

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KHSAA

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association was organized in April, 1917. Charter members were Frankfort Boys' High of Louisville, Owensboro, Carrollton, Lexington, Carlisle, Anderson County, Monticello, Somerset, Ashland, Stanford, Paris, LaGrange, Morganfield, Danville, Clark County, Covington and Cynthiana.

Since the founding of the organization, the officers have been as follows:

President: M.E. Ligon, 1917-1926; C.I. Henry, 1926-1928; G.O. Swing, 1928-1929; W.F. O'Donnell, 1929-1941; R.E. Bridges, 1941-1947; L.V. Ginger, 1947-1953; Carlos Oakley, 1953-1955; Russell Williamson, 1955-1960; Louis Litchfield, 1960-1961; W.H. Crowds, 1961-1962; K. G. Gillaspie, 1962-1963; Cecil A. Thornton, 1963-1964; Oran C. Teater, 1964-1965; Foster J. Sanders, 1965-1966; Sherman Gish, 1966-1967; Don R. Rawlings, 1967-68; Preston Holland, 1968-1969; Ralph C. Dorsey, 1969-1970; Don Davis, 1970-1971; Morton Combs, 1971-1972; Richard Vincent, 1972-1973; Frank B. Simpson, 1973-1974; W.P. Wheeler, 1974-1975; Louis Martin, 1975-1976; George E. Sauer, 1976-1977; Ray Story, 1977-1978; Jack Burkich, 1978-1979; Barney Thweatt, 1979-1980; Zeb Blankenship, 1980-1981; J.D. Minnehan, 1981-1982; Fairce Woods, 1982-1983; Charles D. Black, 1983-1984; Eldon Davidson, 1984-1985; Patrick Crawford, 1985-1986; Chester Turner, 1986-87; Frank Welch, 1987-88; Tom Buchanan, 1988-89; Sam Chandler, 1989-90; David Points, 1990-91; Alvis Johnson, 1991-92; Jack Portwood, 1992-93; Ray Story, 1993-94; Frank Cardwell, 1994-95; Ozz Jackson, 1995-96; Bob Rogers, 1996-97; Ken Cox, 1997-98; Stan Steidel, 1998-99; Eddie Saylor, 1999-2000; Roland Williams, 2000-01; Kathy Johnston, 2001-02; Eddie Saylor, 2002-03; Paul Dotson, 2003-04; James Sexton, 2004-05; Jerry Taylor, 2005-06; Gary Dearborn, 2006-2007; Donna Wear, 2007-2008; Lonnie Burgett, 2008-2009; Dave Weedman, 2009-2010; Kelley F. Ransdell, 2010-2011; Alan Donhoff, 2011-2012.

Vice President: W.O. Hopper, 1917-1918; A. C. Pelton, 1918-1919; C.E. Skinner, 1919-1921; R.E. Hill, 1921-1922; C.E. Skinner, 1922-1923; J. L. Foust, 1923-1924; K.R. Patterson, 1924-1925; C.I. Henry, 1925-1926; J.D. Falls, 1926-1927; J.O. Lewis, 1927-1928; J.S. Brown, 1928-1929; J.D. Williams, 1932-1934; Tim Meinschein, 1934-1937; R.E. Bridges, 1937-1941; W.B. Owen, 1941-1947; T.K. Stone, 1947-1953; Russell Williamson, 1953-1955; Roy G. Eversole, 1955-1956; Louis Litchfield, 1956-1960; W.B. Jones, 1960-1961; K.G. Gillaspie, 1961-1962; Cecil A. Thornton, 1962-1963; Oran C. Teater, 1963-1964; Don R. Rawlings, 1964-1965; Preston Holland, 1965-1966; Don Davis, 1966-1967; Morton Combs, 1967-1968; Ralph C. Dorsey, 1968-1969; Foster J. Sanders, 1969-1970; W.H. Crowds, 1970-1971; James T. Dotson, 1971-1972; Frank B. Simpson, 1972-1973; W.P. Wheeler, 1973-1974; Louie Martin, 1974-1975; Arthur Hawkins, 1975-1976; Ray Story, 1976-1977; Norman Passmore, 1977-1978; Barney Thweatt, 1978-1979; Zeb Blankenship, 1979-1980; J.D. Minnehan, 1980-1981; Fairce Woods, 1981-1982; Robie Harper, 1982-1983; Eldon Davidson, 1983-1984; Robert L. Rogers, 1984-1985; Chester Turner, 1985-1986; Frank Welch, 1986-87; Tom Buchanan, 1987-88; Sam Chandler, 1988-89; David Points, 1989-90; Alvis Johnson, 1990-91; Jack Portwood, 1991-92; Ray Story, 1992-93; Frank Cardwell, 1993-94; Ozz Jackson, 1994-95; Bob Rogers, 1995-96; Ken Cox, 1996-97; Stan Steidel, 1997-98; Eddie Saylor, 1998-99; Roland Williams, 1999-2000; Kathy Johnston, 2000-2001; Eddie Saylor, 2001-02; Paul Dotson, 2002-03; James Sexton, 2003-04; Jerry Taylor, 2004-05; Gary Dearborn, 2005-06; Donna Wear, 2006-2007; Michael J. Barren, 2007-2008; Dave Weedman, 2008-2009; Kelley F. Ransdell, 2009-10; Alan Donhoff, 2010-2011; Boyd Randolph, 2011-2012.

