

PORT ORFORD**LANGLOIS 2CJ**
SCHOOL DISTRICT**PORT ORFORD-LANGLOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 2CJ**

Christine Nichols, Superintendent

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November 20, 2015

Tom Welter
Executive Director
OSAA

RE: Austin Brown

Dear Mr. Welter,

I am writing in support of Austin Brown. We are submitting a hardship request on his behalf and believe that his circumstances qualify for your consideration. We are requesting that you grant Austin one year of eligibility to play basketball for Pacific High School, in spite of the fact that he received his Modified Diploma in June 2015.

Austin is eligible for service until age 21. He is five feet five inches tall, and weighs approximately 130 pounds. He has Down's syndrome and has hearing impairment. When Austin was on our high school team in past seasons, he served as the glue that kept the team together. He averaged about two minutes of play per game in the last four minutes of the game. Austin's skill at sinking shots and ability to unify the team were an inspirational highlight of many games.

Austin lives for basketball. Students such as Austin are the reason exceptions and hardship requests are made. To have not allowed him to be with peers at graduation just so he could play basketball would have been morally and ethically wrong.

To prevent him from playing this season would fly in the face of what is right for kids.

He did not choose his fate, nor could he have. He is a good student and an excellent citizen in our school. He is a dedicated Pacific Pirate and would be an excellent ambassador for students with disabilities and athletes that play for the love of game.

Sincerely,

Christine Nichols, M. Ed.
Superintendent