



Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Ms. Rhonda Corr, Superintendent
Dayton Public School District
Via E-Mail: racorr@dps.k12.oh.us

Re: Administrative Responsibility and Institutional Control — Bylaw 3- Dayton Public School District

Dear Superintendent Corr:

I want to thank you for the participation of the Dayton Public Schools' and Dunbar High School's administrative and coaching staff members in our resolution conference which took place at the OHSAA Office on February 27, 2017. This conference pertained to the actions that occurred on October 28, 2016, during the final game of the regular football season. The contest in question took place at Welcome Stadium between two Dayton Public School District opponents, Dunbar High School and Belmont High School.

While there does exist some conflict between the reported "facts" of what transpired that evening, what is not in dispute are the following facts:

1. During half-time of this game, a meeting took place in the offices of District Athletic Director Mark Baker; and
2. Participants in this meeting included Mr. Baker, Head Football Coach Darran Powell, Assistant Football Coach Alfred Powell and Dunbar Athletic Director Pete Pullen; and
3. Upon resumption of play for the second half of the football game in question, during Dunbar's first offensive possession the contest officials noticed that the Dunbar players seemed to be trying to "throw the game" to the extent that the officials called timeout, summoned the coaches to mid-field and directed the coaches to instruct their players to play the contest or risk further ramifications.

No one from the Commissioner's Office was present during this game and particularly during this halftime meeting in Mr. Baker's office. What was reported to the Commissioner's Office is that during this meeting it was "suggested" that if Dunbar were to lose this game, there could be a more positive outcome for the District. The "positive outcome" would have been either (1) two DPS teams would make the playoffs – a statement attributed to Mr. Baker in an earlier context as well – and/or (2) that in losing this game, DPS would not have to report its "forfeiture" for use of an ineligible player, thus sweeping the infraction under the rug.

The Commissioner's Office considers such activity to be in total opposition to the integrity of education-based athletics and is representative of a serious lack of administrative responsibility and institutional control. The Constitution and the member schools themselves have charged us with fact-finding in all matters such as this instant case. We are convinced that no coach in any sport would jeopardize the outcome of a contest in such a manner without some encouragement, suggestion or direction from administrators or others in the district.

FINDINGS

The administration of the Dayton Public School District not only failed in discharging its administrative duties as evidenced by the facts in this case, but also the mere suggestion of "throwing a game" undermines the very core of education-based athletics and compromises the values and life lessons we expect our students to learn via their participation in interscholastic sports programs in Ohio schools.

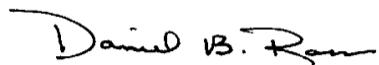
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PENALTIES

1. The member high schools within the Dayton Public School District are placed on probation for three years through the 2019-2020 school year.
2. This probation means that any further activity of this nature or any other violation of Bylaw 3 will place the District's high schools' membership in jeopardy. Should there be no violations of Bylaw 3 during the first two years of the probationary period, the District may petition the Commissioner's Office to waive the final year of probation.
3. The Dayton Public School District is fined \$10,000, \$2,500 of which is to be refunded at the end of the probationary period provided there are no further violation. This fine is due to the office no later than May 30, 2017.
4. The Dayton Public School District is publicly reprimanded for this lack of administrative responsibility and institutional control over the district's athletic programs.
5. The district-wide administrator for interscholastic athletics, and any other administrators the District deems appropriate, shall be required to meet with the compliance staff in the OHSAA offices to review administrative responsibilities.
6. Any new building level athletic administrator, as well as all building level athletic administrators with less than three years' experience, shall be required to attend the OHSAA New Administrators Workshop beginning in August 2017.

Best wishes for continued success in your work with the Dayton Public School District. As always, please feel free to contact any member of the compliance staff or me if you have questions.

Respectfully,



Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.
Commissioner

April 6, 2017

c. Crystal Phillips, Principal, Dunbar HS, cphillips@dps.k12.oh.us
Lamark Baker, District Athletic Administrator, labaker@dps.k12.oh.us