

KIAAA Classification Forum - Monday, April 16, 2018

Question #1—Classes 4A, 5A and 6A

Should the KSHSAA seed the top 16 basketball teams (east/west) for the post season according to the following procedure(s):

Develop two groups based on geography with 18 schools in each group:

- On Saturday of SCW #34 seed teams (#1-#18 East/West)
 - Seeds #17 and #18 in both boys and girls (East/West) will not be bracketed
- Each half of the state will then have 4 groups of four—winners advance to the Kansas State Tournament.
 - 1&16; 8&9 Winners play 2nd day—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 4&13; 5&12 Winners play 2nd day—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 2&15; 7&10 Winners play 2nd day—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 3&14; 6&11 Winners play 2nd day—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
- Playing dates – Tuesday/Friday or Wednesday/Saturday (alternate gender and class by year)
- All games played at higher seed.
- 8 teams qualify for Kansas State Tournament, same format for both East and West half of the state.

Seeding Criteria:

- Seeding shall be based strictly on percentage of wins and losses. The team with the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. BYES are NOT to be counted.
- Tie breaking procedure if teams have identical percentage:
 - If teams played each other, the one defeating the other the greater number of times will receive higher seed.
 - If teams remain tied, the team with the most wins receives the higher seed.
 - Remaining tie-breaking procedures would be determined by KSHSAA staff.
 - Coin toss will be the final tie-breaker.

Rationale

In order to have the seeding date for basketball to be on Saturday of SCW #34 rather than Wednesday of SCW #34 allowing schools to complete their basketball schedules, it is proposed to seed 1-18 but seeds #17 and #18 will not be in the 16-team bracket. These teams would be able to play a 21st game, against each other, during sub-state week if schools wished to do so.

Advantages:

- Allows schools to complete regular season schedules before seeding on Saturday, SCW #34
- Eliminates having two play-in games to get into the 16-team bracket on Monday and Tuesday.
- A 16-team bracket allows games to be played on Tuesday/Friday & Wednesday/Saturday; leaving Thursday as a make-up and rest day.
- Seeds #15, #16, #17, #18 are not potentially playing (if they win) games every other day.
- More preparation time for #1 and #2 seeds, versus having to wait until after play in games.
- #17 & #18 can still play a game if they wish, at their discretion on time/location.

Disadvantage

- #17 & #18 are not included in the sub-state bracket.

Proposed on behalf of the Western Athletic Conference

By: Jay Gifford, Athletic Director, Dodge City High School

Question #2—Classes 4A, 5A and 6A

Should the KSHSAA seed the top 16 baseball/softball teams (east/west) for the post season according to the following procedure(s):

Develop two groups based on geography with 18 schools in each group:

- On Saturday of SCW #45 seed teams (#1-#18 East/West)
 - Seeds #17 and #18 in both boys and girls (East/West) will not be bracketed
- Each half of the state will then have 4 groups of four—winners advance to the Kansas State Tournament.
 - 1&16; 8&9 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 4&13; 5&12 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 2&15; 7&10 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 3&14; 6&11 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
- Playing dates - Monday thru Thursday - SCW #46
- All games played at site of top four seeds!
- 8 teams qualify for Kansas State Tournament, same format for both East and West half of the state.

Seeding Criteria:

- Seeding shall be based strictly on percentage of wins and losses. The team with the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. BYES are NOT to be counted.
- Tie breaking procedure if teams have identical percentage:
 - If teams played each other, the one defeating the other the greater number of times will receive higher seed.
 - If teams remain tied, the team with the most wins receives the higher seed.
 - Remaining tie-breaking procedures would be determined by KSHSAA staff.
 - Coin toss will be the final tie-breaker.

Rationale

In order to have the seeding date for basketball to be on Saturday of SCW #45 rather than Wednesday of SCW #45 allowing schools to complete their baseball/softball schedules, it is proposed to seed 1-18 but seeds #17 and #18 will not be in the 16-team bracket. These teams would be able to play a 21st game, against each other, during Regionals week if schools wished to do so.

