



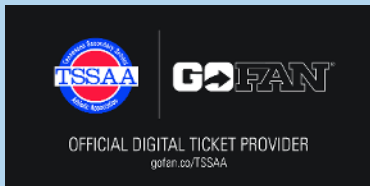
# NEWSLETTER

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## ONLINE TICKETS

Online tickets for TSSAA championship events are available via GoFan.com. Member schools can sell tickets electronically during the regular season! For more information, contact [pnoles@huddleinc.com](mailto:pnoles@huddleinc.com).



## Don't Hang Your Coaches Out to Dry!

The life of a coach is one that is filled with responsibilities. Coaches who serve in the world of educational athletics almost exclusively do so in a part time capacity. Most have a full day of teaching and the tremendous pressures that go with it, while others are professionals outside the school setting with their own set of challenges and time constraints.

Many new coaches (and some that have been around awhile) are not prepared for the sheer volume of paperwork and educational requirements that come with each sport season, much of which is centered around health and safety. Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education, Pre-Participation Physical Forms, Emergency Action Plans, Heat Illness Prevention, Bullying and Hazing Prevention.....the list can go on and on. If you have not coached in the last five or ten years, chances are you do not have a feel for just how daunting the health and safety paperwork and education requirements can be.

Ineffective school administrators leave it completely up to the coaches to “figure these things out” when it comes to the professional development needed to minimize risk in their individual programs. If administrators do not provide the support needed to navigate these rough waters, coaches can quickly become overwhelmed. When dealing with the health and safety of athletes, this is not an acceptable outcome.

In order to provide the support that coaches need, administrators should consider the following four steps:

### 1. Become an Authority on the Requirements

It is hard to adequately communicate policy requirements and provide the support needed for coaches unless you have been through this gauntlet yourself recently. At the very least, a list of all expectations and requirements with clear deadlines should be provided to coaches. Be sure to include instructions for accessing courses and examples of paperwork required at the state and local level. Consider taking some of these courses if you have not done so already. Ultimately you should be familiar with this material so that you can point coaches in the direction when you receive questions.

### 2. Organize a Health and Safety Inservice for all Coaches

It doesn't take long to realize that there are several hours of health and safety paperwork and training that are required for each of your coaches on annual basis. With that in mind, it makes a ton of sense to bring your coaches in for a “one stop shop” inservice. Ideally, this could be done with all of your coaches prior to the beginning of their sports' seasons.

Bringing everyone in at once can help ensure that the correct information is communicated clearly to all involved. Instructions for obtaining access to required online courses as well as any district specific requirements can be discussed. Make the day an enjoyable one....spring for doughnuts or lunch.

*(continued on page two)*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

TSSAA is proud to recognize Herb Roberts as its distinguished service honoree as an official.

Herb Roberts has been serving as a track and field official since 1983. He was certified first through TAC then USATF since 1984. Mr. Roberts has served in every capacity at track and field meets except as the meet referee, but you are most likely to see him as a starter or as a clerk of the course. He has also served at many cross-country meets across Tennessee as a starter.

Herb Roberts has worked meets at every level from AAU, Youth USATF, Masters USATF, Middle School, High School, NCAA and NAIA, including the SEC Outdoor Championships and the NAIA National Indoor Championships. Mr. Roberts has served for the past 13 years as the Assistant Starter at the TSSAA State Track Meet, and he also helps each year with the High Jump. He has also worked the Middle School State Track Meet since it was started a couple years ago.



Mr. Roberts has been married to his wife, Terri, for 50 years this July. They have two children, Cassie and Dan and two grandchildren from Dan and his wife, Caelan and Austin. Before retiring in 2012, Mr. Roberts worked for 40 years with Tennessee State Parks as a Park Ranger, Interpretive Specialist, Park Superintendent and Regional Manager for the parks in East Tennessee.

TSSAA is proud to recognize Herb Roberts for his work, dedication, and the many contributions he has made to student-athletes through his work as a TSSAA track and field and cross country official.



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CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS, RECORDS, SCOREBOARDS, SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND MORE

### *Don't Hang Your Coaches Out to Dry, continued*

Check with your school district's leadership and coordinated school health liaison for help with agenda development. Perhaps this type of training could be used to fulfill professional development requirements that teachers who serve as coaches already have. Who knows, there may even be some funding available to pay for substitutes and have the training during the school day. You never know unless you ask!

#### **3. Consider a Document Management Service**

When ensuring that all boxes have been checked, the responsibility for compliance to health and safety policy lies at the school level. Just a few short years ago, that consisted of a 1-2 page physical/consent form and the occasional first aid course. My how times have changed! The good news is, there are a number of software options which have

been recently created to help coaches and administrators manage this essential information.

