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Guides for Interscholastic Athletic Travel in Class B Secondary Schools of North-Central Kansas

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Fort Hays Kansas State College

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GUIDES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC TRAVEL IN
CLASS B SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF NORTH-CENTRAL KANSAS

The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation and indebtedness to the many persons who made this study possible. Also special recognition is given to Dr. LeRoy A. Harper for his supervision and direction given on the preparation of this report.

To his family, the writer owes a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices in the inspiration and encouragement given during the preparation of this study.

A Master's Report presented to the Graduate
Faculty of Fort Hays Kansas State College in
partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree Master of Science

by

Joseph E. Pate, Jr.

Date July 17, 1958

Approved LeRoy A. Harper
Major Professor

Ralph S. Coder
Chairman, Graduate Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHAPTER I
The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation and indebtedness to the many persons who made this study possible. Also special recognition is given to Dr. LeRoy A. Harper for his supervision and direction given on the preparation of this report.

To his family, the writer owes a debt of gratitude for their unselfishness in the inspiration and encouragement given during the preparation of this study.

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It is the opinion of the writer that many of our smaller schools do not have facts available that will be covered in this study. In many schools, programs are not consistent with good practices. This may result in a serious problem for the administrator. The school could be held liable if situations arise because sound principles and practices are not used.

Limitations. The study of this problem is limited to an area covering North-Central Kansas with the U. S. Highway 96 as the south boundary and U. S. Highway 81 as the east boundary.

CHAPTER I

The schools of a class "B" rating in competition are the subjects of the study.

INTRODUCTION

Interscholastic sports are an important part of the high school program. The teams must travel to other towns periodically. The problems which arise most often in the travel program are considered in this report.

Purpose. The purpose of the study is to secure facts pertaining to the subject that are in use at the present time throughout the chosen area. After analyzing the findings of the study and studying the literature, recommendations have been made.

Need. The small high school is often in need of more information on which to base their traveling program. In the process of making this study it is hoped that the information will be of use to those who, like the writer, would like to have a more thorough knowledge of present practices in this area.

It is the opinion of the writer that many of our smaller schools do not have facts available that will be covered in this study. In many schools, programs are not consistent with good practices. This may result in a serious problem for the administrator. The school could be held liable if situations arise because sound principles and practices are not used.

Limitations. The study of this problem is limited to an area covering North-Central Kansas with the U. S. Highway 96 as the south boundry and U. S. 81 as the east boundry. The schools of a class "B" rating in competition are the subjects of the study.

Methods Used. On April 25, 1958, the writer devised a questionnaire and sent the questionnaire to fifty-two schools in the area. Forty of the questionnaires were returned so that the writer was able to use them in this report.

The questionnaire was sent to coaches of the class "B" schools within the chosen area. The final copy of the questionnaire was returned to the writer June 2, 1958.

A copy of the letter and questionnaire can be found in the appendix of this report.

What is your shortest trip?

The reports on this question had a variance in distance from six miles to thirty miles. The average of the entire group was eleven and two-fifths miles.

What is your average trip?

The average trip for athletics traveled by the forty schools reporting was thirty-two and one-half miles. An average of sixty miles was reported by one coach and another coach reported a very reasonable seventeen miles.

CHAPTER II

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT PRACTICES

IN TRAVEL

The results of the survey are presented in this chapter. Each question on the questionnaire is presented and the findings are given.

What is your longest trip?

In the survey of the area the writer obtained forty answers pertaining to the distance traveled. The range of distances traveled varied from forty-five miles to 175 miles. The average length of trip reported on this question was seventy-four miles.

What is your shortest trip?

The reports on this question had a variance in distance from six miles to thirty miles. The average of the entire group was eleven and two-fifths miles.

What is your average trip?

The average trip for athletics traveled by the forty schools reporting was thirty-two and one-half miles. An average of sixty miles was reported by one coach and another coach reported a very reasonable seventeen miles.

What method of travel do you use most?

The use of the private car as a method of travel seemed to be most popular with the schools in this area. In reporting on their trips, twenty-five coaches rated the private car as first choice, eight rated it second choice, and three rated it third choice.

Other methods of travel varied only slightly from school to school. The school bus was rated first by twelve coaches and second by six others. The school car was rated first by two, second by eight, third by three, and fourth by one coach.

Four coaches used a combination of the above and rated it third in all cases.

Do you use the driver education car for any interschool athletic trips?

Many schools have the use of driver education cars. This vehicle was used by thirteen schools. Twenty-five schools reported that the driver education car was not used for athletic trips.

