

1 AN ACT relating to middle school athletics.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.070 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall have the management and control of the
5 common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including
6 interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for
7 the Blind, and community education programs and services.

8 (2) The Kentucky Board of Education may designate an organization or agency to
9 manage interscholastic athletics in the common schools, provided that the rules,
10 regulations, and bylaws of any organization or agency so designated shall be
11 approved by the board, and provided further that any administrative hearing
12 conducted by the designated managing organization or agency shall be conducted in
13 accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

14 (a) The state board or its designated agency shall assure through promulgation of
15 administrative regulations that if a secondary school sponsors or intends to
16 sponsor an athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which
17 National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer an athletic
18 scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a
19 scholarship is offered. The administrative regulations shall specify which
20 athletic activities are similar to sports for which National Collegiate Athletic
21 Association members offer scholarships.

22 (b) Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the state board shall require any
23 agency or organization designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
24 athletics to adopt bylaws that establish as members of the agency's or
25 organization's board of control one (1) representative of nonpublic member
26 schools who is elected by the nonpublic school members of the agency or
27 organization from regions one (1) through eight (8) and one (1) representative

1 of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic member
2 schools of the agency or organization from regions nine (9) through sixteen
3 (16). The nonpublic school representatives on the board of control shall not be
4 from classification A1 or D1 schools. Following initial election of these
5 nonpublic school representatives to the agency's or organization's board of
6 control, terms of the nonpublic school representatives shall be staggered so
7 that only one (1) nonpublic school member is elected in each even-numbered
8 year.

- 9 (c) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
10 interscholastic athletics shall not promulgate rules, administrative
11 regulations, or bylaws that prohibit pupils in grades seven (7) to eight (8)
12 from participating in any high school sports except for high school
13 varsity soccer and football, or from participating on more than one (1)
14 school-sponsored team at the same time in the same sport. The Kentucky
15 Board of Education, or an agency designated by the board to manage
16 interscholastic athletics, may promulgate administrative regulations
17 restricting, limiting, or prohibiting participation in high school varsity
18 soccer and football for students who have not successfully completed the
19 eighth grade.

20 2. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
21 interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations
22 allowing pupils in grades seven (7) to eight (8) participating in high
23 school sports to participate on the high school team of the student's
24 assigned attendance area or, if the student attends an in-district
25 middle school outside the student's assigned attendance area for
26 enrollment in a specific academic program, the high school the
27 student would attend for continued participation in the academic

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program.

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(d) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall allow a member school's team or students to play against students of a non-member at-home private school, or a team of students from non-member at-home private schools, if the non-member at-home private schools and students comply with this subsection.

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2. A non-member at-home private school's team and students shall comply with the rules for student athletes, including rules concerning:

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a. Age;

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b. School semesters;

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c. Scholarships;

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d. Physical exams;

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e. Foreign student eligibility; and

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f. Amateurs.

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3. A coach of a non-member at-home private school's team shall comply with the rules concerning certification of member school coaches as required by the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.

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4. This subsection shall not allow a non-member at-home private school's team to participate in a sanctioned:

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a. Conference;

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b. Conference tournament;

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c. District tournament;

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d. Regional tournament; or

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e. State tournament or event.

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5. This subsection does not allow eligibility for a recognition, award, or

1 championship sponsored by the state board or any agency designated by
2 the state board to manage interscholastic athletics.

3 6. A non-member at-home private school's team or students may
4 participate in interscholastic athletics permitted, offered, or sponsored by
5 the state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
6 interscholastic athletics.

7 (e) Every local board of education shall require an annual medical examination
8 performed and signed by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice
9 registered nurse, or chiropractor, if performed within the professional's scope
10 of practice, for each student seeking eligibility to participate in any school
11 athletic activity or sport. The Kentucky Board of Education or any
12 organization or agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic
13 athletics shall not promulgate administrative regulations or adopt any policies
14 or bylaws that are contrary to the provisions of this paragraph.

15 (f) Any student who turns nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 shall not
16 be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky. Any student who turns
17 nineteen (19) years of age on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for that
18 school year only. An exception to the provisions of this paragraph shall be
19 made, and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if
20 the student:

- 21 1. Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual
22 education program developed by an admissions and release committee
23 (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
- 24 2. Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC
25 committee recommendation; and
- 26 3. Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive
27 semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8)

1 to grade nine (9).

2 (g) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage
3 interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations that
4 permit a school district to employ or assign nonteaching or noncertified
5 personnel or personnel without postsecondary education credit hours to
6 serve in a coaching position. The administrative regulations shall give
7 preference to the hiring or assignment of certified personnel in coaching
8 positions.

