

## **Full Board of Control**

November 14, 2024 8:00 AM  
KHSAA Office, Lexington, KY

### **Present Board Members:**

Greg Howard, Russell Thompson, Matt Wilhoite, Jim Demler, Damon Kelley, Marty Mills, Gavin Washington, Brian Courtney, Michael Phillips, David Zuberer, Randy McCallon, Claudette Herald, Brandy Carver, Mandi Hudson, Noel Crum, Coy Samons, and Denny Williams.

### **Absent Board Members:**

Chuck Mullins

### **Present Others:**

David Couch, Marty Park, Jason Frakes, and Jared Peck.

### **Present KHSAA Staff:**

Julian Tackett, Joe Angolia, Darren Bilberry, Sarah Bridenbaugh, Rob Catron, Butch Cope, Jenny Elder, Kara Howard, Abby Jackson, Connor Link, Sara McClain, and Chad Collins.

**Board of Control convened at 8:00 AM and adjourned to work session. The work session concluded and the full Board reconvened.**

**Brian Courtney led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Michael Phillips gave the Reflection.**

### **Work Session Items**

#### **Public Comment if Requested in Advance**

#### **Legal Session for Updates on Specific Items Per KRS 61.810(c)**

Commissioner Tackett and General Counsel Collins requested the Board go into Closed Session per KRS 62.810 (c) to review legal matters.

A motion is required to go into closed session which must reference the KRS 61.810(c) provision. At the end of the closed session, a motion is required to come out of closed session and no formal action can be taken.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Moved to go into closed session per KRS 61.810(c). Passed with a motion by Damon Kelley and a second by Gavin Washington. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Denny Williams Yes.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Moved to come out of closed session per KRS 61.810(c). There was no action proposed or taken in the closed session. Passed with a motion by Coy Samons and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes,

Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Denny Williams Yes.

## **Items for Information of the Board**

### **Operations Reports**

Staff presented various reports around operations since the last Board meeting.

#### **Sports and Sport-Activities Reports from Staff**

Primary sports contacts presented updates on their various tournaments held after the September meeting or in the current seasons.

#### **Non-Championship Reports from Staff**

Staff was asked to share various reports about meetings where they represented the association.

#### **Transfer and Eligibility Report**

The staff shared ongoing appeals status reports and timelines.

#### **Review of Process, Progress and Challenges, Ongoing Data System work**

The Commissioner and staff reported on the data transition, feedback, and training opportunities upcoming. The challenges and yet opportunities, were mentioned. Input from the board was appreciated.

#### **Status of Bylaw 11 Financial Aid Reports**

The Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner Bridenbaugh reported on the recent submissions and status of the annual reports around financial aid limitations and Bylaw 11.

#### **TPG Sponsorship Review**

A brief overview of the current year efforts by TPG seeking sponsorships on behalf of the association was presented. This is the fourth year of the long-term agreement for TPG to exclusively represent the KHSAA.

#### **Update on Bowling Green Independent Schools**

As required by the agreed upon order, staff reviewed progress as well as other issues that may have arisen.

#### **Annual Report of Title IX Field Visits**

The KHSAA is required annually to submit a summary report of the findings during its Title IX Field Visit Cycle. The report for 2023-24 is attached and has been submitted to KDE.

#### **Summary of Association Meetings**

The Association staff and outside experts have conducted a variety of meetings this fall and brief summaries are attached.

#### **Upcoming Surveys and Information**

As part of its almost never-ending solicitation of feedback from its membership, the following surveys are currently planned for the second semester.

- Triennial Survey - Focus on sports that were near the threshold last time, plus Girls' Flag Football, STUNT and Pickleball. Others that received little or no interest last

- time will not be included, and any yes response would also ask for the desired season.
- Shot Clock Survey - If desired by the Board, a survey of the basketball schools regarding implementation of the shot clock in basketball.
  - Girls' Wrestling Weight Classes - The original commitment was to survey the schools again after the 2025 championship to determine the number of weight classes desired. This survey might be altered by the consideration of another agenda item regarding girls' weight classes.

### **Approval of the Operations Reports**

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Claudette Herald and a second by Jim Demler. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Officials Division Report**

#### **Officials Licensing Comparison and Arbiter Sports Update**

An update on current season officials licensing was shared.

#### **Disqualification Report and Comparison**

Current year disqualification totals were shared.

### **Approval of Officials Division Reports**

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the Officials Division Reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Claudette Herald. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **General Reports**

#### **HOF Screening Committee Process (After)**

Staff gave a quick overview of the ongoing process to select the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame, sponsored by Roberts Insurance, induction class.

#### **Around the State and Nation**

The Commissioner and Staff shared various communication and other updates from other state associations.

