

## **KHSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Governing Slow Pitch Softball Tournaments**

*(Adopted by the Board of Control)*

*(Case situations refer to rulings and interpretations used to interpret and administer these provisions which can be found in the Case Situation section of the Handbook. [When possible, additional cross-referencing information has been included].)*

#### **I) Assignment of Schools to Districts, Regions, and Sections**

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association shall sponsor postseason competition in softball for girls, provided that fifteen (15) percent of the member schools declare intentions to participate in said competition or unless otherwise directed by the Board of Control. The sponsorship of the state tournament shall cease following the 2007 playing season. Member schools desiring to participate in KHSAA sponsored postseason competition shall notify the Association office prior to March 1. The Commissioner shall divide the state into geographic sections with the approval of the Board of Control. Newly added or deleted programs will be handled on a case by case basis by the Commissioner's office.

As of August 1, 2006, the alignment for girls' slow pitch softball is undetermined and will be distributed by the Commissioner's office as soon as practical based upon entries and interest from the membership.

#### **II) Dates and Sites for Tournaments**

The Commissioner with the approval of the Board of Control shall determine the date and site of all tournaments. All tournaments will be held within the dates indicated on the Memorandum Calendar unless otherwise approved in writing by the Commissioner.

Schools interested in hosting a tournament must submit their request in writing prior to December 1 of the tournament year. The applicant shall supply information relating to seating and parking facilities and such other information as may be requested by the Commissioner. Application forms for hosting tournaments in all sports are provided to each member school by the Association.

The Board of Control shall determine the site of the state finals after receiving the Commissioner's recommendation, and shall be guided by necessary hotel facilities, playing facilities, and community/area support.

#### **III) Tournament Managers**

The Commissioner will appoint a manager for each of the tournaments, and shall serve as the manager for the state tournament. The Commissioner may appoint as many assistant managers as deemed necessary to manage the event. It is the duty of each district and regional tournament manager to invite representatives of the participating teams in the tournament to a meeting held for the purpose of making tournament plans. It is an explicit duty of each tournament manager to inform the association IMMEDIATELY as to the bracket / pairings / entries / results when requested by KHSAA staff and according to the time deadlines provided including the actual site of the tournament if it is not held at the school. In addition, it shall be the duty of the manager of each contest in soccer, volleyball, football, basketball, baseball and softball to contact the KHSAA Scoreboard with the final results following each contest. This is in addition to fulfilling local media requests. The Board of Control has approved the policy that the receipts of a tournament can be assessed [a fine levied against the manager] for failure to comply with these provisions.

The representatives of the schools participating in each tournament, by majority vote, shall set the dates and times of the games and make all other arrangements necessary to conduct the tournament. The Commissioner will direct a drawing and all of the business necessary to conduct the state tournament.

#### **IV) Tournament Meetings and Pairings**

A) Region. At press time, there are four region tournaments in slow pitch softball. The final alignment for tournament play will be distributed to the competing teams.

B) State. The Commissioner shall conduct a blind draw to determine the pairings for the state tournament.

#### **V) Eligibility to Enter Tournament Play**

To be eligible to compete in the district, region or state tournament, a member school team shall have competed in at least ten slow-pitch games during the regular season, and at least ten fast-pitch games during the regular season.

#### **VI) Contestants**

A school may list an unlimited number of entrants on an Eligibility List (KHSAA Form GE15) which is to be submitted to the manager of the district tournament not later than one week prior to the start of the tournament.

At the discretion of the Association, a roster may substitute for this list. This list must include all names of anyone who is to be eligible to participate in the postseason as additions to the list are not allowed, with the exception of a documented clerical error as referred to in Bylaw 14. Each district manager is responsible for the forwarding of the list to future rounds of tournament play.

A school may enter a team composed of twenty-one (21) players in each post-season tournament game that must be players who appeared on the eligibility list submitted to the district tournament manager. The twenty one (21) players must be designated each game, and no other players may be in uniform.

#### **VII) Umpires**

For regular season play, slow-pitch softball umpires are to be paid \$25.00 per game per official for a two person crew. If additional officials are assigned, the fee may be reduced by \$5. The local regional policy board may approve a supplement for incidental expenses such as travel and mileage.

Umpires for all KHSAA sponsored state championship competition shall be assigned by the Commission and shall be licensed by the KHSAA. Local associations may submit recommendations for postseason assignments to district, region, section and state tournament games. The final selection shall be made by the Commission.

One member of the crew of officials is to be paid a mileage allowance for one car based on the mileage submitted to the manager by the association staff member in charge of the sport or his/her designee.

Regional tournament officials shall be paid \$30 per game.

State tournament officials shall be paid \$35 per game.

