



KHSAA Eligibility Rules and Parental Permission Form Bylaw References as of April 30, 2006

KHSAA Form GE04
Rev. 4/06

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) rules require all participants in interscholastic athletics and parents/guardian to acknowledge receipt of the eligibility rules as promulgated by this Association and the Kentucky Board of Education Regulations. If you have questions concerning these regulations, please direct them to your high school principal. This form is for information only. For the full text of any KHSAA Bylaws, consult the KHSAA Handbook or web site (<http://www.khsaa.org>). Please continue to support your child and your local high school by attending and supporting high school activities, "An Integral Part of Education".

STATEMENT OF HAZARDS IN PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS

Playing, practicing to play, helping with, or participating in any manner in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury. Because of the dangers of participating in sports, the student should recognize the importance of following the coaches' instructions regarding playing techniques, training and other team rules and obey such instruction.

CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE COVERAGE

The KHSAA provides excess catastrophic insurance coverage for all student athletes at no cost to member schools. This plan has a \$25,000.00 deductible. Your child will be covered under this plan during the prescribed dates and activities, effective the date you complete and return the attached acknowledgment form to the school principal. This is an "excess" policy, meaning personal insurance and other school insurance policies are to be exhausted before this plan is implemented. The plan provides coverage for students who meet all eligibility requirements while engaging in, practicing for, or traveling to or from, all activities under the jurisdiction of the KHSAA and the direct supervision of a school employee, and has many other provisions and benefits. For KHSAA sanctioned postseason play, the deductible amount is reduced to \$0.

No pupil shall be eligible to represent his/her high school in any interscholastic athletic event (practice or play) unless he/she has been examined by a Health Care Provider as detailed in Bylaw 2 and has proof of insurance to the \$25,000 catastrophic floor. Parents should present this form to your Health Care Provider for his/her signature following his/her examination of your child. The physical examination is valid for participation in athletics for one year from the date signed. Return completed form to your high school Principal to be maintained by the school.

Bylaw 2. Physician's Certificate and Parent's Consent

The Superintendent or Principal shall have each student who is trying for a place as a participant on an athletic team or cheerleading squad present a physician's certificate certification signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or chiropractor if performed in the scope of practice (as defined in KRS Chapter 312) which shall state that he/she is physically fit to participate without undue risk. The parent's consent for the child's participation and acknowledgment of receipt of the eligibility rules as promulgated by the Association and Kentucky Board of Education regulations in writing shall also be required.

Any student, prior to participation or trying for a place on an athletic team or cheerleading squad shall have in place medical insurance with coverage limits up to the deductible of the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance program and such insurance shall remain in force throughout participation. It is the responsibility of each member school to ensure and certify that each student has insurance coverage throughout the school year.

Bylaw 3. Age

A student who becomes nineteen (19) years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. A student who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year. The Board of Control and the Commissioner may not adopt administrative procedures that allow for waiver of this rule under any condition.

Bylaw 4. Enrollment

Sec. 1) Maximum Number of Semesters

- Students promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9) shall have four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first such promotion by the school provided the student is eligible according to this and all other Association bylaws. Such eligibility shall conclude with the completion of the spring sports season following the fourth year.
- The Commissioner or Board of Control through the Due Process Procedure, may grant additional eligibility in the case where it has been documented by the attending physician, Principal and Superintendent that severe illness or injury has prevented the student from receiving necessary education services and the right to an education has therefore been impacted rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege. Such grant of eligibility may only be made in the cases in which the student-athlete would remain eligible by all other Association bylaws. Nothing about this provision shall include additional eligibility strictly for loss of participation due to sports related injuries.
- No student having been enrolled in the fourth (4th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall begin in the first year enrolled in that grade. Students repeating a grade for any reason are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after being promoted from grade nine (9). Policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below high school interscholastic athletics shall be determined by the school council pursuant to KRS 160.345 (2) (i).
- Pupils in grades 1-8 may play on the high school team if such participation is not in conflict with Section (c) above, and the time so played shall not be counted on the eight (8) semester limit. EXCEPTION: Students below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football or soccer, and students enrolled below grade seven (7) may not participate on the varsity level in wrestling. The provisions of this restriction shall not apply to non-varsity teams participating in these sports.