Secretary-Treasurer: J.H. Way, 1917-1918; J.L. Foust, 1918-1922; R.E. Hill, 1922-1937; Ted A. Sanford, 1937-1947

Commissioner: Ted A. Sanford, 1947-1972; Joe Billy Mansfield, 1972-1976; Tom Mills, 1976-1991; Billy Wise, 1991-1994; Louis Stout, 1994-2002; Brigid DeVries, 2002-2010; Julian Tackett, 2010- Present

Other Association professional staff members have been:

Assistant Commissioner: Joe Billy Mansfield, 1949-1972; Billy V. Wise, 1969-1991; Louis Stout, 1971-1994; Tom Mills, 1972-

1976; Dianne H. Caines, 1976-1978; Brigid L. DeVries, 1979-2002; Larry Boucher, 1991-2008; Julian Tackett, 1995-2010; Roland Williams 2002-2007; Darren Bilberry, 2007-present; Butch Cope 2008-present; Michael Barren 2008-present; Angela Passafiume, 2010-present

Sports Information Director: Julian Tackett, 1984-1991; Jeff Rogers, 1991-1992; Brooks Downing, 1992-1995; Butch Cope, 1995-2002; Elden May 2009-present

Information Technology Director: Rob Catron, 2010-Present
Promotions & Media Relations Director: Butch Cope 2002-2008

Business Affairs Director: Julian Tackett, 1991-1995

Consultant for Corporate Sponsors: Earl Cox, 1987-1992

Consultant for Fund Raising: Ken Tippet, 1992-2008

General Counsel: George Fletcher, 2009-2010; Chad Collins, 2010-present

The Association started with 18 members in 1917 and this number increased to a high of 572 in 1936-37. There were 277 members in 2010-11. Consolidation of schools has been largely responsible for the decrease in membership in recent years

Highlights in the history of the Association are:

- 1917 - KHSAA organized
- 1918 - First Boys' State High School Basketball Tournament
- 1920 - First Boys' State Track Meet
- 1921 - Ten District Tournaments Held
- First Girls' State High School Basketball Tournament
- 1922 - State Divided into 16 Districts
- 1924 - State Divided into 18 Districts
- 1927 - State Divided into 24 Districts, 6 Regions
- A and B Classification Adopted For All Tournaments
- 1928 - State Divided into 32 Districts, 8 Regions
- 1931 - State Divided into 64 Districts, 16 Regions
- A and B Classification Discontinued for State Basketball Tournament
- First Boys' State Tennis Tournament
- 1932 - Girls' State Basketball Tournament Discontinued
- 1933 - A and B Classification Discontinued for All Tournaments
- 1934 - Eight Semester and Twenty-Year Age Limit Rules Put Into Effect
- 1935 - Board of Control Membership Increased to Five
- 1938 - Plan for Registering and Training Officials Adopted
- Officials' Clinics in Football and Basketball Begun
- Board of Control Membership Increased to Six
- Secretary Takes Over Management of State Basketball Tournament
- Printing of Association Magazine Authorized
- Regional Track Meets Made Part of State Program
- 1939 - National Federation Basketball Rules Adopted
- KHSAA Protection Fund Incorporated
- First Boys' State Golf Tournament
- 1940 - Association Joins National Federation
- First Boys' State Baseball Tournament
- 1942 - Board of Control Membership Increased to Seven
- 1943 - Number of Districts Doubled, With 16 Regions and 4 Sections
- 1944 - Sectional Tournaments Discontinued
- 1945 - Number of Districts in Region Reduced to 4
- 1946 - First KHSAA Sponsored Boys' State Swimming Meet
- 1947 - Full-Time Commissioner Elected (Ted Sanford)
- Board of Control Membership Increased to Eight
- Rules Recodified
- 1948 - Number of Basketball Games Limited
- Sanction Rule Strengthened
- Commissioner Authorized to Determine Regional Tournament Sites
- 1949 - Assistant Commissioner Added to State Office Staff (Joe Billy Mansfield)
- 1950 - Classes Adopted for Boys' State Swimming Meet
- 1951 - Regional Golf and Tennis Tournaments Made Part of State Program
- 1952 - Awards and Amateur Rule Adopted
- 1953 - First KHSAA Sponsored Boys' State Cross Country Meet
- 1954 - District and Regional Basketball Trophies Standardized

