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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future.

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KHSAL No Longer Exists

The exodus from the Kentucky High School Athletic League to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association began in 1955 with four schools. In 1956, six other schools moved from KHSAL to KHSAA. At first, unless it was in an integrated school district, no African American school could join KHSAA.

Under pressure from KHSAL schools, however, KHSAA members voted unanimously in the spring of 1957 to consider "any approved or accredited two-year, three-year or four-year high schools" for KHSAA membership.

That same spring, immediately following its state championship tournament, the KHSAL Board of Controls voted to "cease operations."



Even after schools began to integrate, public facilities across Kentucky and the South were segregated. (*Photo from FSA Photos, Library of Congress.*)

Although high school sports was integrated, black players and teams often encountered prejudice from opponents' fans and from a society that still had segregated facilities.