



M E M O

TO: Interim Joint Committee on Education
FROM: Commissioner Brigid L. DeVries on behalf of Sports Safety Work Group, 2009 HB383
SUBJECT: Sports Safety Work Group Final Report
DATE: October 23, 2009

On March 24, 2009, Governor Steve Beshear signed HB383 following the 2009 Regular Legislative Session. One of the stipulations in the bill required that a Sports Safety Work Group (SSWG) be established, and include individuals from the athletic, educational, and medical professions. The purpose of this committee was to coordinate a study of sports safety for interscholastic sports in Kentucky. The study was coordinated by Commissioner Brigid L. DeVries of the KHSAA and Michael Dailey, with the Kentucky Department of Education. The SSWG met on the following dates: May 4, 2009, June 1, 2009, July 9, 2009, August 10, 2009, September 1, 2009, September 15, 2009, and October 1, 2009. The KHSAA office was the host site for the meetings.

The SSWG concluded its work on October 1, 2009 and made several recommendations and reached consensus on a variety of subjects. The report includes a review of each component outlined in HB 383, and includes consensus statements from the SSWG. The following are the central points of the consensus statements and summarize the key recommendations:

- I. Air Quality Index information needs to be available to coaches and administrators in pre-determined areas of the state.
- II. The 2009 Sports Safety Course should continue to be used to fulfill the mandatory sports safety requirement in KHSAA regulations, specifically Bylaw 27 and outlined in 2009 HB383.
- III. The KHSAA, KDE, KMA and KATS should work collaboratively with KCSS to develop guidelines for emergency preparedness plans for athletic contests, practices, contests and facilities.
- IV. The General Assembly should appropriate funds to collect interscholastic sports injury information to provide injury data specific to Kentucky.
- V. The KHSAA and KDE should continue to distribute and refer health and sports safety information to coaches, student- athletes, parents and volunteers through the use of the internet and other means.

- VI. The SSWG recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education review current sports safety regulations and requirements for coaches at the middle school level.
- VII. Existing sports safety guidelines should be made available for use by school programs at any grade level as well as other activity groups such as band, drill team or dance.
- VIII. The Kentucky General Assembly should consider changes to KRS 311.900-311.928 to remove current restrictions limiting the work settings for Athletic Trainers (as defined in the report) promoting a funding alternative for better coverage and availability of trainers.

As Commissioner I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the members of the SSWG on this important study. Attached please find a copy of the full report.