



parkview parochial league

April 10, 2007

To: Mark Robinson – Athletic Director St. Leonard
Joe Blommel – Basketball Coach (5th Grade Boys) St. Leonard
cc: Steve Belanger and Mike Grabowski (Basketball Coordinators)
cc: Parkview Parochial League Board members

Dear Mark and Joe,

Following your visit of 4/3/07, the PPL board discussed your explanation for the uneven splits of your two 5th grade boys basketball teams. We believe that your evaluation process was sound – but, your drafting process left something to be desired in the 3rd through 6th rounds. The better player in each of those rounds was selected by the Black team in our opinion. After week six (January 14th), the Black team had a record of 6-0 while the Gold team was 2-4. The PPL contacted your basketball coordinator, Iris Bohan, twice in a span of two weeks suggesting that changes be made. The final decision by St. Leonard's personnel was to not make any switches thinking that with the return of a good player to the Gold team and the removal of a disruptive player also from the Gold team would balance things out. The situation did improve – the Black team went 5-1 the rest of the season while the Gold team was 4-2. So, the Black team finished in 1st place with a record of 11-1 while the Gold team finished 6-6. However, it is the PPL Board's opinion that the entire situation could have definitely been improved even more if certain players had been switched from one team to the other.

We appreciate the problems you ran into with the parents on making changes and sympathize with your decision not to make any changes to keep the peace, however we cannot ignore the result of no action on your part. We need to consider the position of the rest of our schools who split their teams more evenly and those who make difficult roster adjustments that result in finishing no higher than 2nd place or completely out of a trophy position. The bottom line, which is consistent with similar situations for other schools, we are imposing a "no excuses" sanction for next year. This means that we will be looking closely at the early scores for all the 5th and 6th grade basketball teams from St. Leonard's, especially the 6th grade boys teams and we will expect your program to make the appropriate adjustments if it appears that your teams are not evenly divided. We expect evenly split teams no matter what it takes to achieve them. One last comment from the PPL Board, we foresee problems if your program allows head coaches to choose assistant coaches before the draft begins. This appears to be certainly true for next year's 6th grade boys teams.

Please call or reply if you need some further clarification.

On behalf of the Parkview Parochial League Board,

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