

## Letter of Explanation – Student

[Handwrite or attach separate page(s).]

Date:

To: OSAA/District Committee

From:

Kendra Smith

Please Print – Student

Kendra Smith

Signature

The following questions need to be answered to the satisfaction of the principal, athletic director, and the OSAA or district committee. Explain thoroughly.

1. How is it that the student finds themselves in this situation?
2. Why should an exception be made to the eligibility rules in this case?

# Student letter

The semester of school was very rough for me for many reasons including having surgery below my tail bone and switching between five different schools. I had surgery on my back because on October 28<sup>th</sup>, last year, I had some pain in my lower back and felt a bump. It was getting difficult for me to walk and sit comfortably. That night I didn't sleep very well because of the pain and decided to go to the doctors. At first they didn't know what it could be, but they took a closer look and found a pilonidal cyst, which is an abnormal skin growth located at the tailbone that contains hair and skin. They gave me antibiotics and some pain medicine to take in hopes it would take care of the problem. I ended up being allergic to those antibiotics and threw them up, so the next day I was back at the doctors. They put me on a new antibiotic and that night I had broken out into a horrible rash that spread throughout my entire body. So the next morning, on Halloween, I went to the emergency room because the pain was too much and got my cyst drained. They had given me two more antibiotics, one for my cyst and one because I had Mrsa when I was little, and scheduled my consultation to meet with Dr. Bascom, my surgeon. I had my consult and they scheduled my surgery for the week of thanksgiving, and so I had my surgery. I had gotten so far behind in school at that point that I had talked to my counselor about school and he gave me the option to put N/A on my transcript for that semester but I had asked about online schooling, and so he got me in contact with the principle for online school. It took about a 3 weeks for me to get set up, and I had a hard time catching up. I ended up not being able to do it and the staff at South Salem High School had advised me to wait until second semester to start back at school and my parents agreed. They put N/A on all my classes so I could start fresh. I am still able to graduate on time without having to take any extra classes, and I am going too. I know not getting credits looks bad on my part but this was really out of my control.

I move around a lot this last semester because I was having issues at home and was in the process of emancipation, so I was living with my lawyer in West Salem and going to West Salem High school, but I moved to Springfield to be with my grandparents and my three siblings there. My dad wanted me to move back in with him so I decided to after Christmas and so I did and that's when I started at South again. I've always been good in school I just had to many factors play into it this last semester. I

really do want to play sports this year and I am a junior so I only have two more years to go, I really hope you consider letting me play, thank you.