#### **4. Let Your Coaches Know that You are Available to Help....and Mean It!**

Perhaps nothing goes further than a little empathy and support. Check in with your coaches a few weeks before practice starts to see if there is anything they have questions on coming into the season. Be prepared to help if the answer is yes.

The success of education based athletic programs depends heavily on the presence of coaches who are firmly entrenched in their profession because of their love of students and sports. When administrators provide the support coaches need to acquire health and safety professional development, coaches are less likely to become frustrated or intimidated by all of the extra

responsibilities that now a reality of coaching. As a result, effective coaches are retained, programs flourish, and young lives are changed for the better. We lose coaches every year because of all the extra responsibilities that are placed on their shoulders. It would only stand to reason that, as a result of the decline in the programs, we also lose participants.

We all know that when kids are not involved in extracurricular activities, the likelihood of becoming involved in activities that can be detrimental or, even worse, deadly increases. It is impossible to quantify these negative consequences caused by losing coaches and subsequently programs and participants. As administrators, let's all commit to doing our part to ensure that coaches get the support they need so our programs and children can thrive in a safe environment!

# SPRING FLING INFORMATION

## 2019 Spring Fling May 21-24, 2019

**One session per day, \$10 per session**

### Tuesday, May 21, 2019

**Tennis** – Team Semis @ Adams Tennis Complex (A-AA, AAA, D-II) – 9:00 a.m.

**Baseball** – MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A); Blackman HS (AA); Smyrna HS (AA); Siegel HS (AAA); Oakland (AAA); LaVergne HS (DII-A); Wilson Central HS (DII-AA) – 4:00 p.m. (2 games all fields)

**Soccer** – Richard Siegel Park – 1:30 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. (Division I, Class AA Quarterfinals – 4 fields); 4:00 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. (Division I, Class A Quarterfinals – 4 fields); 6:30 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. (Division I, Class AAA Quarterfinals – 4 fields)

**Softball** – Starplex & McKnight Ballfields – 4:00 p.m.

4 fields/Starplex, 2 fields/McKnight (2 games all fields)

### Wednesday, May 22, 2019

**Tennis** – Team Finals @ Adams Tennis Complex (A-AA, AAA, D-II) – 9:00 a.m.

**Baseball** – MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A); Blackman HS (AA); Smyrna HS (AA); Siegel HS (AAA); Oakland (AAA); LaVergne HS (DII-A); Wilson Central HS (DII-AA) – 10:00 a.m. (2 game all fields); 5:00 p.m. (1 game all fields)

**Softball** – Starplex & McKnight Ballfields – 10:00 a.m.

4 fields Starplex & 2 fields McKnight (2 games each field)

Starplex – 4:00 p.m. (4 fields) 2 games all fields

**Soccer** – Richard Siegel Park – 1:30 p.m. (Division I, Class AA Semifinals – 2 fields); 4:00 p.m. (Division II-AA Semifinals – 2 fields); 4:30 p.m. (Division II-A Semifinals – 2 fields); 6:30 p.m. (Division I, Class A Semifinals – 2 fields); 7:00 p.m. (Division I, Class AAA Semifinals – 2 fields)

**Track & Field** – MTSU (Division II)

3200 Meter Run (Division II-A only) – 8:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Field Events – 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events – 4:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 23, 2019

**Tennis** – Singles & Doubles Quarterfinals and Semifinals @ Adams Tennis Complex – 9:00 a.m. (A-AA, AAA, D-II)

**Track & Field** – MTSU (Division I – Large Class)

Girls & Boys Field Events – 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events – 4:00 p.m.

### **Baseball** – Division II:

DII-A Championship – MTSU 10:00 a.m.

DII-AA Championship – MTSU 12:30 p.m.

If necessary, games to follow.

### **Baseball - Division I:**

MTCS (A); Riverdale HS (A); Blackman HS (AA); Smyrna HS (AA); Oakland HS (AAA); Siegel HS (AAA); 2:00 p.m.; if necessary, games to follow.

**Softball** – Starplex – 10:00 a.m. (4 fields, 2 games all fields)

Starplex – 4:00 p.m. (3 fields, 2 games all fields)

Starplex – 4:00 p.m. (Starplex #3) – Division II, Class AA Championship

Starplex – 5:30 p.m. (Starplex #3) – Division II, Class A Championship

**Soccer** – Richard Siegel Park

DII-AA Championship – 4:00 p.m.

DII-A Championship – 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, May 24, 2019

**Tennis** – Adams Tennis Complex – Singles & Doubles Boys' Finals (A-AA, AAA, D-II) – 9:00 a.m.

Old Fort – Singles & Doubles Girls' Finals (A-AA, AAA, D-II) – 11:00 a.m.

