

2023 KIAAA Classification Forum Topics

ALL CLASSES

PROPOSAL #1

Concerning Post-season pass gate list

Should the KSHSAA allow for all coaches that have been entered on the KSHSAA website, and have completed the mandatory trainings, to be on their school's pass list for Regional, Sub-State and State events?

Rationale:

These coaches have taken the mandatory trainings by KSHSAA to be able to coach their sport and should be able to get into the KSHSAA events for free. Coaches have spent the whole year preparing theory athletes for the post-season and should be able to attend with an additional cost to themselves or the school.

Proposed on behalf of Blue Valley School District

By Matt Ortman, Blue Valley School District Athletic Director

ALL CLASSES

PROPOSAL #2

Concerning Change of State Semifinal soccer format

Should the KSHSAA change their state soccer semifinal and state championship game site location/date procedure to playing semifinal games at the higher seed on Thursday of SCW #18 and SCW #47 against the team in their region (East #1 vs East #2, West #1 vs West #2)?

Rationale: Currently, the teams that have qualified to play these semifinal and championship games will play two games in less than 24 hours apart when most teams will not do this during any part of their season. By playing at the higher seed, an overnight stay and distant travel could be eliminated. The State Championship game should include the two best teams that did not have to play their potentially hardest game the day before. There could be one state site for all three Championships for each season which could attract more interest for spectators and help everyone with planning for the state championship games.

Proposed on behalf of the Greater Wichita Athletic League

By Tyler Fraizer, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Athletic Director

5A/6A

PROPOSAL #3

Concerning Adding a fourth regional site for 6A/5A girls golf

Should the KSHSAA change their policy/practice/or procedure of having three (3) regional sites for 5A and 6A Girls Golf to four (4) regional sites?

Rationale: Equality with the boys. Boys have four regionals, and the same number of schools in 5A and 6A as girls golf. Needs to be equal.

Less girls qualify for state golf than boys because they only have three regionals, this would give more girls the opportunity to play at the state tournament and be equal to the boys

Proposed on behalf of Sunflower League Golf Coaches

By Brent Bechard, Mill Valley Asst. Principal/Athletic Director

5A/6A

PROPOSAL #4

Concerning Separation of classes for 5A and 6A Girls Wrestling State Championship

Should the KSHSAA change their policy/practice/or procedure of combining the 5A and 6A classes during the Girls' State Wrestling Tournament, and separate them into two classes with respective State Championships held at the same time as the boys.

Rationale: 5A wrestling continues to grow as evident by the following:

*30 schools competed from the 5A level at 2022-2023 state competition

*28 of the 30 schools who competed scored at least one team point.

*40.5 percent of the girls competing from 5A schools medaled in the 2022-2023 state competition

*109 of 224 wrestlers in the 2022-2023 state competition were from 5A

Proposed on behalf of United Kansas Conference

By Cody Whitney, Shawnee Heights, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director

5A/6A

PROPOSAL #5

Concerning Elimination of the #17 and #18 seeds from postseason in every sport.

Should the KSHSAA eliminate the #17 & #18 seeds in EVERY sport from postseason brackets?

Rationale: The KSHSAA currently eliminates the #17 & #18 seeds in basketball, softball, and baseball. However, these seeds are not eliminated in soccer and volleyball. Using a consistent system for all sports that have (36) teams in their classification would be simpler, cost less, and allows for normal 16-team brackets. Also, play-in games in soccer result in the top seeds having to modify post-season playing schedules.

Proposed on behalf of the Western Athletic Conference & GWAL

By Jay Gifford, Dodge City

Concerning: Concerning Team Seeding Proposal: All 36 Schools in each class included in Post-Season Play

Should the KSHSAA seed all member schools in 5A and 6A at a meeting for sub-state seeding in ALL team sports at the conclusion of the regular season to determine the specific seeds held #1-18 in the West and #1-18 in the East. (all 36 schools in each class would be seeded and included in bracketed play)

****Teams seeded 15-18 would compete in a play-in game.**

KSHSAA Team Sports in the proposal are defined as: volleyball, boys soccer, girls soccer, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball, and softball The seeding and play-in defined as the following:

- **Volleyball:** Monday of SCW #16
 - o Play in game is included in the sub-state bracket and is set to be played on Saturday of SCW #16
- **Boys Soccer:** Saturday of SCW #16
 - o Play in game to be completed the following Monday
- **Boys Basketball:** Saturday of SCW #34
 - o *Play in game to be completed the following Monday*
- **Girls Basketball:** Saturday of SCW #34
 - o *Play in game to be completed the following Monday*
- **Girls Soccer:** Saturday of SCW #45
 - o Play in game to be completed the following Monday
- **Baseball:** Saturday of SCW #34
 - o *Play in game to be completed the following Monday*
- **Softball:** Saturday of SCW #34
 - o *Play in game to be completed the following Monday*

Rationale: This proposal allows for all 7 team sports to have commonality with postseason policy. The current KSHSAA rules allow for only 3 team sports: volleyball and boys/girls soccer to include all 36 schools at the 5A and 6A postseason. The remaining 4 team sports: boys/girls basketball, baseball, and softball simply end at the conclusion of the regular season for seed 17 and 18.

This difference in policy has caused frustration and confusion for players, coaches, and parents. At times a mere tie-breaker is the only thing that stands between an opportunity to move forward and a sudden conclusion.

Changing the rules to allow for play in games in ALL 7 team sports will help the postseason rules align. This will help eliminate confusion and frustration by patrons and athletes and will restore the ability to allow all teams the chance to compete for a team championship.

Advantages:

- This option allows for teams to schedule games through Friday of the regular season
- This proposal allows for ALL games played in the regular season to count towards postseason seeding.
- ALL 36 teams in the classification of 5A and 6A will be included in the postseason seeding/bracketing
- ALL KSHSAA team sports will be treated the same by allowing for play in games
- Brings continuity to the team rules allowing for all 36 schools to be represented in the postseason

Disadvantages:

- Possible quick turnaround from play in game to the 1st round game.

Proposed on behalf of the Sunflower League

By Josh Price, Olathe North High School Asst. Principal/Athletic Director

Concerning 8-Team District for Football

Should the KSHSAA place 5A/6A Football teams into 8-Team football districts?

Rationale:

The current system: completely open (8) game schedule where teams can schedule whomever they want from any classification, state, etc. Most teams have league schedules with open weeks built in to play non-league opponents. All games count toward postseason seeding and hosting opportunities.

The most desirable tie-breaker for all sports is head to head competition. This tie-breaker is used much less than the second arbitrary tie-breaker (point-differential). This, of course, leads to skewed post-seeding and hosting opportunities due to the fact that teams are not playing similar opponents.

8-team districts: this system allows for a regular season schedule with the postseason as the focus. This proposal provides a fair and consistent manner for seeding (and hosting) the post-season. Teams would have one non-district game and (7) district games. District contests would be used to determine the playoff seeding and hosting.

Head to head competition would be the most used tie-breaker; and point differential would no longer be an arbitrary means of breaking ties since teams would have common opponents. Kansas would join several other states in using this system.

Six surrounding states, Texas, Colorado, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska, all use some form of football districts for scheduling purposes. Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas all basically use an 8-Team District Model. After speaking with AD's and association leaders their message is clear: **District schedules allow for a regular season schedule that allows for a more fair and consistent postseason bracket.**

Proposal Committee: Matt Ortman, District AD, Blue Valley; , Kent Glaser, District AD, Shawnee Mission, Matt Johnson, District AD Olathe Schools; Kaleb Stoppel, District AD, Wichita; Jay Gifford, Drew Thon, AVCTL/ CL!

Concerning District Alignment for Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball

Should the KSHSAA change their policy/practice/or procedure of having three (3) regional sites for 5A and 6A Girls Golf to four (4) regional sites?

Rationale:**ADVANTAGES**

- *Fills out a portion of the schedule -
- *Seeding for post season is based on teams you have played head to head not on overall record
- *A difficult non-district schedule doesn't hurt your seeding
- *All teams advance to the post-season
- *A "loaded" district gets dispersed in the post season sub-states. How does this impact leagues? You would not necessarily have to give up current leagues. Non-district games could be scheduled against league opponents that are not in the same district. The District could also become the league and you would have a district champ, All-District teams, etc.

DISADVANTAGES

- *Some schools may increase travel
- *League matchups could be lost

PROCESS FOR PROPOSAL

- *The 36 schools would be placed in 9-team geographic Districts.
- *Schools would play each other one time for district play.

*Seedings for sub-states will be based on district standings rather than overall record.

*We would continue the current practice with four east sub-states and four west sub-states. All nine schools would advance.

<u>Substate 1</u>	<u>Substate 2</u>	<u>Substate 3</u>	<u>Substate 4 (TOP TEAM IS HOST)</u>
1A	1B	2A	2B
8B vs 9A	8A vs 9B	7B	7A
4B	4A	3B	3A
5A	5B	6A	6B

Below are sample schedules that could be used for district play

Volleyball – (9) Team Districts; (8) District Matches; allows for (28) remaining points. District play would consist of 4 Tri's. (Sample schedule, first team listed is the host)

Std Cal wk 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14
1,2,3	9,5,1	8,1,6	1,4,7
5,4,6	4,8,3	9,2,4	2,5,8
7,9,8	6,7,2	7,3,5	3,6,9

Soccer – (9) Team Districts; (8) District Matches; allows for (8) open dates. Below is a sample schedule for district games.

<u>Boys Wk 11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Girls wk 40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>44</u>
1 v 8	5 v 3	2 v 9	6 v 4	3 v 1	7 v 5	4 v 2	8 v 6	9 v 7
2 v 7	6 v 2	3 v 8	7 v 3	4 v 9	8 v 4	5 v 1	9 v 5	1 v 6
3 v 6	7 v 1	4 v 7	8 v 2	5 v 8	9 v 3	6 v 9	1 v 4	2 v 5
4 v 5	8 v 9	5 v 6	9 v 1	6 v 7	1 v 2	7 v 8	2 v 3	3 v 4
9 bye	4	1	5	2	6	3	7	8

Basketball – (9) Team Districts; (8) District Games; allows for (12) open dates

Sample Schedule - avoids tournament weeks, and completes district play on Tuesday of week 34 to be able to seed districts for the play in game.

Std Cal wk 28	28	31	31	32	32	33	33	34
5 v 3	1 v 8	2 v 9	6 v 4	7 v 5	3 v 1	4 v 2	8 v 6	9 v 7
6 v 2	2 v 7	3 v 8	7 v 3	8 v 4	4 v 9	5 v 1	9 v 5	1 v 6
7 v 1	3 v 6	4 v 7	8 v 2	9 v 3	5 v 8	6 v 9	1 v 4	2 v 5
8 v 9	4 v 5	5 v 6	9 v 1	1 v 2	6 v 7	7 v 8	2 v 3	3 v 4
4 bye	9	1	5	6	2	3	7	8

Baseball/Softball – (9) Team Districts; (8) District Games; allows for (12) open dates

District Games would be scheduled in Standard calendar week 39-43 so that teams would, in general, play two district games a week to avoid the possibility of throwing the same pitcher in each district game (applies more to baseball). This schedule also gives some time to reschedule in early May if weather becomes an issue.

Umpires could be an issue if all these games are played as singles, so some options:

Could play everything as a double header, with the first game counting as the district game. You would still have 4 additional games to schedule.

Teams that play in the same complex could schedule so umpires could work two games. Ex. teams 1 and 2 both play at Olathe District complex. Team 1 vs 7 would play at 4:00, team 2 vs 8 plays at 6:00 same umpires could work both games.

1 v 8	5 v 3	2 v 9	6 v 4	3 v 1	7 v 5	4 v 2	8 v 6	9 v 7
2 v 7	6 v 2	3 v 8	7 v 3	4 v 9	8 v 4	5 v 1	9 v 5	1 v 6
3 v 6	7 v 1	4 v 7	8 v 2	5 v 8	9 v 3	6 v 9	1 v 4	2 v 5
4 v 5	8 v 9	5 v 6	9 v 1	6 v 7	1 v 2	7 v 8	2 v 3	3 v 4
9 bye	4	1	5	2	6	3	7	8

Proposal Committee: Matt Ortman, District AD, Blue Valley; , Kent Glaser, District AD, Shawnee Mission, Matt Johnson, District AD Olathe Schools; Kaleb Stoppel, District AD, Wichita City League; Jay Gifford, Drew Thon, AVCTL/ CL

5A/6A

PROPOSAL #9

Concerning: Shot Clock

Should the KSHSAA add a 30 second shot clock to all varsity basketball games in 5A and 6A (both boys and girls basketball)

Rationale:

Shot clocks have become a standard in the game of basketball for all levels played above high school. In 1985 the shot clock was formally adopted at the collegiate level by the NCAA. Some were concerned that it would prevent lesser qualified teams from staying in games. The data simply does not support that. At the collegiate level the shot clock was implemented to help speed up the game. For most teams it did not change their overall style of play. For others like North Carolina (4 corners) and Notre Dame, they were forced to adopt a more offensive style of play.

Shot clocks keep the game moving and deter coaches from stalling to stay in a game. The shot clock would also open up the 4th quarter of high school games to be played on the floor. Without a shot clock coaches have trained their players to dribble and pass until fouled. This method of play can take multiple minutes off the clock with only minimal possessions. In addition, many games with single digit deficits turn into fouling showcases for the entirety of the 4th quarter. This can lengthen a game as much as 30-60 minutes over the course of the competition, and it does not keep to the integrity of the game of basketball. Rather, games turn into "free throw" competitions.

