

Dear JCAA Superintendents' and President's,

As part of the Jefferson County Athletic Association's (JCAA) ongoing commitment to promoting a nurturing and equitable environment for our student-athletes, the JCAA regularly reviews policies and membership to ensure alignment with our goals and values.

In our ongoing commitment to fostering a nurturing and equitable environment for student-athletes across the Jefferson County Athletic Association (JCAA), the JCAA has made the difficult decision to reevaluate the membership of St. Pius X High School within our conference. This decision comes in light of several challenges that have arisen, notably concerning the geographical proximity of St. Pius X to other schools within the JCAA and the impact on competitive fairness and student-athlete well-being.

**EXPLANATION: What schools? What has changed? Fairness? Well-being?
JCAA DOESN'T INCLUDE I-55 CONFERNECE (FOOTBALL)**

We acknowledge and respect President Jim Lehn's position that St. Pius X, as a private institution, must actively recruit students for various reasons, including faith, academics, fine arts, and athletics. This necessity was underscored by a full-page advertisement highlighting the need for active recruitment into the school. While we understand the importance of these efforts, persistent issues, including allegations of undue influence and concerns over sportsmanship, competitive balance, and geographic proximity, have necessitated reevaluating our association's structure and membership.

SPECIFICS AND FACTS: Allegations? Examples? Full-page ad; what about public school newspaper inserts?

Persistent issues have arisen, notably involving competition between the public schools and St. Pius, a private institution. These challenges, including allegations of undue influence and the impact on students' mental well-being, appear to have been exacerbated by the close geographical proximity of St. Pius to other JCAA schools.

FACTS AND EXAMPLES?

In accordance with the JCAA Constitution (Article VII, Section 2), we are notifying you that a proposal to address these challenges will be presented for discussion and a vote at the upcoming JCAA meeting. The proposal specifically relates to the membership status of St. Pius within the JCAA.

Details of the Meeting:

- Date: March 6, 2024, Time: 11:00 am, Location: Festus Pasta House

This proposal will be included on the agenda, and your participation in the discussion is both valued and important. As outlined in our by-laws, a two-thirds vote of the official member schools is required to amend any aspect of the constitution, including member school status.

Please review the attached documentation for further details on the proposal and the constitutional provisions that govern the amendment process. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,
Dr. Clint Freeman, President

Amendment to the constitution of the Jefferson County Activities Association.

Subject: Proposal for the Amendment of the JCAA Constitution to Address the Removal of St. Pius X High School

1. Introduction

In our continuous effort to promote a nurturing, equitable, and competitive environment for student-athletes within the Jefferson County Athletic Association (JCAA), we have identified a series of challenges that necessitate a thoughtful and decisive approach towards interscholastic athletics and activities. This proposal for amendment to the JCAA Constitution seeks to address and mitigate issues stemming from the geographical proximity of St. Pius X High School to other member schools, which have led to concerns over competitive fairness, student well-being, and the overall integrity of interscholastic competitions.

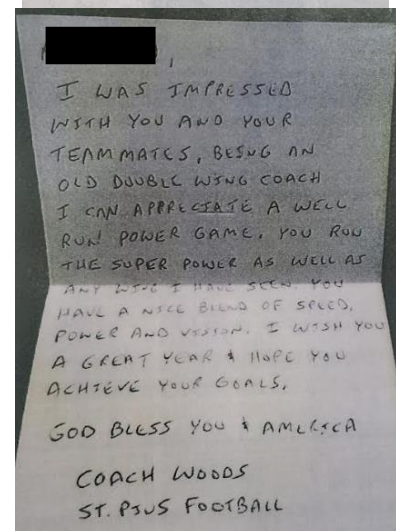
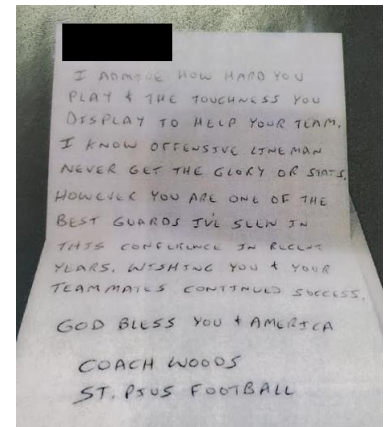
PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

2. Background

Persistent issues have been observed in competitions involving St. Pius X High School, a private institution, and public schools within the JCAA. These include:

- A conviction of undue influence against St. Pius X in 2016. **(CARDS)**
- The forfeiture of a varsity-level football game by St. Pius X for exceeding the allowed quarters of play. **AT THE END OF THE GAME, IN FRONT OF STUDENTS, HERCULANEUM COACHES REFUSED TO SHAKE HANDS, SAID "F" YOU TO ST. PIUS X COACHES AND SAID THE WIN DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE #22 IS INELIGIBLE. AFTER THE GAME, AD TILDEN WATSON IMMEDIATELY WATCHED FILM, CONFIRMED THE FRESHMEN PLAYED 1 MINUTE 42 SECONDS ABOVE 6 QUARTERS OF PLAYING TIME. AD WATSON SELF REPORTED THE INFRACTION TO MSHSAA. COACH AND THE STUDENT ATHLETE WERE DISCIPLINED. THE FOLLOWING WEEK JEFFERSON WAS PLAYING BAYLESS, THE JEFFERSON COACH TOLD THE BAYLESS COACH THAT HE NEEDS TO PULL ONE OF HIS PLAYERS FROM THE GAME BECAUSE HE IS CLOSE TO BE OVER HIS ALLOTTED TIME. WHY DIDN'T HERCULANEUM SAY SOMETHING PRIOR TO THE GAME?**

- Repeated instances of poor sportsmanship, including running up scores and disrespect towards schools and facilities. **PROVIDE SPECIFICS. REGARDING**



SPORTSMANSHIP, “F YOU” AND REFUSING TO SHAKE HANDS. HOW ABOUT SIGNS WITH “DADDY’S MONEY CAN’T BUY YOU A WIN” AND “JESUS LOVES US FOR FREE”, RUNNING SPIRIT FLAG IN FRONT OF OPPOSING TEAM, YELLING DEROGATORY COMMENTS AGAINST THE OPPOSING TEAM USING THEIR NAME. I’M NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY AND COVER SOCIAL MEDIA.

- The hosting of camps at St. Pius X, attracting athletes from public schools. **OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN MANY... CYC, CLUB TEAMS, PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS RUNNING CAMPS, ETC.**

- Recruitment advertisements by St. Pius X during events attended by neighboring schools, potentially targeting students from these institutions. **WE ACTIVELY ADVERTISE OUR SCHOOL. PROVIDE SPECIFICS.**

Moreover, allegations made by St. Pius X against all public schools in the JCAA of undue influence have not been substantiated with concrete evidence, despite requests for such by JCAA superintendents. **THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION BETWEEN ATHLETIC DIRECTORS. NOT A MAJOR CONCERN. WHY DID THIS ESCALATE SO QUICKLY? WHY WASN’T AD TILDEN ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH OTHER AD’S?**

3. Proposal for Amendment

In accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the JCAA Constitution, we propose the following amendment for the removal of St. Pius X High School from the JCAA. This amendment outlines the reasons for removal and the procedures to be followed during the removal process.

Reasons for Action:

- Repeated violations of JCAA policies and principles, including undue influence and poor sportsmanship. **FACTS/PROOF**

- To proactively address the negative impact on the mental well-being of student-athletes within the JCAA.

FACTS/PROOF

- Failure to provide requested evidence to substantiate claims made against public schools, undermining trust and cooperation among member institutions.

NOT OBLIGATED TO SHARE

Procedures for Removal:

1. Formal notification to St. Pius X High School of the proposed amendment and reasons for removal.
2. A special meeting of the JCAA Board of Directors to review the case and make a final decision. A two-thirds majority vote is required for the amendment to pass.
3. If the amendment passes, St. Pius X High School will be provided with a timeline and guidelines for the orderly cessation of their membership in the JCAA.

4. Conclusion

This proposal represents a proactive step towards addressing specific challenges that have arisen from the inclusion of St. Pius X High School within the JCAA and athletic competitions. By implementing this targeted reform, we aim to enhance the athletic and educational experience for all students, fostering a culture of respect, inclusivity, and competitive fairness. We invite the support and collaboration of all JCAA member schools in this initiative, as we work collectively to uphold the best interests of our students and the integrity of our athletic competitions.

5. Call to Action

The JCAA Superintendents and President will consider this proposal for amendment with the seriousness and urgency it warrants. Together, we can ensure a positive and equitable environment for all student-athletes in Jefferson County, promoting their well-being and success both on and off the field.