Advantages:

- Allows schools to complete regular season schedules before seeding on Saturday, SCW #45.
- Eliminates having two play-in games to get into the 16-team bracket on Saturday, SCW#45 or Monday, SCW #46.
- Pitching restrictions play less of a role for the #15 & #16 teams.
- Can complete the four-team bracket in one day rather than having two brackets that have to have two day tournaments due to having 5 teams.
- Finding officials for Regional baseball/softball is easier for one day (vs two day) tournaments
- #17 & #18 can still play a game if they wish, at their discretion on time and location.

Disadvantage:

- #17 & #18 are not included in the Regional bracket.

Proposed on behalf of the Western Athletic Conference

By: Jay Gifford, Athletic Director, Dodge City High School

Question #3—Classes 4A, 5A and 6A

Should the KSHSAA seed the top 16 volleyball teams (east/west) for the post season according to the following procedure(s):

Develop two groups based on geography with 18 schools in each group:

- On Monday of SCW #16 seed teams (#1-#18 East/West)
 - Seeds #17 and #18 (East/West) will not be bracketed
- Each half of the state will then have 4 groups of four—winners advance to the Kansas State Tournament.
 - 1&16; 8&9 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 4&13; 5&12 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 2&15; 7&10 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
 - 3&14; 6&11 Winners play—Winner advances to Kansas State Tournament
- Playing dates – Saturday of SCW #16
- All matches played at site of top four seeds, if facility is available.
- 8 teams qualify for Kansas State Tournament, same format for both East and West half of the state.

Seeding Criteria:

- Seeding shall be based strictly on percentage of match wins and losses. The team with the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. BYES are NOT to be counted.
- Tie breaking procedure if teams have identical percentage:
 - If teams played each other, the one defeating the other the greater number of times will receive higher seed.
 - If tie remains, the team with the most matches won will be the higher seed.
 - If tie remains the percentage of sets won during the season will be used to determine seeds. The highest percentage gets higher seed.
 - Coin toss will be the final tie-breaker.

Rationale:

The seeding date for volleyball will be on Monday of SCW #16 rather than Wednesday of SCW #16 allowing schools to complete Saturday tournament schedules, and KSHSAA to still find officials for sub-state. We propose seeding 1-18, but seeds #17 and #18 will not be in the 16-team bracket. They would be able to play a match, against each other-during sub-state week, if schools wish to do so.

Advantages:

- Allows schools to complete regular season schedules before seeding on Monday, SCW #16
- Eliminates having two play-in games to get into the 16-team bracket – allowing for one court to be used (3 matches) total on Saturday, SCW #16
- This set-up would allow for time for KSHSAA to find officials for each site.
- #17 & #18 can still play a game if they wish, at their discretion on time/location

Disadvantage:

- #17 & #18 are not included in the sub-state bracket

Proposed on behalf of the Western Athletic Conference

By: Jay Gifford, Athletic Director, Dodge City High School

Question #4—Classes 4A, 5A and 6A

Should the KSHSAA seed the top 16 soccer teams (east/west) for the post season according to the following procedure(s):

Develop two groups based on geography with 18 schools in each group:

- On Saturday of SCW #16/SCW #45 seed teams (#1-#18, East/West)
 - Seeds #17 and #18 in both boys and girls (East/West) will not be bracketed
- Each half of the state will then have 4 groups of 4 that will play—winner advances to State Quarterfinals
 - (Same set-up as is currently being used for soccer—16 team brackets)
- 4 teams qualify for state tournament, same format for both east and west half of the state.
- Playing dates—same as current format.
- All games played at site of top seeds!

Seeding Criteria: (From current KSHSAA Manual)

Seedings and pairings will be determined at the seeding meeting based upon the win-loss-tie points and percentages of each participating team (see below). Use the following to determine the points for each team when seeding the bracket: 2 points for a win - 1 point for a tie - 0 points for a loss.

NOTE: Teams must play 10 games or seeding percentage will be halved. Games must be against varsity competition to count for purposes of seeding percentage. After determining the total points earned, divide that number by the maximum points possible of games actually played times 2 (carried to the third decimal point).

- **If two teams have an identical percentage, tie will be broken as follows:**
 - If the teams played each other, the one defeating the other a larger number of times will receive the higher seed. If after they have played each other, and each has defeated the other team under consideration an identical number of times, the team with the most wins will receive the higher seed.
 - If the teams did not play each other, the team with the most wins will receive the higher seed.
- **If three teams are tied with an identical percentage, the tie will be broken as follows:**
 - If one team won over all the other tied teams or has a winning record over all the other tied teams, it shall receive the higher seed. The two remaining tied teams will revert to the procedure used for two tied teams.
 - If one team has lost to each of the other teams, that team shall be dropped from the tiebreaking procedure. The two remaining teams will revert to the procedure used for two tied teams.
 - If the above procedure did not break the tie, the teams with the most wins shall receive the higher seeds.
- **If four teams are tied with an identical percentage, the tie will be broken as follows:**
 - If one team won over all the other tied teams, or has a winning record over all tied teams, it shall receive the higher seed. The three remaining tied teams will revert to the procedure used for three tied teams.
 - If the above procedure did not break the tie, the teams with the most wins will receive the higher seeds.
- **In all of the above scenarios – the final tie breaker is:**
 - If the tie still remains, a drawing by lot will determine the teams receiving the higher seeds.

Rationale:

In order have the seeding date for soccer be on Saturday of SCW #16/#45 rather than Wednesday of SCW #16/SCW #45 allowing schools to complete their soccer schedules, we propose seeding 1-18, but seeds #17 and #18 will not be in the final 16-team bracket. They would be able to play a 17th game, against each other, during regionals week, if schools wished to do so.

Advantages:

- Allows schools to complete regular season schedules before seeding
- Eliminates having two play-in games to get into the 16-team bracket on Saturday, SCW #16/SCW #45 or Monday, SCW #17/#SCW #46
- Can complete the four-team bracket in two days – rather than three days for a five-team bracket

Disadvantages:

- #17 & #18 are not included in the sub-state bracket.

Proposed on behalf of the Western Athletic Conference

By: Jay Gifford, Athletic Director, Dodge City High School

Question #5—Classes 5A and 6A

Should KSHSAA Change the State Championship Format for 5-6A for 2018-19

- 1) Seed east and west side 1-18. Seeds 17 and 18 would not be bracketed.
- 2) Higher seed hosts in every round.
- 3) First rounds to be played on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Girls would play on Tuesday in even numbered years and boys on odd numbered years.
- 4) Second rounds to be played on Friday and Saturday. Girls would play on Friday in even numbered years and boys on odd numbered years.
- 5) Quarter-finals would be played on the following Monday/Tuesday. Girls would play on Monday in even numbered years and boys on odd numbered years.
- 6) Final four for both 5A and 6A would be at same site.
- 7) Semi-finals played on Thursday and Friday. Girls on Thursday in even numbered years and boys on odd numbered years.
- 8) Four championship games played on Saturday. 5A would play first two games on even numbered years and 6A on odd numbered years.

Seeding Criteria:

Seeding shall be based strictly on percentage of wins and losses. The team with the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. Byes are not to be counted.

Tie-breaking procedure if teams have identical percentage:

- 1) If teams played each other, the one defeating the other the greater number of times will receive the higher seed.
- 2) If teams remain tied, the team with the most wins receives the higher seed.
- 3) Remaining tie-breaking procedures would be determined by KSHSAA staff
- 4) Coin toss will be the final tie-breaker

Rationale:

- 1) Allows schools to complete regular season schedules before seeding on Saturday, SCW #34
- 2) Eliminates having two play-in games to get into the 16 team bracket on Saturday/Monday
- 3) #17 and #18 can still play a game if they wish
- 4) Eliminates third place games but creates excitement and better attendance for four championship games played at one site
- 5) Eliminates expenses for those who lose in the semi-finals and would have stayed for third place games

Disadvantage:

- 1) #17 and #18 are not included in the bracket
- 2) Eliminates four teams from being at the state site but this is just like soccer does.