**Track & Field** – MTSU (Division I – Small Class)

Girls & Boys Field Events – 9:00 a.m.

Girls & Boys Running Events – 4:00 p.m.

**Softball** – Starplex

Starplex – 9:00 a.m. (3 fields, Division I) – 1 game each field

Starplex – Championship Games

Field #3 – Division II, Class AA – 10:00 A.M. (If Game)

Field #3 – Division II, Class A – (If Game – Time TBA)

Field #4 – Division I, Class A – 2:00 P.M. (If Game – 5:30 P.M.)

Field #2 – Division I, Class AA – 2:30 P.M. (If Game – 6:00 P.M.)

Field #1 – Division I, Class AAA – 3:00 P.M. (If Game – 6:30 P.M.)

**Baseball** – Class A Championship – MTSU – 11:00 a.m.

Class AA Championship – MTSU – 2:00 p.m.

Class AAA Championship – MTSU – 5:00 p.m.

**Soccer** – Richard Siegel Park

Division I, Class AA Championship – 11:00 a.m.

Division I, Class A Championship – 1:30 p.m.

Division I, Class AAA Championship – 4:00 p.m.

### Recent Bylaw Changes

Below is a summary of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaw changes which, unless otherwise specified, will go into effect at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year. We are asking the administration of each school to carefully review the changes and provide a copy to everyone involved in athletics at the school. Each change will be discussed at the TIAAA Conference and during our Administrators' Meetings in September. We do, however, suggest that each school conduct their own meetings to discuss these items with the staff.

Please be reminded that the TSSAA Board of Control's mandated heat, lightning, and concussion policies apply to every sanctioned sport during practice and games. The TSSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee reviews and updates these policies annually. The state law concerning "Cardiac Arrest" must also be followed at all times. This information is always available on our website ([tssaa.org](http://tssaa.org)). It is vital that every administrator and coach have copies of these policies and understand their importance. They must be followed at all times in all sports whether indoors or outdoors.

The following is a summary of the Bylaw changes and where they can be found in the TSSAA or TMSAA handbook. An updated version of the TSSAA and TMSAA handbooks will be available on our website prior to member schools receiving the 2019-20 printed copies. The changes are as follows:

#### 1. Article IV, Section 2 (Contests with Out-of-State Teams) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

This rule will be removed. It will be left up to the individual school and/or school district administration to decide how many out-of-state trips over 600 miles round-trip a sports program takes during the season.

#### 2. Article III, Section 2 (Board of Control) and Article IV, Section 2 (Legislative Council) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Constitution:

This addition will allow school and district level athletic directors who have achieved a minimum CAA through the NIAAA to be eligible to run for a Board or Legislative Council seat in their Athletic District. Only district-level athletic directors that meet the requirement who have no more than one four-year high school or senior high school shall be eligible to serve.

#### 3. Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

This addition states that girls' and boys' Lacrosse will become sanctioned TSSAA sports at the start of the next classification cycle. This will be effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

#### 4. Article II, Section 7 (Repeating Rule) of the TSSAA Bylaws:

This change states that a student who repeats the **sixth**, seventh, or eighth grade and participates in school athletics while repeating shall be ineligible in all sports at all levels in the ninth grade.

#### 5. Article II, Section 14 (Practice Rules) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

The bylaw making a student who engages in three or more days of off-season practice in football and basketball ineligible in that sport if he/she transfers without a bona fide change of residence will be removed.

#### 6. Article IV, Section 8 (Sports Calendar) of the TSSAA Bylaws:

Specific guidelines have been added to the football Spring Practice regulations in order to help minimize risk.

Football coaches may also use two (2) of their ten (10) days allowed for team-against-team competition during the summer in June. All ten days have always been allowed in July after the Dead Period. If a coach decides to use two (2) days in June for 7-on-7 competition, they can only attend a camp held in Tennessee.

#### 7. Article II, Section 21 (Independent-Game Participation) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

The rule has been changed to state that a violation would render a student-athlete ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport. However, the school will not be required to forfeit games once a violation is confirmed. The rule will now not apply to wrestling, cross country, and track and field in addition to bowling, golf, and tennis which were already exempt.

#### 8. Article IV, Section 8 (TMSAA Basketball Sports Calendar) of the TMSAA Bylaws:

The maximum number of regular season contests will now be 20 games.

#### 9. TMSAA Bylaw Changes:

The following TMSAA Bylaws were changed to coincide with the TSSAA Bylaws. The disciplinary action taken as a result of a violation will now be the same. In a couple of incidents, the fine may be slightly less at the middle school level.

a) Rules Meetings for Coaches

b) Substitutes Leaving Bench Area or Fans Coming onto the Field or Floor During an Incident

c) Coaches Ejected for Unsportsman-like Conduct

d) Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes