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**To:** <[elanafedor@hotmail.com](mailto:elanafedor@hotmail.com)>;  
**Subject:** Sam Malik Eligibility  
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To whom it may concern:

My name is John Devorss and I'm the tennis director at the Salem Tennis & Swim Club. I oversee and teach the junior development program at STSC. I am also very familiar with the local high school tennis teams and the players participating on those teams.

In regards to Sam Malik and whether he should be allowed to participate in High School tennis, I believe he should be given that opportunity. I have had the chance to teach and observe Sam a handful of times in a tennis environment. He is a very respectful and nice young man who gets along with his peers. He is a hard worker and wants to do what is right. I believe he would be a very good team mate and addition to any high school team. As far as rating where he would fit on a high school team such as South Salem there are a few factors to consider. Sam has not played competitive tennis in over two years. He has had two knee surgeries in 2009, as well as broke his foot back in 2012. I have witnessed Sam play against several varsity high school level players and while he is competitive with them I would not say he is the best one. He lacks consistency necessary to beat the best players in the class and the league. He uses an outdated grip on his forehand side which will give him problems against better players in the league. Another area where he needs improvement is in his serve. It lacks the consistency to be effective against the strongest players in the league. I would place him in our top 8 players in our junior development program however. A great attribute of his is that he is a very competitive and hardworking player and that will serve him well. I believe at a school like South Salem, Sam would most likely be one of the schools better players but not their best. While Sam is a good player, I do not believe he would give any one school a distinct competitive advantage over the other just because he is on the team.

Sincerely,

John Devorss  
Tennis Director at STSC  
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