**

Due to the staggered start of school throughout the state, and the competitive imbalance of a fixed date for ending the restrictions, the end of the prohibited period in basketball will be the LATER of the first date of school for the students or August 1.

**Case BL-26-6- Do the summer restrictions in Bylaw 26, Section 2 apply to girls basketball teams?**

No. The prohibitions on school vs. school play during July apply only to boys basketball.

**Case BL-26-7- Do the summer restrictions in Bylaw 26, Section 2 apply to non-football schools?**

Yes. In order to preserve competitive balance, the restrictions on school vs. school participation in July for boys basketball apply equally whether or not the school offers a football team.

**Case BL-26-8- According to Bylaw 26, Section 2, is it permissible for the school football team to play against other outside non-school football teams or compete without their coach present from June 1 through the start of the Dead Period?**

No. The purpose of the restriction is to have a time when school required play is not conducted, and playing against other organized teams will be treated the same as playing against another school team. Both are type of play are prohibited in football from June 1 through the start of the dead period.

**Case BL-26-9- According to Bylaw 26, Section 2, is it permissible for a school basketball team to compete against other outside non-school basketball teams or compete without their coach present after the Dead Period and through the start of school?**

No. The purpose of the restriction is to have a time when school required play is not conducted, and playing against other organized teams will be treated the same as playing against another school team. Both are type of play are prohibited in basketball from the end of the Dead Period through the first day of school.

**Case BL-26-10- In accordance with Bylaw 26, Section 3, what are the scheduled dates of the KHSAA Dead Period?**

June 25 through July 9 each year. The Dead Period starts on June 25 beginning at 12:01 a.m. and continues through the 11:59 p.m. on July 9.

**Case BL-26-11- What is the purpose of the Dead Period (Bylaw 26, Section 3)?**

Over the years, many sometimes overzealous coaches have required their players to play scores of games throughout the summer, in addition to a year-round workout regimen. While this may seem to be in the best interest of developing sports talent, such is not the purpose of high school athletics.

High school sports are to supplement classroom learning and allow for in-season competitive opportunities, not a year round Olympic or professional development period. Families were complaining that they could not plan vacations and family outings because of coach's requirements and athletes were

complaining of burn out. In addition, schools were increasingly concerned with liability issues related to the summer. In a survey conducted by the KHSAA, 80% of superintendents, principals and athletic directors who returned the survey indicated they supported a "dead period" in the summer. Initial responses were overwhelmingly in support of a four (4) week dead period. The primary intent of the regulation is to eliminate, for an approximately two (2) week period, the leverage a coach has over his/her high school athletes.

**Case BL-26-12- What restrictions are in place for the member schools during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 26, Section 3) including restrictions on facilities?**

The following restrictions are in place for member school representatives (including groups of schools and school representatives, booster organizations) during the dead period, and apply to all persons connected with the member school, including coaches:

- 1) School or booster funds may not be expended during this dead period;
- 2) No activity for a student-athlete may be required by a school representative in any sport during the Dead Period. There may be no penalties assessed, expressed or implied for non-participation during that period;
- 3) An entry fee may not be paid for a team into a league, camp or tournament; There can be no expenditure for camps, clinics, etc. which any of the players will attend;
- 4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid;
- 5) Transportation or funding for transportation for team members may not be provided for student-athletes to go to games, camps or tournaments;
- 6) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the high school are participants and for which no rental/lease arrangement exists using comparable regional fair market values;
- 7) The school athletics facilities may not be used for organized competition at which students from the school are participants and at which members of the high school coaching staff are involved in coaching or facility management and preparation;
- 8) The school nickname, school name or other accepted likeness may not be used on school issued apparel, and the school name, nickname or other accepted likeness may not be used in any other facet of athletic activity;
- 9) No fund raising activity may require the participation, either implicitly or explicitly, of the student-athlete or parents; and the students and coaches cannot be together in any of these type activities;
- 10) School owned or issued equipment may not be used, including but not limited to football or baseball catching gear, by any athlete with eligibility remaining;
- 11) There cannot be money spent on travel to or from a camp, clinic or other activity during the Dead Period, even if none of the practice, competition or evaluation occurs during the Dead Period as this is an expenditure of school funds or resources in support of athletics; and
- 12) There cannot be distribution of equipment to student-athletes nor distribution of uniforms or other items during the Dead Period.

**Case BL-26-13- What specific restrictions are in place for coaches (paid or unpaid, at any level grade 9-12) including cheer for the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 26, Section 3) if the activity involves a student enrolled at the member school where a coach is employed?**

Coaching, for the purposes of the Dead Period, is defined as any time the athletes are participating in that coach's sport in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, practiced or evaluated. Attendance at a scrimmage or contest is included in the definition of coaching. This coaching restriction includes all members of the athletic coaching staff, paid or unpaid. This restriction prohibits the delegation or assignment of activities by any member of the coaching staff to other individuals, including student-athletes who may or may not be

participating. All coaching restrictions are in place whether the activity is conducted within, or outside of the school

The following restrictions are in place for these individuals:

- 1) No coach may coach a student-athlete in any setting if that student-athlete has previously represented the high school (varsity, jv, or freshman) and if sports specific skills are being taught, refined, developed or evaluated;
- 2) No coach in a sport at a school may coach other individuals who are enrolled in grades 9-12 but may not have yet played for the school;
- 3) A coach may not pay the entry fee for a team into a league, camp or tournament;
- 4) Other necessary fees including officiating fees and game or facility management fees may not be paid by the coach;
- 5) A coach may not provide transportation or funding for transportation for team members to go to games, camps, tournaments or any other type of play;
- 6) No member of the coaching staff may assist in making game-like preparations for the school facility including but not limited to, baseline marking, outfield line marking, batter's box marking, maintenance of the mound and base cut-outs; or the use of school facilities or equipment for such setup. This does not preclude the coaching staff or others participating in non-sports specific off-season turf or other facility maintenance;
- 7) No fund raising activity may be held during the period which would require the student-athlete and the coach to be present. These activities are inherently or specifically mandatory for the student-athletes and may not be held during the dead period. Simply stating that something is not mandatory does not in and of itself make the activity legal. Even if an activity is totally optional, it is not permitted for the coach(es) and student-athletes to be together during this period;
- 8) There can be no coaching of athletes in a particular sport by coaches from the same school who coach in another sport. The coaching prohibition is on the institution, not the individual; and
- 9) There can be no observation of student-athletes who are enrolled at the coach's high school, even if such observation is in conjunction with outside employment such as camps, leagues or clinics. The only exception is detailed in the allowable activities concerning the observation of the coach's children (blood or by marriage).

**Case BL-26-14– What specific restrictions are in place for student athletes including cheer for the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 26, Section 3) ?**

The following restrictions are in place for student-athletes during the dead period:

- 1) A student-athlete may not wear school issued or school identifying apparel, including sleeves, jerseys, pants, catching gear or hats during games, camps or tournaments; and
- 2) The school nickname or school name may not be used on non-school issued apparel during this time.

**Case BL-26-15– What activities are permitted during the KHSAA Dead Period (Bylaw 26, Section 3) ?**

The following activities are permitted by member school representatives (including booster organizations) during the dead period:

- 1) School facilities may be used for non high school aged summer leagues, tournaments and camps provided 1) a documented market value lease agreement exists; 2) players from that school are not involved in any manner if a high school coach is involved; and 3) coaches from that high school are not involved in any manner if a player is involved;
- 2) A school may hold a celebratory activity or activities commemorating participation in the KHSAA State Tennis, Track, Softball or Baseball State Championships (Final state events, not qualifying rounds). The events shall be celebratory in nature, featuring recognitions of the athletes and squad members. No practice, play or future season planning or activities may occur;
- 3) A school may conduct its annual mass physical exams during this period provided there is no contact with any member

of the coaching staff for any reason and this is not the sole opportunity provided to the students at that member school;

- 4) Coaches who have a son or daughter (blood or by marriage) participating may attend contests. Even with attendance allowed, this person cannot be involved in coaching the team;
- 5) Coaches may be involved with outside activities and leagues as long as there is no contact with members of his/her high school team and as long as the coach is not in attendance when any of his/her players are participating. Coaches should be cautioned against using this type of activity in violation of Bylaw 10, Recruitment;
- 6) Member schools may allow camps to be conducted for non-high school students on school athletic property by high school coaches during this period provided there is no contact with any athlete who had participated at any level within the school athletic program, regardless of the grade or age of the student. The members of the high school team may only work at such a camp if the high school coaching staff is not present;
- 7) Coaches may serve as a paid contest official; and
- 8) Students who are members of the same high school team may participate together in outside competition as long as a member of the high school coaching staff does not coach them or attend the contests.

**Case BL-26-16- Does Bylaw 26, Section 3 apply to cheerleaders and cheerleading?**

Yes. Any sport or sports activity governed by the KHSAA Limitation of Seasons (Bylaw 25) is restricted by this rule. This rule however, does not apply to activities not governed by the Limitation of Seasons such as (but not limited to) drill, dance, field hockey or ice hockey teams.

**BYLAW 27. REQUIREMENT FOR COACHES AND OTHERS WORKING WITH HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS**

Sec. 1) Definitions

a) Level 1 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position shall be categorized as Level 1 if that individual is a certified teacher and member of the regular school system faculty and meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties:

- 1) Is employed a minimum of three (3) regular periods for teaching classes, including physical education;
- 2) Is employed for supervision of study halls; or
- 3) Is exercising responsibilities in other activity assignments within the school schedule.

b) Level 2 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position shall be categorized as Level 2 if that individual meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties and does not meet the qualifications of Level 1:

