

TO: Jim Oliver, Athletic Director, Lee's Summit West High School  
FROM: Dr. Jennifer Rukstad, MSHSAA Executive Director  
DATE: April 17, 2026  
RE: Self-Report for Lee's Summit West High School: 2.2 Citizenship

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in which Jim Oliver self-reported a violation of the above-referenced by-law. Based upon the information received I provide the following response.

It is my opinion action taken by the school administration, so far, shall be accepted by the MSHSAA Board of Directors, but a reprimand may be considered. The school has reported the discovery of fraudulent documentation for proof of residency for eight students who all played on the football team. An assistant coach used connections through youth football to connect families to a community member who facilitated the documents. One of those families was that of another assistant coach. The head coach lacked any sort of oversight to prevent or discover the situation. The school has terminated all three coaches. Seven of the students were in the ninth grade and only played in subvarsity games. One student was in eleventh grade and played in all the varsity games in fall of 2025. The students were all ineligible as they were not legally enrolled at the school. Every game played by any of the eight students shall be forfeited. The school will need to contact each opponent school to report the forfeits and change the results on the MSHSAA website. In addition, the students shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date of discovery, March 17. The ineligibility period will expire on March 17, 2027. If the school receives any transfer requests for any of the students before that date, the school is directed to indicate the student's ineligibility due to citizenship and communicate to the receiving school the date of expiration.

The school has requested a lesser penalty, asking that By-Law 2.2.6 would allow for the school to not forfeit the games. In this situation, it is my opinion that request is denied. If the school would like to appeal that opinion to the Board of Directors, they can do so at their regular meeting in June 2026. The school can indicate their request for an appeal in writing to me at least two weeks prior to the meeting, which occurs on June 15-17.

The incident shall be reported to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. I shall confirm in writing the official action taken by the Board following the meeting.

I truly appreciate the professional manner in which the staff at Lee's Summit West High School approached the violation. It is through the integrity and ethics of our school officials in matters such as these that our interscholastic program can be conducted in a fair and wholesome atmosphere. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play, and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.