Proposed on behalf of the Greater Wichita Athletic League

By: J Means, District AD, Greater Wichita Athletic League

Question #6—Classes, 5A and 6A

Should the KSHSAA change the seeding format for 5A and 6A volleyball to the same 18-school format currently used in baseball and softball and has been adopted for basketball beginning in 2017-18?

Rationale:

Change the seeding procedure in 5A and 6A volleyball to an 18-team format. This will provide a better opportunity for the top 4 teams in each regional to advance to the state tournament. There would be four northeast regional tournaments and four central/south central regional tournaments. The winner of each regional tournament advances to the 5A or 6A state tournament. To address the concern about a short turnaround time when seeding is done on the Wednesday before sub-state, we would propose having the seeding done on the Saturday prior to sub-state. Any matches played after the seeding would count only if the school advances to the state tournament.

The play-in matches would take place at the same site, on the same day, prior to the first round matches.

Northeast Region

Region 1#1 vs TBD; #8 vs. #9	Winner advances to the state tournament
TBD = #16 vs. #17	Prior to the first round match
Region 2#2 vs. TBD; #7 vs. #10	Winner advances to the state tournament
TBD = #15 vs #18	Prior to the first round match
Region 3#3 vs. #14; #6 vs. #11	Winner advances to the state tournament
Region 4#4 vs. #13; #5 vs. #12	Winner advances to the state tournament

Central/South Central Region

Region 1#1 vs TBD; #8 vs. #9	Winner advances to the state tournament
TBD = #16 vs. #17	Prior to the first round match
Region 2#2 vs. TBD; #7 vs. #10	Winner advances to the state tournament
TBD = #15 vs #18	Prior to the first round match
Region 3#3 vs. #14; #6 vs. #11	Winner advances to the state tournament
Region 4#4 vs. #13; #5 vs. #12	Winner advances to the state tournament

Proposed on behalf of the Eastern Kansas League

By Cindy Roach, Athletic Director, Blue Valley West

Question #7—Classes, 5A and 6A

Concerning Basketball Seeding Proposal

Should the KSHSAA need to move the seeding meeting to an earlier date to allow for a play in game as early as Saturday of SCW#34 beginning in the 2018-19 season:

- The seeding meeting for sub-state basketball will be held on, **Thursday of SCW#34**, to determine the specific seeds held #1-18 in the West and #1-18 in the East. (all schools in the each class would be seeded and included in the bracketed play)
- Teams seeded 15-18 would compete in a play in game on Saturday or Monday (Saturday if their next sub-state game was scheduled for Tuesday and Monday if their next sub-state game was scheduled for Wednesday).

Rationale:

High school athletics already face a number of challenges that are contributing to diminishing numbers of participation. In order to preserve the integrity of the regular season and in keeping with the competitive nature of every game in the regular season, it is imperative that the seeding for post season sub-state matchups occur on a date that allows an opportunity for all teams to finish a 20 game schedule prior to seeding selections. Creating a situation where the 20th game is not included in the seeding record only serves to frustrate and disappoint teams vying for a favorable seed and elicits a more non-competitive environment for the last game where many student athletes could give less effort due to the meaningless of the game. It should be noted that if a team is unable to complete their schedule due to a cancellation of games because of inclement weather, then all games completed up to the seeding date would be considered.

Advantages:

- This option allows for teams to schedule games through Wednesday of SCW#34.
- This option allows member schools to play two games which are not back to back nights during SCW#34 (possibly Monday and Wednesday of SCW#34).
- This proposal allows for ALL 20 games played in the regular season to count towards post season seeding.
- All teams in the classification of 5A and 6A will be included in the post-season seeding/bracketing.

Disadvantages:

- The traditional weekly basketball schedule of Tuesday/Friday varsity/JV games will be disrupted.

Proposed on behalf of the Sunflower League

By: Josh Price and Matt Johnson

Question #8—Classes 5A and 6A

Should KSHSAA eliminate all third-place games in the following Tournament Series: Girls/Boys Basketball, Girls/Boys Soccer, Baseball, Softball and Volleyball

Rationale:

- For basketball, this would align with the State Basketball Proposal to be voted on this year at KIAAA
- For baseball, with the new pitch count rule, this game is very difficult on teams with limited pitchers available at this point of the tournament.
- For most teams, if they lose the semi-final game, they are ready to “be done,” especially if they have to play the next day.
- For those games that are played on the next day, this can save money on motel rooms, transportation and meals.
- Both teams who lose the semi-final game can be each awarded a third place finish plaque/trophy.
- Most of these games are not well attended.

Proposed on behalf of the Greater Wichita Athletic League

By: J Means, District AD, Greater Wichita Athletic League

Question #9—All Classes

Should the KSHSAA allow: Beginning with Standard Calendar Week #31, through the end of Standard Calendar Week #34, a baseball coaching staff may work with pitchers, who are not involved in a winter sport, on a voluntary basis in an arm care program no more than 2 times per week.

Background:

The National Federation of High Schools, along with the Kansas State High School Activities Association, implemented pitch count requirements for all levels of high school baseball beginning in the 2017 season. The new stipulations were based upon numerous studies which concluded that certain thresholds of pitches were detrimental to the physical health of student-athletes. The NFHS and KSHSAA are utilizing scientific based standards to protect student-athletes.

Rationale:

As rules now hold coaches accountable for arm safety, the conditioning of arms prior to the beginning of the season has taken on increased importance. Currently there are 18 calendar days from the start of the season until the first competition date. Kansas baseball coaches would like to have the opportunity to condition pitchers’ arms prior to the actual start date of the baseball season.

Current KSHSAA guidelines allow voluntary conditioning student-athletes outside of their season of sport. Allowing pitchers, the opportunity to throw under the supervision of their coaching staff will help ensure that arms are being properly trained and conditioned for the season.

The proposal is mindful that conditioning is voluntary. Winter sports athletes are not allowed to attend and a limit of two dates per standard calendar week are set for arm conditioning and training. The program is for pitchers only and not intended for other position players.

The proposal would be that same similar concept that is used at the major league level where as pitchers report to big league camp approximately one month before position players to condition their arm and get it into shape under staff supervision/coaching.

If approved, the proposal will begin with Standard Calendar Week #31.

Clarifications:

- Winter sport athletes are NOT allowed to participate.
- Coaches are NOT required to participate in this voluntary program if the Arm Care Proposal passes.
- Week #31 through Week #34 would typically be during the month of February.
- All players that participate in the pre-season arm program could be considered pitching candidates.
- The Arm Care Proposal is an opportunity to provide athletes 8 days (4 weeks x 2 days/per) to condition their arms for baseball tryouts beginning Calendar Week #35).
- This proposal can provide players and coaches the opportunity to prepare players for additional pitching roles due to the Pitch Count limitations adopted in 2017.

Baseball Coaches Support:

Classes	<u>1A/2A</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5A</u>	<u>6A</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Teams	49	57	66	32	32	236
For	38	47	54	31	30	200
Against	5	6	11	1	1	24
Did Not Vote	6	4	1	0	1	12

Proposed on behalf of Kansas Baseball Coaches Association

By Kansas Coaches Association

Question #10—All Classes

Should the KSHSAA add a post season Girls State Wrestling Tournament?

Regular Season:

Girls are currently participating in wrestling during the regular season. This process is naturally advancing on its own. The only suggestion from the KWCA would be that girls will not be allowed to compete in the boy's division unless the event does not recognize/have a girl's division.

Post Season Recommendation:

The KWCA is willing to assist KSHSAA to modify the post season recommendations, if necessary. The state tournament would be a single all-class (1A-6A) state tournament with no qualifier needed. This allows for KSHSAA and its member schools to monitor/increase participation.

