



IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DISTRICT COURT
FILED

AUG 30 2024

DON NEWBERRY, Court Clerk
STATE OF OKLA. TULSA COUNTY

KAYLEB BARNETT,

Plaintiff,

v.

OKLAHOMA SECONDARY SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION d/b/a
OSSAA,

Defendant.

CV-2024-01982

Case No.

Judge: **William D. LaFortune**

VERIFIED PETITION

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, Kayleb Barnett (“Barnett”), by and through his attorney of record, Tadd J.P. Bogan of the law firm of Jones, Gotcher & Bogan, P.C., and for his causes of action against Defendant, Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association a/k/a OSSAA (“OSSAA”), alleges and states as follows:

JURISDICTION & VENUE

1. Barnett is an individual who resides in Tulsa County, State of Oklahoma, and is a student-athlete at Jenks High School in Jenks, Oklahoma.
2. OSSAA is an Oklahoma not for profit corporation which regulates secondary school athletics throughout the State of Oklahoma, with its principal place of business in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
3. The claims asserted herein arise from actions alleged to have occurred in Tulsa County, State of Oklahoma, and Barnett’s eligibility to participate in athletics at Jenks High School in Tulsa County, State of Oklahoma.
4. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof, and is an appropriate venue for this action.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Barnett hereby realleges and incorporates herein the allegations contained in paragraph numbers one (1) through four (4) above.

6. Barnett enrolled in, and attended, high school at Jenks High School beginning on May 13, 2024, and is currently a senior at Jenks High School.

7. Prior to enrolling at Jenks High School, Barnett was a student at Broken Arrow High School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

8. Barnett was a student-athlete at Broken Arrow High School participating in both football and track.

9. Barnett's parents were never married, and prior to May of 2024, Barnett resided primarily with his mother in Broken Arrow, and generally had overnight visits with his father on weekends.

10. Barnett's parents had long planned for Barnett to live with his father during his senior year of high school and thought that doing so would be in Barnett's best interest.

11. In or around November of 2023, Barnett's father moved into a home in the Jenks school district.

12. In May of 2023, Barnett, a minor at the time, accepted his parents' decision about with whom he would reside, and moved in with his father in the Jenks school district.

13. As a result of his father's residence being in the Jenks school district, Barnett would go on to attend Jenks High School for his senior year.

14. Barnett is a good student with above average grades, and is also a gifted athlete.

15. The OSSAA is an organization which governs, among other things, student eligibility to participate in athletics for its nearly 500 member public schools in Oklahoma, including Jenks and Broken Arrow high schools.

16. In order to participate in athletics at Jenks High School, or any other public secondary school that Barnett is qualified to attend, Barnett was required by the OSSAA to submit a *Request for Exception to Eligibility Rules (Hardship Waiver Request)* ("Hardship Waiver").

17. Without being granted a Hardship Waiver, Barnett is prohibited by the OSSAA from engaging in any school sponsored athletics for twelve (12) months, meaning he would not be eligible to play football or run track at Jenks High School during his senior year.

18. Barnett is currently being considered for athletic scholarships to play football in college, is a state champion runner in track, and will be irreparably harmed if he is not permitted to participate in athletics at Jenks High School.

19. Following Barnett's enrollment at Jenks, Barnett and his father were subjected to three (3) at-home visits, two scheduled and one unscheduled, to verify his residency in the Jenks school district, which was thereafter duly confirmed.

20. On July 31, 2024, Barnett submitted his Hardship Waiver request to the OSSAA, which included the reasons for his request, namely that he now lives with his father in the Jenks school district.

21. The first football game of the season for Jenks High School is Friday, August 30, 2024, the date of the filing of this *Verified Petition*.

22. Without receiving approval of his Hardship Waiver, Barnett would be ineligible to play football for Jenks High School.

23. On August 20, 2024, the OSSA mailed a letter to Jenks Athletic Director, Clay Martin, stating in pertinent part, [t]he documentation submitted for Kayleb Barnett **indicates** there has been a violation of Rule 9. The student should not be permitted to participate at any level at Jenks High School.” *See* letter attached hereto as Exhibit “1”, emphasis added.

24. The aforementioned letter was provided to Barnett by Jenks High School on August 28, 2024.

25. OSSAA Rule 9 prohibits **schools** from “recruiting” student athletes “...based on that student’s **skill, reputation, or experience in athletics.**” *See* OSSAA Rule 9, § 1, attached hereto as Exhibit “2” emphasis added.