- 1) Shall be 21 years of age;
- 2) Shall not be a violent offender or convicted of a sex crime as defined by KRS 17.165 that is classified as a felony; and
- 3) Shall submit to a criminal record check under KRS 160.380.
- 4) Shall meet one of the following additional qualifications:
  - i. Have graduated from a public or accredited high school and hold a provisional or standard teaching certificate;
  - ii. Have completed sixty-four semester hours of college credit from an accredited college or university as documented by an official transcript; or
  - iii. Be a graduate from a public or accredited high school and be in compliance with the local district standards for serving as an approved substitute teacher as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.
  - iv. Be a graduate from a public or accredited high school and complete a Level 1 Coaching Certification Program approved by NFHS as well as completing prescribed electives as detailed by the KHSAA Board of Control. Level 2 coaches approved under exception (iv) shall complete the KHSAA Coaching Education program prior to coaching in the first interscholastic contest.
- 5) Prior to assuming duties, Level 2 coaches shall successfully complete training provided by the local school district. The training shall include information on the physical and

emotional development of students of the age with whom the Level 2 coach will be working, the district's and school's discipline policies, procedures for dealing with discipline problems, and safety and first aid training. Follow up training shall be provided annually.

c) Waiver of 64-hour requirement

In the event that the member school is unable to staff head or assistant coaching positions in any sport or sport activity (including cheerleading) with a Level 1 or Level 2 individual, the member school may request through the Superintendent that the KHSAA allow for a waiver of this rule in order that the additional time be available to find an applicant meeting the criteria.

d) Head Coach

As referred in this regulation, the head coach shall be the head varsity coach designated by the school or Board of Education unless otherwise noted in the bylaw.

Sec. 2) Hiring and Employment Requirements

a) Required Level

Level 1 or 2 individuals (head and assistant) may be assigned as the head or assistant coach in any sport or sport activity (including cheerleading).

b) Member School Obligations in Hiring

1) The Superintendent shall ensure that all assignments for coaching duties comply with all applicable state and local policies.

2) The hiring process shall ensure that in considering those individuals seeking coaching duties, the most qualified individual shall be assigned. In considering qualifications, the qualifications desired for the position, the references, interviews and experience of those seeking the duties, and the education background shall be considered.

c) Compensation

Any person assigned to coaching duties at any level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education and the entire coaching salary shall be paid through that board in accordance with local Board of Education policy.

Sec. 3) Post Hire Requirements and Requirements for Continuing Coaching Duties

a) C.P.R. and AED Training

All coaches (head and assistant) at any level in all sanctioned sports and sport activities (including cheerleading) shall provide documentation of successful completion of a C.P.R. course including the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator and the requisite First Aid Training, as approved by a college or University, the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other bona fide accrediting agency. Initial certification shall use in-person instruction and certification shall be timely and appropriately updated as required by the approving agency.

b) Coaches Education Program

1) A Coaches Education Program has been approved as the coaching education program in Kentucky. The program shall include a course of study to include a KHSAA approved Coaches Education Program, KHSAA rules information and local district policies. The cost of attending the KHSAA Coaches Education Program shall be the responsibility of the individual coach(es). Local school districts or local schools may, upon successful completion of all coaching education requirements including all examinations, reimburse the coaches for the expense of attending the course.

2) Level 1 individuals assigned to duties as a coach (head or assistant), who are hired as a member of the school system faculty for the first time following the 1995-96 school year shall take and complete all requirements for the Kentucky Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

3) Level 2 individuals (subsections i, ii and iii) assigned to duties as a coach (head or assistant) shall take and complete all requirements for the KHSAA Approved Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the

legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

4) Level 2 individuals (subsection iv) assigned to duties as a coach (head or assistant) shall take and complete all requirements for the KHSAA Approved Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

c) Sports Safety Training

1) Each coach (head and assistant, including cheerleading) at all levels (grades 9-12) shall be required to complete a sports safety course consisting of training on how to prevent common injuries.

i. The content of the course shall include emergency planning, heat and cold illnesses, emergency recognition, head injuries, neck injuries, facial injuries and the principles of first aid.

ii. The course shall be taught by a Certified Athletic Trainer, Registered Nurse, Physician or Physician's Assistant licensed to practice in Kentucky.

iii. The course material and content shall be updated every thirty (30) months.

iv. Each coach having completed the course shall re-certify by taking the course not less than once every two (2) years.

2) Successful completion of the course shall constitute a passing score.

3) Each coach (head and assistant, including cheerleading) at all levels (grades 9-12) shall have successfully completed the sports safety course prior to assuming coaching duties.

4) The penalty for noncompliance with this section shall be suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year or any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 33.

d) Medical Symposium Updates

1) All persons employed as coaches in all sanctioned sports and sport activities (including cheerleading) shall complete every two years, an online Sports Medicine Symposium sanctioned by the KHSAA, approved and conducted by the Kentucky Medical Association. All member schools of the KHSAA shall pay the necessary expenses of head coaches for the required attendance at the sanctioned Sports Medicine Symposium.

2) The penalty for noncompliance with this section shall be suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year or any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 33.

e) KHSAA Rules Clinic

1) All head varsity coaches shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which they coach and the school desires to enter a team in postseason play, provided these clinics are conducted under the authorization of the Commissioner.

2) The penalty for noncompliance with this section shall be suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year or any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 33.

