



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

[Board of Control meets in Lebanon](#)

The TSSAA Board of Control met on Monday, August 15 at the Wilson County Board of Education Administrative & Training Complex in Lebanon. The Board discussed classification and voted to extend the current classification cycle for another two years (2023-24 and 2024-25 school years). Twentieth-day enrollments will be gathered from the member schools next month to begin the process of classifying and drawing new district alignments.

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[Nashville-area trainer honored for distinguished service](#)

Snoddy is Goodpasture's veteran athletic trainer and Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's first Distinguished Service Award winner for the 2022-23 academic calendar.

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[Legislative Council approves three bylaw changes](#)

The Legislative Council met via a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 13 to take action on three proposed changes to the bylaws. The first change was in regards to the Middle School (TMSAA) bylaws, with the other two changes affecting Unified Sports in the TSSAA bylaws.

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[Tennessee high school football has returned for 2022](#)

The highly anticipated start of the high school football season is at hand and 175 contests are scheduled across the state of Tennessee in Week 1.

[Read More](#)

[THSO recognizes Bargatze and eight member high schools](#)

The Tennessee Highway Safety Office announced award recipients from its 34th Annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference to recognize those who have contributed to improving safety of Tennessee roadways. TSSAA's recently retired Stephen Bargatze received a Director's Award for his dedication to our Tennessee schools over the last 20+ years. Stephen reached more than 1 million students and adults across the state during his tenure at TSSAA. Stephen used magic to gain the audiences' attention, then he had the opportunity to discuss the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, bullying, suicide prevention, the importance of seat belts and avoiding risky behaviors while in a vehicle. Eight member high schools also received awards for their work in promoting traffic safety awareness in their communities.

[Read More](#)

[Meet Joe Blair, TSSAA's new Assistant Executive Director](#)

Blair, whose family's penchant for service through education includes the work of his mother, Mary Charles Blair, in the Cleveland system, as well as his wife's previous work in Williamson County and current role as a pre-K teacher, is particularly passionate about growing the self-development and relational aspects of coaches and parents.

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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 **the proper role of coaches in school sports**? 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>.



General News

Meeting Agendas/Minutes News

Board of Control meets in Lebanon

Decisions regarding classification made for next two years

August 15, 2022

The TSSAA Board of Control met on Monday, August 15 at the Wilson County Board of Education Administrative & Training Complex in Lebanon.

The Board discussed classification and voted to extend the current classification cycle for another two years (2023-24 and 2024-25 school years). Twentieth-day enrollments will be gathered from the member schools next month to begin the process of classifying and drawing new district alignments.

The Board also examined and approved a proposal from the state office to implement a scheduling process for football region games that would better spread region games from week to week and guarantee that schools can play region games on Fridays and have adequate officiating on those dates. This plan would be in place for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. The state office will ask each school what their preferred open date is and respect that date when compiling region schedules. Region schedules will then be sent to schools and published once the Board of Control approves the classification and region alignments in November.

In other business, the Board reviewed and approved the financial reports for the sports of baseball, softball, soccer, track & field, and tennis and reviewed the audited financial statements from 2021-22.

Clayton Bradley Academy, an independent school in Maryville was approved for membership in TSSAA.

The full Board minutes can be viewed below.

Documents

[Board of Control Minutes \(8-15-22\) \(PDF\)](#)



Distinguished Service

Sports News

General News

Nashville-area trainer honored for distinguished service

Chris Snoddy has served multiple mid-state schools throughout his career

August 16, 2022

His team's championships number more than 20 across a distinguished career, all but the first two earned at Goodpasture Christian School.

And the impact?

Well, absorb nine simple words from the school's athletics director and reigning-state-champion baseball coach.

"Goodpasture is Chris Snoddy," says Jim Carter, "and Chris Snoddy is Goodpasture."

A Nashville native who's spent more than four decades in service to Midstate-area athletes and particularly high school programs, Snoddy is Goodpasture's veteran athletic trainer and Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's first Distinguished Service Award winner for the 2022-23 academic calendar.