What mode of travel is used?

Football. In transporting athletes to football games it was the private car that was used most. Twenty-two schools used cars while fourteen used buses.

Basketball. During basketball season the private car was used by twenty-five schools and the bus was used by fourteen. would allow the athletes to return with their parents, but only with their parents. Six coaches were stern in their ruling

Track. Track was the sport in which cars were used most as transportation. Twenty-six schools used private cars and five used the bus.

Baseball. Baseball is a common spring sport through some of this area. Schools indicated the use of the private car eighteen to five over the bus.

Who is responsible for driving on the interschool athletic trips?

The coach, according to the results the writer obtained through the survey, also furnished a part of the transportation. Below is a tabulated distribution showing who drove vehicles used by schools on athletic trips.

<u>Driver</u>	<u>No. of schools</u>
Coach	30
Parents	21
Regular bus driver	11
Other teachers	10
Adults	3
Janitor	1
Superintendent	1
Whoever is available (except students)	1

Are students permitted to return home from games away in other than the conveyance provided by the school?

Thirty-six coaches provided the writer with answers to this question. There were twenty-seven who indicated in the negative and nine who allowed the students to return home by other conveyance.

In commenting on the question, twenty coaches stated they would allow the athlete to return with their parents, but only with their parents. Six coaches were stern in their ruling

and stated that if students went by bus they returned by the same method. One coach indicated he would have to have written permission from the parents if the athletes were to use any means of returning other than that provided by the school.

Do you have boy and girl teams playing on the same night?

Of the forty coaches reporting, thirty-four indicated that they did not have girl and boy athletics on the same night. Six reported that they were conducted on the same night.

Thirty-one coaches reported that boys and girls did not travel together and six reported traveling together.

Among the comments to this question were the following: Eleven schools reported that they had no girl athletics. Two schools reported that boys and girls rode on the same bus but rode on separate sides of the bus. One coach reported that boys and girls traveled together and that this presented him with no problem at all.

Is the school responsible for getting the players home after game or practice?

Twenty-one schools reported that they took responsibility for getting the athletes home after a game. Nineteen indicated that they assumed no responsibility in the matter.

In response to the problem of getting athletes home after returning to the school building, thirty-seven coaches felt

that the athlete was responsible for providing his own transportation while three coaches felt that this was the school's responsibility. One coach, in commenting on this question, stated that if the athlete did not have a way home he was kept in town until a way home was found.

Many of the schools surveyed are rural high schools and therefore many of the athletes live on farms. The distances that they lived from school varied from four to seventeen miles. Eleven miles was the overall average.

How do you carry athletic equipment?

Of those reporting, twenty-seven schools used car trunks for the transportation of athletic equipment. Seven used empty bus seats. Six used bus aisles. Two used the top of the bus. Others used the vocational agriculture pick-up and bus racks. One reported having a bus that had space in the rear for carrying equipment.

Do you require dress clothes on trips?

In reference to whether the coach required the athlete to wear dress clothes or not, the writer was able to obtain the following information. Twenty-four indicated the affirmative and fifteen reported that dress clothes were not required for trips. Twenty-two coaches allowed the students to wear jeans and seventeen prohibited the use of jeans on trips.

If you wear dress clothes, do you think it helps school relations?

School relations were improved when a well dressed team visited another school according to the answers received pertaining to this question. Twenty-seven coaches felt that the use of dress clothing affected better school and public relations and only six felt that they did not.

Twenty-four coaches indicated that morale was improved by wearing dress clothes compared to six who had the opposite opinion.

Raymond Stewart, athletic director at Courtland Rural High School, Courtland, Kansas, made the following statement indicating his opinion on the wearing of dress clothes.

It is a part of the social training. They are representatives of the school placed in a good light when out before the public.

We don't always win championships but we try to play like champions and I want my boys to act and dress like them.

Do you have any allowance for pregame meals?

At home. The writer concluded from the results of the survey that pregame meals were allowed to athletes of only two schools and not given to athletes of thirty-seven schools.

Away. When traveling, seven schools provided meals and thirty did not.

Do you have any allowance for aftergame meals?

At home. Two schools allowed meals after games and thirty-four did not.

Away. When traveling seven schools provided a meal for

the athletes after the game and twenty-six did not.

When the school does furnish meals, does the coach order the meals or do the players have a choice?

Seventeen schools reported that the coach placed the orders for meals. Fifteen schools reported that the coach paid the bill. Two reported that the players ordered what they wanted and the coach paid. Two reported that the money was given to the athlete for him to order and pay for his own meal.

