



Brent Golemon  
Commissioner  
Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations (TAIAO)  
February 3, 2025

Weatherford Express  
3746 Willow Circle  
Weatherford, TX 76087

Dear Weatherford Express,

I am writing to inform you of the decisions made by the Steering Committee of the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations (TAIAO) following our meeting on January 26, 2025, regarding the eligibility violation involving a Weatherford Express athlete, hereafter referred to as "Player", during the 2024-2025 basketball season.

Summary of Issues:

- **Player Eligibility Violation:** It was discovered that Player was ineligible due to an incorrect birthdate submission. His actual birthdate of May 10, 2006, made him overage for participation without an exemption or waiver. This matter came to light after communications from another organization who had questioned Player's eligibility and denied his involvement with their organization..
- **Misrepresentation and False Documentation:** Evidence provided by the Player family, including text messages with Weatherford Express leadership, indicated that there was an explicit discussion about Player's need for a waiver due to his age.
- **Failure to Verify Eligibility:** Weatherford Express did not adequately verify the eligibility of Player, failing in their responsibility to ensure athletes' compliance with TAIAO rules, which require accurate and verified documentation of players' dates of birth.

Rules Violated:

- **Section 265 of the TAIAO General Rules:** Governing eligibility, which was clearly breached by playing an ineligible student.
- **Section 236(K)(5)(h):** This section stipulates sanctions for any member organization found utilizing an ineligible student.
- **Section 247(C):** This allows for public reprimands and other disciplinary actions in cases of rule violations.



Decisions by the Steering Committee:

- Weatherford Express has to forfeit all games in which the player had participated. These need to be posted on MaxPreps.
- Extended Probation: The initial one-year probation period has been extended to two years. This extension reflects the severity of the violation and the need for increased scrutiny over your organization's compliance with TAIAO rules. Any violation of TAIAO rules while on probation will result in an automatic minimum one year suspension from TAIAO.
- Mandatory Audit of Birth Certificates: Weatherford Express is required to submit birth certificates for all athletes participating in varsity and junior high sports during the 2024-2025 season for an audit. This is to ensure that no further violations occur and to verify the eligibility of all athletes.
- Public Reprimand: This letter will be made publicly available as a formal reprimand to Weatherford Express. It serves as a notice of the violations and the actions taken by TAIAO to rectify and prevent future issues.

We expect full compliance with these directives. Please ensure that all required documentation is submitted by the deadlines that are set by the TAIAO administration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that steps will be taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Respectfully,

*Brent Golemon*

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