

Booster Clubs



Athletic and Debate/Speech Booster Clubs Q&A

School administrators in recent years are witnessing a growing number of “booster clubs” within their communities. These booster clubs are normally established with the objective of helping to fund selected school activities, organizations or teams. They may be engaged in a variety of activities but they are principally money raising groups. Due to the growing number of booster clubs, it is wise to review KSHSAA rules that apply to the activities of booster clubs to answer some of the most often asked questions pertaining to the actions of these organizations.

KSHSAA Handbook Rule 20-1-1(f) is the basis for most answers to questions relevant to booster clubs. This provision of the KSHSAA rules provides that “Booster Clubs, individual boosters and schools or other charitable foundations are considered synonymous to schools.” Therefore, what booster clubs may or may not do is the same as what schools themselves may or may not do. For example, a school cannot be involved in fundraising or in providing financial resources for students to attend any outside of school training sessions, tryouts or camps in any of the competitive athletics and debate/speech activities (cheerleading, dance, KAY and student council are exceptions). Likewise, booster clubs are prohibited from providing funds or resources to students for the same. Booster clubs may assist schools in providing school letters, team patches, chevrons and/or year dates to students for participating in interscholastic activities. Individual awards to any student may not exceed \$25 in any activity. No cash or merchandise shall be awarded to students. All funds must be accounted for through the school and approved by the principal.

Q. Can the school booster club contribute money for the purchase of equipment for a school activity?

A. Yes, but the money cannot be earmarked for a particular item. In other words, once the school has the money, they determine what it will be spent for.

Q. Can the school accept a donation of a particular piece of equipment from a booster club?

A. Yes, provided the equipment could be used by any student in the school and the donation is approved by the principal and the Board of Education in accordance with K.S.A. 72-8210.

Q. Can the booster club provide to students on the school team a video of their state championship game?

A. Yes, provided the fair market value of that video and any other awards provided by the school and/or booster club for that activity has an aggregate total of \$25 or less and must be approved by the principal. The \$25 limit does not include cost of the school letter, bars, or chevrons.

Q. Can an athletic or debate booster club provide money for students to attend a camp or clinic or compete on a non-school team?

A. No, such contribution is prohibited by Rule 20-1-1(f).

Q. Can an athletic or debate booster club provide transportation for students to attend a summer camp or clinic?

A. Yes, schools may provide transportation to summer activities (see the February KSHSAA Activities Journal page 9).

If there is an area of confusion with respect to what booster clubs may or may not do, it is in the area of what clubs or groups affiliated with non-school groups of students can do. For example, within the local community there is a group who supports the non-school youth soccer,

or kids wrestling club, etc. Questions regarding what they can or cannot do often arise.

Q. Can the youth soccer club (or wrestling club, etc.) raise money for camps and clinics for their players at school events, i.e., selling goods at school events?

A. No. Once the school becomes involved in providing these groups the opportunity to raise funds at school events, these organizations then become synonymous with the school and the same provisions pertaining to school booster clubs apply.

Reminder - these same groups may not solicit funds at KSHSAA postseason events.

Q. Can members of the youth wrestling club (or soccer club, etc.) help at school events by manning concessions stands, etc.?

A. Yes, but if any money is paid to the club for such services, then that amount of money cannot be used to send kids to athletic camps, clinics, etc.

Q. Who is responsible for “tracking” money raised by non-school booster clubs (community youth teams, etc.) to prevent that money from being used to send school students in the same activity to camps?

A. The school principal and the non-school booster club.

Fundraising – Important Considerations

In times of increasingly tight school budgets, more school teams and coaches are becoming involved in fundraising efforts to raise money to purchase school uniforms, warmups, shoes etc. When this occurs, several important considerations should be kept in mind. 1) Many schools and school districts have policies requiring pre-approval of fundraising activities, to ensure their patrons and business community

are not overwhelmed by constant fundraising by school teams, clubs etc. 2) Money generated by fundraising activities must be carefully and accurately accounted for to protect the intent of the donor as well as the integrity and reputation of the individual(s) organizing the fundraising. Coaches and sponsors should follow the school or district's policies on accounting for funds, and the auditor of the school should be consulted in the event of questions. Accounting for school activity funds is a major responsibility and must be taken seriously to protect everyone involved. The Kansas State Department of Education advises schools to be certain to follow the statutory procedures for accepting gifts K.S.A. 72-8210.

When money from fundraising activities is being spent to purchase team equipment, uniforms, warmups, wind suits, shoes etc., the goods purchased become the property of the school and are part of the school's inventory. At the end of the season, year or useful life of the shoes, jerseys, etc., schools may sell those items to students, but must do so at a fair market price for comparable used goods. To simply give the items to the students would be a violation of Awards Rule 20. The Awards Rule considers booster clubs, individual boosters and charitable foundations such as school foundations the same as the school itself. These entities may not give shoes, garments etc., to individual students. They may raise funds to donate to the school which the school may then use to acquire the needed items for the team.

Athletic Summer Camp Rules - Check the Website

Principals and athletic directors are reminded to provide coaches and athletes with information pertaining to KSHSAA Handbook Rules 10 and 30. It is vital coaches and student athletes know and comply with both rules. Please refer to the website www.kshsaa.org>Schools>Coach/Athlete Info for relevant information. Administrators, coaches, parents and athletes need to work together

to provide opportunities in the summer, while protecting time for family and students to pursue interests away from school activities.

There are no basic restrictions on students attending summer camps, so long as they do not violate the Amateur and Awards Rules.

Schools and/or school booster clubs may NOT be involved in financing students attending summer athletic camps. Schools may provide school transportation for students attending athletic and debate summer camps.

(Above information extracted from March Activities Journal)

www.kshsaa.org