When must the atmosphere change and become serious?

Of those reporting, nine stated the moment they left the school was the time to become serious. Four indicated the time of arrival at the location of the contest was the time to become serious. Three indicated that when they were about three miles from the destination was the time for serious thought. Coaches differed in their opinions on this question. The following answers were given by individual coaches indicating the place in the trip for the beginning of serious thought: dressing room, last game, ten miles, four miles, and two miles.

Sixteen coaches reported that the athletes had the policy for serious thinking on trips well in mind and six reported that no well understood policy was used.

Do you allow card playing, flipping coins and so forth on an athletic trip?

Twenty-one coaches did not allow card playing or flipping coins and thirteen did. Four of the 13 allowed only card playing. Most coaches indicated that gambling of any kind was not permitted.

What is the best "pacifier" for the boys on the trip?

In reporting the best pacifier or time passing method, conversation got the honor. Twelve coaches reported this means of passing the time. Music by radio was second with five votes. Singing, card playing, reviewing plays, reading, and gum chewing all received one vote each.

Do you consider the athletic trip an educational experience for youth.

In answer to this question all coaches reporting indicated, in their opinion, that the athletic contest was an educational experience.

An opportunity was given at the close of the questionnaire for the coaches to express their opinions and to state specific problems not covered by the questionnaire.

In your opinion how could the traveling program be improved?

The following is a summary of the opinions on this question and the number of schools citing the opinion.

Opinions	No. of schools
Better buses (room, seats, heater, radio)	15
Eliminate long trips	2
Provide bus driver for trips	2
Provide for feeding boys on trips	1
Provide for a bus especially for athletics so — you need not worry about grade school	1

	<u>Opinions</u>	<u>No. of schools</u>
Schedule Friday and Saturday night basketball games		1
School administration provide transportation		1
Provide a bus equipped with training supplies, luggage rack, and adapted for athletics		1
Downtown club to provide transportation		1
Satisfied with present program		1
No comments		13

What are your specific problems in relation to traveling?

The following is a summary of problems and the number of schools citing each problem.

<u>Problem</u>	<u>No. of schools</u>
Need thirty passenger bus	2
Too many games away from home	1
Girls traveling with boys	1
Need of a bus driver	1
Acquiring cars driven by parents	1
Long trips	1
Finances--10¢ a mile one way is not enough	1
Athletes living so far apart in the rural area	1
Students arriving late to leave	1
Teachers have to take cars 95% of the time	1
Team dispersed in several cars	1
Some parents take the burden of providing transportation	1
No comments or no problems	26

Methods of Travel.

Many authorities suggest the use of only bonded carriers for the transportation of the athletes to the games. School buses may be used unless it is unlawful to use them for extra-curricular activities. Williams and Hughes state,

When buses or bonded carriers are used, care should be given to select responsible companies. If

school buses are used these should be covered with accident policies that will meet claims for not only minor injuries but serious disabilities and even death.²

CHAPTER II

AN ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE

The information presented in this chapter was secured through research into the material available. In as far as possible each of the questions of the questionnaire are presented.

Length of trip.

The writer was able to conclude that many of the schools have several trips in one or another of the sports that were too long and needed to be discontinued. Most authorities feel that games should be scheduled with the closest competition available. Scott states, "long trips are arranged for financial reasons and tend to disrupt the academic program."¹

Methods of travel.

Many authorities suggest the use of only bonded carriers for the transportation of the athletes to the games. School buses may be used unless it is unlawful to use them for extra-curricular activities. Williams and Hughes state,

When buses or common carriers are used, care should be given to select responsible companies. If

¹Harry A. Scott, Competitive Sports in Schools and Colleges (New York: Harper and Bro., 1951) p.305.

school buses are used these should be covered with accident policies that will meet claims for not only minor injuries but serious disabilities and even death.²

Even though the private car is used as the most popular type of transportation in this area it should be discouraged.³

Responsibility for driving.

The school that is utilizing the best method of travel, the bonded carrier, is not faced with the problem of who is responsible for driving the car or the school bus. The coach is sometimes used as the driver but it is generally the regular bus driver that makes the trip with the school bus.

If private cars are used, they should be driven by adult drivers who understand and comply with the state liability laws governing such matters.⁴

Charles Forsythe states,

..under no circumstances should student drivers be allowed to transport athletic teams. School authorities may be charged with negligence with subsequent court actions a possibility.⁵

²William L. Hughes and Jesse Feirling Williams, Sports, Their Organization and Administration (New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1944) p. 37.

