

Wayne Board of Education
50 Nellis Drive
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

November 9, 2016

Via Fax 609-259-3047 and Regular Mail

Mr. Steven Timko
Executive Director
New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
1161 Route 130
P.O. Box 487
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

RE: Wayne Hills High School football disqualification

Dear Mr. Timko:

On behalf of the Wayne Township Board of Education, we write to urge the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association "NJSIAA" to reconsider its decision that the Wayne Hills High School football team be disqualified from all 2016 tournament playoffs based on the season-long participation of ineligible players.

It is our understanding that the administration reported to you concerns regarding potentially ineligible players. The intention of the administration was to work collaboratively in addressing the concerns, so as not to impact the playoffs. Unfortunately, that is not what occurred. In addition, the harsh penalty does not encourage others in similar situations to self-report concerns.

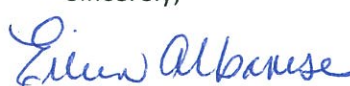
We certainly do not condone any player, coach or staff member who does not follow NJSIAA rules. We intend to have this matter fully investigated, and all responsible parties within the control of this Board will be held accountable. The Board also agrees and is fully supportive of a Corrective Action Plan to ensure that these situations do not occur in the future.

However, we struggle with the decision because it is the eligible players who are the ones being punished for potentially ineligible players. The team has worked and trained tirelessly throughout the season, and to have the playoff game pulled from them just days before, is harsh, unfair and unjust.

We urge you to reconsider your decision, in light of the impact it has on the innocent parties here – the eligible members of the Wayne Hills High School football team.

On behalf of the Wayne Township Board of Education and the students of our Wayne Hills football program, we urge you to reconsider your decision and find a lesser restrictive consequence that does not penalize the innocent student athletics who have worked so hard all season.
Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,


Eileen Albanese
Board President


Donald Pavlak
Vice President