**Case BL-27-1- What is coaching as used in Bylaw 27?**

*Coaching is defined as any activity by the coach at a time the athletes are participating in skills (either preparatory or specific to that sport) in a setting in which skills are taught, refined, or practiced. Coincident participation by a coach and an athlete in a sport such as a golf outing, where the coach and athlete(s) are not entered as a entry or group, or in an activity such as distance running with many runners but no direct coaching, would not specifically be considered coaching.*

**Case BL-27-2- What are the Association requirements for coaches?**

*All coaches may be certified teachers who are members of their regular school systems, and their classroom, gymnasium, or other assignments shall be a minimum of three regular periods. There are allowances for the hiring of paraprofessional assistant*

coaches and non-faculty assistants. The word "certified" in the Bylaw is interpreted to mean holding a teaching certificate.

**Case BL-27-3- What is a Head Coach as referred in Bylaw 27?**

The Head Coach is the head varsity coach for each sport unless stated specifically within the provision of the rule. A persons' designation as "head junior varsity coach" is simply an assistant coach with respect to this rule.

**Case BL-27-4- Is it permissible for a school to utilize someone as a Level 2 "coach" who does not have 64 credit hours from an accredited college or university as defined in Bylaw 27?**

Yes. Through action taken by the Kentucky General Assembly (HB327), schools may utilize additional individuals as coaches who do not meet the previous Level 2 requirements.

In order to designate/hire/employ a Level 2 Coach without 64 hours (aka a HB327 coach), the member school shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Preference shall be given to the hiring or assignment of certified personnel in coaching positions; and
- 2) Application shall be made to the KHSAA with the accompanying form GE40 indicating compliance with age and background check restrictions and the successful completion of CPR certification (including AED training) and the online Sports Safety Course.

In order to be considered a Level 2 Coach without 64 hours (aka a HB327 coach), prospective coach shall meet the following qualifications:

- 1) The prospective coach shall be a high school graduate, at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall submit to a criminal background check in accordance with KRS 160.380;
- 2) Professional development training approved by the KHSAA shall be used in lieu of postsecondary education (sixty-four) credit hour requirements. Prior to the first contest, a prospective HB327 coach shall have completed the following courses via [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com):
  - a) Engaging Effectively with Parents,
  - b) Teaching and Modeling Behavior,
  - c) Teaching Sports Skills OR a sports specific course, and
  - d) Concussions in Sports.
- 3) A local school board may specify post-hire requirements for personnel employed in coaching positions in addition to those specified in subparagraph 3 of this paragraph.

**Case BL-27-5- Is it permissible for a school to utilize individuals who do not meet the Level 1 or Level 2 requirements as "coaches" in the athletic program?**

No. Only those individuals who meet the requirements of Level 1 and Level 2 are "coaches". The use of other individuals for assistance with the program shall be governed by Local Board of Education and School based Decision Making Policy and shall comply with all state and local laws regarding involvement by non school personnel in school activities.

**Case BL-27-6- What restrictions are in place for those individuals that a school chooses to utilize (not as a coach) who do not meet the provisions of a Level 1 coach or a Level 2 coach?**

Persons assigned to duties as assistants within the program shall be limited to the following responsibilities upon approval of such assignment by the proper school authorities and in compliance with all adopted regulations. This shall not preclude any person qualifying as a Level 1 or Level 2 coach from performing these tasks.

- 1) Assisting the Level 1 and 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach in daily and long range athletic activities;
- 2) Assisting the Level 1 and 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach in planning the program;
- 3) Assisting the Level 1 and 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach in guiding participants towards a harmonious team spirit;
- 4) Alerting the Level 1 and 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach to the special needs of individual athletes;
- 5) Providing assistance with supervision of athletes during periods of team travel;

6) Recommending to the Level 1 and 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach the purchase of equipment, supplies, and uniforms as appropriate for the health, safety, and welfare of student athletes;

7) Performing other non-coaching duties assigned by the principal, athletic director, or Level 1 or 2 person(s) assigned duties as a coach;

8) No person other than those employed as a Level 1 or 2 coach shall be allowed to participate in any supervisory capacity with interscholastic athletic teams or cheerleading squads, perform any other "coaching duty" as prescribed by the playing rules within a sport, nor shall any otherwise qualified person exceed his respective duties as set forth in this Bylaw.

**Case BL-27-7- Is it permissible for a person who is employed in one district, but serves as a full-time teacher in another district, to be employed to coach?**

Yes, this person can be hired. However it should be noted that if these schools were not in the same school district under the same Board of Education, this person would be considered a Level 2 coach for the purposes of this bylaw. These provisions also apply to competitive cheer (spirit).

**Case BL-27-8- Is it permissible for a coach at a high school level team to coach another level within the school district outside of the Limitation of Seasons for the sport?**

Yes. As hiring decisions are to be made at the local level, any provisions preventing a coach from being involved with his/her own players in play outside of the high school team DO NOT APPLY to other levels of play where the coach is hired by the same local Board of Education for interscholastic play. For example, the high school coach (any member of the staff) COULD be hired to coach the middle school basketball team within the same local Board of Education even if a member of that middle school team had played on the high school level (freshman, JV or varsity).

Schools are cautioned that involving school coaches with non-high school teams, particularly in middle schools which feed more than one high school, should be monitored to ensure that problems related to Bylaw 10 (Recruitment) do not surface due to this coaching.