³George E. Shepard and Richard E. Jamerson, Interscholastic Athletics (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1953) p. 196.

⁴William L. Hughes and Esther French, The Administration of Physical Education for Schools and Colleges (New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1954) p. 190.

⁵Charles E. Forsythe, The Administration of High School Athletics, 2nd Edition, (New York: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1948) p. 196.

Students returning from games.

The members of the athletic team are the school's responsibility.

Students making a trip with an athletic team should, without exception, leave the campus together, use the same mode of travel and return home with the group.⁶

In exception to the above statement many school authorities feel that it should be permissible to allow the athlete to return home with their parents, but only by written permission.

Interscholastic athletics for girls.

Interscholastic athletics for girls have been greatly discouraged. Charles Forsythe⁷ indicates that fewer high schools sponsor interschool athletics for girls annually. Instead "play days" are being adopted.

The dress of the athletes.

The athlete is a representative of the school and should dress as such. Charles Forsythe made the following statement on the matter of dress.

Students should remember that they are representatives of their high school and the school will be judged by their dress, manners, and conduct as well as sportsmanlike conduct. Generally, dress requirements include a suit or sport coat and trousers. Teams do not need be dressed expensively⁸ but they can be dressed and act like gentlemen.

⁶Scott, op. cit. p. 406

⁷Charles E. Forsythe, The Athletic Director's Handbook (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1957) p.372.

⁸Forsythe, op. cit. p.373.

The pregame meal.

In surveying the literature the writer could find no reference to the pregame and aftergame meal specifically. The writer was able to secure some information concerning the supplying of meals before and after the athletic contest.

Arrangements will have to be made by the coach ahead of time if pregame and aftergame meals are desired according to The Athletic Director's Handbook.⁹ The preceding statement is important because eating establishments may not be able to accommodate the team at the time requested and this may cause a change in performance.¹⁰

The small number of schools that are able to furnish meals, as proven by the results of the survey, indicate that more finances are needed. The instructor's salary and maintenance of facilities are supported by taxes and sports must pay for equipment, officiating, and travel.¹¹

The team discipline.

When traveling, the athletes need to remember that, the general public tends to judge the institution and the education by the action of the athletic teams of that institution both off and on the field of play.¹²

⁹Forsythe, op. cit. p.373.

¹⁰Hughes, op. cit. p.247.

¹¹Education Policies Commission, School Athletics, Problems and Policies (Washington, D. C.: National Education Association, 1954) p.65.

¹²Scott, op.cit. p.406.

organization of the sport is the result of following the travel
to maintain.

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS

In summarizing this study the writer received a varied assortment of ideas. After combining the results of the survey with the research the following recommendations are presented.

All effort should be made to schedule athlete contests with the closest school available. This would do away with the problem of athletes getting home late while having to be in school the next day. The late hours affect the entire academic day for most students.

The use of the school bus or a chartered bus for transportation is recommended. If private cars are used, special care should be given to the matter of selection of driver and condition of the vehicle.

The regular bus driver should be the operator of the bus on all athletic trips. The coach generally is thinking of the game and when driving he may not give his full attention to the job.

All students should go and return by the method provided by the school. Written permission to return by other means should be considered when received from the parents. Better

organization of the squad is the result if uniformity in travel is maintained.

Separate transportation should be provided when girls and boys are playing on the same night. There are always other students who need transportation and they can take up the extra space in buses.

School buses should be provided with a rack or compartment for carrying the athletic equipment. This would keep the equipment out of the aisles and empty seats. The presence of the equipment could possibly cause injury or death in case of an accident. The aisles and the emergency door should be clear of any obstructions.

Athletes should be encouraged to dress in a manner that would bring respect to the individual, his coach, and the school.

When traveling, coaches should demand that an athlete act in a manner that would bring respect to the individual, his coach, and the school. There can not be a definite set of regulations to govern all athletes. Schools differ as do members of the various teams and therefore different specific regulations prevail.

Policies should be made with reference to the athletic travel and all concerned should be informed of these policies. The policies should be posted on the bulletin board in full view for all to read.

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Appendix B

Questionnaire

Appendix A

APPENDIX

April 25, 1958
Landon, Kansas

Dear Coach,

Enclosed is a questionnaire and a self addressed envelope. The study is an interscholastic travel. I am preparing a Master's Report for Dr. Levey A. Harris titled, "Guidelines Interscholastic Athletic Travel in Appendix A Boundary Schools of North-Central Kansas" and Introductory Letter

I would appreciate it if you would fill out the questionnaire as you see fit and Appendix B as soon as possible. I will send you a summary Questionnaire if you would care to have one.

