

8/28/2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tracy Hasson and I am the head coach of the Tigard HS boys soccer team. I am writing on the behalf on Jonathan Barron-Calderon. Jonathan is a young man who plays soccer at Tigard High school. He recently found out he is not on pace to graduate going into his junior year which makes him ineligible for the soccer season. In my 5 seasons I have have a handful of students ineligible for soccer and have always taken a no nonsense type approach, 100% supporting the rules and guidelines for the student-athletes. But for the first time, I have a situation that really calls for the adults in charge of Jonathan's fate to reevaluate the circumstances.

I know that the last couple years has been a very difficult transition for Jonathan. He was in a horrible living situation with his sister and mother living in 1 room for most of the year. His mother remarried and has had to adjust to a new family dynamic with his biological father and his new step father. He also started medication for ADHD due to a drastic lack of focus in the classroom, regardless of effort. This was something that was discovered late and never accommodated by the teachers until now. I was also informed that financially the family is in a position where Jonathan, his mother, sister and step father have to work to support the family. A tall task for any 16 year old kid to endure. With all that being said, Jonathan still put out a very valiant effort to improve his grades. He sought out tutors, after school study groups and constant checkins with his school counselor (who can vouch for this). As a result his last term was by far his best term passing all but 1 class. Going into this fall we had already constructed a plan to keep his grades improving assuming he was eligible to play.

Jonathan is in a position where we need to read between the lines of his eligibility status. The rules and guidelines are put in place to help protect and inspire students to excel and reach their potential. This is something I fully support and always will. But in this case, making the rules black and white could be a detriment to a kid who has started to turn a corner. Disallowing him to play I fear will set him back and disable my ability to really get him on track. Jonathan deserves positive reinforcement for the efforts he has made and one of the most important and stable components in his life is soccer. If allowed to participate I can implement a grade check system correlated to playing time that will really enforce the value in working hard in school.

I hope you will consider that in the last year Jonathan has endured a situation less then ideal yet has still found a way to value school. He has the support of his counselor, his athletic director and his soccer coach. We all feel very strongly about Jonathan being allowed to play for reasons that are much bigger then playing high school soccer. Please do not hesitate to call me at anytime to discuss further.

Thank you for your time,

Tracy Hasson

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