



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

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[McCallie administrator recognized for distinguished service](#)

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[Fall, winter and spring sports being held simultaneously across US](#)

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[Play like a pro with Memphis Grizzlies Youth Basketball](#)

The family atmosphere within the Grizzlies Youth Basketball experience allows parents and guardians to see in real time how quickly their campers are catching onto lessons. In addition to the hands-on instruction from Grizzlies players and coaches, the growth parents have seen in their young athletes underscores the quality of the programs. Deposits for the upcoming 2021-22 season are currently being accepted.

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NFHS Voice: What have we learned during the pandemic?

While there is great optimism about having students back in their favorite sport or activity, and fans back to support these student participants, we must be careful not to forget what we have learned during this unprecedented pandemic. So, what must we remember?

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TSSAA Hall of Fame ceremony date set

The Class of 2020 will be inducted on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The induction ceremony is set to begin at 11:00 a.m. CST.

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Call for Submissions

We want to include your thoughts in the monthly TSSAA Newsletter! Do you have 50-500 words to share on the topic of **athletes as role models**? We welcome submissions from principals, athletic administrators, coaches and students! Consider sharing your thoughts, essays or even poems for an upcoming issue. Please send submissions in Microsoft Word format to mgillespie@tssaa.org.

TSSAA continues its support of the **National SAT/ACT Prep Project** through the NFHS and eKnowledge which allows any Tennessee student to receive a 95% discount on SAT or ACT prep courses. This is a community-service, non-profit project and all student fees are reinvested to improve the program and reach more families. The project has more than 45,000 five-star reviews and has already assisted nearly 300,000 families. Learn more at <https://eknowledge.com/TSSAA>.



Sports News

Championships News

Spring Fling championships set, with venue changes

Baseball and Track & Field to be hosted entirely by member schools

April 21, 2021

After last year's cancellation due to COVID-19, Rutherford County will once again host Spring Fling in 2021. Spring Fling is the TSSAA's unique spring sports championship event, where state championships are decided in seven different sports over a four-day period. Spring Fling will be held from Tuesday, May 25 through Friday, May 28, 2021. Track and field and baseball events which have normally been held on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University will be moved to new sites this year due to the university's capacity limits at Hayes Stadium and Reese Smith Jr. Field.

The 2021 Track & Field State Championships will be held at Rockvale High School and baseball championship games will be played at high school sites that are currently scheduled to host quarterfinal and semifinal rounds.

All tickets will be sold in advance on GoFan and spectators will still be encouraged to wear masks and allow for adequate physical distancing from those not in their household as part of the latest TSSAA COVID-19 regulations. A complete schedule will be posted on TSSAASports.com in the near future.

The championships for the seven sports that comprise Spring Fling will be conducted at 13 different venues in and around Murfreesboro, Tenn. The boys' soccer tournaments will be conducted at the Richard Siegel Soccer Complex, softball will take place at McKnight and Star*Plex Fields, tennis will be held at the Old Fort Park Tennis Complex and track and field meets will be conducted at Rockvale High School in 2021.

Eight area schools will host the TSSAA state baseball tournaments. The entire Division II-A tournament will be held at Middle Tennessee Christian School and the entire Division II-AA tournament will be held at Wilson Central High School. The championships for those classes will also be played at those sites, respectively.

Sites for Division I baseball will include Riverdale and Stewarts Creek High Schools for Class A, Smyrna and Blackman High Schools for Class AA and Oakland and Siegel High Schools will play host to Class AAA. The schedule for the Division I baseball championships is as follows:

Division I, Class A - Blackman High School (Friday, May 28)

Division I, Class AA - Siegel High School (Friday, May 28)

Division I, Class AAA - Oakland High School (Friday, May 28)



Distinguished Service

Sports News

General News

McCallie administrator recognized for distinguished service

Sholl joined staff of McCallie School in 1983

April 26, 2021

There was an initial hesitation for Kenny Sholl years ago when it came time for him to pick a collegiate path; the former Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe (Georgia) standout had, after all, elicited scholarship offers for his play on both the football field and the baseball diamond.

Ultimately, Sholl chose a collegiate career on the diamond, which he spent at both Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

When Sholl was done with college and contemplating a career path in his quaint dwelling, there was no such hesitation about where he should chart his path in life.

"I was sitting at the kitchen table in my apartment, and my old high school principal called me," said Sholl, who had earned football scholarship offers from Georgia Tech, UTC and others but picked the baseball career in the Volunteer State among a dozen or so scholarship offers. "He asked me, 'What are you going to do? Why don't you come teach math here? We've got an opening.

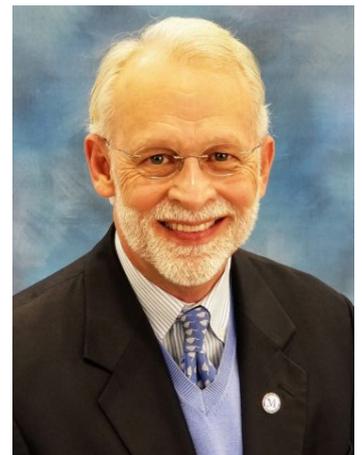
"From day one, that was my calling. I knew I wanted to be a teacher-coach."

That was all the way back at the onset of the 1980s. Three years later, Sholl was offered an opportunity to teach and coach at the prestigious, nationally-regarded McCallie School in Chattanooga.

Sholl never left; rather, he raised a family at the school, along with his educator wife, Penny, and worked the classrooms, ball fields and administrative offices on the pristine Blue Tornado campus.

Today, Sholl's still at McCallie – he's the Assistant Head of School – and he's also the April recipient of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Distinguished Service Award.

"I got here and got around these people, this culture, and I felt like I had kind of found a home," said Sholl, whose sons, Patrick and Scott, both attended McCallie while daughters, Carrie and Callie, graduated from Girls Preparatory School. "I'm not sure I could have projected I'd still be here in 2021, but that ended up what's happened.



Kenny Sholl

“Five years ago I got the opportunity to serve on the TSSAA Legislative Council, and I've considered that a huge honor and privilege to do that. To do the best we can for student-athletes. It's not surprising, but it is eye-opening to work with those folks and see how much they care about the students and doing right by them and what is best for them. I really would like it to be known how much I have appreciated being a part of TSSAA and how much McCallie School has meant to me and my family.”

From McCallie's baseball diamond to its basketball hardwood to its football gridiron, Sholl's impact has been a lasting one – during students' school days and thereafter. During his career at McCallie, Sholl has served as the head baseball and football coach, a dormitory head, chairman of the mathematics department, and Dean of Students.

“He is the best; he is the true McCallie Man,” said Scott Simmons, a former McCallie baseball standout and Chattanooga-area attorney. “In every sense of the word. There is no one who loves McCallie more than him.”

It would be hard to find a family that gives back more to education. In addition to Sholl's work at McCallie and his wife's career as a first-grade teacher, two of Sholl's siblings also are teachers as well as sons-in-laws, multiple nieces and nephews who are educators.

“I think probably I should mention, my parents did not graduate from college, but four of us all are college graduates and three of the four of us became teachers; it's just kind of been what our family has done,” said Sholl, who praised the impact of his late parents, Jo and Jerald, as well as his longtime youth and prep coach Jack Archer and the Potter family that is synonymous with McCallie. “I was very fortunate to have mentors along the way who taught me something very valuable, Pete Potter the main one, and that's coaching was the way you made a difference in lives and wins and losses would take care of themselves.

“For a young coach to hear that over and over again and not get hung up on wins and losses was so valuable. So whatever you're doing, that opportunity is just the tool, the vehicle for really Teaching the student with a capital T. I know for me, these kids keep me accountable. I can't veer off the path because I owe it to them. In a way, without them, I'm not a very good man. But I'm not going to let them down.”

TSSAA is proud to honor Kenny Sholl for his many years of dedication to educational-based athletics in Tennessee.

AUTHOR

John Brice

Fall, Winter, Spring Sports Being Held Simultaneously Across Country

By Dr. Karissa Niehoff on March 31, 2021

[nfhs news](#)



At the end of March 2020, high school sports and performing arts were grounded – victims of a novel coronavirus that was wreaking havoc throughout the world.

