TAYLOR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Gender Equity in Sports - Grievance Procedures

It is the policy of the Taylor County Board of Education ("Board") to prohibit discrimination based on gender in its elementary and secondary school athletic programs, in accordance with the Georgia Equity in Sports Act. The following grievance procedures are hereby adopted to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of written student complaints, including those brought by a parent or guardian on behalf of his or her minor child who is a student, alleging any action which would be a violation of the Georgia Equity in Sports Act.

1. The student, parent, or guardian must submit a complaint on the form included in Exhibit I and submit the completed form to the sports equity coordinator. The sports equity coordinator shall date-stamp the complaint when received.

2. The sports equity coordinator shall take all reasonably necessary steps to ascertain the essential facts regarding the circumstances surrounding the complaint. The sports equity coordinator may obtain additional information from the complainant and/or other individuals that may have knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violation. The confidentiality of any information obtained shall be maintained in accordance with federal and state law and the school system's policies on confidentiality of student and employee information.

3. The sports equity coordinator shall render a decision in writing no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, and such decision shall set forth the essential facts and rationale for the decision.

4. A copy of such decision shall be provided to the complainant within five calendar days of the date of the decision, either by certified mail or hand delivery to the address provided by the complainant on the complaint form.

5. A complainant shall have the right to appeal such decision to the Board within 35 calendar days of the date of the decision. The request for appeal must be submitted by the complainant in writing to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's office shall date-stamp the complaint when received.

6. The Board shall review all materials related to the matter and render a decision in writing no later than 30 calendar days or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting after receipt of the appeal, whichever is later, and such decision shall set forth the essential facts and rationale for the decision.

7. A copy of such decision shall be provided to the complainant within five calendar days of the date of the decision, either by certified mail or hand delivery to the address.

8. A complainant may appeal a decision of the Board to the State Board of Education in accordance with the procedures specified in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1160.