- 1955 - Office Building Erected (Rose Street, Lexington)
- 1956 - Regional Cross Country Made Part of State Program
- 1957 - Coaches Required to Attend Rules Clinic
- 1958 - Board Given Authority to Set Up Football Championship Plan
- 1959 - First Football Championships
- Requirements of Coaches Increased
- 1960 - First State Tennis Tournaments for Girls
- 1961 - First Football Districts Established
- 1962 - First State Swimming Meet for Girls
- First State Rifle Championship
- 1963 - Wrestling Made Part of State Program
- 1964 - Delegate Assembly Adopts 19th Birthday Age Limit, New Rule to Take Effect in 1968
- 1965 - First State Golf Tournament for Girls
- 1966 - First State Track Meet for Girls
- Classes Adopted for Boys' Track
- 1967 - First State Gymnastics Meets for Boys and Girls
- First Required Registration of Baseball Officials
- Classes Adopted for State Cross Country Meet
- 1968 - Regional Wrestling Tournaments Made Part of State Program
- 1969 - Classes Adopted for Girls' Track
- Age Rule Modified
- Second Assistant Commissioner Added to State Office Staff (Billy Wise)
- First Registration of Wrestling Officials
- 1971 - New Office Building Erected (Cooper Drive)
- Landmark Federal Court Ruling Issued Concerning Staff Structure and Officiating
- 1972 - Board of Control Membership Increased to Ten
- Third Assistant Commissioner Added to State Office Staff (Louis Stout)
- First Boys' State Soccer Tournament Held
- J.B. Mansfield named KHSAA's second Commissioner
- 1974 - First State Fencing Tournaments Held
- 1975 - Girls' State Basketball Tournaments Revived
- First Girls' State Cross Country Meet Held
- 1976 - First Female Assistant Commissioner Hired for Office Staff (Dianne Caines)
- Tom Mills named KHSAA's third Commissioner
- 1977 - Spring Football practice abolished by vote of membership at Annual Meeting
- 1978 - The State Board of Education delegated the authority to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association for the management of the interscholastic athletic program of the secondary schools
- 1979 - First State Volleyball Tournament Held
- First Registration of Volleyball Officials
- First School Dues Increase for membership in Association history
- 1980 - Registration of Track Officials
- 1981 - Change to Meters from Yards in Track
- 1982 - Limitation of Season Placed on All KHSAA Sponsored Events
- 1983 - First Girls' State Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
- First Registration of Softball Officials
- 1984 - Sports Information Director added to State Office Staff (Julian Tackett)
- 1986 - Kentucky-Indiana Championship Series - "Mid-America Classic" Begun
- 1987 - First Consultant for Corporate Sponsors Hired by State Office (Earl Cox)
- Agreement reached with Dawahares to sponsor Dawahares - KHSAA Sports Hall of Fame
- First females (Sandy Allen, Louisville and Liz Trabant, Russell) elected to KHSAA Board of Control
- 1988 - Twenty-six former participants, coaches, officials and contributors inducted as the first class of inductees for the Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame
- 1990 - Ground is broken for the new KHSAA Headquarters (Executive Drive), which will house the offices of the Association, as well as nearly 15,000 square feet of space for the Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame and Museum
- 1991 - Billy Wise named KHSAA's fourth Commissioner
- 1992 - Dawahares agrees to a four year contract extension as the sponsor of the Hall of Fame. In return, the family purchases/provides the new furniture for the KHSAA office building and Hall of Fame
- The KHSAA moves into its third headquarters building, located on Executive Drive off Winchester Road near the junction of Interstates 75 and 64
- First Girls' State Soccer Tournament held
- Board of Control expanded to sixteen members to include non-school members following Department of Education review
- 1993 - Second dues increase for member schools in Association history
- 1994 - Louis Stout named KHSAA's Fifth Commissioner
- Board of Control closes on a refinancing package designed to stabilize the finances of the Association
- First Registration of Fast Pitch Umpires
- 1995 - First Girls' State Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held
- 1997 - First KHSAA Summer Dead Period for interscholastic athletics
- Spring football practice reinstated by Annual Meeting to be effective in 1998
- 1998 - KHSAA enters agreement with Host/USA Collegiate for the sports marketing firm to represent the Association
- KHSAA, along with NewsCall (Richard Farmer and Tom Stephens), forms and manages first statewide radio network for boys' and girls' state basketball tournaments
- Sub-Section game added in Boys' State Soccer
- 1999 - Board of Control closes on refinancing at long term debt anniversary to lock in long term debt rate for duration of loan on building
- Ticket receipts for Boys' State Basketball Tournament surpass \$1 Million mark for first time
- 2000 - KHSAA begins visiting membership to educate and assist with Title IX, visiting 20% of members each year for a five year period
- Sub-section game added in Girls' State Soccer
- 2001 - Houchens Industries signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2003-06 Girls' State Basketball Tournaments to be held in Bowling Green.
- The Board of Control approves a student sportsmanship/leadership conference to be held in conjunction with the Association's Annual Delegate Assembly in January, 2002. The conference, titled HYPE 2002, will be open to all student-athletes across the state and is the first such endeavor by the Association.
- 2002 - The first annual student sportsmanship/leadership conference (HYPE 2002) was held in conjunction with the Association's Annual Delegate Assembly in January. Over 400 student-athletes from across the state attended the conference in Lexington.
- Brigid L. DeVries named KHSAA's Sixth Commissioner, first female Commissioner of the Association.
- Butch Cope named KHSAA's first Director of Promotions and Media Relations to further emphasize the Association's commitment to its corporate sponsorship sales and to market the Association through its public relations efforts.
- 2003 - Big Blue Nation signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2003 State Baseball Tournament held in Lexington.
- 2004 - National City signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2004-06 Boys' State Basketball Tournaments to be held in Lexington.
- The Championship games of both the Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournament and the National City/KHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tournaments are telecast live through the state with an agreement with Insight Communications.
- Fifth Third Bank signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2004-05 through 2006-2007 State Baseball and Tennis Tournaments to be held in Lexington.
- Leachman Buick & GMC of Bowling Green signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2004 through 2006 Boys'

