

Seaman High School

League Affiliation Recommendation effective 2022-23

Given the exodus of three 5A schools and the possibility of Hayden leaving the Centennial League, **it is our recommendation to accept the invitation to join the United Kansas Conference League in 2022-23.** This recommendation provides our students opportunities to compete in all of our existing programs while maintaining a safe and competitive balance.

We have a long history with the Centennial League, but due to changes out of our control, it is no longer the league we remember. These recent changes provide an opportunity to reevaluate Seaman High School's position as a league member while keeping the focus on our students, programs, and community going forward.

Centennial League (CL) v United Kansas Conference (UKC)

	CL	UKC
<p>Scheduling Joining the UKC league would allow a full schedule for our teams at the freshman through varsity levels. The current state of the CL will require additional scheduling, outside of the conference to fill schedules. Joining the UKC would still allow for scheduling of local CL teams when possible.</p>		X
<p>Competitive Balance Joining the UKC would create a healthy and safe activity/athletic program for students by affiliating with similarly sized schools to produce a level playing field. The UKC would be made up of 8 5A schools, whereas the CL contains 4 6A schools (details below).</p>		X
<p>Travel Travel times are fairly equal with both leagues containing 2 other confirmed Topeka teams. All other teams outside of Topeka will require a similar travel time. The CL will most likely pick up additional teams that will require the same amount of travel time as other teams residing outside of Topeka (details below).</p>	X	X
<p>Budget Joining the UKC would cost an additional \$1,950 annually in league fees. We also anticipate a 15% decrease in gate revenue for the first year.</p>	X	
<p>SHS Coaches Poll SHS head coaches voted for their preference of league affiliation. The UKC was the preferred choice with a 9-4 vote (details below).</p>		X
<p>Historical Matchups CL: Hayden; Washburn Rural; Topeka High (Hayden may be departing the CL) UKC: Shawnee Heights; Topeka West</p>	X	
<p>Postseason Consideration 5A schools are seeded for postseason competition according to their regular season record. The safety of our athletes and competitive balance is important to our postseason success.</p>		X
<p>Media Coverage We anticipate an overall decline in media coverage which may be partially due to a move to the UKC. Our media market does not cover all schools in the UKC, but it is anticipated they will continue to cover Seaman High School and other Topeka area schools.</p>	X	
<p>Officials We anticipate officials in the UKC to be as high of quality and fairness as we experienced in the CL. We have been informed the UKC would be interested in securing a greater number of Topeka area officials with the addition of Topeka West and Seaman High School to the league.</p>	X	X

Cost (paid by SHS Athletics)

	Centennial League	United Kansas Conference
League Fees	\$850	\$2800 annually
League Startup	NA	\$2800 (one time fee)
Total	\$850	\$5600, then \$2800 annually

Centennial League Travel and Size

School (Sorted by School Size)	Enrollment/Classification Rank	Distance/Travel Time
Washburn Rural (6A)	1933/9th	Topeka
Manhattan (6A)	1823/14th	63 miles/62 min
Topeka High (6A)	1728/17th	Topeka
Junction City (6A)	1440/30th	70 miles/66 min
Emporia (5A)	1245/3rd	68 miles/62 min
Seaman (5A)	1150/6th	Topeka
Hayden (4A) (possibly leaving)	408/26th	Topeka
vacant	TBD	TBD
vacant	TBD	TBD
Avg Travel Time per Team		67 miles/63 min

United Kansas Conference Travel and Size

School (Sorted by School Size)	Enrollment/Classification Rank	Distance/Travel Time
Leavenworth (5A)	1305/1st	52 miles/65 min
Seaman (5A)	1150/6th	Topeka
Topeka West (5A)	1146/7th	Topeka
Shawnee Heights (5A)	1131/8th	Topeka
Turner(5A)	1076/11th	64 miles/65 min
DeSoto (5A)	992/16th	51 miles/53 min
Lansing (5A)	859/29th	51 miles/65 min
Basehor-Linwood (5A)	791/34th	52 miles/58 min
Piper (4A)	638/5th	61 miles/59 min
Avg Travel Time per Team		55 miles/60 min

(36 schools in each classification in 4A, 5A, 6A)

Seaman High School Head Coaches Vote

1. Football - O'Neil - UKC
2. Girls Basketball - Tinsley - UKC
3. Boys Basketball - Cox - UKC
4. Softball - Monhollon - UKC
5. Baseball - Bushnell - UKC
6. Boys Track - Petersen - UKC
7. Girls Track - Welch - UKC
8. Girls Cross Country - Brading - UKC
9. Boys Cross Country - Weins - UKC

10. Volleyball - Schafer - Centennial League
11. Boys Soccer - Kirmer - Centennial League
12. Girls Soccer - Diederich - Centennial League
13. Wrestling - Kelly - Centennial League

Minimal Impact on the following sports

14. Boys Tennis - Gill
15. Girls Tennis - Gill
16. Boys Golf - Reinberg
17. Girls Golf - McLaughlin
18. Boys Swim - Tuck
19. Girls Swim - Tuck
20. Boys Bowling - Benoit
21. Girls Bowling - Benoit

History:

Seaman High School has a rich tradition and history with the Centennial League as a founding member school since 1961. We have enjoyed a high level of competition, healthy rivalries, and strong collegial relationships with Centennial League schools.

In 2018, Shawnee Heights left the Centennial League and it was recently announced that Topeka West and Highland Park will be leaving the League. Recent discussions with Hayden lead us to believe that they are seeking to join a league of similar size schools to gain a more competitive balance across all of their athletic programs.

Historical Notes:

- *Centennial League in 2004(6): Seaman, SHeights, Emporia, WRural, HPark, Hayden*
- *I-70 League in 2004(6): Manhattan, Junction City, TWest, THigh, *Salina Central & *Salina South*
- *Salina Central & Salina South left the I-70 League following 2004 to join the AVCTL.*
- *Centennial League in 2005(10): Seaman, *SHeights, Emporia, WRural, HPark, Hayden, Manhattan, Junction City, Topeka High & Topeka West.*
- Shawnee Heights left the Centennial League in 2018 to join the UKC.