**Case BL-27-9- What restrictions are in place for schools who hire coaches who are retiring as teachers but want to remain in coaching?**

Individuals retiring from service to Kentucky schools, either as members of the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System, or the Kentucky Employees Retirement System, should consult the system with regard to re-employment provisions. Certified employees will need to have a KTRS Form E30 approved, which can only be done post-retirement, in order to comply with the regulations of the system. In addition, school representatives should note that a retired coach who is no longer teaching in the district becomes a Level 2 Coach and is required (if not already completed) to successfully complete the Coaching Education program and other Level 2 requirements.

**Case BL-27-10- Does retiring, resigning or otherwise being relieved of coaching duties waive any of the requirements for coaching if the coach is later asked to come back into coaching in that sport at that school?**

No. A coach resigning, retiring or being otherwise relieved of coaching following a sports season does not relieve himself/herself of the responsibilities such as medical symposium attendance if in fact that are rehired for the following year.

**Case BL-27-11- Does the KHSAA have regulations regarding job postings for the hiring of coaches?**

No. Bylaw 27 includes the requirements for those holding positions, but hiring, posting and employment policies are established at the local school district level. Schools shall comply with published rules on all postings within the district, as well as all other KDE hiring regulations.

**Case BL-27-12– Are coaches required to be paid a salary and how do member schools hire coaches?**

No, there is no salary requirements. Bylaw 27 restrictions apply whether or not the coach is paid, regardless of the level (varsity, JV, freshman). Bylaw 27 states that “any person assigned to coaching duties at any level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education, and the entire coaching salary shall be paid through such board in accordance with local Board of Education Policy.” The provisions specifically address all Level 1 and Level 2 coaches. These coaches shall be designated, appointed, approved, or hired within the published policies of the Local Board of Education. Coaching salaries (including whether or not coaches are paid) are the jurisdiction of the Board of Education through the budgeting process. There may be some cases, at the discretion of the school and school system, where Level 1 or 2 coaches are appointed at no salary. This is permissible as long as they have been duly designated through the policies of the local school or Board of Education. If a salary is paid, it shall be paid entirely through the local Board of Education.

The KHSAA has no jurisdiction as to whether or not persons that are neither Level 1 nor Level 2 are used within the athletic program. Local Board of Education policies should address persons that do not meet the requirements of a Level 1 or 2 coach, and the terms and conditions of their designation shall be in accordance applicable state law. Allowable duties for those individuals are restricted by Case BL-27-6.

**Case BL-27-13- Is it permissible for a coach to receive in-service credit for Sports Safety Course, Medical Symposium or Coaching Education Attendance?**

This is a local district option. The Kentucky Department of Education no longer has specific approval for certain types of in-service credit. According to the department, the four basic (traditional) days and the additional five days, if part of the approved program of in-service in a district, may count in any manner approved by the local district. Such things as workshops and conferences, particularly on timely topics such as HIV and blood borne pathogen education, are not only approvable, but also encouraged by the department. The important key is the inclusion in the local district in-service or professional development program.

**Case BL-27-14- Who has to take the coaching education course?**

If a person was not on the faculty at the school or within the school system he/she desires to coach in 1995-96, they shall take the course. This includes Level 1 head and assistant coaches (who were not on the 1995-96 faculty), and Level 2 head and assistant coaches. Whether or not the person was a coach on the staff is irrelevant to this requirement as faculty status is the determinant.

**Case BL-27-15- If a coach has completed the Coaching Education course and changes schools or districts, do they have to re-take the course?**

No. The coaching certification is a one-time certification and is not required to be repeated if all of the requirements have been completed.

**Case BL-27-16– Is a school compelled to pay the required fee for a coach to take the required Coaching Education course?**

No, this is a local district option. The payment (or reimbursement) of the fee is not mandatory. Districts who are paying the fee for the coaches may not reimburse the fee to the coaches until all requirements including the applicable tests, are completed.

**Case BL-27-17- What is the Sports Safety Course and who is required to take the course?**

HB383 of the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly required each coach to complete a Sports Safety Course in order to coach, and to remain current by taking an approved course every two years. The course shall be taught by a Medical Doctor, a Doctor of Osteopathy, Registered Nurse or Certified Athletic Trainer. A coach that has not taken and successfully completed the course will not be able to coach at practice or contests. Beginning in

2011-12, the Course has been updated and consolidated with the Medical Symposium requirements. Coaches must remain current in the requirement to be able to be at practice or competition.

Because of the consolidation of the courses, administrators are reminded of the following implementation:

If a coach attended Medical Symposium in 2009, the coach was required to complete the new course by August 15.

If a coach attended Medical Symposium in 2010, but sports safety in 2009-2010, the coach was required to complete the new course by August 15

If a coach attended the Medical Symposium in 2010, and the sports safety in 2010, the coach can wait until the first requirement is due.

Many administrators have informed the office that due to the difficulty in determining who is due for which course, they will simply require all to take it now, therefore resetting all of the due dates. That is a local school and district decision, but highly advised.

**Case BL-27-18- What is the penalty for failing to be current in the Sports Safety Course/Medical Symposium?**

The coach shall not be permitted to be involved in practice or competition until current. There is no grace period.