Additional postseason allowances for lodging, etc. shall be at the discretion of the tournament manager and must be approved by the Commissioner.

#### **VIII) Champion**

The champion of each tournament will be the winning team in a double elimination state tournament.

#### **IX) Trophies and Awards**

Trophies will be given to each tournament winner. The state tournament champion and runner-up shall receive a trophy. The state tournament champion and runner-up shall receive twenty-one (21) individual medals. An eleven (11) member all tournament team will be selected, as well as a Most Valuable Player.

#### **X) Finances**

##### **A) REGION**

1) The participating schools in each tournament shall share net profit or loss. In the case of profit, or loss, the amounts should be based on the revenue distribution plan approved by a vote of the schools in the classification in accordance with the KHSAA Constitution.

2) If no agreement can be reached on payment of expenses for district and/or regional tournaments, a mileage fee of \$1.00 per team per mile for each necessary trip should be allowed for travel expense and an allowance for one meal at \$5.00 per team member per trip to the tournament should be allowed.

##### **B) STATE**

1) The Association will finance the state tournament.

2) The Association will no longer sanction the tournament in Slow Pitch Softball beginning in 2008.

#### **XI) Withdrawal from Tournament**

No school which enters a district, regional, or state tournament [draws for place] shall withdraw from the tournament or forfeit any of its games, but must play its

entire tournament schedule. If a school withdraws from a district, regional, or state tournament at any time following the draw for district tournament positions or after the pairings have been determined in a seeded district, that school may be suspended from the Association for a period of twelve (12) months and shall be eliminated from postseason play for two years unless the Board of Control rules that sufficient grounds for withdrawal are submitted.

#### **XII) Interrupted Games**

If a game is interrupted in tournament play, it will be reset at the same point, same inning, same out or outs, same balls and strikes, same batter or number of batter in the batting order. A complete game of 6 1/2 or 7 innings must be played.

#### **XIII) Special Rules**

- A) All ties shall be played to completion.
- B) The twelve (12) inch softball shall be utilized in all regular season and postseason contests.
- C) The National Federation softball rules shall be the official rules used in all contests.
- D) There shall be no time limit on regular or postseason varsity softball contests.
- E) Speed-Up Rules

All softball contests shall utilize the optional speed-up rules allowed by the National Federation such as courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher upon reaching base and any other speed-up rules mandated by the National Federation including a "run rule" where run differential determines the end of the contest.

#### **F) Specifications of Fields and Game Balls**

The specifications for recommended and required standards for fields to be used in tournament play may be developed by Association staff and Advisory Committees and approved by the Board of Control. The Association may enter into a contract to restrict the use of a ball in tournament play to a specific brand or model.

#### **G) Additional Rules for Contests**

Additional rules, governed by State Association adoption provisions in the National Federation Playing Rules or otherwise developed by the Association may be implemented in contests played in Kentucky and will be distributed to the membership when relevant.

#### **XIV) School Personnel to Accompany Team**

In accordance with Bylaw 20, each school having participants in a KHSAA event shall send a school designee to accompany the team. This person should be designated in writing by the Principal and approved by the local Board of Education.

[See Case Situations on Page 101-102]

## CASE SITUATIONS RELATED TO THE TOURNAMENT RULES of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Contained in this section of the KHSAA Handbook are interpretations and rulings which have been made in accordance with applicable provisions of the Tournament Rules. This section is printed as a supplement to the actual printed rules and does not in any manner substitute for the actual rule. Many of these rulings have established normal precedent for the interpretation or enforcement of these provisions, and remain in place until further altered, re-interpreted, or otherwise set aside. Specific inquiries not addressed by these interpretations should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Interpretive questions or eligibility rulings may not be issued via electronic mail and must be requested and rendered in writing. The following table represents cross-referencing to the relevant portions of the KHSAA Handbook.

Tournament Rules	
All Championships	TR-1, TR-2, Tr-3, Tr-4, TR-5
Baseball	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-9, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-21
Basketball	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-10, TR-11, TR-12, TR-13, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-21
Cross Country	TR-16, TR-17, TR-20
Football	TR-8, TR-16, TR-17
Golf	TR-16, TR-17
Soccer	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-21
Softball (Fast Pitch)	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-18, TR-21
Softball (Slow Pitch)	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-18, TR-21
Swimming	TR-16, TR-17
Tennis	TR-16, TR-17, TR-19
Track	TR-16, TR-17, TR-20
Volleyball	TR-6, TR-7, TR-8, TR-14, TR-15, TR-16, TR-17, TR-21
Wrestling	TR-16, TR-17

### Case TR-1- What are the sanctioned sports and sports activities of the KHSAA?

The KHSAA also sanctions all other sports and/or sports activities that have an adopted limitation of season (Bylaw 25) and which are conducted in compliance with NFHS rules (i.e., cheerleading).