- 2005 - & Girls' State Golf Tournaments.
- 2005 - Houchens Industries extends its sponsorship of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament through the 2008 year with an additional three one-year extensions options that would include the 2011 event.
- Leachman Buick & GMC extends its sponsorship of the Boys' & Girls' State Golf Tournament through the 2009 tournament.
- Through its corporate sponsorships, the Association awards over \$58,000 in scholarships to student-athletes.
- 2006 - National City extends its title sponsorship of the Boys' State Basketball Tournament through the 2008 event.
- Through first five years of project, KHSAA has now visited all KHSAA member schools, and completed on-site reviews of athletics facilities and policies to assist membership in complying with Title IX
- Through its corporate sponsors, the Association again awards over \$58,000 in scholarships to student-athletes.
- 2007 - Through its corporate sponsors, the Association awards over \$67,000 in scholarships to student-athletes.
- Last sanctioned State Slow Pitch Softball Tournament held.
- Football expands to six classes beginning with the 2007 playing season.
- Debt retired on the mortgage on the KHSAA office building.
- Darren Bilberry hired as Assistant Commissioner
- 2008 - Through its corporate sponsors, the Association awards over \$58,000 in scholarships to student-athletes.
- Forcht Bank signs on as title corporate sponsor for the 2007-08 through 2009-2010 State Baseball Tournament to be held in Lexington. Applebee's Park will remain the site of the event through 2012.
- National City extends its title sponsorship of the Boys' State Basketball Tournament through the 2011 event.
- Butch Cope, Director of Promotions & Media Relations, promoted to Assistant Commissioner.
- Michael Barren hired as Assistant Commissioner
- 2009 - Pannell Swim Shop becomes title partner for KHSAA State Swimming and Diving Championships
- Elden May hired as Sports Information Director
- George Fletcher hired as in-house General Counsel
- Association launches unprecedented education effort in response to 2009 HB383 by deploying on-line course for coach's safety training. More than 10,000 coaches complete course in the first year.
- After more than 30 years with the KHSAA, Commissioner Brigid DeVries announces her retirement, effective July 9, 2010.
- 2010 - PNC Bank becomes the title sponsor of the Boys' State Basketball Tournament, assuming the role from National City after the two companies complete a merger.
- Julian Tackett becomes the seventh Commissioner in the KHSAA's 93-year history, effective June 1, 2010.
- 2011 - Angela Passafiume hired as Assistant Commissioner.
- Chad Collins hired as General Counsel.
- Leachman Buick & GMC extends its corporate title sponsorship of the Boys' and Girls' State Golf Tournaments through the year 2020.
- Kentucky National Insurance becomes the title sponsor of the State Baseball Tournament, assuming the role from Forcht Bank.