**Case BL-27-19– Are cheer coaches required to meet the requirements of Bylaw 27?**

Yes, all requirements within Bylaw 27 also apply to cheer coaches.

**BYLAW 28. DISTRIBUTION OF TOURNAMENT PROFITS**

In any regular season tournament, at least seventy-five percent of the net profit shall be distributed among the participating schools. An expense allowance shall be given to each participating school for transportation, meals, and lodging.

**BYLAW 29. OFFICIALS DIVISION OF THE ASSOCIATION****Sec. 1) Officials Who License:**

Any person who officiates in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball (slow and fast pitch), swimming, volleyball and wrestling in grades 9 through 12 between member schools of the Association shall be licensed by the Commissioner and shall carry an official card indicating that licensing. All officials in baseball, basketball, football and softball shall be required to join a local officials association as described in the KHSAA Officials' Guidebook.

**Sec. 2) Clinics**

Each official licensed with the KHSAA shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which he or she is licensed.

**Sec. 3) Cancellation of License**

The KHSAA may cancel or refuse the license renewal of any official in any sport for cause as detailed in the KHSAA Officials Guidebook.

**Sec. 4) Acceptance of Assignments**

An official shall accept assignments in the amount of time and in the manner prescribed by the local official's association to which he or she belongs. The penalty for an official's failure to work an assigned game, unless providentially prevented from doing so, may be cause for up to a one-year suspension in that sport.

**Sec. 5) Violation of Contracts**

The Board of Control shall protect both the officials and the schools against violations pertaining to assignments.

**Sec. 6) Local Policy Boards/Committees**

The Commissioner may establish as many bureaus as deemed necessary in each sport in order to assign officials to games in accordance with the Federal Court Decree of 1971.

**Sec. 7) Governance**

The Officials Guidebook, published annually by the Association, shall govern all officials licensed with the KHSAA.

**Case BL-29-1- If an official is suspended will he/she be allowed to officiate in other sports during the one-year suspension?**

Yes. Unless violation is of extreme nature, suspension is applicable only to the sport in which violation occurs.

**Case BL-29-2- If an official loses his/her rating due to suspension; will he/she be allowed to qualify for the higher rating the next officiating season?**

Yes. Even though the official will not be able to officiate any games in that sport until the suspension is concluded, he/she may continue licensing, attend the clinic, and take the examination for higher rating that can be issued immediately upon completion of the suspension.

**Case BL-29-3- Are there rules, statutes or documents that govern licensed KHSAA officials, assigning secretaries and the KHSAA Officials Division?**

Yes. The Officials Division exists because of the 1971 Federal Consent Decree that resulted from a matter initially litigated regarding Officials' Assignments. This decree is found in the KHSAA Policies and Procedures section of the Handbook. In addition, each year the Board of Control annually approves the Officials Guidebook, a comprehensive set of regulations and standards which govern the Officials Division. These provisions also require compliance with criminal records checks and other information as may be requested by the Association.

**BYLAW 30. COACHES NOT TO OFFICIATE**

Coaches or persons connected with the competing schools shall not officiate at contests, unless the written consent of all competing schools is given.

**Case BL-30-1- Is it permissible for administrators or other school personnel to officiate in contests involving their team?**

No, in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball, coaches (paid or unpaid) are prohibited from officiating in contests involving their schools, as are principals, superintendents, assigning secretaries and other parties directly affiliated with the competing schools unless approval from all teams is received in writing. For the interpretation of these rules, a contest is defined as a regular season contest, game, tournament, or any postseason game or tournament in which his or her school is participating.

For the purpose of the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track and wrestling, the use of such persons as officials is almost a requirement for a successful meet and to have enough staff to administer all meet functions. Event managers are strongly encouraged to monitor the placement of coaches within events where they might have authority over one of their own athletes, and to make adjustments to the schedule of events or to the assignment of officials in order to prevent conflicts of interest. If a school is notified in advance that a coach will be involved in officiating and chooses to come to that contest, they are considered to have agreed to the use of the coach as an official.

**BYLAW 31. USE OF LICENSED OFFICIALS**

Only officials licensed with the Officials Division of the Association shall be assigned or employed to officiate in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball or wrestling in all competition involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The Commissioner may approve exceptions to this policy in writing.

**Case BL-31-1- Is a school obligated to use licensed baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling officials?**

The use of licensed officials is a requirement, the penalty for violation being possible suspension of the school or the official.

If there is any question about an official being licensed, he/she should be asked to show his/her license.

Individuals officiating a high school contest, while not properly licensed with the KHSAA, may be fined as well as the member school being penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33.

Member schools should refer to the KHSAA website for updated officials listings.

The Commissioner's office may also impose a fine on any assigning secretary who assigns an unlicensed official to a contest.