The KHSAA also sanctions all other sports and sports activities in which the KHSAA licenses officials provided those sports and sports activities are conducted in compliance with NFHS rules.

For the 2005-2006 school year, the KHSAA sanctions all sports for which a state championship is conducted; competitive cheer conducted in compliance with NFHS rules and KHSAA Bylaw 25, Section 18; and Field Hockey.

### Case TR-2- What are the specific sponsored sports of the KHSAA?

The KHSAA sponsors championship events in the fall, winter and spring seasons. Fall sports are considered to be cross country (boys and girls), golf (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), volleyball (girls), and football (combined); winter sports are basketball (boys and girls), wrestling (combined) and swimming (boys and girls); spring sports are baseball (boys), softball (fast and slow pitch for girls), tennis (boys and girls) and track (boys and girls)

### Case TR-3- What sports and activities are insured by the KHSAA?

The KHSAA Board of Control will purchase Catastrophe Insurance, using the member dues and tournament receipts, to insure the student-athletes who compete in the sanctioned sports of the KHSAA. In addition, students serving in a support capacity at those sponsored events (managers, trainers, etc) shall be included in the coverage as well as cheerleaders complying with the NFHS rules restrictions and Bylaw 25 limitations.

Such insurance coverage shall be in force from the first day of the Bylaw 25, Limitation of Seasons in a sponsored sport or sport activity, through the last day, provided such competition complies with all parts of the Bylaw and its individual competitors comply with all applicable KHSAA bylaws. The deductible for this policy shall be published in a timely manner to ensure that the school and student-athletes have adequate opportunity to comply with Bylaw 2.

The KHSAA Board of Control will purchase General Liability Insurance, using the member dues and tournament receipts, to provide for General Liability coverage for the Association and its agents and assignees, in all KHSAA sponsored competition in all sports for which the Association sponsors a championship. The Commissioner shall ensure through all forms of due diligence, that all levels of these sponsored championships are conducted in accordance with applicable KHSAA Tournament Regulations in order to maintain the integrity of the policy.

### Case TR-4- How many schools must agree to participate in KHSAA sponsored postseason competition in order for the Association to hold a championship in that sport?

Twenty (20) percent of the member schools must agree to field a team in order that the Association sponsors a championship in that sport. In addition, fifteen (15) percent of the member schools must participate each year in order that the Association maintains championships in that sport. The Association shall survey the membership every three years to determine interest in new offerings. (Board of Control, March, 1994)

### Case TR-5- Who is in control of the media and press at KHSAA sponsored competition?

The tournament/event manager has authority for all aspects of KHSAA sponsored events. This includes the acquisition of media credentials, assignment of space and location to members of the media, and the right to charge for rights to originate radio broadcasts, telecasts and/or cablecasts. It is also the duty of the manager to contact the above listed phone numbers at the conclusion of the contest to report the final results. This enables media state wide to assist in the publicity and promotion of KHSAA events.

### Case TR-6- May teams be seeded in the district baseball, basketball, soccer, softball or volleyball tournaments?

In a district with four or more teams, the schools in the district make this decision by a majority vote. A majority vote shall also determine the seeding method. Seeding decisions and methods remain in effect until a majority vote is made to change the seeding decision or method. District teams may be seeded in opposite brackets for the first round (normally district) only. The Principal or Designated Representative at the school as defined by the KHSAA Constitution and Bylaws must make the decision to seed.

### Case TR-7- Is it possible for a winner and corresponding runner-up in baseball district tournament, basketball district tournament, soccer district tournament, softball district tournament or volleyball district tournament to meet before the final regional game?

No, because they are to be placed in opposite brackets.

**Case TR-8- Is there a mandatory game ball to be used in the state tournament in baseball, basketball, football, softball, volleyball or soccer?**

Yes, the Association has a long-term agreement with Rawlings Sporting Goods to provide specific balls for the state championship tournament, and the Commissioner's office can provide specifications upon request.

**Case TR-9- Are there any "speed-up" rules used in postseason play in baseball?**

The association utilizes the speed-up provisions to have a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher once they reach base. All other speed-up rules are in accordance with National Federation Rules

**Case TR-10 When are the boys' and girls' basketball tournaments to be played?**

Unless facilities are unavailable, and unless further altered by the Board of Control, the boys' state basketball tournament will be played during the same week as the first round of the NCAA mens' basketball championships. The Board shall then adopt and publish corresponding dates to indicate the timing of the girls' state tournament, and all district and regional tournaments.

