



Hello Racer Fans,

I want to provide you with an update regarding our appeal to OSSAA's board this morning. In the appeal, I asked for four things:

1. Uphold the rule as it is written and at the very least sanction Guthrie's head coach and the football program for violating rule FB6-B-II.
2. Have an outside reviewer review their handbook and provide clarity to the rules where "intent" is the practice versus what is written on the page.
3. Address the outside coaching question as it needs to be clarified.
4. Develop communication protocols so that both schools/teams are provided communication when a rule violation occurs and hold the leadership of OSSAA accountable for following it.

Their response:

1. I did not have enough evidence to prove he was actually coaching. I presented them with a packet of pictures and text messages that clearly showed otherwise.
2. Since they did not think he was coaching then the rule in question did not apply. They also said the "intent" of FB6-B-II was meant for players only and they had functioned under that "intent" for 29 years. They did agree that rule FB6-B-II did need clarification and would work on that.
3. There was a discussion about other school's coaches on the sidelines. They determined there was not a way to monitor if they were coaching or not.
4. They did agree they needed to do a better job of communicating.

I will still argue that the Deer Creek coach was actually coaching and that rules need to be followed as they are written and not by "intent" however, that is not how the OSSAA board saw it this morning.

I want to thank everyone who has sent me text messages, emails, or have come by my office to show support during this appeal. I truly appreciate all of you. I will always advocate for our students, teachers, coaches, and community. I am very proud to serve as your superintendent and to be a Racer!

Racer Proud,
Dr. Cathy Walker