



September 28, 2015

Tom Welter

Executive Director

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Wade Bakley

Principal

Reynolds High School

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RE: Isaac Acosta's Athletic Eligibility

Cindy Simmons

Assistant Executive Director

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Dear Wade:

The OSAA Eligibility Appeals Board (EAB) met Thursday, September 10, 2015 to review the eligibility request waiver of OSAA Rule 8.6 *Transfer without Change of Joint Residence* for Isaac Acosta, whose athletic eligibility had been denied by the District Athletic Committee of the 6A-Mt. Hood Conference. The hearing was conducted at the OSAA office in Wilsonville.

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Assistant Executive Director

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The Appeals Board reviewed all of the written information that had been submitted on behalf of the student. In addition to the original information received by the District Athletic Committee, the EAB received the email request for an appeal from Sandra Acosta Casillas, Isaac's mother, with an explanation of why Isaac continuing at Centennial H S would be a hardship; and a letter from Centennial H S in support of Isaac's transfer to Reynolds H S. During the hearing, the Board listened to comments and testimony by Isaac Acosta, the student; Sandra Acosta Casillas and Freddie Casillas, Isaac's parents; and Chris Coleman, Athletic Director, Reynolds H S. Following the dialogue and questions, the Eligibility Appeals Board convened into executive session.

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Assistant Executive Director

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From the written documentation submitted and the oral testimony provided at the hearing, the Eligibility Appeals Board concluded the following:

Marci McGillivray

Associate Director

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Findings of Fact:

1. Isaac attended Reynolds S D schools from the 4th grade through the 8th grade. In February, 2014 the family was granted a home provided by Habitat for Humanity. The new home is located in the Centennial School District and the family's four children were enrolled in Centennial S D schools. Isaac was enrolled at Centennial H S as a freshman for the 2014-15 school year.
2. The change for Isaac was difficult. He didn't know anyone at Centennial H S; whereas, he left behind a support system of other family members attending Reynolds H S or employed by the Reynolds School District. Also, Isaac had been in the A.V.I.D. program in the Reynolds S D but Centennial H S does not offer A.V.I.D.. There were social challenges as well; including being bullied and insulted with racial remarks in school, being stereotyped by some teachers, and harassed and bullied by baseball team members.
3. Mrs. Acosta Casillas met with the Reynolds School District in the Spring of Isaac's freshman year at Centennial H S and discussed the options available to transfer Isaac back to Reynolds H S. She was told it would be the Open Enrollment Application process for an Inter-District Transfer for attendance beginning in the Fall of 2015. The application was submitted and the family was notified April 30, 2015 that Isaac's request had been granted. The application had actually been an Open Enrollment application, not an Inter-District Transfer. The family was told by the district office that Isaac would be eligible to participate in athletics at Reynold H S.
4. Isaac enrolled at Reynolds H S this Fall and would like to play football. During the clearing process for participation it was discovered that the Open Enrollment Transfer had been approved, not the Inter-District Transfer. Mr. Coleman supports Isaac's appeal because he feels the misinformation given the family making Isaac ineligible for one calendar year was beyond the family's control and being able to

participate at Reynold's H S would be in Isaac's best interest. The family did what they were told to do in regards to the transfer documents/applications, although it was incorrect information.

4. Isaac is practicing with the JV football team and wants to be part of the team, "no matter what." The A.V.I.D. program is very important to him and his goal is to attend college to receive a degree in computer engineering.

5. Reynolds HS submitted an Eligibility Request Form to the 6A-Mt. Hood Conference District Athletic Committee on August 21, 2015. The DAC denied the eligibility request on August 27, 2015 and Mrs. Acosta Casillas requested an appeal on August 28, 2015.

Conclusions:

The EAB may grant an exception to the transfer rule "when in its opinion there are circumstances beyond the control of each of the student and the student's parent(s), or other circumstances whereby enforcement of the rule would work an undue hardship upon the student." After reviewing the facts and testimony presented, the EAB concluded that the decision to transfer Isaac to Reynolds H S was made in Isaac's best interest and not for athletic gain. The family was given incorrect advice regarding transfer documents to submit and Isaac's athletic eligibility status.

Therefore, the Eligibility Appeals Board voted (5-0) to overturn the DAC denial of eligibility. Isaac Acosta is eligible to participate in OSAA activities effective September 11, 2015.

It is our sincere hope that this waiver will be of benefit to the student.

Sincerely,



Cindy Simmons
Assistant Executive Director

CS/ar

cc: Chris Coleman, Athletic Director, Reynolds H S
 Freddie Casillas and Sandra Acosta Casillas, Parents
 John Garrow, Principal, Central Catholic H S, 6A-Mt. Hood Conference, DAC Chairperson