

BUENA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Honoring Tradition. Inspiring Futures.

DAVID C. CAPPUCCIO, JR.

Superintendent

Courtney McNeely
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Pasquale Yacovelli, SFO
Business Admin./Board Secretary

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Mr. Larry White, Executive Director
NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA)
1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Re: Buena Regional H.S. Wrestler

Dear Mr. White:

On Wednesday, December 19, 2018 there was an incident at a wrestling match hosted at the Buena Regional High School in which one of our wrestlers was deemed by the official to have noncompliant hair, ultimately leading to the student-athlete having his hair cut on the wrestling mat. At this time our district is conducting its own internal investigation relative to our staff and personnel; however, I am writing to request that the NJSIAA conduct a formal investigation into the events and circumstances relative to the wrestling match. I am requesting that such an investigation indicate whether there was any incident of racial bias used against the wrestler from Buena. I am requesting that clarification be provided regarding the extent to which the official of the match followed all procedures consistent with the rules and regulations as sanctioned by your governing body. There has been much debate regarding the noncompliance of our wrestler's hair, and I am asking that clarification be provided to indicate what was specifically noncompliant with his hair (i.e. length, natural state, etc.).

Further, I would like to know what, if any, discretion an official is able to use in matters involving wrestler's hair, and the extent to which the student-athlete, in this documented instance, was required to remain on the wrestling mat while having his hair cut. I am concerned with the fact that this same wrestler, one week prior, was able to wrestle without the use of a regulated hair cover. This presents with the possibility of misapplication of the rules during one if not both of the wrestling contests.

Finally, I am asking that your organization indicate if the official, in this case, conducted himself ethically and professionally as stipulated within the NJSIAA's Code of Ethics, as well as the NJSIAA Officials Handbook.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any assistance, or if you should have any further questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David C. Cappuccio, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

c: Mr. Michael Feaster, BOE Vice President
Mr. Pasquale Yacovelli, Board Secretary
Mr. Frank DiDomenico, Board Solicitor
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