**BYLAW 32. AGREEMENT REGARDING PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CONTRACTS**

A student of a KHSAA member school shall not sign a professional baseball contract until the day following his graduation, or if he has left school, until the day following the graduation of his class; nor shall any representative of professional baseball initiate or participate in any negotiations which would violate the student's high school athletic eligibility; except that a student that has been out of school one year or longer may, with the consent of his or her parents, apply to the Major League Baseball Commissioner for permission to sign a contract and if, in the judgment of the Major League Baseball Commissioner, the circumstances justify it, he shall approve the application and so notify all major league baseball clubs. A player may be signed to a professional contract fifteen (15) days subsequent to the day of the Major League Baseball Commissioner's notice. Any school whose employee or official encourages or collaborates in negotiations that violate this agreement shall be suspended from the KHSAA for a period to be determined by the Board of Control.

**BYLAW 33. IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES**

Sec. 1) Authority to Penalize

If Association rules and regulations have been violated, penalties may be imposed on the offending schools or individual within the defined parameters of this bylaw, the KHSAA Due Process Procedure, and KRS Chapter 13B. These penalties may be by the Commissioner's office, the KHSAA Hearing Officer or the Board of Control dependent upon the specifics of the bylaw, KHSAA Due Process Procedure, or KRS Chapter 13B. Each member school of the KHSAA through its Principal shall ensure that its athletic program remains compliant with KHSAA rules.

A member school, student, coach, or administrator shall not be punished or sanctioned, in any manner, by the KHSAA for allowing a student to play in an athletic contest or practice with the team during a time when an order of a court of competent jurisdiction permits the student to participate or otherwise stays or enjoins enforcement of a final KHSAA decision on eligibility.

For violation of any rule or regulation by any member school or school designated staff, student-athlete, official, or other representative, the penalty as may be called for under the specific rule or regulation, or, in case no specific penalty is called for, disciplinary action, including warning, reprimand, probation, suspension, or payment of a fine may be imposed.

a) FINE

A fine may be levied in lieu of, or in addition to, any other penalty imposed upon the school and may only be levied against a member school. The Board of Control shall adopt a schedule of fines and publish said schedule annually in the Association Handbook. The fine schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the Association or received by the school as a result of postseason competition. A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may only be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Board of Control.

b) FORFEIT

The forfeit of contests or meets may be included in penalties assessed for violation of Association rules.

c) WARNING

A warning may be issued which is written notification that a violation, or an inexcusable or unethical action, has occurred, is a matter of record, and that the action shall not be repeated.

d) LETTER OF REPRIMAND

A written reprimand of the individual, program, or school may be issued if a violation of the rules has occurred which was preventable. The action is a matter of record, and warnings that repeat actions of this type may be cause for further penalty.

e) PROBATION

Probation is a more severe penalty and may be described in the following manner. Normally, an individual or a school on probation is on conditional Association membership, but may be

permitted to engage in a regular schedule, sanctioned events, or district, regional and state championships. This is provided that the individual or school has taken steps to ensure the problem which placed the individual or school on probation has been alleviated and will not re-occur. Additionally, a school on probation may be restricted to limits on scrimmages, regular season contests or post season competition as may be deemed appropriate.

f) **SUSPENSION**

An individual participant, coach, specific sport or school may be suspended from competition or from scrimmage participation. This penalty may range from the elimination of individual or team(s) participation in games, tournaments, meets or state championship competition, to suspension of the school from the Association. Individuals or teams suspended may not engage in contests with member schools of the Association, or with any other school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

g) **RESTITUTION**

A fine may be levied equal to the amount of itemized legal fees expended by the Association in defense of its rules in a court of law in cases where a school or school system is directly or indirectly involved in the legal challenge of an association rule which has passed via the proper Constitutional process and in which case, the Association prevails in court. If the Association, its Commissioner, or other persons associated or employed by the Association are named as a party, or if the Association intervenes in any action to enforce a ruling, bylaw or other provision, it shall be presumed that the school where the student attends or the coach or other person is employed or is otherwise associated or connected, is involved in the legal challenge. The presumption of involvement may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence. Involvement includes providing testimony, staff, staff legal counsel or funds for counsel, or direct filings by or on behalf of the school or school system.

If the Association conducts an investigation regarding any player, coach, assistant coach, paraprofessional, booster, supporter or other person associated with a team, program or member school, and the investigation results in any penalty being imposed by the Association, the school may be required to pay all costs of that investigation. The costs may include the costs, fees and expenses charged by an investigator, and the costs, fees and expenses charged by the Association's legal counsel.

h) **PERMANENT SUSPENSION**

Any coach, participant or other school representative may be permanently suspended from involvement in interscholastic athletics in this state if found by competent and conclusive evidence to be guilty of assaulting a sports official.

i) **REDISTRIBUTION**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor and as an extension to the fine penalty listed above, it may be directed that a portion or all of the net proceeds received from a postseason contest or tournament be returned to the host or redistributed to the other contest or tournament participants.

j) **VACATE/STRIKE**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor, it may be directed that 1) Individual records and performances be vacated or stricken; 2) Team records and performances including place finishes be vacated or stricken; or 3) Individual or team awards be returned to the Association.

