

Hello, my name is Brianna Jones. I am a high school senior at Neah-Kah-Nie High School. I am making a statement of why I should be able to participate in athletic activities. Currently, I am living with my 83 year-old grandma in Nehalem. My parents and I made the decision for me to move in with her because she currently isn't in great shape. She is losing vision in her eyes, can't do everyday tasks that most can, many medical issues, and is unable to drive at night. My parents would have moved down here to help her out, but they have their own jobs at Dallas, Oregon. I also moved away because I also had issues at my old school. I suffer from severe anxiety and being at a larger school didn't help. I was a victim of bullying on multiple occasions. This created medical issues on my part and took a toll on my well-being. I'd have anxiety attacks before, during, and after school. There were multiple times I just wanted to end my life. Since moving here, I have been in a much better place and don't encounter as many anxiety attacks as I did before. Doing fall cheer has been such a great experience and helped me overcome a lot of health issues. Being able to do winter competition would continue with the positive progress I have made with myself. I'd find it rather unfair to have an activity that has made positive progress on my struggles and will continue to make more progress to be taken away from me. Yes, the rule states that I am eligible to practice with my team. However, with competition cheer, I can't participate in practice when the focus of practice is the routine that's being competed with. If I can't be in the competitive routine, I can't practice. So, I beg that you not take away something that has brought me positivity in my life. Thank you for taking the time to read what I have to say and I hope you take what I've said into consideration while making your decision.