

May 31, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We are seeking a fifth year of eligibility for our daughter, Riley Johnson. Riley sustained a significant head injury on January 9, 2015, when a bar with 40 pounds hit her in the back of the head during a weight lifting class. As a result, Riley was either not enrolled, or was under enrolled (enrolled in 1 academic class for socialization for one term) for three consecutive terms. Riley continues to be under the care of Doctors Schumann, Koester, and Frank for this injury. While they believe she will make a complete recovery, a timeline for this is still illusive. They have stated that they will continue to monitor her progress until she is symptom free. She was cleared to participate in Sports in December of 2015.

During her year away from school, Riley experienced significant physical and emotional symptoms. She was initially unable to walk, talk, or read without pain and discomfort. She has worked with a Neurologist, Sports Medicine Doctor, and a Psychiatrist on her recovery. She has engaged in Vestibular Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Cognitive Therapy. She experienced a loss of approximately 20 pounds and spent months working to recover her muscle mass and coordination. She often had 2-3 appointments per week, which consumed all of her physical and mental strength. During one term, Riley attended one class per day, with the singular goal of getting her out of the house for at least one hour per day.

In December of 2015, Riley returned to school. She is now able to participate in two academic and two non-academic classes when given appropriate 504 accommodations related to her Traumatic Brain Injury. As a result, she has not yet met essential requirements for graduation. Riley has coursework, assessments, and projects she needs to complete before she is eligible for graduation. We anticipate needing a full fifth year of high school to meet the requirements. She is still hindered by her need to take frequent breaks and an inability to read for more than 60 minutes without triggering a headache. This limits her course load. However, she should only require the time she lost to her recovery, three terms, to graduate.

Sports have been an essential part of her recovery. Riley is an extremely competitive downhill skier and also would like to compete in both Track and Cross Country next year if possible.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and are happy to answer any questions you may have related to her accident or recovery.

Sincerely,
Joyce & Jeffry Johnson