26. Recruiting is defined by the OSSAA as, “initiating or maintaining contact with a student-athlete, or the student-athlete’s family members, friends, or associates, in circumstances that could influence that student-athlete to select or transfer to a member school **for the purpose of representing that member school in athletic competition.** Offering economic incentives or rewards of any type to a student-athlete, which are not available to all prospective students on an equal basis, regardless of participation in athletics, or offering such economic incentives or rewards to the student-athlete’s family members, friends, or associations, for the purpose of encouraging that student-athlete to select, transfer to, or remain at a member school...” *See Id.* at § 2, emphasis added.

27. There is zero evidence that Jenks High School, or anyone acting on behalf of Jenks High School, recruited Barnett to play football or run track at Jenks.

28. Neither Barnett nor anyone he knows received any kind of economic incentive or reward, promise, special treatment, or special instruction as a result of his living with his father and playing football at Jenks.

29. It is clearly unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for the OSSAA to base such a weighty decision on documents merely “indicating” (to the Assistant Director of the OSSAA) that a violation of Rule 9 had occurred.

30. The documents relied upon by the OSSAA to deny Barnett’s eligibility are: (1) complaints by the Broken Arrow Athletic Director that the father of a Jenks student, who coached Barnett in 7-on-7 offseason football, posted a photo of his son and Barnett, and that Barnett’s friend commented, “scary duo next season [with eyeball emojis]; (2) during a livestream of a Jenks vs. Broken Arrow basketball game, a Jenks student broadcaster said that Barnett “was probably coming to Jenks this year as well”; and (3) in a television interview, Barnett’s same 17-year old friend said, “since day one, since the first day they came in, it’s been a relationship. I played with Kayleb Barnett at BA my freshman year. We were really close then. I’ve been trying to get him to, you know, come join us, because, you know, that’s my brother...”

31. It is not a violation of Rule 9 for Barnett’s friends to know that he would be living with his father his senior year of high school and playing sports at Jenks as a result.

32. It is not a violation of Rule 9 for a student-athlete’s friend to want to play with him.

33. There is no evidence that Barnett’s parents made the decision for Barnett to live with his father based upon his 17-year-old friend wanting “[Barnett] to come join [him at Jenks]”, because the two of them are “brothers”, and it is absurd to think that parents would change which parent a child lives with based upon his friend wanting to play sports with him.

34. None of the documents relied upon by the OSSAA support a finding that Barnett was recruited by Jenks High School, or anyone acting on its behalf, based upon his skill, reputation, or experience in athletics. Rather, the documents demonstrate that a young man was moving to

live with his father, would be attending a new school as a result of his move, and that his friends at his new school were excited that he would be going to school and playing with them.

35. By declaring Barnett ineligible, the OSSAA is punishing Barnett and causing him irreparable harm, and is not punishing the school or the people who allegedly recruited Barnett.

36. It is unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious to deny Barnett's eligibility to play sports at Jenks High School when dozens of students have transferred schools under much more suspicious circumstances and were granted waivers to play sports. Especially when the denial of eligibility is based upon words and actions of third parties over whom Barnett and his family have no control.

37. Neither Barnett nor his parents received in kind of compensation, incentive, or reward in exchange Barnett living with his father and playing sports at Jenks.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

38. Barnett hereby realleges and incorporates herein the allegations contained in paragraph numbers one (1) through thirty-seven (37) above.

39. A bona fide controversy exists between Barnett and the OSSAA regarding the validity of the OSSAA's determination that Barnett is ineligible to participate in sports and Jenks High School.

40. Declaratory judgment as to the validity and enforceability of the OSSAA's ruling would serve a useful and important purpose, and settle legal issues between them.

41. Declaratory judgment hereon would resolve the controversy between Barnett and OSSAA, and offer Barnett relief from the uncertainty surrounding his participation in high school athletics at Jenks High School.

42. Based upon the foregoing, Barnett requests the Court enter declaratory judgment holding that: (1) the OSSAA's decision to deny his request for a Hardship Waiver was unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious; (2) it is unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for the OSSAA to punish Barnett for allegations of recruitment when there is no evidence that the alleged recruitment influenced Barnett's family's decision regarding where he would live his final year of high school; and (3) that Barnett is eligible to participate in secondary school activities, including football and track, as long as he otherwise remains eligible to participate.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

43. Barnett hereby realleges and incorporates herein the allegations contained in paragraph numbers one through forty-two (42) above.

44. As stated above, Barnett is a gifted student and athlete who is being considered for the opportunity to play football in college. As a result, every game this season is critical to Barnett's education and future.

45. Barnett will suffer irreparable harm that money damages cannot adequately compensate if he is not permitted to participate in athletics at Jenks High School.

46. There is a substantial likelihood that Barnett will ultimately prevail on the merits of his claim for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief.

47. The OSSAA has a long history of making unreasonably, arbitrary, and capricious decisions affecting high school students' participation in athletics, which is a matter of public import and concern.

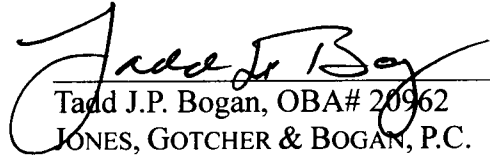
48. Barnett and Jenks High School have requested review of the OSSAA's decision, but they will not be granted a review by the OSSAA until September 18, 2024. This will result in Barnett missing three (3) of Jenks High School's ten (10) regular season varsity football games.

49. Barnett will miss games against Edmond Sante Fe, Owasso, and Union, if he is required to wait for the OSSAA to rubber stamp the decision by its Assistant Director, Mike Clark.

50. As a result of the OSSAA's wrongful conduct and unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious decision, and pursuant to Okla. Stat. tit. 12, § 1381 *et seq.*, Barnett is entitled to a temporary restraining order, a temporary injunction, and a permanent injunction against the OSSAA, restraining the OSSAA from declaring Barnett ineligible from participating in athletics for Jenks High School based upon OSSAA Rule 9.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Plaintiff Kayleb Barnett prays the Court enter judgment in his favor and against Defendant OSSAA, declaring (1) the OSSAA's decision to deny his request for a Hardship Waiver was unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious; (2) it is unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for the OSSAA to punish Barnett for allegations of recruitment when there is no evidence that the alleged recruitment influenced Barnett's family's decision regarding where he would live his final year of high school; and (3) that Barnett is eligible to participate in secondary school activities, including football and track, as long as he otherwise remains eligible to participate; and further entering a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, and permanent injunction prohibiting the OSSAA from prohibiting Barnett from participating in athletics for Jenks High School based upon OSSAA Rule 9, and any and all other such relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd J.P. Bogan", is written over a horizontal line.

Todd J.P. Bogan, OBA# 20962

JONES, GOTCHER & BOGAN, P.C.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff, Kayleb Barnett

VERIFICATION

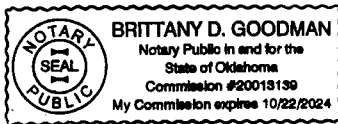
STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
)
COUNTY OF TULSA) ss.

Kayleb Barnett, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, upon oath states that I have read the foregoing document, that I am familiar with the matters set forth therein, and that the same are true to the best of my information and belief.



Kayleb Barnett

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of August, 2024.





Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/22/2024

My Commission No.: 20013139

10. Where is a student eligible after establishing eligibility in grades 9-12 when the parents separate and he/she moves with one of the parents from District A to District B?
Answer: The student is only eligible in the district he/she currently attends at the time of the separation. (Rule 8-5)
11. A family lives in District A and later moves to District B without giving up ownership of their home in District A. What is the eligibility status of the student?
Answer: Not eligible. Eligibility cannot be gained where dual residency is maintained unless and until the proper paperwork is on file and approved by the OSSAA. (Rule 8-6-e.8)
12. A student who has been ruled ineligible at a school outside the state of Oklahoma and then makes a bona fide move to a member school in Oklahoma. Is the student eligible to participate at the new school?
Answer: No. When an ineligible student moves from another state, they must satisfy the requirements of the eligibility from the state they are leaving before gaining eligibility. (Rule 8-6-c)
13. If a student is eligible for sub-varsity participation only, is that student allowed to participate as JV player in a varsity tournament?
Answer: No. Sub-varsity limits that individual to playing in sub-varsity level events and/or tournaments.
14. A student's family resides in District A and later moves to District B, but allows a family member to use the original residence in district A. What is the eligibility status of the student?
Answer: Not eligible. To establish a bona fide move for the purpose of gaining and maintaining athletic eligibility, the original residence must not be in use by a family member. (Rule 8-6-e.8)
15. A student's family resides in District A and later moves to District B, and is in compliance with Rule 8-6-e.8 except that the receiving school fails to obtain a Residence Affirmation Form. What is the eligibility status of the student?
Answer: Not eligible. Eligibility after a bona fide move cannot be gained unless and until the Residence Affirmation Form is on file and approved by the OSSAA. (Rule 8-6-e.8)
16. Is a student eligible at the sub-varsity level if the student and the student's family are not in compliance with the dual residence requirements?
Answer: Yes. When a student's family is not in compliance with the dual residence requirements, the student may participate at a sub-varsity level until the family comes in compliance. Subsequently, if the family moves back to the former residence, the student must participate at a sub-varsity level for a period of one year. (Rule 8-6-7)
17. A family resides in district A and later moves to District B, but does not sell or lease the original residence, and leaves personal property at the original residence. What is the eligibility status of the student?
Answer: Not eligible at the varsity level. The family's personal property must be moved out of the original residence. (Rule 8-6-e.8)
18. If a student transfers to a new school during his or her 8th grade year, is that student eligible for varsity level participation at the beginning of their 9th grade year?
Answer: Yes. For grades nine through twelve, a student establishes eligibility at a school when the student first participates in interscholastic athletics at the ninth grade level or above. (Rule 8-3)
19. When a student transfers schools during the course of the school year and is granted a hardship waiver to participate, is participation in regular season contests permitted against the former school?
Answer: No, a student approved on a hardship waiver request is not eligible to participate in regular season contests against the former school during the school year in which the request was granted. The student is permitted to participate in any post-season play.
20. Is a student permitted to participate in more than one season of any activity during a school year?
Answer: No, a student is only permitted to participate in one season of an activity within the same school year.
EXCEPTION: Fall baseball.

RULE 9 - PROHIBITION ON RECRUITING OR INFLUENCING FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

Section 1. Statement of purpose.

OSSAA recognizes that permitting member schools to recruit students as athletes would place undue emphasis on secondary school athletic activities, and might cause competitive imbalances among member schools, misdirection of



scarce educational resources, and threats to the continued amateur standing of students. Accordingly, no member school is permitted to recruit a student to select or transfer to that school, or to encourage or allow others to do so on its behalf, based on that student's skill, reputation, or experience in athletics.

Section 2. **Recruiting defined.**

Recruiting includes initiating or maintaining contact with a student-athlete, or the student-athlete's family members, friends, or associates, in circumstances that could influence that student-athlete to select or transfer to a member school for the purpose of representing that member school in athletic competition. Offering economic incentives or rewards of any type to a student-athlete, which are not available to all prospective students on an equal basis, regardless of participation in athletics, or offering such economic incentives or rewards to the student-athlete's family members, friends, or associates, for the purpose of encouraging that student-athlete to select, transfer to, or remain at a member school, also constitutes recruiting in violation of this Rule. Recruiting may also include offering or providing special or additional coaching or instruction that is not offered or made available to other student-athletes at the school on an equal basis, or providing special attention or consideration to a student-athlete who is considering transferring, for the purpose of influencing that student-athlete to remain at the school.

Section 3. **Information that may be supplied by a school to prospective student-athletes.**

A member school may supply any prospective student, or a family member, friend, or associate of a prospective student, who contacts the school about entering or transferring to the school with information summarizing the school's academic and extracurricular programs. The information distributed or made available to any prospective student-athlete must be prepared for and be made available to all prospective students, regardless of whether a student is a prospective participant in athletics. Information about specific athletic programs may be included, but if such information is included, then all athletic programs must be described and comparable information must be included about each program. A member school may further supply information to a prospective student-athlete concerning the events schedule, practice location, days, and times, and type of equipment, clothing or other materials, if any, required to be used or supplied by the participating student, provided that the information is of the same type which would be supplied to all participating students.

Section 4. **Limited interaction permitted between employees and representatives of school and student-athletes at other schools.**

Interaction between employees or representatives of a member school and student-athletes from other schools is permitted in connection with events such as summer instructional camps, non-school summer leagues, or awards ceremonies, except that school employees or representatives are prohibited at all times from making any statements or engaging in any acts, even if not intended to be taken seriously, that could be interpreted as encouraging a prospective student-athlete to enroll at or transfer to a member school.

Section 5. **Employees or representatives of school defined.**

Employees or representatives of a school include administrators, teachers, coaches, assistants, sponsors, aides, managers, and trainers employed by the school, as well as other student-athletes presently enrolled or planning to enroll at the school, family members of those student-athletes, alumni, volunteers, and members of organizations supporting the school's athletic activities.

