



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 18, 2008

SCOTT COUNTY STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY CLARIFICATION

This is to clarify the interscholastic athletic eligibility status of two students (Chad Jackson and Dakotah Euton) transferring to Scott County High School from Rose Hill Christian, and their requests for a waiver of KHSAA Bylaw 6. School personnel have now been notified that the waiver requests of both students have been denied.

Because of public statements made by Clay Euton (the father of one of the students) indicating that his son's transfer to Scott County was in whole or partly motivated by a desire to play basketball at the school as well as concerns involving the recent transfer of other AAU basketball teammates to Scott County, Dakotah Euton's request for a waiver of Bylaw 6 was denied. In addition, due to a clerical error in correspondence, Scott County was initially notified that Chad Jackson was eligible. That correspondence has now been corrected and Scott County has been notified that Chad Jackson's request for a waiver of Bylaw 6 was denied on the original request.

The member schools of the KHSAA enacted Bylaw 6 to maintain the integrity of high school athletics and prevent and deter transfers due to recruiting and for athletic reasons. Bylaw 6 provides an objectively based standard that makes a student ineligible for one year from the date of transfer if the student participated in varsity athletics after grade nine at the former school. An objective standard is necessary because the KHSAA does not have the resources to comprehensively investigate the true motivations underlying the nearly one thousand transfer forms that are submitted to the KHSAA each year, and would have rare success in identifying athletically motivated transfers thinly disguised as transfers for alleged academic or other non-athletic reasons.

In order to allow a student to become eligible under situations where there are objective indicators that the transfer was not due to recruiting or for athletic reasons, the member schools of the KHSAA have enacted nine exceptions under which Bylaw 6 may be waived. As an example for the year ending May 31, 2007, the application of these exceptions resulted in a high percentage (74% - 596 out of 805) of transferring students being eligible.

Students have the right to appeal eligibility rulings in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B, which includes a hearing before an independent hearing officer. At this hearing, the students can present information to support their positions and have all pertinent issues in their cases addressed. If these students timely take an appeal, the final decisions regarding their eligibility should be issued prior to the start of basketball season. In this manner, the KHSAA can consider the interests of all member schools and their student-athletes in the proper and fair application of Bylaw 6.

As is KHSAA policy, the Association will have no further comment while the cases remain within the appeal timeline. Please contact school personnel at Scott County High School for further comments.