

**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 situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**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 not only an obligation but also a requirement, the penalty for violation being possible suspension.*

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

*The assignment or employment of unlicensed or improperly licensed individuals to officiate Kentucky high school athletic contests or scrimmages at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman level creates serious issues for the member schools.*

*Officiating grade 9 through 12 athletic contests or scrimmages by such individuals places the assigning secretary, the school, the athletes, the officiating individual and the KHSAA at great risk.*

*Using these non-licensed individual is a violation of Bylaw 31. In these situations, injuries to athletes participating in high school athletic events would not be covered by current KHSAA catastrophic protective insurance coverage. If officials are not properly licensed with the KHSAA, it could render insurance provisions null and void*

*Individuals officiating a high school contest, while not properly licensed with the KHSAA, may be fined \$100, plus the applicable licensing fees, should they wish to continue to officiate. This is necessary to eliminate this unnecessary legal exposure for all of us.*

*Procedures are in place at the KHSAA to make the identity of properly licensed officials readily known to you with the push of a button (via the KHSAA website). Schools are also encouraged to double check by referring to the individual official's licensing card. And a third option exists by contacting the KHSAA office for verification.*

*First time applicants may have filled out the paperwork to become an official, but he/she is not eligible to officiate until after they have passed the officiating examination with a score of 70%. Re-licensing officials are not eligible to officiate until they have completed the annual re-licensing process. Officials who have completed their 25<sup>th</sup> year of officiating in Kentucky and may therefore license free of charge must still complete the licensing process.*

*In order to ensure greater compliance with Bylaw 31, the Commissioner's office additional reserves the right to impose a fine on any assigning secretary who, by assigning unlicensed personnel to officiate high school freshman, jv or varsity contests, places a student, a member school, an assigning secretary or the Association in this vulnerable position.*