NFHS member state high school associations were in the concluding stages of winter sports championships when the pandemic struck last spring. Although 17 states were able to complete basketball championships, student-athletes in 34 states were not able to experience the “madness” of March.

And approximately three million participants in spring sports and performing arts were unable to be involved in their favorite activities. Student-athletes in baseball, softball, track and field, lacrosse, golf, tennis and other spring sports and activities remained on the sidelines and in remote learning situations as schools shut down.

Fast forward one year and the landscape is looking better with each passing day. After months and months of working with state government, health and education leaders on return-to-play plans, high school sports and performing arts programs are on the road to recovery. While the level of return to competition has varied across the country, activity participants have been able to return to competition in every state – and students in the District of Columbia are slated to return April 1.

Although many states delayed the return to winter sports until after January 1, 46 states have offered basketball this school year, with two more – Oregon and Washington – set to begin in May. Nevada cancelled its season earlier this year, and Hawaii and the District of Columbia have not established starting dates.

According to the [NFHS Winter Sports Seasons Guide](#), 43 states have conducted – or will be conducting – state championships in basketball – a great improvement from the 17 that were able to finish last

year.

The efforts of individuals involved in wrestling have been even more remarkable. A sport that many figured would be grounded during the pandemic, 37 states have been able to start regular-season wrestling, with only four states having to cancel the entire season (Connecticut, Maine, Nevada and Vermont). Five additional states – New Mexico, Illinois, North Carolina, Washington and Oregon – are due to start competition in April and May.

While some states have been able to start and finish wrestling on time this year, other states have had to employ more creative measures to offer the sport. In New Jersey, where the start of the season was delayed until March 16, several schools have conducted dual meets outdoors in an attempt to provide a safer environment.

All 15 states that sponsor boys ice hockey were able to play regular-season contests this year after being grounded last year, and nine states were able to conduct state championships.

In what has to be one of the strangest twists of this once-in-a-lifetime (we hope) season of high school sports, 17 states are playing football as April begins – a new take on the concept of “spring football.” Eleven of those states had their seasons shifted from the traditional fall schedule, and six other states provided an alternative spring season for schools that were unable to play in the fall.

The 11 states that are conducting their primary season now are North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, Illinois, California, Oregon, Massachusetts, Washington, Rhode Island, Virginia and Nevada. Although only North Carolina, Rhode Island and Virginia will have state championships, kudos to all of these states for their perseverance in providing opportunities for competition.

Perhaps the individuals most grateful this year are participants in baseball, softball, track and field, lacrosse, golf, tennis and other spring sports. Although competition in these sports had commenced in a few states last year before the pandemic struck, most of these student-athletes never had the opportunity to play their chosen sport last year.

Although the start of traditional spring sports has been delayed in several states with the shifting of the entire sports calendar, it is anticipated that these sports will be offered in all states. In some cases, baseball, softball, and track and field will not finish until early July as the dogged determination of state associations to provide opportunities for everyone has been unending throughout this school year.

With the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available to all adults in many states, the outlook for return to normalcy in high school sports and performing arts grows brighter each week.

[Read all NFHS Voice columns here.](#)

What Have We Learned During the Pandemic in High School Sports, Performing Arts?

By Dr. Karissa Niehoff on April 14, 2021

[nfhs news](#)



We are excited about a potential full return to competition this fall for high school athletics and performing arts programs. With the expectation that a majority of adults will have received the COVID-19 vaccine, and perhaps many young people, there is a hope that all states will be able to return to “normalcy” when schools open this fall.

While there is great optimism about having students back in their favorite sport or activity, and fans back to support these student participants, we must be careful not to forget what we have learned during this unprecedented pandemic. The struggles we have faced over the past year have reminded us of many significant aspects of participation in sports and performing arts activities.

So, what must we remember?

