

March 8, 2019

Dr. Bradley Layfield, Chair  
DIAA  
Collette Educational Resource Center  
35 Commerce Way  
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Dr. Layfield:

We write concerning current proposed changes to the coaching out of season regulation. We greatly appreciate the time and attention the Board and its Rules and Regulations Committee has given to this issue to date and understand it requires careful deliberation to ensure DIAA's mission is preserved. We're particularly grateful for the Board's action to commission WestEd to conduct the 2018 DIAA Member School Survey, finalized in January 2019. The results verify the concerns expressed by a majority in the high school sports community – that we need to modernize Delaware's coaching out of season rules.

That said, the recent work of the Rules and Regulations Committee on February 12, 2019 and the DIAA Board on February 14, 2019, goes well beyond the scope of the motion that was passed at the Board's January 17, 2019 meeting. At that January meeting, a motion was passed to "move the survey data from questions 22 and 24 dealing with coaching out of season for non-school sports [during the school/academic year], and coaching out of season considering the restrictions that are currently in place for the summer to Rules and Regulations Committee for modifications to subsection 7.6 where it pertains to those two areas."

The survey did not provide any data to support the unilateral changes regarding elimination of open gyms, conditioning and unfettered access to the student athletes during the school year. The survey did not ask any questions regarding coaching of entire team or any student-athletes by their high school coaches in school-sponsored events during the school/academic year. At present, there has been no comprehensive data to show that the member schools want this.

In addition, while we do not favor private lessons or exclusive team events which allow coaches to be paid, we do favor fair compensation of our high school coaches who choose to coach outside the school setting that has the potential to benefit all student-athletes from a variety of different schools and backgrounds. These non-school teams must be affiliated with the national organization that monitors and regulates the activity. This issue should receive a fresh look and ensure that the ethical issue relating to a school coach providing private lessons to a student athlete is not being confused with that coach providing professional coaching services to a non-school team.

A proposal suggesting these limitations was submitted jointly by us to the Rules and Regulations Committee in July 2018 (at the Committee's request), yet it has not been referenced or utilized. That proposal is enclosed for the Board's reference and reconsideration.

In conclusion, we request that DIAA stay within the parameters voted on at its January Board meeting – a focus on questions 22 and 24 of the survey, with further discussion around question 23. We purport that an incremental approach allows for more oversight and less impact concerning unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Trina Leclerc  
Parent of Former  
DIAA Student Athlete

MaryPat Kwoka  
President, DE Interscholastic Volleyball  
Coaches Association (DIVCA)

Jennifer Mayer  
Athletic Director/Coach

Enclosure

cc: DIAA Board Members  
DIAA Rules & Regulations Committee members  
Tommie Neubauer, Executive Director, DIAA