High school sports participation up for fifth straight year

STAFF REPORT

Led by the continual growth of girls' flag football and girls' wrestling, participation in high school sports increased for the fifth consecutive year in 2025-26 and set another all-time record.

The annual NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey indicated that 8,415,684 participants were involved in high school sports in 2025-26 – up 149,440 from the previous year. The total includes 4,761,095 boys and 3,654,589 girls – both record highs – according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia.

The continual spike in the number of girls participating in flag football and wrestling since the pandemic has been nothing short of phenomenal. In the first post-pandemic survey in 2021-22, there were 15,716 girls participating in flag football nationally. That number has now ballooned to 102,360 – an increase of 87,000 participants in just four years.

Amazingly, participation in girls flag football increased 48.7 percent last year – 68,847 to 102,360 – and the sport cracked the Top 10 list for most popular girls' sports. The number of schools reporting girls flag football participation increased from 2,736 to 3,990 in the past year, and a total of 37 states will be either sanctioning the sport or conducting independent/pilot programs by next year.

The popularity of wrestling for girls is not far behind flag football. Participation in girls wrestling increased 19.9 percent from the previous year – from 74,064 to 88,771 – and the number of schools sponsoring the sport for girls now rests at 8,853.

Since the return to activities from the pandemic, the number of schools offering the sport has jumped from 4,802 to 8,853, and the number of participants has increased from 31,654 to 88,771. In addition, all states are now reporting some participation in girls wrestling, and 40 state associations are now conducting state championships.

There was also good news on the girls' basketball front. Participation in girls' basketball was up 6,142 from the previous year to halt a downward trend that has seen numbers decline 100,000 during the past 20 years. A total of 362,382 were reported in girls' basketball in 2025-26, up from 356,240 the previous year.

Overall, girls' participation in high school sports increased by 114,993 – a 3.2 percent jump. Girls' volleyball continued its annual climb with another 9,257 participants and topped 500,000 for the first time. At 502,056 participants, volleyball is No. 2 in popularity for girls, trailing track and field now by only 7,014 participants. In addition, girls' golf participation increased 6.3 percent to 90,176.

"We are pleased to see the number of students involved in high school sports continuing to rise every year," said Davis Whitfield, NFHS executive director. "Education-based sports within our nation's schools is a privilege not available in most other countries, and we are thankful these opportunities continue to expand.

"We salute the coaches, athletic directors and school administrators for making these experiences happen, especially with some of the recent growth in several emerging sports. It is great to see new sport opportunities created to involve as many students as possible in high school sports."

Five of the top 10 boys' sports registered increases in 2025-26, including 11-player football, outdoor track and field, soccer, golf and tennis. Eleven-player football registered a 1.4 percent increase with another 14,128 participants and now stands at 1,043,716 – by far the most popular sport for boys or girls. The sport is continuing to rebound from the pandemic and posted its highest mark since the 2016-17 season.

In addition to 11-player football, a total of 33,191 boys were involved with 6-, 8- and 9-player football, and 4,334 girls were involved in all four versions of the sport, bringing the overall participation in high school football to 1,081,241 – up 11,597 from the previous year.

Golf had the largest percentage increase among boys' sports with an 8.3 percent rise to 175,757 participants, while outdoor track and field was up about 4,000 participants, and tennis and soccer each gained about 3,000 participants.

Texas (911,405) and California (859,022) remained atop the list of state participation – by a wide margin. Ohio (347,994) ranked third, followed by Illinois (326,756), Pennsylvania (315,647), New York (312,563), Florida (311,233), Michigan (295,634), New Jersey (273,711) and Minnesota (241,536).

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and provides the most comprehensive national view of participation in high school sports. The first survey in 1971 indicated 3.6 million boys and 294,015 girls involved in high school sports. Thanks to the passage of Title IX in 1972, the number of girls in high school sports jumped to two million by the end of the decade and now has exceeded 3.6 million.

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 25-CI-224

MidFirst Bank — PLAINTIFF

VS. **NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

Craig A. Spaw, et al — DEFENDANTS

** ** ** ** **

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on September 18, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m**., prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Property Address: 1425 Baton Rouge Rd, Williamstown, KY
with PVA Map/Parcel No. 046-00-00-039.00

There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.

Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of $61,078.51 adjudged due plaintiff on its first lien on the property, together with interest at the rate of 7.125% plus attorney fees and costs of collection, expenses, and disbursements, and other sale costs and fees.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 7.125% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Grant County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 26-CI-024

KEVIN FULKS, D/B/A/
KEVIN FULKS CONSTRUCION — PLAINTIFF

VS. **NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

BARBARA A. BUZA — DEFENDANTS
And
GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY

** ** ** ** **

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on September 18, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m**., prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Property Address: 54.8 Acres Bannister Pike, Dry Ridge, KY 41035
PIDN: 045-00-00-095.00

There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.

Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of $24,500.00 for all of which the Plaintiff may have immediate execution, garnishment or other process of this Court.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 12% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Grant County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 26-CI-00188

"Electronically Filed"

Freedom Mortgage Corporation — PLAINTIFF

VS. **NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

Clarence Zastrow, et al. — DEFENDANTS

** ** ** ** **

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on September 18, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m.**, prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Being the same property as conveyed from Ned Andrew Jansen and Lorie Jansen, husband and wife to Clarence Zastrow, a married man as set forth in Deed Book D446 Page 40 dated 06/28/2024, recorded 07/03/2024, GRANT County, KENTUCKY.

Property Address: 230 Shawnee Run Road, Dry Ridge, KY, 41035
Parcel Number: 034-02-00-003.00

There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.

Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of $302,990.12 adjudged due plaintiff on its first lien on the property, together with interest thereon at the rate of 6.500 percent per annum together with attorney's fees, property inspection and preservation costs, and taxes and insurance.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 6.500% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Grant County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 22-CI-00267

AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC — PLAINTIFF

VS. **NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

Joshua Aaron Johnson, et al. — DEFENDANTS

** ** ** ** **

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on January 27, 2023, and subsequent Orders entered on August 24, 2023, September 7, 2023, January 31, 2025, and September 18, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m.**, prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Being the same property conveyed to Joshua Aaron Johnson and Megan Johnson, husband and wife who acquired title, with rights of survivorship, by virtue of a deed from Kevin E. Benge and Deborah Lynn Benge, husband and wife, dated August 9, 2018, recorded August 15, 2018, at Deed Book 399, Page 100, Grant County, Kentucky records.

More Commonly Known As: 3435 Crittenden Mount Zion, Dry Ridge, KY 41035
Map ID #: 032-00-00-083.02

There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.

Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of $255,810.12 adjudged due plaintiff together with interest thereon at the rate of 5.625% from January 1, 2021 until paid plus late fees, costs and attorney fees.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 5.625% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2023;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Grant County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT