



"Home of the Midgets"

Dickinson High School

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Dear Matt Fetsch and the NDHSAA Board of Directors,

Dickinson High School had a student compete in the New Balance Nationals Indoor Track and Field competition this past weekend in New York. Our boys head track Coach Dave Michaelson called and visited with the NDHSAA office on Monday morning. I received the following email from Kevin Morast following that conversation.

Good morning Guy, I received a phone call from Dave Michelson about a pole vaulter from Dickinson (Herauf) that went to New York to vault during the track season. The bylaw states that if this is the case there shall be a 6 meet suspension for the violation. I left a message with Dave regarding the suspension but thought you should know as you will be responsible for ensuring the suspension takes place. I have copied the bylaw in this email for your viewing. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

A student shall not have participated in a similar athletic contest during the same sports season as a member of any other than a high school team nor as an unattached individual in non-school contests during the high school season in that sport and the penalty for this violation shall be loss of eligibility from the date of the infraction for six contests for each violation in that sport. A school may petition the Board of Directors for exemptions from provisions of this section on behalf of a talented student involving competition with U. S. Olympic or International ramifications.

Kevin Morast, CMAA
Ass't to Executive Director, NDHSAA
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From the information I have received, there was another student-athlete from North Dakota who competed in the same competition. That student did file for a petition to the Board of Directors for exemptions from the provision prior to the meet. The petition was granted to the student-athlete and allowed him to compete in the New Balance National Indoor Track and Field competition.

After reading the bylaw that was sent to me, nowhere does it state that you have to file for a petition prior to the event. As activities director for DPS, I was unaware of one our student-athletes competing until after the competition. Therefore, I would like this to serve as my petition for him to be exempt from the bylaw stated above.

In conclusion, since a petition for a student-athlete from another school was approved for this competition, I feel the Dickinson High School student-athlete should be treated in the same fashion. Like I mentioned prior, nowhere in the bylaw does it state that the petition has to be done prior to the competition.

Thanks,

Guy Fridley
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Dickinson Public Schools