



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

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August 21, 2006

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors and Coaches of Football Playing Schools

FR: Assistant Commissioner Julian Tackett and Commissioner Brigid L. DeVries, on behalf of the KHSAA Board of Control

RE: 2007 and 2008 Football Alignment

At its meeting on Monday, August 21, 2006, the Board of Control acted on the feedback of the member schools and finalized the alignment of teams for the 2007 and 2008 playing season. Key elements of the deliberation and subsequent decision –

1. **Term of the alignment.** After reviewing many situations wherein member schools had made appeals based on unique school population and enrollment problems, the Board chose to adopt a two season term (2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years) for the length of the alignment. This will allow additional data to be collected in several schools that have recently had major shifts in population. In addition, staff was directed to work with the Department of Education to attempt to determine what set of enrollment/membership numbers is most appropriate for classification. It will also allow for a review of the means in which the classes are divided and allow for feedback from the membership on that issue.
2. **Schools desiring to play-up.** Eleven requests to play into a higher class were considered, with six of them being approved. The primary determining factor in approving a request to play up was geography, and equally important conditions for denial of a request to play up was reference to competitive ability; a move that would leave the former district with less than four teams or more than six teams; or moves that significantly impacted schools that had not had an opportunity to respond to the changes.
3. **Other enrollment issues and requests.** No requests were approved for schools who requested to play in a lower class than their enrollment otherwise dictated. One enrollment request dealing with several students being excluded from a member school's enrollment was approved while all other requests for enrollment issues were not approved. There were a few geographic requests for movement of member schools that were considered and approved, while others were considered and denied.
4. **Scheduling Grid.** One of the most constant bits of feedback from the membership dealt with the establishment of a scheduling grid. This grid was developed and adopted which will prevent schools from playing district games during playing weeks ten and eleven, while specifying the weeks for district play. This will be of great assistance to schools in smaller districts that now have many more games to schedule than in the past. Most football schools having the same non-district weeks open should lend itself tremendously to easing scheduling issues.
5. **Scheduling Moratorium.** Another issue of significant debate is the starting date and length of the high school football season. If there is a desire to start the season at a later time, part of the solution can come by addressing playoff scheduling, while other bits of change may require a vote of the schools. Due to the timeliness of this debate, the Board has established that contracts signed prior to October 1, 2006 are not to be considered valid. While many of the new districts will meet and work out the scheduling grid and dates for weeks 1 through 11, specific date contracts should not be signed until this issue is resolved.

The Board will continue its discussion of football related issues, including the pairings and rotation of opponents for 2007 and 2008 when it convenes again on September 14 and 15, 2006 in Lexington.

As always, feel free to call if you have any questions.