Shot (play) clocks have been included in the game of football at all levels including high school football games for some time. In MLB, pitchers will for the first time be put on a pitch clock to help with the pace of play.

In an era when the attention spans of humans continue to shrink, it has never been more important to the game of high school basketball to strongly consider the importance of pace of play in our high school basketball games.

Advantages:

· A shot clock is **recommended** by our governing body, NFHS and USA Basketball. This keeps us in line with their recommendations for play at our level and better serves our players.

Defensively, this allows you to be able to play zone for *longer* time periods during the game. If you don't have a shot clock, you must come out of your zone earlier in the game and go chase teams. A shot clock would allow you to play different defenses for longer amounts of time.

A shot clock would bring more possessions to the high school game.

· All we have heard over the past 5 years from referees is "Freedom of movement". They want the offense to have freedom. With a shot clock and this freedom of movement, you would definitely see more possessions, shot attempts, points, etc.

- **A shot clock keeps a team accountable. They MUST keep trying to score and not just spread you out and play 4 corners.**
- The shot clock brings in many new coaching strategies. You don't have to foul so early if you are down. You can run "2 for 1" possessions late in the half or game. It adds an exciting element to the coaching aspect that can really help/hurt your team if you can manage the clock correctly.
- Without a shot clock in today's game, it is very difficult if you are down 8 to 10 points in the 4th quarter to come back and win the game. Yes, you still can, but you need things to go your way. It shouldn't be that way. If you are down 8 to 10 points at the start of the 4th quarter, you should still feel like you are in the game. Offenses can take 1-2 minutes off the clock and not even attempt a shot, and NOW you are down 8 to 10 points with only 6 minutes to go.
- To prepare kids for the next level. Everyone at the next level uses a shot clock. This would be very beneficial for kids moving on to the collegiate level.
- **From a coach's perspective: Lastly, and what I believe to be the most important** (and it ties into what I said above). ***Any team that gets a lead can just play keep-away.*** That's not basketball. And trust me, I am guilty of that also as my teams have done that in the past. But **ANY DECENT JV** team, could play "keep away" from a VARSITY TEAM for about a minute or even longer. I have seen it in practice over and over as my JV just passes it around over and over because they are not good enough to get a shot off. But, my JV is good enough to play keep away. Even with some of my most athletic teams, the JV can keep the ball away for a long period of time. Once again, this goes back to holding teams accountable and making sure they are still attempting to score, just like football must continue to run plays.

Disadvantages

- 1) It costs too much
 - a. Blue Valley schools, Mill Valley, and Wichita schools have all put shot clocks already in their gyms as they remodeled.
- 2) Who would run it?
 - a. This isn't a problem in football. It wouldn't be a problem in basketball either.

Proposed on behalf of Sunflower League

By Brett McFall, Head Basketball Coach SMS/Josh Price, Olathe North, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director

3A

PROPOSAL #10

Concerning Basketball Tournament Sub-State Proposal

Should KSHSAA split the State into four groups of 16, and create two sub-states?

Rationale: More evenly distribute the top teams, while mitigating the travel time, but having a better representation of the best teams at State.

*Class 3A schools will be placed into four groups of 16 with the region seeding manager responsible for assigning teams to one of two, eight-team sub-state tournaments.

a. Sub-State 1: Seeds 1,4,5,8,9,12,13,16

b. Sub-State 2 Seeds 2,3,6,7,10,11,14,15

*The higher seed will host each night including finals.

*KSHSAA will determine which gender plays on which night (EX: Odd years boys, Monday/Wednesday/Friday and girls, Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday).

Proposed by: Jessica Koch, NCHS Volleyball Coach & Athletic Director/NCEMS Asst. Principal USD #115

Concerning Volleyball Tournament Sub-State Proposal

Should the KSHSAA split the State into four groups of 16, and create two sub-states?

Rationale: More evenly distribute the top teams, while mitigating the travel time, but having a better representation of the best teams at State.

See model below

1. Volleyball seeding would take place on Sunday of SCW #16
2. The group of 16 is separated into two sub-states based on records
 - a. Sub-State 1: Seeds 1,4,5,8,9,12,13,16
 - b. Sub-State 2 Seeds 2,3,6,7,10,11,14,15
3. Tuesday of SCW #16 would be four quads within the region all played at the highest seed (2 courts if needed):
 - a. Sub-State 1 Quad 1: (1, 8, 9, 16)
 - b. Sub-State 1 Quad 2: (4, 5, 12, 13)
 - c. Sub-State 2 Quad 1: (2, 7, 10, 15)
 - d. Sub-State 2 Quad 2: (3, 6, 11, 14)
4. Saturday of SCW #16 is two-4 team brackets with winners advancing to the State Tournament:
 - a. Seeds 1-4 are the Quad winners, ranked in order of overall winning record percentage
 - b. Seeds 5-8 are the quad runner-ups, ranked in order of overall winning record percentage
 - c. Seeds 1, 4, 5, 8 are bracket 1 (winner of the bracket advances to State)
 - d. Seeds 2, 3, 6, 7 are bracket 2 (winner of the bracket advances to State)

Proposed by: Jessica Koch, NCHS Volleyball Coach & Athletic Director/NCEMS Asst. Principal USD #115

1A/8-Player D1 & D2**Concerning Adjust maximum enrollment for 8-Player district playoff system to 110 students**

Should the KSHSAA change their district playoff system (3A/2A/1A) in 11-player, as well as the two divisions of 8-Player football and 6-Player football to have enrollment limitations of maximum enrollment from current enrollment of 100 to 110 (for 8-Player) and maximum enrollment of 55 (for 6-Player football)--Rule 35-Section 2-Art. 3

Rationale: Based on school enrollments in our current KSHSAA football cycle, there are 22 schools currently playing 8-Player district football that submitted enrollment of 80-99 students (grades 9-11). Schools in this range are traditionally 8-Player football schools. Like all schools, these 22 schools experience the anomaly of a larger than normal class moving up through their school system and various times. However, a large class does not equal increased players. Due to the declining participation rate in high school football, a larger class creates a great deal of anxiety for these schools. THIS anxiety is the fear that a single class or two in their system will bump their school to 11-Player football for a cycle. Below are items that also must be considered when an 8-Player school is forced to compete as an 11-Player school for a single cycle:

- *Moving of goal posts, field layout & costs associated (for single cycle)
- *Unlikely able to schedule JV games due to low participation numbers
- *Will young players go out or remain on the team without JV games
- *Learning curve required for coaching staff and players (for a single cycle)
- *Junior high program will remain 8-Player (no consistency for coaches or players)
- *Scheduling with traditional opponents/rivals not possible
- *Travel costs will increase in many situations
- *Inability to compete at 11-Player due to many factors listed previously
- *Safety concerns due to players being forced to play out of position by necessity.

NOTE: Schools that currently fall in the 100-110 enrollment category are traditional 11-Player football schools. There is no real concern that these schools will transition to 8-Player unless low participation numbers warrant the move.

Proposed on behalf of Heart of America League & USD 240 Bennington High School

By Jason Feil, Athletic Director Bennington Jr. High/JHigh School

Concerning An opportunity for a grace period for one two-year cycle for 8-Player football

Should the KSHSAA provide an addition to Rule 35-Section 2-Art. 3 (add article “e”) for a “grace cycle” to allow the affected school the option to remain at 8-Player football for a single two-year cycle if their enrollment exceeds the limit set forth by the KSHSAA

Rationale: Based on school enrollments in our current KSHSAA football cycle, there are 22 schools currently playing 8-Player district football that submitted enrollment of 80-99 students (grades 9-11). Schools in this range are traditionally 8-Player football schools. Like all schools, these 22 schools experience the anomaly of a larger than normal class moving up through their school system and various times. However, a large class does not equal increased players. Due to the declining participation rate in high school football, a larger class creates a great deal of anxiety for these schools. This anxiety is the fear that a single class or two in their system will bump their school to 11-Player football for a cycle. Below are items that also must be considered when an 8-Player school is forced to compete as an 11-Player school for a single cycle:

- *Moving of goal posts, field layout & costs associated (for single cycle)**
- *Unlikely able to schedule JV games due to low participation numbers**
- *Will young players go out or remain on the team without JV games**
- *Learning curve required for coaching staff and players (for a single cycle)**
- *Junior high program will remain 8-Player (no consistency for coaches or players)**
- *Scheduling with traditional opponents/rivals not possible**
- *Travel costs will increase in many situations**
- *Inability to compete at 11-Player due to many factors listed previously**
- *Safety concerns due to players being forced to play out of position by necessity.**

NOTE: Schools that currently fall in the 100-110 enrollment category are traditional 11-Player football schools. There is no real concern that these schools will transition to 8-Player unless low participation numbers warrant the move.

Proposed on behalf of Heart of America League & USD 240 Bennington High School

By Jason Feil, Athletic Director Bennington Jr. High/JHigh School