Sec. 2) Responsible Parties

Any public elementary or secondary school or school employee or official who knowingly allows participation of an ineligible player under the provisions of this bylaw, or who, through reasonable diligence, should have known of such ineligibility, shall be considered in noncompliance with state accreditation standards or guilty of willful neglect of duty or breach of contract. Such shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising

coaches; such as, but not limited to an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent, or a school board member.

Sec. 3) Deadline for Enrollment

On Friday of each grading period, a student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must be enrolled as a full-time student according to regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education at the member school he/she desires to represent in order to be eligible for athletics.

A student must have enrolled as a bona fide full-time undergraduate student no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester.

Sec. 4) Enrollment Elsewhere

No student who is enrolled or connected with any other school than the one he/she represents shall take part in any contest. In the case of an all-boys high school, girl cheerleaders from affiliated neighboring girls school may be accepted.

Bylaw 5. Minimum Academic Requirement

Sec. 1) Proper Grade Level Requirement for Students in All School Districts

On the first day of each school year, a student must be at his/her proper grade level. To be considered to be at the proper grade level, a student must have been enrolled during the previous grading period, and must be on schedule to graduate on the first day of school. For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer and correspondence work, must be complete by the first day of the school year for the student body.

- Eligibility During First Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)
For a student in the ninth grade to be considered to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.
- Eligibility During Second Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)
For a student in the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 10) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.
- Eligibility During Third Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)
For a student in the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 11) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.
- Eligibility During Fourth Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)
For a student in the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 12) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

Sec. 2) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) above may be reinstated a maximum of one time. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he/she is ineligible. He/she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he/she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year.

Sec. 3) Continual Progress During the School Year

On a weekly basis, a student shall also be passing (cumulatively for the credit period) in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. On its membership form, each member school shall designate the day of the week, approved and documented through local policies, that the grades shall be examined for the student-athletes within that school in order to make this determination. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday. No special tests or recitations are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

Sec. 4) Pre-Secondary School Students

Pre-secondary school students (grades 1-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which they are currently enrolled in order to be eligible.

Bylaw 6. Transfer Rule

Sec. 1) Domestic Students

Any student who has been enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and has participated in any varsity game in any sport at any school following enrollment in grade nine (9) who transfers schools shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

The Commissioner has discretion (but is not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one of the following exceptions has been met. Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school. The KHSAA shall not recognize as grounds for a waiver of the period of ineligibility an argument that the educational needs of the transferring students would be better served through a transfer.

- BONA FIDE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE - If there has been a bona fide change in residence by the parents and student that precedes a student's change of schools. For purposes of this bylaw, a bonafide change of residence means changing of the permanent residence of the student and the student's entire immediate family from one school district or defined school attendance area into another school district or defined school attendance area prior to a change in enrollment of the student. A student who becomes emancipated does not have a bona fide change of residence by virtue of his/her emancipation and change of residence for purposes of this bylaw.
- DIVORCE - The KHSAA will not recognize a legal separation as grounds for waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. The Commissioner may waive the provisions of this bylaw



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in the event of a dissolution of marriage (i.e. a final and legally binding divorce decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) of the parents and a change in the residence of the student pursuant to a court order granting custody of the child to one of the parents with whom the student shall reside. In the event joint custody is awarded to both parents, for purposes of this bylaw, the student shall be deemed to reside at his or her previous residence if one parent retains this residence. If neither parent retains the former residence, the parents shall designate one of their new residences (mother or father) for the purpose of this bylaw, such designation to be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner.

