

NCHSAA defends policies, calls Haywood County Schools' stance 'disappointing'

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— N.C. High School Athletic Association Commissioner Que Tucker reacted on Thursday afternoon to the letter from attorneys representing Haywood County Schools accusing the NCHSAA of unfair practices and questioning the Association's legal standing as a private entity.

Haywood County Schools said [Tuscola High School was not awarded fair due process](#) in its appeal to drop from the 3A classification to the

2A classification due to a substantial drop in student population.

The letter from Haywood County Schools' legal representation was sent to the state board of education and state superintendent's office. Also copied on the letter were the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, various state representatives, and other government and non-government personnel.

"Since 1913, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association has served public and non-boarding parochial schools in our state. To this day the Association continues to work closely with the State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction, partnering together to enrich the educational experiences of young people, particularly our student-athletes, through education-based athletics," [Tucker said in a written statement](#). "It is disappointing when a local education agency (LEA), or even a member school, does not understand the history of the Association and its close working relationship with the State Board of Education."

Haywood County Schools requested the state government investigate potential unfair policies adopted by the NCHSAA. The state board of education, which is tasked with creating rules and regulations around interscholastic athletics, delegates responsibility for high school athletics to the NCHSAA.

The NCHSAA had been founded under the UNC system umbrella, but in 2010, the Association became a private non-profit entity. Haywood County Schools questioned if the NCHSAAA has legal authority over its member schools given its private status.

"In accordance with the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws,

the Association provides opportunities for member schools to appeal decisions they feel adversely impact their school. We are committed to continue to provide those opportunities for our members to make their concerns and voices heard," Tucker said.

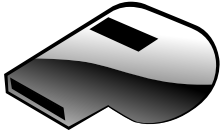
Haywood County Schools' concern is around a lack of an opportunity to appeal, what it calls a lack of due process.

"By the Articles and Bylaws, appeal opportunities ultimately rest with the NCHSAA Board of Directors, a body selected and approved by the membership of the NCHSAA, who represent the interests of all member schools from all eight regions, all four classifications, and wide-ranging roles in education-based athletics," said Tucker.

[NCHSAA statement on letter from Haywood County Schools attorney](#)

HighSchoolOT.com has reached out to numerous state offices and government officials who were copied on the letter from Haywood County Schools. As of Thursday afternoon, one state senator, Sen. Jim Davis, had responded and said he was unaware of the issue and had no comment.

"The Association will continue its work in support of the mission of education-based athletics, with the ultimate goal to help students become better citizens and well-rounded individuals through the lessons they learn in our programs," Said Tucker.



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