

Bylaw 11. Practice of Sportsmanship

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 by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.

It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representative 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. Violations of this particular provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 33, Penalties.

Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation must be reinstated by a member of the Commission 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 such a contest because of unsportsmanlike tactics, shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner.

The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner by the principal of the school than that student attends. When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he/she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his/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 situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)

CASE SITUATIONS RELATED TO THE BYLAWS of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Contained in this section of the KHSAA Handbook are interpretations and rulings which have been made in accordance with applicable provisions of the KHSAA Bylaws. This section is printed as a supplement to the actual printed rules and does 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 these interpretations should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Interpretive questions or eligibility rulings will not be addressed via electronic mail and must be requested and issued in writing. The following table represents cross-referencing to the relevant portions of the KHSAA Handbook.

Case BL-11-1- If a student or coach is ejected from a scrimmage or contest, who makes the report on this incident?

The game official(s) must complete the ejection report within twenty-four hours and the member school principal of the school with whom the player or coach is affiliated must complete a form using the KHSAA web site requesting reinstatement.

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

Case BL-11-2- 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 must be protected and scrimmages or contests conducted in an orderly manner. A violation of this rule may be cause for suspension.

Case BL-11-3- What is the responsibility of a coach who has been ejected from a scrimmage or contest or is serving the mandatory suspension for being ejected

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. This is important so as to discourage potential conflict during the remainder of, and following, the game. An ejected player or coach may also be otherwise penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33. During a suspension from coaching, the coach is not to be at the game site for any scrimmage or contest.

Case BL-11-4- May a coach remove his team from the floor or field if he believes that such removal is for the safety of his players?

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-11-5- 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 should be reported by the contest official to the KHSAA and reported by the effected schools within 24 hours of the incident.

Case BL-11-6- If a coach or player 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) and at minimum, for the next additional contest at that level. The suspension is considered immediate and indefinite at the level of play at which the ejection occurred.

This means that a coach or player 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 one-game/meet/contest suspension for any participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct. For participants sitting out in an individual sport such as swimming, track or wrestling due to suspension, this 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 contest.

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.

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 two-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.

During the suspension period of any non-player (coach, administrator, etc.) the coach may not be at the game site for the team's contests and may not communicate with the team at any point from the beginning of the contest until the end of the contest. For purposes of definition, to "not be at the game site" is defined as not being on school property or game site property during the entire 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- What are the possible ramifications if school personnel criticize game officials through the media?

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 and/or individuals may be penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33.

Case BL-11-8- 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-11-9- Is there a penalty for failing to report a disqualification?

Yes. 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. Timely implies the reporting within a minimum of twenty-four hours and an immediate reinstatement request by member school representatives.

Case BL-11-10- Does an ejection in one of the two allowable scrimmages have the same penalty as a regular season contest?

Yes. Being one of the two allowable scrimmages is not an "open opportunity" for unsportsmanlike conduct. Persons ejected from the first scrimmage are to be penalized during the second scrimmage, persons ejected from the second scrimmage are penalized in the first regular season varsity contest.

Case BL-11-11- 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) has now specifically listed the assault of a sport official as a crime. Officials, right or wrong in their judgment and application of the rules, must 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 11-12- Can a school or other entity on behalf of a school videotape an opponent without permission or use otherwise illegal equipment such as cleats that exceed the size limit in football?

No. 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.