### **Approval of General Reports**

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the General Reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Russell Thompson and a second by Marty Mills. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Items for Review for Possible Action at This or a Later Meeting**

## Championship and Competition Rules Information and Discussion

### **Discuss Bylaw 23, Limitation of Seasons, Track and Field**

The Commissioner and staff discussed pros and cons of altering the season for Track and Field. There has been some, but not a great deal, of feedback about separating the limit on indoor and outdoor. A historical review should be done before any determinations are made, but board input was desired.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with no changes to Bylaw 23 proposed. Passed with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Greg Howard. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Discussion and Ideas- Volleyball First Round Specs and Format**

The Commissioner and staff desired to lead a discussion about fine tuning the girls' volleyball event. For the most part, feedback on the actual structure is good, but two issues needed to be discussed.

First and foremost, are site specifications for the first rounds. The major issue appears to be a minimum threshold for attendance. While small intimate gyms may hold value for sentimental reasons, without a defined minimum, a couple of games each year have been "relegated" to a small, perhaps secondary gym, with capacity limitations. The staff inclination is that a minimum size specification is necessary. While a region winner could still "host", it would have to hold the games at a site that satisfied the spec requirements.

The regions likely most impacted by this situation are regions 1-4. Just by the luck of the draw and winners, three extremely small gyms have hosted the state first round in the past two years. Though these facilities have "made the best" of the situation, it is likely not comparable to the experience in other areas and at the state final rounds.

We also have to realize that major neutral venues (i.e., most of our colleges) are not available during this time period. Most of those gyms at our universities are used for multiple teams' basketball practice, their own volleyball programs practice and matches, and for instructional purposes. Our past attempts to have them host have always had those conflicts brought up.

There is nothing within our current structure however, that would preclude areas combining to host these matches. The two matches for Regions 1-4 could be at one central school site, same as the other four. Likely, this is best left to local determination, but perhaps the Board could find interest in an area willing to try this for 2025 to see how it goes.

We have had input from at least two regions (3 and 4) about this possibility, and a note to that effect was attached.

No action is needed at this meeting, but this discussion could lead to further action later.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with staff reviewing feasibility of any changes prior to the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year, passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette

Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Discussions and Ideas - Soccer Playoff Timeline, Bracketing and Site**

The current system contracts postseason play with four rounds (regional, first round state, quarterfinal, semifinals and finals) into three weeks. Two issues were discussed.

First, the option for play on different dates for the state first round should likely be removed, with games on a standard date. While moving to a Saturday may cause officiating conflicts on availability, the scheduling would be made standard.

Secondly, and perhaps needing additional review, would be to leave the regular season dates as they are, move the state semis and finals tournament one week later (to align with the volleyball dates), and then spread out the rounds of play with standard dates for play.

This discussion will allow the Commissioner and staff to discuss the issues and receive feedback in time to make final determinations for the calendar to be adopted at a future meeting. No change in regular season start and end dates is proposed, so this does not impact school scheduling for 2025 to continue this discussion.

Strategically, this is also a good time to talk about bracketing and playoff format. Obviously, our most competitive games are not happening at the end of the playoffs. While the first-round pairings in regional pods are a good balance between seeing someone new, and minimizing travel, the simple truth is that our solely region-based bracketing is leading to disparate scores at key rounds.

If in fact our goal is to have competitive contests in our showcase events, a possible revision should be discussed. A model where the halves of the state are divided for second round play could easily be implemented balancing competition and travel. There will be people unhappy with that decision, as there is on any of these decisions. But the Association's aim should always be first priority.

Lastly, the state site consideration is ripe for review as the contract with FCPS has expired. The Commissioner and others can shed light on issues as this discussion has been ongoing.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with further review to continue with the January meeting. Passed with a motion by David Zuberer and a second by Michael Phillips. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Discussion and Ideas - Football Withdrawal from Playoffs**

The Commissioner and Staff led a discussion on the issues around teams withdrawing from the playoffs after pairings are known.

The deadline for withdrawal from the playoffs has been the final day of competition. In the past couple of years, more than one school has withdrawn right at that deadline. This leads to schools not having a game to host (tickets, concessions, etc.), officials losing assignments and the opportunity to work, and leaves at least one team with no options but to have an extended period of time without full contact practice or play. And just like when the format of the playoffs is discussed, to a person nearly all coaches despise a first round bye despite what many of the average fans might want to do.

In 2023, two teams that had played in week 11 withdrew after that game. In both cases, they knew who their first-round opponent would be. In 2024, another team withdrew after game 11 that had won their week 10 district game and lost their week 11 game.

It should also be noted that postseason play is not mandatory in any sport. Football, like other sports, has a penalty for teams that withdraw after the brackets are posted. The remedy to this problem would be that the deadline for withdrawal would be the Wednesday of week 10. After week 10, brackets are known, and "avoiding" opponents can occur more often. That withdrawal, just like a team announcing at the district tournament meeting that they won't be playing, allows for plans to be revised before pairings are known. It was suggested that the sanction for withdrawal after that date be a tougher penalty to include - payment for officials, payment for trophies and a fine. Currently the penalty is only the trophies and a fine.