- c) **GUARDIANSHIP/CHANGE OF CUSTODY** - The KHSAA shall not recognize guardianship or similar arrangements made, for purposes of this bylaw. The Commissioner shall have authority to waive the provisions of this bylaw where it is shown that custody of the student has been taken from one or both parents and given to a third person by a court of competent jurisdiction and under circumstances indicating: (1) the parent(s) is/are unfit or (2) the court finds that the health and welfare of the student would be better served by the change in custody.
- d) **DEATH** - In the event the death of one or both of the student's custodial parents creates such circumstances that the transfer to another secondary school is deemed appropriate.
- e) **BOARDING SCHOOLS** - The Commissioner may waive the period of ineligibility on a one-time basis for students entering a boarding school on a full time basis as a boarding school student.
- f) **NON ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FOR AN ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR** - In the event that the transferring student did not participate in an interscholastic contest at any level in any sport while enrolled at the sending school during the entire academic school year immediately preceding the change in schools.
- g) **REASSIGNMENT BY BOARD OF EDUCATION** - Through a properly documented reassignment of the Board of Education to another school in the district. To meet this exception for a reassignment, reasons for the assignment may include, but are not limited to, the closing or opening of a school due to consolidation, merger, opening of a new school, or another type or opening or closing or assignment through KRS 158.6455 or other applicable adopted regulation. Such assignment may be to the public school district should a private, parochial or independent school close.
- h) **TRANSFER FROM NON-MEMBER SCHOOL** - Any student transferring from a non-member school located in Kentucky whose athletic participation has been limited primarily to other non-member schools may have the period of ineligibility waived.

Satisfying one of the exceptions (a through h) will not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted—

- 1) If the change in schools is to nullify or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in their ineligibility at the sending school;
- 2) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the enrollment at the new school;
- 3) If the change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
- 4) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility;
- 5) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school.

The Commissioner may, as he/she deems necessary, appoint or hire a committee or investigator to conduct any inquiry or investigation concerning any issues arising under this bylaw or any other bylaw.

If any member school files a written objection to the factual validity of the certification before the conclusion of the period of time to which the period of ineligibility would normally apply, along with the specific, detailed basis for such, then a complete investigation shall be conducted by the KHSAA and a ruling shall be issued through the Commissioner's office.

No student enrolled in grades 4-12 who has participated in a first team game shall be eligible to represent a second member school during that school year unless that student would qualify for a waiver of the period of ineligibility in accordance with provisions (a) through (f) above.

Sec. 2) Non-Domestic Students

- a) Foreign exchange students attending school in Kentucky shall be considered ineligible for the first calendar year following enrollment.
 - i) If placed in a KHSAA member school under the auspices of approved student exchange programs or in other circumstances approved by the Board of Control within Board policy, these students may be declared eligible and not be subject to the initial one-year period of ineligibility.
 - ii) In order to be considered for a waiver, the following conditions shall exist
 - 1) The student shall be in compliance with all U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations;
 - 2) The student shall be in the first and only year as an exchange student;
 - 3) The student shall not be a graduate of a the 12th or terminating grade or its' equivalent in either the U.S. or his/her home country;
 - 4) The student shall be in possession of a complete transcript of records that has been translated into English prior to the request for eligibility;
 - 5) The student shall be in possession of a J-1 student education visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service;
 - 6) The student's placement shall not have been a "direct placement" into a KHSAA member school;
 - 7) The student's host family shall not pay any tuition or fee normal to the attendance at the KHSAA member school, and all such fees shall be paid by the student's family;
 - 8) All travel fees shall be paid by the student's family; and
 - 9) The student's host family shall not include members of the coaching staff at the KHSAA member school at which participation is desired.
 - iii) To be considered for approval by the Board of Control, a foreign exchange program shall assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes.
 - iv) The student, the principal or designated representative of the member school, and a representative of the placement agency shall sign and attest to certification that the athlete complies with the eligibility rules of the KHSAA and shall not be eligible under any circumstances for more than one year of athletic participation if the first year period of ineligibility is waived.

- b) Any student having made election to apply for the waiver of the first year of ineligibility and having been granted a waiver of the normal period of ineligibility under subsection (a) above shall not be eligible, under any circumstances, for more than one (1) school year while enrolled in grades 9 -12 in Kentucky.
- c) Any student desiring to participate in athletics who does not meet the criteria listed in Bylaw 6, Sec. 2 may seek a waiver of the one-year ineligibility period through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure.

Sec. 3) Permanent Ineligibility

A student is ineligible for athletics in this state if he/she transfers from another state if he/she was or would have become ineligible in the state from which he/she transfers.

Bylaw 7. Conduct - Student or Other Representative Under Penalty

Any student, contest official or other official school representative who is under penalty or discipline or whose conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school or the KHSAA is not eligible.

Bylaw 8. Contestant On Other Teams, Post Season and All-Star Games

Any student who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has been a contestant in football or basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in that sport may not participate on any non-school sponsored team or in any all-star game in that sport or any variation of that sport from the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in that sport (including KHSAA sanctioned post-season) by that school unless it has been sanctioned by the Board of Control. Following the team's last scheduled game (including post season), there are no restrictions on play in that specific sport for the student-athletes.

Bylaw 9. Other Eligibility Requirements and Regulations

Sec. 1) Graduates and College Students

Any student who has graduated from a secondary school, or who has ever played on a college team, is thereafter ineligible to play on a high school team.

Sec. 2) Practice of Ineligible Students

Unless ineligible due to the provisions of Bylaw 11 (Sportsmanship, having been ejected from a contest), any student who is not eligible for competition during a team's next contest/meet/match/game shall not practice with the team.

Bylaw 10. Recruitment

Sec. 1) Foreword

Pupils (both domestic and foreign) at any grade level shall not be recruited to a member school of the KHSAA for the purpose of participating in athletics, including recruitment under the guise of academics.

Sec. 2) Definition

- a) Recruiting is defined as an act, on behalf of or for the benefit of, a school, which attempts to influence a student to transfer to a member school for the purpose of participating in athletics. Such also includes influencing a student to remain at a school. A school official utilizing an intermediary, such as, but not limited to a peer, another school employee, a student, a parent or a citizen, for the purpose of recruiting a student athlete shall be in noncompliance.
- b) An athletic coach or any other member of the school staff shall not influence a student even if the student, his/her parents or any intermediary from another school makes the initial contact. In this situation, a coach or staff member (paid or unpaid) should immediately refer the person(s) to the school principal.
- c) Influencing a student shall include, but shall not be limited to the promise or instilling the expectation of an athletic advantage, playing time, employment of the student or his/her parents or relatives, housing for the student or his/her parents, scholarships or financial aid for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible, or any other material or athletic reward for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible.

Sec. 3) Penalty

Any representative of a member school knowingly allowing the recruitment of a student for the purpose of participating in athletics or who should have known of such recruitment shall be guilty of willful neglect of duty, misconduct, and/or breach of contract. Such shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches, such as, but not limited to an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent or a school board member. This regulation shall also apply to students or their parents.

Bylaw 11. Practice of Sportsmanship

It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public. The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation. Any violation of this rule in any interscholastic contest shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.

It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representatives uses or allows the use of illegal equipment which gains a competitive advantage in the contest and which is expressly prohibited by the rules adopted for that sport. Violations of this particular provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 30, Penalties.

Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation must be reinstated by a member of the Commission prior to returning to interscholastic contests. Any student or coach using insulting language to another player or coach or to any official in any interscholastic contest, or who has been ruled out of such a contest because of unsportsmanlike tactics, shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner.

The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner by the principal of the school that that student attends. When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he/she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his/her representative and to the KHSAA office. If the Commissioner finds upon investigation that the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender shall be permanently disqualified.