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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

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Kentucky Girls Play Like Boys



Shortly after James Naismith invented the game, women educators modified the rules for girls to make it less strenuous.

In Kentucky, however, girls did not play by "girls'" rules, and Kentucky High School Athletic Association members voted in 1923 to use standard boys' rules for all girls' tournaments.

The debate over girls' activity levels, however, continued.

At least one Kentucky principal also was concerned about boys' health. Louisville Male principal J.B. Carpenter wrote to KHSAA in 1920: "We have never entered a basket ball team in any tournament, feeling that the physical strain on boys of High School age was too severe a tax upon their strength and might cause some permanent injury." Male did play in the district tournament in 1921 and lost to Louisville's DuPont Manual.



Frankfort High School Girls' Basketball Club in 1913. (Wolff, Gretter, Cusick and Hill Studios Negatives, Kentucky Historical Society.)