

Robert A. Schafer

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MAY - 4 2015

May 1, 2015

**Dear NDHSAA Board Members and Lead Executive,**

I am writing on behalf of Lucas Moorman, Bismarck Century teacher and coach and also the owner/operator of ECI basketball. My sons, Taylor Schafer and Ian Schafer of Bismarck High School, have had the fortunate and wonderful opportunity to play AAU basketball for the ECI (Every Child Important) AAU basketball program. Taylor played for three summers and earned a \$100,000 scholarship, full ride, allowing him to play NCAA basketball for SMSU in Minnesota. Ian is in his second summer of playing ECI basketball. For the last 4 years I have been so excited for my boys to have the opportunity to be coached by Lucas. Lucas is an incredible coach that goes about it the right way, where the overall experience/needs of the players come first and the coaches wants and needs come second. He is a master teacher/coach at the game of basketball. I've been coaching teaching and coaching in ND for the last 20 years, in the areas of basketball and track and have the utmost respect for what Lucas provides for so many families in North Dakota that look for basketball experiences outside the high school season. I was recently notified by Lucas of the by laws that govern high school coaches in the off season and was told that because there is one player on the 17's team from Century High School that Lucas would not be able to coach his team, until June.

This rule/law was established in order to keep high school coaches from working with their teams year long, which I believe is a great rule. But I feel that there should be some clarification or adjustment to this by-law that allows coaches like Lucas Moorman to work with their summer teams which consist of players from across the state without being unduly punished. Not only is Lucas punished but also the sons' of many parents across our great state of North Dakota who expected that Lucas would be coaching/teaching their sons the great game of basketball. I ask that you please consider looking into the by-laws of high school basketball coaches so that future coaches, players, and parents of summer basketball programs are allowed to have a great experience and not have the unfortunate predicament we are now in. Would NDHSAA rather have random, not qualified individuals spending time with our kids, or would they prefer qualified educators and quality people spending Spring and Summers with our kids? Consider please how the law in South Dakota is written and also consider the adjustment to the Soccer by-law you've already established here in North Dakota.

Unless the NDHSAA is willing to begin paying for athletes to attend NCAA schools to participate in NCAA athletics, they should allow then families the opportunity to be seen, play against national top level players and earn scholarships. My son Taylor received 12 scholarship offers from NCAA schools. All through AAU and ECI and handled with Luke Moorman as the contact. Only 3 offers came through HS basketball and they all came after he had signed in November.

North Dakota is behind in their law. The complainers are being heard to enforce an ancient by-law. NDHSAA needs to be careful whom they listen to, whom they align with, and what they exist for. In the past, they've existed for students and kids. They've existed to give students opportunities. Change the by-law. It doesn't help kids be successful in today's competitive world. Again, my boys are from Bismarck High School. Not Century High School. No benefit to Century High School is gained through ECI. Only benefits for the focused and committed basketball players in the state of North Dakota. ECI is helping our boys be competitive in our nation.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Schafer

Concerned Parent, Former School Administrator, Powerschool specialist, and Former Coach

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