The second item for discussion was the possibility of a bracket "rollup" in the event of a withdrawal. Since a good many districts do not have 5 teams, a statewide solution might be that that highest RPI 5th place team in that bracket half be the substitute. Currently the rule is that the bracket just remains a forfeit loss if a team withdraws after that time.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with amendments to the competition rules, Passed with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Marty Mills. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

#### **Discussions and Ideas - Bass Fishing Tournament Following Site Award**

The Commissioner and staff led a conversation on feedback around the state award, and a couple of very specific issues around bass fishing.

First, it was important to clarify one mis-stated fact. There has NEVER been a requirement from the KHSAA, MLF (fka FLW) or any other group, that the state site not be used for a region. Never. That is a common misconception.

When inquiring about the state site this year to various hosts, we knew that coaches from the other three regions have long complained about the access to the lake so we asked sites to address the ability to use different areas if the site was also a region. Neither site answered that in their formal response and it was NOT a part of the final determination. Now after the site has been determined, there is concern about the Region 2 teams having an advantage if the region continues to be held at Lake Cumberland. Frankly, Region 2 is the state's largest region in terms of schools and has long been the sport-activity hot spot for growth.

For several years, the schools in Regions 2, 3 and 4 have expressed concerns about the Region 1 schools having the opportunity to fish the Land Between the Lakes more often and having an advantage, but this was never an issue with an enforceable answer and there were no restrictions.

Since the award of the state site to Lake Cumberland, two interesting things have happened. A few schools have expressed concerns about the region being there (again, our state's largest region without a lot of alternatives for locations). In addition, a few schools in Region 3 have actually contacted about being placed in Region 2 so they can "try it out". While geo coded limitations could be placed on region and state events, the enforcement of that type of restriction is likely not feasible, both in terms of manpower and in terms of cost. At the professional level, new technology (that is not without a serious level of cost) includes cameras to monitor positions and actions on all boats. But no one thinks that is feasible for the high school level.

This is a merited discussion before any future action is taken.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with expressed consultation with the office staff at Major League Fishing prior to the conduct of the regions and the state event. Passed with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Russell Thompson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Report on 1st Region Soccer Competition Rules Experiment**

The Commissioner and staff gave a review of the experimental bracket in Region 1. The 1st Region Athletic Directors (Designated Representatives) met November 13 and a further report was received.

At its meeting on November 13, the 1st Region Athletic Administrators voted to request to end the experiment. Unsure of options for other action, and as committed during the original discussion, the group asked the KHSAA to consider next steps.

The recommendation, using the travel chart attached, was to move Marshall County into the existing district 1 and make those districts four teams each. This would leave Marshall County, McCracken County, Paducah Tilghman and St. Mary as District 1, with Mayfield, Graves County, Murray and Calloway County as District 2.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and approved the movement of Marshall County High School to District 1 for soccer only with the end of the experimental bracketing in Region 1 and returning to standard competition rules brackets. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Mandi Hudson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Discussion and Ideas- Field Hockey Alignment of Teams**

There is an imbalance of teams in the four regions in Field Hockey, the lone sport that does not meet the sport sanctioning threshold adopted by Board of Control and in state regulation.

Originally, the schools that participated were permitted to draw up their own alignment.

Various factors went into that alignment, including type of school, and that was different than the alignment parameters for every other sport. While geographic patches have been made, the alignment is less than optimal in terms of the other sports.

Three options exist:

1. Continue with the present alignment, patching single teams if necessary. As a result, Francis Parker will move from Region 1 to Region 4, Mercy Academy will move from Region 2 to Region 3 and Highlands Latin will move from Region 3 to Region 2. This, in combination with the likely addition of another competing school next season, would leave each region with an equal number of teams.
2. Offer the Athletic Directors and Principals in Jefferson County the opportunity to re-draw the boundary lines and parameters for the sport with an equal number of teams (as close as possible) in each district
3. Direct the Commissioner to work with staff and field representatives and bring back an alignment of teams using the same geographic based parameters as all other sports.

An option moving three teams would be option 1. Illustrated at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1dVte1Ofy7ZT345lWhWjB0azjxutMZhA&ll=38.26970509797616%2C-85.64978199999999&z=12>

The discussion will drive next steps as the day-to-day management of that sport will be re-assigned to another staff member to work with the Commissioner on this project.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion to implement Option 1 as presented with Francis Parker moving from Region 1 to Region 4, Mercy Academy moving from Region 2 to Region 3 and Highlands Latin moving from Region 3 to Region 2. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Brian Courtney. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

## Discuss Possible Regulatory Changes

### Legislative Lobbying and Information Report

Staff reviewed ongoing meetings with legislative members and leaders, as well as input from that group about the Association.

In addition, likely future measures were discussed and KHSAA alternatives, especially surrounding student transfers and the participation opportunities for non-traditional students, and in particular, home school students.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion and continue to keep the board apprised of those discussions. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Russell Thompson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### Discussion of Future Amendments to KHSAA Bylaw 4 Related to Legislative Discussion

Following much discussion, the last several meetings, a possible solution to address a contentious legislative issue is as an interpretation to Bylaw 4 which would then work its way through the promulgation process of our regulation.

