

My name is Marty Straub and I am in my second year as the Athletic Director at Kapaun Mt Carmel Catholic High School, in Wichita. I began my career as a teacher/coach at Kapaun Mt Carmel (8 years), followed by associate principal at Derby High (2 years), assistant principal at Hays High (19 years), and Hays High principal (8 years). I have served as president of the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals and was a member of the KSHSAA Board of Directors for 6 years.

I am here to testify in opposition to the proposed private school modifier. During my career, 29 years in public and 10 years private schools, I have experienced many positive KSHSAA changes. This proposal is not positive.

SHOTGUN APPROACH

Applying the modifier to all sports in a school, regardless of specific sport success, is irrational. Please allow me to use our school, Kapaun Mt Carmel, as an example. In the last five years, Kapaun has won 5 Golf championships (golf uses 4 student scores), 1 Bowling (bowling uses 5 student scores), and 1 Tennis (tennis uses 6 students scores). Because of the success of these 31 total individual Kapaun students over a 5-year period, we would qualify to be “modified”. Yes, 31 students total, of approximately 2000 student participants in sports, over a 5-year period, would qualify Kapaun for modified enrollment. Sports with a high number of participants, like football and track & field, would be modified, even though KMC’s last football championship occurred 35 years ago, girls track 17 years ago, and boys track 39 years ago. Irrational!

RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS:

Let’s be honest, frustration over the success of just a couple of parochial KSHSAA schools in the Kansas City area is why we’re here today. There is an assumption, by some administrators and coaches who compete against these schools in the Kansas City area, that all private/parochial schools recruit. This is a lie.

In the four high schools in the Diocese of Wichita (Kapaun, Bishop Carroll, Hutchinson Trinity, and Pittsburg Colgan),

- 99% of our students come from one of our many parish elementary schools
- 99% of our students have been in our Catholic School system their entire educational career... SINCE Kindergarten.
- Our diocese’s only recruiting effort occurs at each of our Catholic Churches at kindergarten roundup when the children are 5 years old and it is safe to assume that sports isn’t even a topic during the kindergarten roundup.

UNFAIR LARGE UNDEFINED BOUNDARY TO DRAW FROM

Argument is often made that private/parochial schools have a larger boundary to draw from and that, in turn, is unfairly advantageous. Please allow me to point out that many, many public schools, including many of those who have developed single or multiple sports dynasties, as measured by KSHSAA state championships, have open enrollment. As a building administrator at Hays High School for 27 years, I welcomed students from Hays, Victoria, Ellis, Plainville, Russell, Lacrosse, Natoma, and other towns every year. Almost every public school district in the state of Kansas do the same. Also, the “undefined boundary” complaint, does not even take into consideration, the many intra-district transfers that take place between schools WITHIN several large Kansas public school districts, that KSHSAA does not regulate. All of us, for and against this proposal today,

KNOW of instances where student-athletes will play, wrestle, run, compete for different public schools... in the same school year, and sometimes same season... some without a bone fide residential move... this is the truth.

If there are KSHSAA member schools violating rules regarding issues of undue influence, recruiting, and blatant cheating... they should be reprimanded, suspended from post-season play, and/or removed from the association all-together. This KSHSAA modifier proposal punishes all private/parochial schools because the high level of success of a couple parochial schools in the Kansas City area. 135 KSHSAA schools whose September 20th enrollment exceeds 82,000 students, did not vote to support the proposal presented! This proposal is punishment of all parochial and private schools because of the success of three. It's unfair, unreasonable, and driven by the ego.

I respectfully ask you to vote against this proposal. Let's work on addressing the real issues involving undue influence and recruiting by private/parochial AND public schools, rather than punishing all for the sins of a few in the KC area.

Thank you for making the best decision by not supporting this proposal.

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