Section 6. **Handling contact by or with prospective student-athletes.**

If contact is initiated with a member school's employee or representative by a prospective student-athlete, or by a family member, friend, or associate of a student-athlete, about that student-athlete enrolling in or transferring to that member school, the school employee or representative contacted shall direct that person to the school superintendent or to the principal or administrative head of the school for any additional information. The school employee or representative shall not discuss further the subject of enrolling at or transferring to the school, or otherwise use any language or engage in any act that could be construed as encouraging the student-athlete to enroll at or transfer to the school. Any contact with a student-athlete from another school about that student-athlete enrolling or transferring to a member school for athletic purposes shall be reported as soon as possible to the OSSAA by that member school.

Section 7. **Acknowledgment and notice of Rule.**

- a. Each coach or volunteer providing instruction, assistance, or supervision in an athletic activity for a member school must sign a written certification that the coach or volunteer is familiar with this Rule.
- b. The head coach in each athletic activity for each member school additionally must sign a written certification that students participating in that activity have been informed about this Rule, that the school may be sanctioned for violations of this Rule, and that student-athletes may be subject to sanction, including the loss of eligibility, if they have enrolled at or transferred to a school that has engaged in recruiting, or allowed its employees or

representatives to recruit in violation of this Rule, or if they participate in recruiting other student-athletes to enroll in or transfer to the school.

- c. All officers, administrators, supervisors, and sponsors of any club or organization supporting any athletic activity at a member school must sign a written certification that they are familiar with this Rule, and that the members of the club or organization have been informed about this Rule.
- d. These required certifications must be signed each school year before participation begins in that activity for that year, and the signed certifications must be maintained by the school and available for review by OSSAA.
- e. Each member school must make adequate additional efforts each school year to inform all employees and other representatives of the school about this Rule. The superintendent, principal or administrative head of school must maintain a written summary of these efforts, and this written summary must be maintained by the school and available for review by OSSAA.
- f. OSSAA will make forms available for signed certifications or summaries as required under this Section.

Section 8. Prohibition against preferential treatment for athletes in admissions, tuition payment, and financial aid.

- a. OSSAA recognizes that preferential treatment on admission or tuition may influence a student-athlete to enroll or remain at a school that is selective in admissions or which requires payment of tuition. Any such preferential treatment may also be deemed to constitute recruiting in violation of this Rule.
- b. No member school that is selective in admissions, or which requires payment of tuition, or which offers any form of financial aid toward payment of tuition and/or fees, may offer or allow for preferential treatment to a student or a student's family on the basis of athletic ability. Financial aid based on merit or achievement is not prohibited provided that the award of such aid is consistent with previously established criteria unrelated to athletic ability. Financial aid includes, but is not limited to:
 - (1) direct monetary aid, grants, or loans, from either the school or other source associated with the school;
 - (2) tuition or fee remission;
 - (3) deferred tuition or fee payment terms;
 - (4) income or credit for work performed, either by the student-athlete or a member of the student-athlete's family, for the school or for a person or entity associated with the school.
- c. Any member school that is selective in admissions, and/or which requires payment of tuition, and/or which offers any form of financial aid toward payment of tuition and/or fees, must maintain written documentation describing its policies concerning these subjects. If the school provides or allows for financial aid on any basis other than demonstrated financial need, then provisions must be included in the school's policies to insure that financial aid is not provided or allowed to a student on the basis of athletic ability.
- d. By August 1 of each year, the member school must file a copy of its current policies with the OSSAA, or certify that such policies are unchanged from what is currently on file with the OSSAA. The school also must identify, in writing, those individuals and/or organizations involved in determining or evaluating applications for admission or financial aid, and describe the role or responsibility of that individual or organization. The school must notify the OSSAA about any changes in the policies, or in the listing of individuals or organizations, or in the role or responsibility of any individual or organization, during the school year.
- e. Any of the following may constitute a violation of this Rule which would subject a school to potential sanction:
 - (1) Offering or providing admission, financial aid, or tuition payment terms for a student-athlete in circumstances inconsistent with the school's written policies on file with OSSAA;
 - (2) Offering or providing need-based financial aid to a student-athlete in excess of demonstrated financial need;
 - (3) Offering or allowing more favorable tuition payment terms for a student-athlete than are allowed to similarly situated students;
 - (4) Accepting tuition payments for a student-athlete from a source outside the student's immediate family or a recognized financial aid source;
 - (5) Providing a disproportionate amount of financial aid to student-athletes as compared to other students.
- f. Upon request the school must make its records concerning the admission of, payment of tuition for, and/or financial aid provided to particular students available for inspection and review. OSSAA will maintain such records as confidential consistent with applicable law, and information obtained from those records will be used only for the purpose of determining whether any rule violations have occurred.
- g. The principal or head of school is responsible for submitting copies of policies and certifications as required under this section.