This change would redefine "Connected"

The local Board of Education could define "connected" within Bylaw 4 to include -

- A student not enrolled in another member school
- A student not enrolled in another member school for the past 365-days
- A student who takes at least one full credit subject at the member school for which participation is desired
- A student who lives within the school district boundaries as defined by the local board of education
- A student who complies with all other KHSAA eligibility requirements including Bylaws 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14
- A student who takes the state assessment instrument utilized in that school
- A student enrolled in a non-member school which has entered into a binding agreement with the participating school for risk management purposes

- A student who is otherwise eligible for KEES scholarship proceeds.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion with more details presented at the January meeting including substantive provisions and envisioned restrictions to minimize athletic advantage. Passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Discussion of Future Amendments to KHSAA Bylaw 6 Related to Legislative Discussion**

Discussed policy amendments to Bylaw 6 that would state:

- Any student would be subject to Bylaw 6 beginning after enrollment in grade 10 and subsequent varsity participation
- Any student subject to Bylaw 6 at any grade beyond grade 9 could be deemed eligible by mutual agreement of the member sending and receiving school one time
- Any student transferring after the one-time option has been exercised once would be subject to the current restrictions and provisions.

These changes to Bylaw 6 could be enacted upon passage.

This should be discussed from a variety of perspectives.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the report and discussion, and directed staff to take any necessary action from the discussion, including substantive provisions and envisioned restrictions to minimize athletic advantage. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Noel Crum. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

## **Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

### **Finance and Operations**

#### **July 2025 Board Meeting Dates/Site-July 31-Aug 1 (Check in July 30), Hyatt Regency Louisville**

Staff has worked with the tourism individuals in the Louisville downtown area and finalized a proposed site for the July-August meeting in 2025 which needs to be contracted.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the recommended date and site for the July-August 2025 Board Leadership Retreat and meeting and authorized contract approval. Passed with a motion by Randy McCallon and a second by Marty Mills. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approval of Minutes, July 2024 Board Meeting**

Inadvertently, approval of minutes for July was omitted from the September agenda. Those minutes need to be reviewed and approved.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved minutes from the July-August 2024 meeting and directed publication. Passed with a motion by Michael Phillips and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approval of Minutes, September 2024 Board Meeting**

Minutes of the September 2024 meeting are presented for approval.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the September 2024 minutes and directed publication. Passed with a motion by Brandy Carver and a second by Greg Howard. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Universal Expiration of Safety Course**

As previously stated to the Board, there is a strong desire to revise the implementation of the Sports Safety Course required by KRS 160.445. The proposed revision, which would have all courses expire at the end of the course period and reset for all at the same time, as discussed throughout the state at our region meetings as well as the annual meetings and other sessions. It had nearly unanimous support in being simpler to maintain by our schools. At the end of the 2024-25 school year, the eighth version of the course will be due to expire. The plan would be for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 cycle to be the first time for this total reset. Our coaches will have been through one complete year of using KHSAA360 through ArbiterSports for rules clinics, and should make the transition smoother. We would begin working with KMA and its docs on that revision and continue to keep the Board members updated on the progress.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the change to the biennial requirement for sports safety training to reset each coach at the conclusion of that course period and begin that implementation to happen during the 2025 calendar year to ensure compliance with KRS 160.445. Passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Brandy Carver. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approval of Financial Report for July to October**

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the reports and authorized continued operations until the January meeting. Passed with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Mandi Hudson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **KHSAA Agreement on Novelty Event Sales**

The KHSAA has a long-standing agreement with a guarantee of receipts for the sale of event merchandise at our events.

The current extension to the original agreement expires at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The Commissioner desires authorization to consider proposals for the current rights holder, and based on negotiations, other individuals who have successfully managed accounts the size of the KHSAA in other state associations or comparable organizations.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Authorized the Commissioner to consider proposals for the current rights holder and, based on negotiations, other individuals who have successfully managed accounts the size of the KHSAA in other state associations or comparable organizations. Passed with a motion by Russell Thompson and a second by Claudette Herald. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approval of Necessary Amendments to Bylaw 10 Due to NCAA Action**

While the statute passed in 2022 allows for collegiate related NIL to be accepted by high school students, it also required a contract to be signed before that could happen. The KHSAA was then directed to develop regulations to accommodate the new law. Part of those regulations specified that the National Letter of Intent was in fact the contract required and threshold for our students.

With the NCAA eliminating the letter of intent, technical amendments will need to be made to accommodate the statute while still protecting NIL on behalf of high schools. As such, through the regulatory process, additional clarifications will need to be made.