"Working with him on a daily basis and seeing what he does, it extends so far beyond just his expertise as a trainer," Carter shares. "Anybody who knows Snoddy knows his expertise is beyond debate. What people may not know is how much he cares about athletes, coaches and families.

"He is uniquely connected to every program here. Not just boys' sports or not just football but he's connected to every single program and coach. He's invested in the program just like a coach and what's amazing is to see the way the kids interact with him. They just absolutely love him."

Snoddy's decorated career includes noteworthy stints as trainer for Don Meyer's legendary college basketball teams and Glenn McCadams' high school football squads at Lipscomb. His roots as an athletic trainer trace all the way back to his middle school days, when, by his own admission, he "wasn't much of an athlete."

"The coaches said, 'Hey, why don't you help us?'" Snoddy, now on staff at STAR Physical Therapy, says. "I drove the coaches' cars and trucks and ran errands, took kids to the doctor; I had a kid collapse in football practice my sophomore year, and coaches took me in the ambulance to the hospital with them and they went back to practice. It was a different time then, it was just the two coaches."



Chris Snoddy

He's been helping ever since, through quite literally thousands of Friday nights and countless other evenings.

"I think the relationships are the key element. I really don't know what to do if I'm not at a game on Friday night," Snoddy said. "I found out a while back that some restaurants have all-you-can-eat catfish on Fridays, and I have no concept of that.

"I'm always at a ballgame, football, baseball or softball or something."

Goodpasture, which has named its athletic training facilities in Snoddy's honor, has seen the school leadership keen to recognize Snoddy's impact on the program.

"Although he has about 20-plus years here at Goodpasture, the work he's put into making it the best work environment shows," said Hannah Busbee Jernigan. "He is the optimal role model for parent/athlete/trainer relationship."

Snoddy, a former two-time Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) president and a hall of fame inductee of that organization, also garnered the National Athletic Trainers Association Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award in 2011.

Here in the present, Snoddy isn't planning on ending his lifelong love-affair with helping athletes and coaches anytime soon.

"That's my goal, as long as God gives me the ability. I was just covering a scrimmage (on a recent) Friday night," Snoddy said. "And we open the season next Friday night.

"Even on the open date, I'll probably go hang with another athletic trainer from STAR at a game."

AUTHOR

John Brice



General News

Meeting Agendas/Minutes News

Legislative Council approves three bylaw changes

Action taken during special called virtual meeting

July 13, 2022

The Legislative Council met via a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 13 to take action on three proposed changes to the bylaws. The first change was in regards to the Middle School (TMSAA) bylaws, with the other two changes affecting Unified Sports in the TSSAA bylaws.

The TMSAA change was in regards to officials. Article IV, Section 16 of the TMSAA bylaws now states: "For varsity contests, all officials must be registered and approved by TSSAA."

The definition of a Unified Partner in regards to Unified Sports was changed to state:

"Unified Partner - A student participating in Unified Sports who has no intellectual disability or cognitive delay. Unified Partners are paired with Unified Athletes to participate on Unified Sports teams. Unified Partners are not eligible to participate **in the TSSAA postseason at the state level** on the school team for the sanctioned sport in which they are participating in the Unified competition."

The final item the Council approved was a change to Article II, Section 26 (Athletes Participating in Unified Sports) of the TSSAA Bylaws. The bylaw now reads as follows:

"Unified Partners must meet all TSSAA eligibility requirements. They are not eligible to participate **in the TSSAA postseason at the state level** on the school team for the sanctioned sport in which they are participating in the Unified competition."

The full minutes from the meeting can be found by clicking on the link below.

Documents

[Legislative Council Minutes \(July 13, 2022\) \(PDF\)](#)



Sports News

General News

Tennessee high school football has returned for 2022

Follow teams all season at [TSSAAsports.com](https://tssaasports.com)

August 18, 2022

The highly anticipated start of the high school football season is at hand and 175 contests are scheduled across the state of Tennessee this week.

The TSSAA Board of Control voted to return to the traditional handling of forfeitures and cancellations for the 2022 season. Any contest unable to be played will be considered a “no-contest” for both schools.

