

St. Pius X Catholic High School
Discussion with Jefferson County Schools

February 12, 2024

Bold/italics MSHSAA By-Laws

2.6.1 Undue Influence: To maintain a proper relationship between the academic purposes of schools and their interscholastic activities programs, *all members of the Missouri State High School Activities Association must refrain from recruitment, inducement or other forms of persuasion and undue influence which would encourage a student to enroll in a school primarily for interscholastic activities purposes. (pg. 49)*

Below are examples of undue influence infractions that St. Pius X has documentation on or has been informed of.

1. Telling 8th graders they will be Varsity starters next year as a freshman
2. Telling 8th graders the coaches will build the athletic program around them
3. Setting up off-season workouts at a neutral place for athletes only
4. Telling 8th graders that they are stupid for paying for high school at St. Pius X
5. Telling 8th grade athletes that if they are going to St. Pius X, they can no longer practice or train with their current school
6. Talking to 8th graders and speaking ill of St. Pius X...athletics, strength & conditioning, academics, theology, etc.
7. Teachers, Coaches and Administration harassing students when they find out they are going to attend St. Pius X
8. Conversations with a student to influence them to stay at your school
 - a. *"Your school can have conversations with parents, but the conversation must be an all-encompassing discussion of what your school has to offer, which can include athletics, but cannot be just about athletics. Athletics is part of what you offer. A school tour is great, and will likely include the athletic facilities."* Dr. Jen Rukstad
9. Half-truths/omissions to influence the students and parents to stay at your school
 - a. Telling students/parents they cannot receive financial aid
 - b. Waiving or reducing tuition for any student to be certified as eligible for interscholastic activities without establishing and following a plan submitted by the school and approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors which includes, but is not limited to, the following:***
 - 1. statement of philosophy and policy concerning the reduction or waiver of tuition;***
 - 2. procedures used to determine the qualifications for tuition waiver or reduction; and***
 - 3. description of how the waiving or reducing of tuition is equally available and applied to students in similar circumstances. 2.6.2 b. (Certificate of Compliance) (pg. 49)***
 - b. Telling students and parents that because someone who coached their child in a youth sport, and is now a coach at St. Pius X, the student cannot play sports at St. Pius X

Q3: This spring, our school is hiring a football coach for next fall. This particular coach currently coaches a youth non-school football team. Some of the students on this team are 8th graders this year and will be attending our school next year. Will this cause any type of violation?

A3: Yes, if he does not discontinue his coaching immediately. As per By-Law 3.13.2.b.3 and 3.14.2.e, he must discontinue coaching when he and the school agree that he will be their coach next year (even if a contract is not offered or finalized until later). Even doing so may not prevent an allegation of undue influence by another school or individual. Such a scenario puts a school in a vulnerable position to try to defend against a claim of undue influence. 2.6.3 (pg. 49-50)
10. Student is influenced to move into a district and is using an address that they do not reside or using a bogus address, or living with someone other than their legal guardian as described below:
 - a. Does the "Parent" in the situation have FULL legal guardianship

Parent - The term parent shall mean the student's: 1) natural parent; 2) adoptive parent; 3) foster parent, designated by court order; or 4) legal guardian designated by court order. 3.10.1(pg. 64)
 - b. The residence is NOT their permanent home

Residence - Residence shall be defined as the place where the student and his/her parents have established their permanent home. This means that the family regularly eats and sleeps in a specific place of lodging. It is a place where the student and his/her parents are habitually present and to which when departing, they intend to return. The permanent home of a student with parents who are divorced or separated shall be the dwelling where a student has resided with one of his/her parents for a majority of the overnight periods during the 365 consecutive days immediately prior to enrollment. 3.10.1b.(pg. 64)