- Initially, the state tournament would be two-day double elimination bracket tournament.
- Each school would be allowed to enter one girl per weight class, extra girls will be allowed to enter the tournament until the bracket is full. Extras will be added equally for schools with multiple wrestler requests (random/rotation system to be used for extras).
- Tournament will use KSHSAA seeding criteria.
- Top six finishers in each weight class will be awarded a state medal.
- Team scoring will be kept.
 - Extra wrestlers will be entered in the tournament as “non-scoring wrestlers.”
- For weight classes with six or less girls, a round robin bracket will be utilized.
- Suggested date for the state tournament would be the weekend before boys' regional tournaments.

As the single tournament outgrows itself, the following growth plan is available:

- **Single Class—Regional Qualifier:** Add two regional qualifiers where the top 8 from each region advance to the single state tournament.
- **Multiple State Tournament (classes divided):** This would be a single class tournament for each of the KSHSAA recognized classes with no qualifier needed.
- **Multiple Class -Multiple Regional:** This would be similar to the current wrestling season.
- **Our hope is that in time the girls wrestling state tournament would be held in conjunction with the existing high school state wrestling tournaments.**
- **By sanctioning the KSHSAA girls' state wrestling tournament, girls will not be allowed to participate in the KSHSAA boys post season state wrestling series.**

Background:

Kansas has a long history of girls wrestling. Kansas has shown growth within the youth ranks of girls wrestling. Specifically, USA Wrestling card membership and state tournament participation has grown each year for the past six years.

In addition to the youth ranks, colleges across the US (including Kansas) continue to add women's wrestling programs. Hence, providing college scholarship opportunities for female Kansas wrestlers. There are over 40 colleges that offer women's wrestling, five in Kansas (Baker, Central Christian, Ottawa, Saint Mary and Southwestern). Women's wrestling has submitted a bid for NCAA Emerging Sport Status. There are 15 NCAA schools that have programs and more institutions are evaluating it.

The Olympic committee has also added additional Women's Wrestling weight classes to increase opportunities on the Olympic level.

The beginning of the 2017 wrestling season, KWCA voted unanimously to support actions to grow girls wrestling participation at the Kansas high school level. This was in hopes of adding a girl's division as a KSHSAA sport in the future. 112 females participated in the 2017 Kansas High School Wrestling season. Prior to 2017, there had never been a KSHSAA wrestling competition specific to girls. During 2017, there were four wrestling competitions offered to only girls. Each event grew in participation, with the finalevent culminating at the Kansas Girls High School Wrestling Championship Tournament in McPherson, Kansas. At this event, 36 schools participated with 56 girls competing.

With the opportunity for girls to compete against other girls in wrestling, we experienced tremendous growth in girls' participation in one year. For the 2018 Kansas High School Wrestling season, girls' participation numbers increased to 236. This is a 211% growth in participation in a single season. For the 2018 season there were nine girls-only wrestling competitions offered. For the 2018 Kansas Girls High School Wrestling Championship Tournament in McPherson, the participation grew to 57 schools and 135 girls competing.

Now that opportunities exist for girls to cmpete against other girls, the KWCA feels strongly that girls wrestling will continue to grow in Kansas. There are over 17,000 girls and women who wrestle in the U.S. Most of these girls and women come from the six sanctioned states where girls wrestle girls. States that have added girls wrestling as a sanctioned high school sport have seen tremendous increase in participation once girls have the opportunity to compete against girls

Feburary (2018) – the High School Athletic Association for both Georgia and Oregon approved to add a state championship for high school girls wrestling. This will increase the states with sanctioned girls wrestling to eight. Additionally, the Colorado High School Athletic Association approved a pilot season for girls wrestling in 2018-2019.

Proposed on behalf of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association

By: Shane Backhus, Athletic Director - McPherson High School

Question #11—All Classes

Should the KSHSAA change their policy/practice/procedure for: Requiring coaches to complete the NFHS concussion and heat illness courses annually if the coach has an up-to-date CPR/First Aide certification.

Rationale:

If a coach has an up-to-date CPR/First Aide certification they should be exempt from taking this course. The First Aide and CPR course covers both concussion and heat issues along with several other health related items.

Submitted by: Dennis Charboneau, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Wamego High School