Four teams will open the season with region contests as Freedom Prep will be at Manassas and North Greene at Unaka in Week 1.

The full scoreboard and schedules can be found at <https://tssaasports.com/sports/football/>.

NFHS Network Games

Schools will be broadcasting more games this week on the NFHS Network than ever before. More than 70 football games will be carried live on the NFHS Network this week. With an NFHS Network subscription you can watch any and all games for one low monthly or annual fee. The games (with links to the broadcast) are:

Thu, Aug. 18: [Bradley Central High School vs. Brainerd High School](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Memphis Business Academy vs. Harding Academy](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Milan High School vs. Peabody High School](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Cookeville High School vs. Upperman High School](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Red Boiling Springs School vs. The Webb School](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Cornersville High School vs. Richland High School](#)

Thu, Aug. 18: [Cane Ridge High School vs. Pearl Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Carter High School vs. Webb School of Knoxville](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [East Ridge High School vs. Silverdale Baptist Academy](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Austin-East High School vs. Fulton High School](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Chuckey-Doak High School vs. Knoxville Catholic High School](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Grace Christian Academy vs. Lakeway Christian Academy](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Christ Presbyterian Academy vs. Independence High School](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Anderson Co. High School vs. Powell High School](#)

Fri, Aug. 19: [Sequoyah High School - Madisonville vs. Tellico Plains High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Goodpasture Christian School vs. St. George's Independent School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Midway High School vs. Sale Creek High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Lenoir City High School vs. Stone Memorial High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Notre Dame High School vs. Walker Valley High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Elizabethton High School vs. Science Hill High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Oakdale School vs. Pickett County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Lenoir City High School vs. Stone Memorial High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Oliver Springs High School vs. Rockwood High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Christian Academy of Knoxville vs. The King's Academy](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Wartburg Central High School vs. Away \(AL\)](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Harriman High School vs. Away \(AL\)](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Cosby High School vs. Sunbright School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Christian Academy of Knoxville vs. The King's Academy](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Northpoint Christian School \(MS\) vs. Jackson Christian School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Houston County High School vs. McEwen High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Grundy County High School vs. Marion County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [White House High School vs. Warren East High School \(KY\)](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Cheatham County Central High School vs. Glencliff High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Marshall Academy \(MS\) vs. Fayette Academy](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Columbia Central High School vs. Marshall County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Clay County High School vs. Jackson County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Halls High School vs. Tipton-Rosemark Academy](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Station Camp High School vs. White House High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [B. T. Washington High School vs. Briarcrest Christian School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Siegel High School vs. Green Hill High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Columbia Academy vs. Ezell-Harding Christian School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Montgomery Bell Academy vs. Ravenwood High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Montgomery Central High School vs. Sycamore High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Fairview High School vs. Page High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Henry County High School vs. Summit High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [LaVergne High School vs. Rockvale High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Hunters Lane High School vs. Maplewood High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Hillwood High School vs. Kenwood High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Blackman High School vs. Brentwood High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Lausanne Collegiate School vs. Southwind High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Father Ryan High School vs. East Nashville Magnet High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Gibson County High School vs. Obion County Central High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Bolivar Central High School vs. Scotts Hill High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Huntingdon High School vs. McKenzie High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Fayetteville High School vs. Watertown High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Cumberland County High School vs. Whitwell High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Northwest High School vs. Stewart County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Hillsboro High School vs. Pope John Paul II Preparatory School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Donelson Christian Academy vs. Middle Tennessee Christian School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Clarksville High School vs. McGavock High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Coffee County Central High School vs. Franklin County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Centennial High School vs. John Overton High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Northeast High School vs. West Creek High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Antioch High School vs. Lebanon High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Franklin Road Academy vs. Nashville Christian School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Lookout Valley High School vs. Mt. Juliet Christian Academy](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Friendship Christian School vs. Trousdale County High School](#)
Fri, Aug. 19: [Rossvie High School vs. Wilson Central High School](#)
Sat, Aug. 20: [Daniel Boone High School vs. South Greene High School](#)
Sat, Aug. 20: [Morristown-Hamblen High School East vs. Morristown-Hamblen High School West](#)
Sat, Aug. 20: [Gordonsville High School vs. Smith County High School](#)