**Case BL-33-1- What level of institutional control is the principal of each member school expected to maintain?**

*There are several principles that go into the concept of maintaining institutional control. Control shall first be defined in common sense terms and is best summarized by the school having in place the proper policies to ensure that violations do not occur, and if they do occur, the Principal exhibiting the leadership and duty to correct the problems and prevent recurrence. In general violations do not result from a lack of institutional control if there are adequate preventive measures in place that are properly monitored and followed, and if swift action is taken.*

*However, there are several things that demonstrate a lack of institutional control including the failure to implement proper preventive procedures; failure by members of the designated athletic staff to thoroughly investigate and report violations; failure to adequately disseminate and distribute compliance information; failure to adequately distribute compliance duties to allow for effective control; failing to make clear to all coaches and participants that rules violations will not be tolerated, failing to fully investigate and file reports as requested when potential violations are reported; a head coach failing to create a compliant atmosphere with the assistant coaches.*

*The KHSAA enforces its rules based on the following premises-KHSAA regulations and information are readily available to the member schools and general public; the Principal or Designated Representative properly distributes information, rules manuals, communication, forms, and other needed materials to the members of the athletics staff; that meaningful education programs are conducted within the schools to ensure compliance; student-athletes are properly informed about rules prior to and during participation. Certainly the compliance history of a school and its cooperative spirit during any investigation or inquiry will factor into any penalty decision regarding violations.*

**Case BL-33-2- What are the possible penalties under Bylaw 33 for the violations of KHSAA rules?**

*Through the Due Process Procedure, the Commissioner may impose penalties under Bylaw 33, including each of the ten listed options. When cases are before the Board of Control, the Board has the same penalty options available.*

*Suspension, either of an individual or a program, is one of those penalties and could involve removal and restriction from contests or a reduction in schedule.*

*Other penalty options include Fine, Forfeit, Warning, Letter of Reprimand, Probation, Restitution, Permanent Suspension, Redistribution and Vacating/Striking. Each of these is described in detail in Bylaw 33.*

**Case BL-33-3- What is a contest official as described in the permanent suspension provisions?**

*A contest official could be one of the game officials (referees), scorers, timers, or other game management personnel working in an official capacity at the contest.*

**Case BL-33-4- Are penalties from the KHSAA necessary when schools violate rules that are more stringent than KHSAA standards?**

*No. This is a situation between the member schools and is not a matter for Association review. For example, if a school has a more stringent academic requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard and then inadvertently allows a player to compete who is eligible by KHSAA rules, but not by local rules, KHSAA penalties do not apply. However, the offending school should report these situations to the opponents and take whatever agreed action is necessary.*

**Case BL-33-5- What are the penalties and how does the forfeit rule apply to games cancelled due to violation of the provisions of the KHSAA Title IX plan and the prime-time play initiative in basketball?**

*Each year, the KHSAA shall audit all girls' regular season basketball schedules (hereinafter "current schedule"). These annual audits shall begin with the first legal regular season playing date. Schools that are not in compliance with the forty (40) percent requirement on the first playing date shall be contacted on or before December 31 of the playing season in an effort to allow for schedule corrections or revisions to comply with the forty (40) percent requirement. The school shall be notified of the potential penalties for non compliance with this correspondence.*

*Schedules shall be posted on the KHSAA website in the manner as instructed by the Commissioner's office prior to the published deadline. Schedules shall be accurate and include entry and designation of games that are involved in tournaments, classics, festivals and other multi-game events.*

*At the end of the regular playing season, the schedules shall be audited for final compliance with the requirement.*

*Based on the final audit at the end of regular season, if a member school's total home games for girls' do not comply with the forty (40) percent requirement, the following penalty shall be applied:*

- 1) The boys' regular season total game schedule for the following school year's basketball season shall be reduced by two games as compared to the current boys' schedule;*
- 2) The overall two contest reduction shall be achieved by reducing boys' home games;*
- 3) In the case that a school does not have any home games, the two game penalty shall be applied to away games;*
- 4) In the event that this penalty is imposed, the offending school shall count the game as a forfeit with respect to KHSAA Bylaws and shall comply with the provisions of Bylaw 24 as it relates to forfeit fees and other penalties. The game may not be replaced on the offending team's schedule but may be replaced on the opponent schedule;*
- 5) Schools may not schedule or enter additional tournaments from the benchmark year as a means of circumventing the penalties within this policy; and*
- 6) Schools will be notified of the reduction in the allowable boys' games for the following season after the conclusion of the current season.*

*As an example:*

*On the first legal playing date for the season, Jones High School's regular season girls' basketball schedule reflects they are not playing forty (40) percent of their girls' total number of home games on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday. Jones High School is audited again at the end of the season, and does not meet the forty (40) percent requirement.*

*During that same season, the boys' total number of regular season games played is 23. Within this 23 count, there are 21 single games being played and two tournaments counted in a reduced fashion per the rule. The boys' team played six regular season home single games.*

*Due to non-compliance with the forty (40) percent requirement for girls', Jones High School's total number of allowable boys' regular season single games for the following regular season shall be reduced to 21. This reduction would not apply to the allowable two tournaments that may be counted in a reduced fashion.*

*In this example, the total allowable number of regular season home games for the following season may not exceed four single games.*

*Should this reduction occur, the KHSAA Staff shall work with member schools to accomplish the identified contractual game reductions.*