Section 9. Violation of Rule

- a. A school will be in violation of this Rule and subject to sanction if the school encourages or permits school employees or representatives to recruit student-athletes to enroll at or transfer to that school. Permitting a student-athlete who has been recruited to enroll at or transfer to the school to represent that school in an event

shall also be considered a violation of this Rule which would subject the school to potential sanction. A failure to obtain, maintain, submit, or make available the written policies, certifications and summaries required under this Rule also violates this Rule and will subject the school to potential sanction.

- b. If a school receives information indicating that a student-athlete is being recruited, or was or may have been recruited, to enroll at or transfer to that school, then the school shall provide a written report to the Executive Director as soon as possible, identifying the student-athlete and those persons who are, were, or may have been involved in recruiting that student-athlete.
- c. The fact that a school reported a known or suspected violation of the recruiting rule involving a student-athlete at that school may be considered by the Association, if a violation is determined to have occurred, in evaluating what sanction may be imposed on the school.
- d. A student-athlete may be subject to sanction, including the loss of eligibility, if the student enrolls at or transfers to a school that has sought to recruit, or allowed its employees or representatives to recruit, that student in violation of this Rule, or if the student or the student's family participates in recruiting other student-athletes to enroll in or transfer to the school in which that student is presently enrolled or planning to enroll.

RULE 10 - PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

- Section 1. An Student Record Form (or "New Student" form), as provided by OSSAA, shall be completed for each new student at a member school who is expecting to participate in athletic competition. The forms, together with other information and documentation provided or gathered in completing the form, shall be used by the member school to evaluate and determine whether the student is eligible for athletic competition. A student should not be permitted to participate unless and until the school is certain that the student is eligible to participate. If the school is not certain the student is eligible, the school may consult with the Executive Director or OSSAA staff and ask for assistance in determining the student's eligibility.
- Section 2. Each member school shall keep as a part of its permanent records, subject to inspection, by the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee, a copy of the eligibility records of individual athletic participants.
- Section 3. Each member school principal shall, when requested, furnish to the Board of Directors or the Executive Director such information as may be desired bearing upon the eligibility of individual student participants from his/her school. A failure to comply within a reasonable time may forfeit a school's membership in the Association of result in other sanctions.
- Section 4. Principals will be expected to determine the eligibility of all students who represent their schools in non-athletic activities according to these rules but will not be required to certify the identity and eligibility status of such students to the Association office unless requested.
- Section 5. A representative of a school who has knowledge of rule violation or questions the eligibility of a student of another school, both schools being members of the Association, and who does not give such information or raise the question of eligibility with a representative of the offending school, the Executive Director, or the Board of Directors, before further participation of the student, shall cause his school to be subject to penalty if proved the information was knowingly withheld to gain an advantage.

RULE 11 – COOPERATIVE SELECTION FOR OFFICIALS BETWEEN SCHOOLS

The hiring and payment of contest officials for varsity regular season games and designated playoff games shall be done by the host school. The host school should work with the visiting school(s) to try to avoid any possible conflicts. Schools must work cooperatively to secure officials for contests in all activities.

The list of eligible officials in each sport shall be utilized in the hiring of officials to work interscholastic contests. If a commissioner or assignor is used, that person shall utilize the list of eligible officials. The list can be found on each activity page on the OSSAA.com website.

RULE 12 – PARTICIPATION AGAINST NON-MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Section 1. A member of this Association shall be allowed to compete with secondary-level schools outside the Association, and with organized teams consisting of secondary-level students, as provided for in Article VI of the Constitution. Before scheduling any contest or event with a school or team outside the Association, the member school must verify that competing with that school is consistent with Article VI of the Constitution. Members of the Association cannot compete at any time or under any conditions with schools or teams which have been suspended or expelled from their respective associations or which do not apply participation, amateur standing, and eligibility rules and limits