- **The Importance of Participation.** Participation in high school activity programs provides students many benefits beyond what they learn in the classroom. They learn teamwork – how to work together to produce positive outcomes. Through participation in athletics and other activities, students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence and develop skills to handle competitive situations. All of these experiences support growth and development. While success and playing in state championships is an extra benefit of education-based activity programs, nothing is more important than students having the opportunity to interact with their peers in sports and performing arts programs.
- **The Mental and Emotional Health of Students is Tied to Participation.** In a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin’s School of Medicine examining the impact of school closures on the health of more than 3,000 Wisconsin high school athletes, 65 percent of those surveyed reported symptoms of anxiety, and 68 percent reported symptoms of depression. There was a 50 percent reduction in physical activity, and a significantly lower report of quality of life. Involvement in high school sports and activities is absolutely vital to the social, emotional and mental health of high school students.
- **We Must Be Thankful and Appreciative.** The pandemic hopefully has helped us to become better people – thankful and appreciative for what we have. For the first time in the lives of most individuals, normal daily activities were essentially gone – in an instant – and for a period of time the future regarding return to “normal” life was uncertain, and a bit scary. Hopefully, those who may have held critical perspectives about education-based activities will now have more compassionate perspectives, and we all will realize the incredible blessing we have to be involved in high school athletics and activities programs.

- **There is More Than One Way to Accomplish Goals and Dreams.** The adage “we’ve always done it that way” didn’t apply during the pandemic. The shutdown and eventual return to play forced everyone to find new ways of accomplishing tasks. We all had to stretch beyond our comfort zone and into our creative zone, and, on the other side, we realized there were other ways to handle situations.

Coaches were faced with not being able to communicate with players face to face in the early days of the pandemic, but, because of the dedication and “out of the box” thinking of many, teams were able to stay united and active – thanks to various online communications platforms.

More so than in the past, with states returning to play at different times based on specific regulations, we learned there is no right or wrong in many cases. We have learned to be open to other people’s ideas, opinions and observations. We must continue to value the thoughts of other people and the value of collaboration.

- **We Must Show Respect for Opponents, Officials and Others.** In the case of contest officials, many individuals made great sacrifices to continue officiating during the pandemic – perhaps even putting their own lives at risk – in order for games to continue to be played. While we desperately need more individuals to officiate high school sports, we must ensure that they are treated with respect and protected from verbal and physical abuse. Let’s hope that the restoring of high school sports after the pandemic will bring a greater degree of respect for officials, opponents and others.
- **We Can Do Anything.** If students, coaches, parents, administrators and others can work successfully through the impact of COVID-19, they can handle any adversity that comes their way. The perseverance required to survive this past year should bring a new level of confidence about handling adversity in the future.
- **Fans and the Community At-Large are Essential for High School Sports and the Performing Arts.** We definitely have learned that nothing can replace parents, students and others in the community when it comes to lending positive support to high school students involved in sports and performing arts. We have missed the cheers, the applause, the encouragement...We have missed being together.

As we return to athletics and activities, let’s remember how difficult it was to be without them, and let’s be the best participants, coaches, fans and leaders that we can be!

[Read all NFHS Voice columns here.](#)



Sports News

General News

TSSAA Hall of Fame ceremony date set

Class of 2020 will be inducted on July 17, 2021

March 24, 2021

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony that was planned for Saturday, April 17, has been postponed one final time.

The Class of 2020 will now be inducted on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The induction ceremony is set to begin at 11:00 a.m. CST.

While TSSAA is hopeful that it can host the usual number of attendees, it may be necessary to hold the ceremony with a much more limited audience. The number of tickets available will be determined at a later date.

Ticket forms will be made available on our website and will be mailed to all Hall of Fame members in May.

Those being inducted at this year's luncheon are: **Barbara Daush**, administrator from Memphis; **Turner Jackson**, administrator from Cleveland; **Clint Parnell**, administrator from Nashville; **Bobby Alston**, coach from Memphis; **Buck Coatney**, coach from Knoxville; **Carolyn Jackson**, coach from Chattanooga; **Jeff Morris**, coach from Milan; **Shelby Miller**, official from Elizabethton; and the late **Marion Wilhoite**, contributor from Columbia.

Nomination forms for the Class of 2022 are due in the TSSAA office by November 1. Forms are available at tssaa.org/hall-of-fame.

Please contact Heather Carter at hcarter@tssaa.org if you have any questions or need additional information.