

To: MWL Hardship Committee

Date: September 29, 2015

Re: Malinda Painter, Cheerleader

Transfer without a joint move of Parents.

Churchill High School supports a hardship request for Malinda Painter to participate in State Tournament Cheer events for two distinct reasons:

1. Cheer is not treated the same as other athletic events.
 - a. There is not a league to participate in.
 - b. The participants do not qualify for title 9 record keeping.
 - c. Participation at State meets do not require a qualification system other than membership and a tournament fee.
 - d. There is not a district tournament to participate in.
2. Malinda faced poor treatment at Willamette High School in the cheer program.
 - a. The Head Girls soccer coach humiliated her for being a cheerleader.
 - b. Practices for cheer were held off campus and/or in upper gyms.
 - c. The cheer program was not inclusive in pep rally's, and/or half-time events to develop school spirit. (They became a competition program.)

Barry Bokn, Willamette Athletic director has given a statement of support for the transfer and participation in Cheer at Churchill High School.


Lastly, Cheer is one of those activities in which we offer at Schools for students to participate in without much guidance. We do not provide a league of competition, a district tournament, or schedule a competition plan for them. Yet, under the OSAA guidelines, they must qualify exactly the same as all other student athletes....and band, speech, choir, solo music, and dance participants.

In 10 years as an Athletic Director, I have never seen a hardship request for a Cheerleader, Dance participant, band, speech, or choir....but have been involved in 100's of athletic hardship requests. Is this a special case, once in ten years? Or, is this an example of a school following the rules to the detriment of the student that wants to participate under the strict OSAA guidelines.

Malinda Painter is a very serious cheerleader that has aspirations to cheer in college. She was not treated well at Willamette as a cheerleader. She transferred to Churchill, in the hopes that she would have a better experience. Currently, she is thriving in school and in cheer.

We ask that you approve Malinda's hardship request to participate in cheer at the State level representing Churchill High School.

Sincerely,



Kelly Bokn