9 2. A person employed in a coaching position shall be a high school
10 graduate and at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall submit to a
11 criminal background check in accordance with KRS 160.380.

12 3. The administrative regulations shall specify post-hire requirements for
13 persons employed in coaching positions.

14 4. The regulations shall permit a predetermined number of hours of
15 professional development training approved by the state board or its
16 designated agency to be used in lieu of postsecondary education credit
17 hour requirements.

18 5. A local school board may specify post-hire requirements for personnel
19 employed in coaching positions in addition to those specified in
20 subparagraph 3. of this paragraph.

21 (3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to lease from the State
22 Property and Buildings Commission, or others, whether public or private, any
23 lands, buildings, structures, installations, and facilities suitable for use in
24 establishing and furthering television and related facilities as an aid or
25 supplement to classroom instruction, throughout the Commonwealth, and for
26 incidental use in any other proper public functions. The lease may be for any
27 initial term commencing with the date of the lease and ending with the next

1 ensuing June 30, which is the close of the then-current fiscal biennium of the
2 Commonwealth, with exclusive options in favor of the board to renew the
3 same for successive ensuing bienniums, July 1 in each even year to June 30 in
4 the next ensuing even year; and the rentals may be fixed at the sums in each
5 biennium, if renewed, sufficient to enable the State Property and Buildings
6 Commission to pay therefrom the maturing principal of and interest on, and
7 provide reserves for, any revenue bonds which the State Property and
8 Buildings Commission may determine to be necessary and sufficient, in
9 agreement with the board, to provide the cost of acquiring the television and
10 related facilities, with appurtenances, and costs as may be incident to the
11 issuance of the bonds.

12 (b) Each option of the Kentucky Board of Education to renew the lease for a
13 succeeding biennial term may be exercised at any time after the adjournment
14 of the session of the General Assembly at which appropriations shall have
15 been made for the operation of the state government for such succeeding
16 biennial term, by notifying the State Property and Buildings Commission in
17 writing, signed by the chief state school officer, and delivered to the secretary
18 of the Finance and Administration Cabinet as a member of the commission.
19 The option shall be deemed automatically exercised, and the lease
20 automatically renewed for the succeeding biennium, effective on the first day
21 thereof, unless a written notice of the board's election not to renew shall have
22 been delivered in the office of the secretary of the Finance and Administration
23 Cabinet before the close of business on the last working day in April
24 immediately preceding the beginning of the succeeding biennium.

25 (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall not itself operate leased television
26 facilities, or undertake the preparation of the educational presentations or
27 films to be transmitted thereby, but may enter into one (1) or more contracts to

1 provide therefor, with any public agency and instrumentality of the
2 Commonwealth having, or able to provide, a staff with proper technical
3 qualifications, upon which agency and instrumentality the board, through the
4 chief state school officer and the Department of Education, is represented in
5 such manner as to coordinate matters of curriculum with the curricula
6 prescribed for the public schools of the Commonwealth. Any contract for the
7 operation of the leased television or related facilities may permit limited and
8 special uses of the television or related facilities for other programs in the
9 public interest, subject to the reasonable terms and conditions as the board and
10 the operating agency and instrumentality may agree upon; but any contract
11 shall affirmatively forbid the use of the television or related facilities, at any
12 time or in any manner, in the dissemination of political propaganda or in
13 furtherance of the interest of any political party or candidate for public office,
14 or for commercial advertising. No lease between the board and the State
15 Property and Buildings Commission shall bind the board to pay rentals for
16 more than one (1) fiscal biennium at a time, subject to the aforesaid renewal
17 options. The board may receive and may apply to rental payments under any
18 lease and to the cost of providing for the operation of the television or related
19 facilities not only appropriations which may be made to it from state funds,
20 from time to time, but also contributions, gifts, matching funds, devises, and
21 bequests from any source, whether federal or state, and whether public or
22 private, so long as the same are not conditioned upon any improper use of the
23 television or related facilities in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of
24 this subsection.

25 (4) The state board may, on the recommendation and with the advice of the chief state
26 school officer, prescribe, print, publish, and distribute at public expense such
27 administrative regulations, courses of study, curriculums, bulletins, programs,

1 outlines, reports, and placards as each deems necessary for the efficient
2 management, control, and operation of the schools and programs under its
3 jurisdiction. All administrative regulations published or distributed by the board
4 shall be enclosed in a booklet or binder on which the words "informational copy"
5 shall be clearly stamped or printed.

6 (5) Upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer or his designee, the state
7 board shall establish policy or act on all matters relating to programs, services,
8 publications, capital construction and facility renovation, equipment, litigation,
9 contracts, budgets, and all other matters which are the administrative responsibility
10 of the Department of Education.