

Timothy Johnson

From: Kristey Williams
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Kristey Williams
Cc: Timothy Johnson
Subject: Fwd: KSHSAA policy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dusty Buell <dusty@wichitaopen.com>
Subject: RE: KSHSAA policy
Date: January 6, 2023 at 10:45:39 AM CST
To: Kristey Williams <Kristey.Williams@house.ks.gov>

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Thank you for your email, and thank you for reaching out about this. I know there are some good arguments on both sides of this, but the bottom line for me is the competitive imbalance that has been showed, especially most recently in the past 20 years or so.

Let's just look at Bishop Miege State Championships for example in the 2000's

Baseball - 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021 (11)

G Basketball - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022 (12)

Boys Soccer - 2000, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (10) including the last 7 in a row

Girls Soccer - 2003, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 (7)

Volleyball - 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2022 (13)

I know this doesn't include all of the sports, but how is it possibly to compete as a public school, EVEN if the public school has open enrollment, the area by which families could choose to go to a different school is much different in 95% of the state. Yes, Wichita schools could choose, but they are all playing in the city league, and there isn't a city league team and in the same division.

I am most familiar with Soccer, Below you will find Bishop Miege soccer schedule for this past year.

Fri, Aug 26 Overland Park-Blue Valley Southwest HS H L 0-3 (6A)
Tue, Aug 30 Overland Park-Blue Valley HS H L 0-4 (5A)
Tue, Sep 6 Overland Park-Blue Valley North HS V L 1-2 (5A)
Thu, Sep 8 St Pius X HS, North Kansas City H W 5-0 (Missouri)
Sat, Sep 10 Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS H W 2-1 (4A Private)
Thu, Sep 15 Lenexa-St. James Academy V L 2-3 (5A)
Tue, Sep 20 Overland Park-St. Thomas Aquinas HS H W (by forfeit) 1-0 (5A)
Thu, Sep 22 Barstow HS, Kansas City V W 2-1 (OT) (Missouri)
Thu, Sep 29 Harrisonville HS, Harrisonville H W 1-0 (Missouri)
Sat, Oct 1 Wichita-Trinity Academy H W 1-0 (4-1A Private)

Tue, Oct 4 Tonganoxie HS V W 5-2 (4A)
 Sat, Oct 8 Wichita-Classical/Wichita-Central Christian N W 5-1 (4A Private)
 Tue, Oct 11 Overland Park-Blue Valley Northwest HS V T 2-2 (OT) (6A)
 Thu, Oct 13 Wichita-Kapaun Mt. Carmel HS H W 2-1 (5A)
 Sat, Oct 15 Lenexa-Christ Preparatory Academy H W 3-0 (Have no idea I believe they are outside of KSHSAA, not public)
 Tue, Oct 18 Overland Park-Blue Valley West HS V L 0-1 (6A)
 Tue, Oct 25 Fort Scott HS H W 10-0 (Playoffs 4A)
 Thu, Oct 27 Lawrence-Bishop Seabury Academy V W 5-2 (Playoffs Private 4A)
 Tue, Nov 1 Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian HS V W 2-1 (Playoffs 4A Private)
 Fri, Nov 4 Wichita-Trinity Academy V W 2-0 (State Semi-Final 4-1A Private)
 Sat, Nov 5 Baldwin HS V W 2-0 (State Championship 4A)

As you may notice, in their schedule they play a total (1) 4A public school the entire year. Prior to the playoffs, they played an additional 3 4A opponents, all of them private schools. What happens every year, is they play like talent in 5A and 6A, and come in to the playoffs with a record that gives them the 11 seed or something like that, and immediately they turn around beat the top seeds from 4A that has played 4A talent all year and it has been to the detriment of public schools, such as Louisburg the past couple of years that have done everything they should do to make it to state only to be up against a tanking Bishop Miege team that has won 7 State Championships in a row. They are in the wrong division. Look at the competition level of these games against 5 and 6 A schools, they are not being blown out, they are winning, and this was even a down year for them. If you look back at the previous year, they were beating a majority of the 5A and 6A schools.

I am not sure the proposed changes would have any effect on Wichita schools, as Trinity does not have the enrollment to be bumped up anywhere. Most of the Private schools are generally good at a small selection of sports. Take Kapaun for example:

Girls Golf State Championships - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (21) out of 22
 Boys State Golf - 2003, 2004, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2021 (7)

Or Collegiate

Girls Tennis -, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 - 13 straight state championships not sure prior to that, but can you imagine being another 3A school and that is what you have to compete with. The small the classification, the more it affects the outcomes of the parity in sports.

You will likely not see this overwhelming state titles in sports such as football, baseball or basketball - because the enrollment numbers for these schools do not allow for the major sports to be dominant, especially in football. But let's look at Sunrise Christian Academy, a basketball school and can you imagine them playing in 4A, because that is what their enrollment would have them doing. They recruit nationally, and this is similar to what Kansas City is able to do. They are in an area of population and wealth that allows for much more recruitment, not only from the KC Metro, but from Missouri, and the surrounding suburbs.

I believe this has been overlooked for far too long because it doesn't affect the major sports like it does all the other sports that are played. It is and has been a detriment to my sport for the entirety of my coaching career. We cannot compete with private schools that recruit, and continue to get the benefit from playing whoever they want, wherever they want and then coming down to play in 4A for the post season.

I have never been outspoken on this issue. I have just stomached the burden for our kids that really

don't have the means and can't compete with these giants. But for anyone to not see the disparity of this issue, is looking for reasons to bury it. There is nothing to gain for schools to have to play these schools every year. I believe the multiplier does not do enough to protect private schools, but I am in favor of anything that starts the ball rolling to show that their successes need them to move up a classification. Any argument that says Wichita schools do the same thing, or that all schools recruit does not tell the whole story. Public schools have been held hostage by boundaries, by economic conditions and by sheer population. It is long time for a change in this system and I am afraid that if something is not done this year, it may never be done.

There are currently zero private schools in 6A. 6A schools do not want to have to compete with private schools. 5A schools do not want to have to compete with 4A private schools. It immediately adds fierce competition to their post season, no matter how many students are enrolled. I am sure that the harshest critics are going to come from those in 6A/5A that currently don't have to compete with these schools at the level that smaller schools do. Unfortunately, these private schools can control their enrollment numbers. Public schools do not have that luxury. If we get to the threshold that would move us up to 5A, we can't just not enroll the student, private schools can. We are at the mercy of how many kids come to our school.

I hope that this can at least get the conversation started. I, and I know other coaches, will play whoever is in front of us. It is not about us coaches, or being afraid of competition. This is about the kids that should be playing like-competition and finding out who is better. But in seems any more, that in certain sports, you start the year with trying to see who is going to play for second place. In public schools, everything is cyclical. There is no way to have this run of dominance in 4A, 5A and 6A sports.

Hope this helps.

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Wichita's Official PGA Tour Stop
2023 Tournament Dates - June 8,18