I hope to complete my Master's Degree at West State Kansas College this summer and your prompt cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Pitts, Jr.

Appendix A

April 25, 1958
Esbon, Kansas

Name of Coach _____

School _____

Dear Coach,

Enclosed is a questionnaire and a self addressed envelope. The study is in interscholastic travel. I am preparing a Master's Report for Dr. LeRoy A. Harper titled, "Guides for Interscholastic Athletic Travel in Class B Secondary Schools of North-Central Kansas" and I need your help.

I would appreciate it if you would fill out the questionnaire as you see fit and return it as soon as possible. I will send you a summary of the study if you would care to have one.

I hope to complete my Master's Degree at Fort Hays Kansas College this summer and your prompt cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joe Pate, Jr.

Appendix B

Master's Report Questionnaire

Name of Coach _____

School _____

- A. 1. What is your longest trip? _____ miles.
 2. What is your shortest trip? _____ miles.
 3. What is your average trip? _____ miles.
- B. 1. What method of travel do you use most? Please rate 1, 2, 3, etc.
 School bus _____ Chartered bus _____
 Private car _____ School car _____
 Combination of the above _____
2. Do you use the driver education car for any interscholastic athletic trips? Yes ___ No ___
- C. What mode of travel do you use for the following:
 Football _____ Basketball _____
 Track _____ Baseball _____
- D. Who is responsible for driving on the interschool athletic trips?
 Parents _____ Coach _____ Other teachers _____
 Regular Bus driver _____ Students _____
 Others (please name) _____
- E. Are students permitted to return from games away in other than the conveyance provided by the school? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on E. _____

4. Do dress clothes help travel? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on 4. _____

F. 1. Do you have boy and girl teams playing on the same night? Yes ___ No ___

2. Do boys and girls travel together? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on F. _____

G. 1. Is the school responsible for getting the players home after any game? Yes ___ No ___
after practice? Yes ___ No ___

2. Are students responsible for getting home from school after returning? Yes ___ No ___

3. What is the fartherest distance an athlete lives from school? ___ miles.

Please comment on G. _____

H. How do you carry athletic equipment?

1. Bus top ___ Bus aisles ___ Empty seats ___
Car trunks ___ Other(name) _____

Please comment on H. _____

I. 1. Do you require dress clothes on trips? Yes ___ No ___

2. Do you let them go in jeans? Yes ___ No ___

3. If you wear dress clothes, do you think it helps school relations. Yes ___ No ___

4. Do dress clothes help team morale? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on I. _____

Address _____

F. 1. Do you have boy and girl teams playing on the same night? Yes ___ No ___

2. Do boys and girls travel together? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on F. _____

G. 1. Is the school responsible for getting the players home after any game? Yes ___ No ___

after practice? Yes ___ No ___

2. Are students responsible for getting home from school after returning? Yes ___ No ___

3. What is the fartherest distance an athlete lives from school? ___ miles.

Please comment on G. _____

H. How do you carry athletic equipment?

1. Bus top ___ Bus aisles ___ Empty seats ___
Car trunks ___ Other(name) _____

Please comment on H. _____

I. 1. Do you require dress clothes on trips? Yes ___ No ___

2. Do you let them go in jeans? Yes ___ No ___

3. If you wear dress clothes, do you think it helps school relations. Yes ___ No ___

4. Do dress clothes help team morale? Yes ___ No ___

Please comment on I. _____

Address _____

J. 1. Do you have any allowance for pregame meals? At home Yes No
Away Yes No

2. Do you have any allowance for aftergame meals? At home Yes No
Away Yes No

3. When the school does furnish meals does the coach order the meals or do the players have a choice? Check appropriate answer.

Coach orders Coach pays Player orders
Coach gives the money and the player orders and pays

Comments on J. _____

K. 1. When must the atmosphere change and become serious? _____ miles from destination.

2. It is understood that this is to happen on every trip? Yes No

3. Do you allow playing cards, flipping coins, and so forth on an athletic trip? Yes No

4. What is the best "pacifier" for the boys on the trip?

5. Do you consider the athletic trip an educational experience for youth? Yes No

Closing Remarks.

In your opinion how could the traveling program be improved?

What are your specific problems in relation to traveling?

If you would like a copy of this survey results please give name and address below.

Name _____

Address _____