

USD 243, USD 244 release attendance guidelines for fall sports

With fall sports starting up in the coming weeks, Lebo-Waverly USD 243 and Burlington USD 244 have released guidelines for attendance at events at both the high school and junior high/middle school level. For away contests, admission criteria may differ, as the decision on what the criteria will be is up to each district.

USD 243

Lebo-Waverly USD 243 is implementing protocols under which fan attendance at sports events will depend on what color phase the district is in. There will be no concession stand at volleyball events.

In the green phase, an unlimited number of fans will be allowed in to home volleyball and football contests, with masks required for entrance into the gym or football field and social distancing encouraged. All children must be accompanied by an adult. At home football games, attendees who can maintain the six-foot social distance will be allowed to remove their mask. Masks are required indoors, including for volleyball matches, and failure to follow that rule will result in removal from the event.

In the yellow phase, each player participating will be provided a card that will allow parents and siblings admission to home events. Masks will be required for entrance and social distancing will be required. In addition to being accompanied by an adult, all children must be seated in the spectator seats. Attendees at football games who can maintain the six-foot social distance will be allowed to remove their mask. Masks will be required for volleyball events.

If the district is in the orange phase, football and volleyball events will be held, but no fans will be allowed to attend.

If the district is in the red phase, there will be no athletic events played.

Lebo-Waverly USD 243 will monitor opponent county restrictions on fan attendance numbers and follow the Coffey County restrictions and apply them to all spectators. The guidelines will be updated as other seasons approach. Additionally, the district is in the process of putting in place a livestream platform for fans to watch events, and there will be more details to follow at a later date.

USD 244

Schedules have been set for the fall sports teams in Burlington USD 244 and calendars

are available on the district website, www.usd244ks.org, and at each school building. However, all are subject to change and changes, including in times, dates, spectator limits or elimination of spectators at certain venues, may occur with limited notice. The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA), in conjunction with the Kansas State Department of Education, has established gating criteria based on the percent of COVID-19 cases and their increase. The criteria establishes crowd limitations based on the ability to social distance at venues. The criteria can be found at www.ksde.org. Changes will be made available as soon as possible through Everbridge announcements, website and other social media platforms and information being disbursed to participants. Additionally, the Pioneer League has developed some procedures to help meet KSHSAA, CDC and KDHE recommendations for events.

For volleyball, each participant in the sport, including varsity, junior varsity and C team high school players and seventh- and eighth-grade varsity and JV players, will receive four admission vouchers that will allow the voucher holder to purchase a ticket for admission into matches and tournaments. Individuals must have a voucher to purchase a ticket. Anyone who does not have a voucher will be asked to leave. This voucher system is the starting point for volleyball season for Pioneer League events and all home USD 244 volleyball events, though it is subject to change at each location based on gating criteria. Children younger than kindergarten age will not be required to have a voucher if in attendance with an adult and will not be required to wear a mask. All other attendees will be required to wear a mask at

all times while in the building, and all individuals will be temperature screened upon entering the building.

At football games, spectators must wear masks while entering the game and at the concession stand, restrooms and anytime six-foot social distancing cannot be maintained. Children younger than kindergarten age will not be required to wear a mask. Students younger than high school age will be required to sit in the stands with their parents and will not be allowed to play or congregate in the stadium area or on school grounds. Spectators are asked to sit with family groups and observe social distancing. Space will be made available along the track and outside the player box at home events.

At cross country meets, all attendants are asked to have a mask and to wear their mask when social distancing cannot be observed and at the starting and finishing area. Teams will be separated and distanced from other teams and spectators, and spectators are asked to not enter team areas. Participants can leave the team area to meet family members. There will be no awards ceremonies held at home meets. Awards will be presented to coaches so they may distribute them to team members individually.

The district will not be selling passes through the high school office this year. Pioneer League passes and District passes (employee badge) will be honored with free admission as in previous years. Individuals with these passes must have a ticket voucher along with their pass in order to be admitted to volleyball events.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Burlington High School Activities Director Dave Watkins or Burlington Middle School Activities Director Charlie Whitworth.

Alternative fall season proposed to KSHSAA

TOPEKA — The KSHSAA executive board approved an alternative fall season opportunity for those schools unable to complete a traditional fall season. The proposal is subject to final approval, which will be considered at a board of directors meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday.

"The model would provide an opportunity for students in

our member schools unable to play in the months ahead with an opportunity to benefit from interscholastic activity participation when it is appropriate in their school communities later this school year," said KSHSAA Executive Director Bill Fafflick.

The three-page proposal can be viewed at www.KSHSAA.org/public/pdf/altfallplan.pdf.

FHSU announces spring grads

HAYS — A total of 2,395 students completed associate, bachelor's or graduate degrees at Fort Hays State University in the spring 2020 semester.

Among the graduates are two Coffey County students. Kasia Ann Stauffer, Burlington, graduated with a bachelor of sci-

ence in elementary education degree. Chelsea Snyder, Lebo, graduated with a bachelor of science in sociology degree.

The university conferred graduate degrees on 513 students, bachelor's degrees on 1,821 students and associate degrees on 61 students, with 71

students graduating with two degrees. Graduates who requested privacy are included in the count but omitted from the list of graduates. FHSU does not release degree lists until transcripts have been verified as having met all requirements for graduation.

Esports: New varsity sport at Fort Hays

HAYS — Fort Hays State University has added a new varsity sport this fall.

While competition in the university's fall NCAA-sanctioned sports was suspended because of COVID-19, FHSU Varsity Esports, a sports competition using video games, will begin entering tournaments in September. Sixteen varsity players in four game titles will represent Fort Hays State in the varsity team's inaugural year.