This week, 458 contests are set to be broadcast by schools across the state on the NFHS Network, including dozens of soccer and volleyball matches, as well as numerous Junior Varsity and Middle School contests. For a list of all Tennessee events this week on the Network, go to <https://tssaasports.com/nfhsnetwork/>. Your subscription to the NFHS Network sends money back to the schools and helps to cover the costs of offering the service.

Watching the games is easy, whether it's on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Download the NFHS Network app from [Google Play](#) or the [iTunes App Store](#) and take the live coverage with you wherever you go.



Sports News

General News

Meet Joe Blair, TSSAA's new Assistant Executive Director

Blair will oversee wrestling and soccer

August 3, 2022

Not quite 15 years ago, shortly after completing his master's degree in administration from Trevecca, Joe Blair first pondered a move away from coaching and the classroom.

This, mind you, was no small instance.

A Cleveland, Tenn., native who had made Brentwood his home immediately upon graduation from Tennessee Tech, Blair had flourished at Brentwood High School, first as an assistant wrestling coach and then as the storied program's leader after veteran G. P. West's retirement.

Yet the potential to join the Volunteer State's governing body for prep athletics, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletics Association, first prompted Blair to consider something he otherwise had given no thought: possibly leaving Brentwood High School.

"A position had come open here 13 or 14 years ago, maybe when they hired Richard McWhirter (assistant executive director), and I had no experience whatsoever but as a shot in the dark I applied for it," Blair, who wrestled in high school for the tradition-rich Cleveland Blue Raiders, said. "I'd just finished my masters in administration from Trevecca around that time.

"I'd been blessed to have a heck of a run out there my whole career. I had had some chances on the coaching side in the past to go to other places, but from knowing where I was academically and coaching-wise, Brentwood's a special place, it really is. Principal Kevin Keidel is so good to work with, all the teachers and coaches are really good. I knew it would take something really unique and really interesting to kind of pull me away from that."

That's when fate and the TSSAA intervened once again. Having spent the past half-decade as the Bruins' athletics director, Blair had honed his administrative chops.

Meanwhile, as heralded TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress readied for his retirement, a potential spot once again seemed in the offing at the state association.

When Mark Reeves ascended to the top spot as just the TSSAA's third executive director since 1986 and just the fifth in the association's 75-plus-year history, Blair once again considered the potential for a change in career path.



Joe Blair

That the job could also foster Blair's love for wrestling, tap into his burgeoning desire for personal development among coaches and open other opportunities made it an easy decision for Blair and his wife, Corrie, as well as their children, Macie, Hallie and Whitt.

"With this position overseeing wrestling, that's kind of what my background is in," Blair said, "plus sports medicine and coaches education and soccer and working in those areas, it really was something that was a good fit and I pursued to see how I could help out."

A recent in-service at Ravenwood High School focused on general organizational issues and policies, but it also delved into the popular InsideOut Initiative done in concert with the Tennessee Titans, a program expanding in 2022-23 to even younger ranks.

"With the InsideOut Initiative, we're getting ready to start the initial meetings with our middle school members," Blair said. "I'm excited to see how that goes. And I've worked in the past with a group called A Better Way, that's kind of similar to InsideOut, but helping coaches to communicate better with parents.

"Both are outstanding programs that I've had a chance to work with and see the implementation side of."

Blair, whose family's penchant for service through education includes the work of his mother, Mary Charles Blair, in the Cleveland system, as well as his wife's previous work in Williamson County and current role as a pre-K teacher, is particularly passionate about growing the self-development and relational aspects of coaches and parents.

"I like the idea of helping to mentor coaches," Blair said. "Not that I'm an expert, but when they grow in the profession to be the best they can be for their athletes, that's what it's all about."

AUTHOR

John Brice