With North Carolina being the latest to adopt NIL and the fact it was adopted through their state board of education to ensure educational priority, we are able to glean excellent language for our revisions to ensure both the ability of collegiate NIL protected by statute as well as the protections our statute gave on high school involvement on behalf of the high school. These two years have seen a great deal of evolution in this area and their standard is modernized and can be adapted.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Accepted the recommended changes to ensure compliance with state statute as part of regulatory submitted for 2024-25 approval. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Noel Crum. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

## **Competition Rules Related Items**

### **Pole Vault Participation Requirements**

For many years, the Association has had in place a requirement that pole vault competitors compete in at least four meets where pole vault is conducted to be eligible for the postseason. This requirement came about as a strategy for risk minimization with the early days of the female pole vaulters and was included for both genders, as well as a desire for the competition to be efficiently conducted. There is also a requirement that the coaches in pole vaulting be properly trained in pole vault specific instruction, and compliance with that requirement is tracked on the KHSAA360 Arbitersports system as it was in the prior system.

The requirement for four pole vault meets has also led to logistical challenges for schools as in many cases, the runners and other field events are at one meet while a vault only meet is being held at another location. This creates issues with the limit of seasons as well.

As we have reviewed the requirement for four vaulting competitions, it is not believed to be necessary for the athletes as the coach's training should be able to help educate them on why or why not a particular athlete should be entered. We have also found that we are likely the only state with such a requirement on the students as most place those decisions in the hands of coaches.

It is better that the requirement for the student-athletes be removed while continuing to require the education requirements for coaches.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the revision in the requirements for pole vault competition to require education for the coaches but eliminate requirements for regular season competition for the athletes. Passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Diving Participation Requirements**

For many years, the Association has had in place a requirement that divers compete in at least four diving meets to be eligible for the postseason. This requirement came about as a strategy for risk minimization and a desire for the competition to be efficiently conducted. There is also a requirement that the coaches in diving be properly trained in diving specific instruction, and compliance with that requirement is tracked on the KHSAA360 Arbitersports system as it was in the prior system.

The requirement for four diving meets has also led to logistical challenges for schools as in many cases, the swimmers are at one meet while a diving only meet is being held at another location. This creates issues with the limit of seasons as well.

As we have reviewed the requirement for four diving competitions, it is not believed to be necessary for the athletes as the coach's training should be able to help educate them on why or why not a particular athlete should be entered. We have also found that we are likely the only state with such a requirement on the students as most place those decisions in the hands of coaches.

At the same time, another possible alternative has arisen that may help with the original concerns. Most states require that divers must have successfully completed all optional dives listed on the entry form, prior to attempting those dives in the region meet. Because those six dives are required, it is assurance that the athlete has at least attempted the postseason dives during the season. This requirement is closely correlated with 18-hole requirement in golf.

It is better that the requirement be revised to simply require each diver to have successfully completed all optional dives listed on the entry form, prior to attempting those dives in the championship meet, and continue the education requirements for coaches.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the revision in the requirement to simply require each diver to have successfully completed all optional dives listed on the entry form, prior to attempting those dives in the championship meet, and continue the education requirements for coaches. Passed with a motion by Marty Mills and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes

David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Golf 18-Hole Requirement**

There has been feedback regarding possibly removing the competition rules requirement for every player entering a regional golf tournament to have played at least one 18-hole event. This originally came in collaboration with Golf House to keep the pace of play emphasis for the region and state events.

Staff has reviewed and discussed this and do not think it is in the best interest of the schools and regional managers to remove this requirement.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved maintaining the current requirement for region tournament entering golfers to have played at least one 18-hole round of high school competition. Passed with a motion by Michael Phillips and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approve State First Round Site Process and Requests**

Staff on behalf of the Commissioner has sought sites for the state first round of swimming.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Authorized the Commissioner to enter into agreements as necessary for the first-round state sites, including any necessary movement of sites if necessary due to site withdrawal. Passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Denny Williams. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Girls' Wrestling Weights (12+0 or 12+1) Data Review**

The KHSAA instituted a championship in 2024 after several years of the coaches association managing a state event. The schools voted to have 12 weight classes, but left open the determination on the highest weight class from the years they sponsored (which was 285, same as boys). The coaches association in their tournament continued to offer that weight class even after the KHSAA announced it would be sanctioned the next year and the NFHS had made revised weight classes for females to cap at 235 (237 with growth allowance).

When the sport was implemented, the KHSAA agreed to use a 12+1 (12 standard classes plus the addition of the 285 class) model for the girls' weight classes to allow the previous 285 participants who were underclassmen the opportunity to compete last year. In order to make this happen, the KHSAA has to seek approval on an experiment with the weight classes from the NFHS as this was a rules deviation. This was approved for a three-year trial, subject to annual renewal. At the time, we advised the board we would evaluate participation levels each year to determine if it was a viable alternative to continue. Several graduated prior to 2023-24, and in the end, an eight-person bracket was utilized for the state tournament at that class for 2024.

Obviously, the pros to keeping the additional weight class are possible participation. And there would be many opposed who formerly supported the weight class, primarily because they no longer had anyone in that class.

However, the data this fall does not support continuing the class. As evidenced by the attached, there are only five girls at this time whose weight management profile would have them out of the 285-pound class, and all but one of them would be well within the bounds with an appropriate and legal weight descent plan.

For that reason, it is recommended that the allowance for the 285-pound weight class be eliminated, and the Commissioner notify the NFHS of a desire to not continue the experimental class for another year. The plan was already to re-survey the schools regarding the number of weight classes again after the 2024-2025 season.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Eliminate the 285-pound weight class for postseason for 2024-2025, notify the NFHS of the desire to not continue the experimental class for another year and issue the survey on weight classes in the spring of 2025 to gather data for future years. Passed with a motion by Randy McCallon and a second by Claudette Herald. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Approval of 6th Region Trial - Baseball and Softball**

The schools in baseball and softball districts 21 to 24 have had varying amounts of participation. The schools have collectively discussed alternative formatting of the regional tournament in both sports. A discussion was held last year around softball but the timing did not allow for implementation prior to the start of the season.

The designated representatives have again agreed on a pilot plan that would address the two concerns in the original plan. One concern was the disparate treatment of softball and baseball, and the second was getting approval in time for seeded games to be setup.

The pilot plan concept was previously approved by the Board with direction for the Commissioner to be "go between" in any of these plans to ensure sport to sport consistency. Within the parameters set by the Board, this experiment should be approved.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the plan to allow for implementation of an alternative regional plan for Region 6 in baseball and softball for a three-year trial, with desire to renew coming from the schools each year. Passed with a motion by Denny Williams and a second by Greg Howard. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Region 6 and 7 Basketball Alignment**

The Commissioner and staff have been working with the representatives of the Jefferson County and Bullitt County schools for more than a year on basketball alignment. There was no discussion of schools coming and going from the collective 6th and 7th region schools, but much discussion about moving around within the districts in those two regions.

Since the alignment was adopted in the mid-2000s, several schools have relocated to new facilities as well as at least two schools being opened in that time. Other construction projects and moves are ongoing.

Working with the board members from that area and the Commissioner, the schools attempted for more than a year to reach consensus on a change in alignment. We provided a basis for a minimally invasive couple of changes that would at least align schools that had

new facilities in more appropriate locations. From that, the committee held several meetings in an attempt to address the issues on a deeper level.

As is usual in these cases, when dots were placed on a map, there was a good deal of consensus on groupings, however when specific names and programs were labeled, discussion took on a different tone.

One difference in this area than most any other area of the state is the need to be concerned about placement of the single gender schools in the area. Placing them, without at least considering grouping them, can lead to issues in postseason play and significant differences in bracket sizes and scheduling issues.

In the end, this committee was unable to reach consensus and is deferring to the association for any changes. In light of the many coming changes in the next couple of years, the best course seems to be to simply address the geographic issues, and continue to work on a more comprehensive factual basis that can be used as facilities are completed. The concern points right now are:

- Portland Christian has relocated to a completely different area of the county and needs to be appropriately placed;
- Evangel Christian is reportedly completing a new facility in a different area of the county (near Billtown Road at Snyder), but until that is complete, the movement should likely be delayed, unless confirmed by the member school.
- Grace James is in its second year as a member and won't be eligible for postseason until 2026-27 when they enroll their first full senior class. Their location is being finalized and they can be placed when that is complete.
- Highlands Latin is a recent addition to the KHSAA and geographically, could have several options but are likely best left in their current placement at this time, which is an appropriate geographic placement.
- W.E.B. DuBois has now found a more permanent location, and as an all-boys' school, should likely be in a close proximity district to an all-girls school for balance.
- None of these fixes address a key issue in that area, and that is disparate participation in some of the other sports offered that generally match to the basketball alignment. That would require a much more comprehensive review and likely be much more complex if geographic principles are to be honored.

The map of the original and proposed alignments is illustrated at

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pSBTBLS-T6bjP7KfkgFKsKmlcliGDnY&ll=38.152686366870626%2C-85.6859745&z=11>

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Approved the placement of Portland Christian into District 28, and W.E.B. DuBois into District 24 for the 2025-26 school year in the team sports, with continued review of the alignment in those two regions, including staff review of the situations around the construction of Grace James Academy and Evangel Christian Academy which may create the need for additional change. A report at the January meeting will guide next steps for the Commissioner and Board. Passed with a motion by Denny Williams and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Boys' Volleyball Alignment**

See the two options at

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1fFvkjIUE7XtXeYvplH6J82gj24WQRYI&ll=38.07685499515283%2C-85.30867872460936&z=10>

Choices can be turned on and off by checking the boxes

### **Boys' Volleyball Officials' Fees and Related Items**

#### Regular Season Game Fees

With only one rule difference (height of the net) between girls' volleyball and boys', officials' fees would be the following:

- The standard fee is \$55 for two officials for all regular season matches (including tournaments) that are played best 3 of 5 sets, or \$50 for the school option of best 2 of 3 sets.
- The local regional policy board may authorize an additional fee (add-on) for travel to contests.
- Per NFHS rules, a contest cannot be officiated with less than two officials.

#### Postseason Fees

- An alternate official will be assigned to all state contests
- Region-\$70 per match
- First-Round State and State Final Rounds- \$90 per match
- State officials traveling greater than 100 miles one way would be paid an additional \$30 per official
- Per NFHS rules, a varsity contest cannot be officiated with less than two officials

#### Assigners

- Local Policy Boards should help identify individuals and recommend to the Association office those who desire to be Assigning Secretary of Officials.
- Likely this would be whomever is currently serving as the girls' Assigner of Officials.
- However, due to the area of the state, it may be the best practice initially where an Assigner may service schools outside of his/her girls' local association.

#### Notes:

- Following the Board meeting, member schools, assigners, and those officials already licensed, a communication will be sent out updating on alignment, season, postseason format, officials

#### Uniforms

- Uniforms for Officials in boys' volleyball would mirror that of girls' volleyball.
- Bright Blue (Cyan) short-sleeve, long-sleeve shirt or sweater;
- The undershirt, if visible, shall be white.
- Embroidered or sublimated KHSAA logo over heart as per specifications to vendors;
- Black slacks or shorts;
- Black gym shoes and black socks, regardless if shorts or slacks are worn;
- For the sponsored state championship competition, black shoes and black slacks should be worn;
- If worn during pre-game, Jacket should be black, with a dual 1-inch stripe, and with an embroidered KHSAA logo over the heart as per specifications to vendors.

### **Boys' Volleyball Event Format and Other Related Issues**

Following review, the following parameters are recommended for the initial season of Boys' Volleyball, which include slight alterations-

#### Dates

- First Practice- February 3
- Regular Season- March 3 - May 7
- Region Tournament - May 5-9
- State First Round - 12-15 Satellite Site
- Semifinals and Championship - May 20 (George Rogers Clark HS).

#### Regional Tournament

- Eight (8) Regions
- Tournaments completed by May 9
  - Seeding determined by region
  - If seeding, no random selection opportunities even in ties.
  - Regions should meet at the beginning of the season to determine the site selection plan and seeding mechanisms.
  - If not determined by the first date, then seeding by RPI.

#### State First Round

- Splitting the state for the first-round state into regions 1-4 and 5-8 will prevent long travel to host sites.
- Option 1 - RPI will be used for the remaining 8 teams (football model)
  - The highest remaining Final Regular Season RPI in Regions 1-4 will host fourth highest
  - Second highest RPI will host 3rd highest RPI in Regions 1-4
  - The highest remaining Final Regular Season RPI in Regions 5-8 will host fourth highest
  - Second highest RPI will host 3rd highest RPI in Regions 5-8
  - With this being the first year of implementation, the use of RPI will be a way to rank teams fairly for postseason while also holding them accountable to enter schedules and scores consistently during the regular season (new process for them).
- Option 2 - Rotate pairings in 1-4, and 5-8 groupings
- Option 3 - Blind draw among 8 regions
- Option 4 – A six-year rotation of paired regions, with the pairings constrained in regions 1-4 and 5-8 and rotated to where over the six-year period, each region in each group of paired regions will host once.

#### Semifinals/Finals

- Option 1, Seed as in football
- Semifinal - Continue on with the original bracket after using RPI in the first round. This would allow representation from both sides of the state in semis/ finals.
- Option 2, Seed, but re-rank them in the second round (football model) to be consistent with the emphasis on RPI and more competitive games in state tournament
- If seeded, the remaining four teams ranked 1-4 based on the Final Regular Season RPI, 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3

#### Notes:

Communication will go out to coaches and ADs following the BOC meeting emphasizing: Regional seeding plans, region site rotation, scheduling, new postseason dates, format, and location.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Passed to adopt the proposed eight region alignment for the 2024-2025 season, with the postseason advancing the winners and runners-up from each region; that post season play be within two-region pairings with the runner-up from one region travelling to the runner-up from the paired region and the second round being the winning teams from those first rounds games, hosted by regions as determined by the rotation chart; that the third round (semi-finals) be a blind draw tournament at a central site; with the officials fees as proposed mirroring the current girls' fees; with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Jim Demler. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes,

Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

### **Lacrosse Alignment**

Through November 11, 47 member schools have determined they will field a Lacrosse team. Thirty-four of the schools will offer both genders, while 7 will only offer girls and 6 will only offer boys. These numbers were changing even last week as Assistant Commissioner Jackson has been in nearly constant contact with different lacrosse representatives and fielding inquiries from schools.

A draft alignment combining both boys and girls has been developed. In part, the need for a joint alignment is realizing that several of our coed schools that are only offering one gender, may in fact add the other gender and the alignment should be flexible.

A draft alignment for the 2025 season is shown online at [https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1-E5R64Fd3cBbWq8rjhGJV\\_GZcBapHw&ll=38.27798776318621%2C-85.66398644944225&z=10](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1-E5R64Fd3cBbWq8rjhGJV_GZcBapHw&ll=38.27798776318621%2C-85.66398644944225&z=10), and is attached.

### **Lacrosse Officials' Fees**

#### Regular Season Game Fees

Following research from other surrounding states as well as comparing fees that were paid by previous local associations:

#### Regular Season Recommendation:

- 2-Person - \$90 per official
- Travel Stipend, Travel more than 100 miles one-way, an additional \$30, same as postseason in team sports
- Postseason would increment \$10 each round.

#### Lacrosse Assigners

- In Arbiter, there would be one statewide officials' association (mirroring wrestling) whereby there would then be local assigners (like 3-4 in the beginning) that would be assigned from the statewide pool of officials.
- The 10th/11th Region has already hired an Assigner that in all likelihood would service additional schools as well.
- Possible local Assigners:
  - o 6th/ 7th Region - Interviewed last week - have separate candidates for boys and girls
  - o 9th Region-Haven't started the process but sent Myong Kim's info
  - o 10th/ 11th Region - Drew Nardiello (boys) - David Slider (girls)

#### Notes:

- Following the Board meeting, member schools, assigners, and those officials already licensed, a communication will be sent out updating on alignment, season, postseason format, officials
- A separate communication will be sent out by staff to help recruit lacrosse officials targeting fall sports officials in field hockey, football and soccer.

#### Uniforms

- Black and white shirt with 2" vertical stripes (mirrors football), short or long-sleeved shirt (with pocket) with embroidered or sublimated KHSAA logo over the heart;
- Black slacks or shorts;
- Black gym shoes and black socks, regardless if shorts or slacks are worn;
- For the sponsored state championship competition, black shoes and black slacks should be worn.

## Lacrosse Event Format and Related Items

### Dates

- First Practice- February 3
- Regular Season- March 3 - May 7
- Region Tournament - May 12 - 15
- State First Round - May 17 Satellite Site (higher RPI?)
- Semifinals-May 19 (Shelby Co and Collins HS)
- Finals-May 21 (Collins HS) - Doubleheader
- Both sites were chosen because of the unified lines on each field and proximity to one another for semifinals

### Regional Tournament

- 4-8 teams per region
- Tournaments completed by May 15
- Seeding or blind draw determined by region
- Regions should meet at the beginning of the season to determine the site selection plan and seeding mechanisms. If not determined by the first date, then seeding by RPI.

### State First Round

- Option 1 -
  - RPI will be used for the remaining 8 teams (football model)
  - The highest remaining Final Regular Season RPI in Regions 1-4 will host fourth highest
  - Second highest RPI will host 3rd highest RPI in Regions 1-4
  - The highest remaining Final Regular Season RPI in Regions 5-8 will host fourth highest
  - Second highest RPI will host 3rd highest RPI in Regions 5-8
  - Splitting the state for the first-round state into regions 1-4 and 5-8 will prevent long travel to host sites.
    - First Round State - With this being the first year of implementation, the use of RPI will be a way to rank teams fairly for postseason while also holding them accountable to enter schedules and scores consistently during the regular season (new process for them).
- Option 2 -
  - Blind draw for first-round games (consistent with selected other team sports) and continue with regular tournament bracket format.
  - Top teams host first-round games.
- Option 3 – A six-year rotation of paired regions, with the pairings constrained in regions 1-4 and 5-8 and rotated to where over the six-year period, each region in each group of paired regions will host once.

### Semifinals

- The second games will happen at both sites simultaneously on May 19
- Sites for teams will be decided based on who wins first-round games to ensure that if both boys' and girls' teams from the same school are represented - they will be sent to the same location
- Semifinal - Continue on with the original bracket after using RPI in the first round.
- This would allow representation from both sides of the state in semis/finals. OR re-rank them in the second round (football model) to be consistent with the emphasis on RPI and more competitive games in semis and finals.

The remaining four teams ranked 1-4 based on the Final Regular Season RPI, 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3.

### Finals

- Double header- girls then boys year 1, reverse for year 2
- Games on May 21

**NOTES:**

Communication will go out to coaches and ADs following the BOC meeting emphasizing:

- Regional seeding plans, region site rotation, scheduling, new postseason dates, format, and location.
- Included in the communication will be the dire need for member schools' assistance in recruiting officials so that games can be played.

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Passed to adopt the proposed eight region alignment for the 2024-2025 season, with the postseason advancing the winners from each region; that postseason play be within two-region pairings hosted by regions as determined by the rotation chart; that the second round (semifinals) be a blind draw tournament at a central site; with the two-person standard officials fees as proposed 2-Person - \$90 per official; Travel Stipend with more than 100 miles one-way, an additional \$30; Postseason would increment \$10 each round; Officials uniforms as defined with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Damon Kelley. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

**For the Good of the Order**

**Motion Passed (16-0):** Moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed with a motion by Marty Mills and a second by Greg Howard. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons No vote, and Denny Williams Yes.

Matt Wilhoite, President	Date
Julian Tackett, Commissioner	Date