**Case TR-11- What is the ruling involving the selection of tournament sites for basketball?**

If an agreement cannot be reached on first round (normally district) tournaments, the Board will intervene and establish a rotation plan. The selection shall be confirmed by annual balloting during the season and reported to the Association. It should be noted that rotating the tournament does not necessarily mean that each school shall host the tournament at that school's home site, but that each school, with proper and adequate facilities, shall have the opportunity to host the tournament, even if an alternative site is required.

**Case TR-12- What schools may vote for district basketball tournament sites or site selection plan?**

Only member schools having a schedule of twelve games or more with at least six different member schools.

**Case TR-13- How are regional basketball tournament sites selected?**

The placement of the regional basketball tournaments is at the discretion of the Commissioner. The member schools in each region were to have met (principals and/or athletic directors) in September, 1998 to adopt a plan for designating the site within each region and must regularly revise the plan and submit those plan revisions to the KHSAA.

A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt any plan for recommending the regional tournament sites and voting shall include boys' and girls' sites. Criteria to be considered by the schools include but are not limited to- satisfactory capacity within the gym to safely accommodate past (five years) and expected attendance numbers; a minimum of four dressing rooms and an officials dressing room if double headers are to be played; and adequate parking for projected attendance.

In addition, discussion must occur regarding a clarification on the amount of proceeds (if any) that is to be kept by the host school as well as limitations on expenses by the host school; determining the amount and/or percentages to be given to each school that participates; the amount and/or percentages to be given to each team in the region not competing in the tournament; and the disbursement of any proceeds from commissions, parking, advertising and any other revenue related to the tournament but not directly related to ticket, program or novelty sales.

This plan for site selection recommendations may also be applied, at the discretion of the Association, to soccer, volleyball, baseball and fast pitch softball.

**Case TR-14- When should the drawing be held for the first postseason round tournament in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball?**

Not later than the second Sunday prior to the published week of the first tournament round in all sports where a tournament meeting is specified (baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball). The meeting may be held

earlier if the participating teams agree, but not prior to the final announcement of sites.

**Case TR-15- May teams withdraw from a baseball, basketball, soccer, softball or volleyball tournament after the drawings have been made?**

No. The penalty for such a withdrawal is withdrawal from postseason competition for two years and could also result in suspension from the Association for a period of twelve months.

**Case TR-16- May a name be added to the eligibility list or entry form after it has been submitted to the tournament manager or mailed to the schools in the district?**

Not unless it is to correct a clerical error in compliance with Bylaw 14. A student should not be penalized for a clerical mistake. Written permission must be received from the Commissioner before a name can be added. The principal should check the list or roster form very carefully prior to submitting the information. This list should include all eligible squad members.

**Case TR-17- How many names should appear on the eligibility list or entry form?**

It is suggested that this final list include all eligible squad members. The coach and/or school representative can then designate the required number of contestants for each event from that list.

**Case TR-18- Are there any "speed-up" rules used in postseason play in fast-pitch or slow-pitch softball?**

Yes. The Association uses a fifteen-run rule after three innings, and a ten-run rule after five innings. In addition, the association utilizes the speed-up provisions to have a substitute runner for the pitcher or catcher once they reach base.

**Case TR-19- How is a multi-team tie broken for team points at a KHSAA sponsored tennis tournament?**

The specific tiebreakers for tennis team competition are enumerated in the tournament rules, and may have differing applications at the region and state level, as well as differences depending upon how many teams are involved in the tie.

**Case TR-20- How is it determined that a meet counts against the four meet minimum in Track or Cross Country?**

In order to count as a meet for the four meet minimum a meet shall be a meet which rises to the standard of counting as a meet towards the interpretations of Bylaw 25 (CS BL-25-39). In addition, in Cross Country, the distance would be a minimum of 2500 meters and a maximum of 5000 meters and involved entries from two or more schools. To count towards the minimums, the meets may be at the Varsity or non Varsity level in terms of meet structure. It shall be counted in the same manner for all competitors (varsity, JV or freshman). The school approved or provided uniform shall be worn in this competition. In accordance with Bylaw 20, a school representative shall accompany the team.

**Case TR-21- Are there special rules and requirements in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball if the district has only three teams?**

Yes. Each team in a three-team district is required to play the other two teams in the district in two contests each year, at mutually agreed sites. These games will produce a uniform means of ranking the teams by seed within these districts. Complete details are contained within the tournament rules of each sport.

**Case TR-22- If a Cross Country Meet is interrupted by weather, can other races be run that day?**

Yes. The particular interrupted race is considered complete and counts both towards meet limits and participation minimums. If other competition can resume after required delays, that is permissible. Only races actually started can count towards meet limits or participation minimums.