Fort Hays State has fielded competitive teams in its Esports Club for several years. The university's first varsity team is an initiative funded through the university's Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) process and was approved this past spring.

Scholarships are available for varsity players, and Esports Director Kevin Shaffer has started the recruiting process for expanding the team.

Esports, the largest gaming market in the world, is expected to gross more than \$1 billion this year. The most popular game, League of Legends, features 100 million active players logging in per month.

Shaffer, associate professor of informatics, said this fall the club plans to join the National Association of Collegiate Esports, which oversees the management of college esports teams.

Any FHSU student can join the Esports Club. The varsity team will be comprised of gamers who are enrolled as full-time, on-campus students (12

hours for undergraduates and nine hours for graduate students).

A portion of the varsity program's funding provides for 14 new gaming computers, which will be built by FHSU's own Tiger Tech, the university's technical assistance resource. That will bring to 20 the number of computers in the lab after the

Esports Club members last year built six new ones with funds from the Student Government Association.

For more information about the Esports Club and its new varsity team, contact Shaffer at (785) 628-4484 or kshaffer@fhsu.edu or visit <https://tigerlink.fhsu.edu/organization/esportsclub>.

Coffey County Cancer Support Group holds sixth annual golf tournament

BURLINGTON — The sixth annual Coffey County Cancer Support Group Golf Tournament was held on Aug. 15 at the Rock Creek Country Club in Burlington. Twenty-one four-person teams participated in the 18-hole event. Prizes were awarded for first and second place in each flight, men's and women's longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. After golf play and a free lunch, the winners of the tournament were announced and many nice donated prizes were taken home.

Members of the first-place team in the first flight were Jeff Sloyer, Drew Sloyer, Braden Sloyer and Michael Secrest. Members of the second-place team in the first flight, determined by a tie-breaker, were Kent Medlock, JJ Jasper, Jeremy Garland and Danny Davies.

In the second flight, members of the first-place team were Rob Smith, Nico Smith, Prudy Munoz and Rod Smith. Members of the second-place team were Jeff Fleming, Rod Fleming, Matt Fisher and Adam Hoch.

In the special awards, the women's longest drive went to Shelly Thorp and the men's longest drive went to Zach Stubby. The longest putt went to Shelly Thorp and the closest to the pin went to Lucas Allen.

All tournament winners generously donated their prize money back to the Cancer Support Group. The group is grateful to Steve and Sandy Lewis, Rock Creek Country Club and staff, all participants, hole sponsors, prize donors, loaners of golf carts, tribute sign sponsors or donors, the Munoz family for the breakfast burritos, the young missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and all the volunteers who donated their time Friday night, Aug. 14, and Saturday, Aug. 15, and said because of these generous individuals and businesses, the sixth annual golf tournament was a huge success.

Coffey County Cancer Support Group was established



Photo submitted
Members of the first-place team in the first flight were, from left, Braden Sloyer, Jeff Sloyer, Drew Sloyer and Michael Secrest.



Photo submitted
Members of the first-place team in the second flight were, from left, Prudy Munoz, Nico Smith, Rob Smith and Rod Smith.

in 2004 as a non-profit organization. Their mission is to provide resources for cancer patients and their caregivers. Since 2008, more than \$325,000 has been donated to individu-

als. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the golf tournament are used to assist Coffey County residents in the hardest battle of their life - cancer.

Area cross country, volleyball teams to open season

Cross country and volleyball teams from area schools will participate in the season's first matches and meets within the next week.

In volleyball, the Burlington Lady Wildcats and Waverly Lady Bulldogs will open their 2020 campaigns 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 in the Prairie View Preseason Tournament. The tournament will be played at two locations, Prairie View High School in La Cygne and Wellsville. Burlington's junior varsity Lady Wildcats will also open their season 8:30 a.m. Aug. 29 in the Iola JV Preseason Tournament. The C Team Lady Wildcats will begin their season at Neodesha 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Also starting their season Sept. 1 will be the Hartford Lady Jaguars and the Southern Coffey County Lady Titans. The Lady Jaguars will host a quadrangular, beginning at 4 p.m. The Lady Titans will host Olpe and Eureka at 4 p.m.

The Lebo Lady Wolves will start their season 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. They will play Mission Valley and Cair Paravel in

a triangular at Mission Valley.

In cross country, the Burlington Wildcats, Hartford Jaguars and Lebo Wolves will all begin their season Thursday, Sept. 3. They will all be competing in the Burlington Classic, hosted by the Wildcats, at John Redmond Reservoir. Middle school cross country teams from all three schools will also open their season at the Burlington Classic. Races begin at 5 p.m.

Junior high athletes in volleyball and football will also be beginning their seasons Thursday, Sept. 3. The Burlington Lady Bobcat volleyball teams will host Prairie View for their home opener, with matches beginning at 4 p.m. The Burlington Bobcat football teams will play Anderson County at Garnett in games beginning at 4 p.m. The Hartford junior high and SCC middle school volleyball and football teams will play each other at Hartford, with volleyball matches beginning at 5 p.m. and football games at 6:30 p.m. The Lebo and Waverly junior high volleyball teams will play Lyndon and Osage City in a quadrangular

at Lyndon, beginning at 5 p.m. The Lebo-Waverly junior high football team will play Lyndon at 6:30 p.m., also at Lyndon.

Two earn degrees at PSU

PITTSBURG — In May 2020, Pittsburg State University graduated approximately 1,200 students who earned degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Technology and Kelce College of Business.

Among the graduates are two students from Coffey County. Amy Dawn Foster, Burlington, graduated with a master of business administration (MBA) degree. Kalyn Elizabeth Deal, LeRoy, graduated with a bachelor of science in technology degree.

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, commencement exercises were postponed and will be held Nov. 21.

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