



WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
Ken Phillips, Principal
1776 Titan Drive NW • Salem, Oregon 97304
503-399-5533 • FAX: 503-584-5004

SALEM-KEIZER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Christy Perry, Superintendent

Date: August 31, 2015

To: District Committee, Greater Valley Conference
From: Bill Wittman, Athletic Director – West Salem High School
Re: eligibility request

I am writing this letter in support of an eligibility request for Jesus Lara.

Jesus started his freshmen year at West and played soccer here. Mom explains that he ran into some relationship trouble with a girl and his grades began to slip. She then transferred him to Salem Academy for the 2nd semester. Once at SA, his grades went back up and parents felt that he was in a healthier spot, emotionally speaking.

During the summer, Jesus joined a group of SA students for summer soccer. As Mom explains, they played maybe two matches in late June/early July, then the coach took off to Alaska and the team “fizzled out.”

Mom, concerned about her finances and her ability to pay for Jesus and siblings to go to SA this year, decided to re-enroll him back here at West. If we allowed him to play or practice right now, we would be in violation of the OSAA’s 8.6.5 “Transfers to a School with Affiliation” rule because he is returning here w/in one calendar year of when he last played here. Jesus, by the way, still lives in the same West Salem home that he has for years (i.e. a change of residence has not occurred).

I would argue that because of his unique circumstance and because he did not represent Salem Academy during a sports season, an exception to the affiliation rule should be made here.

Thank you for considering my request to make Jesus eligible to participate in a fall sport here at West.

Sincerely,

Bill Wittman
Athletic Director
West Salem High School