



**RE: Matter of Bayonne and Barringer Football Game of October 29, 2021**

Virtual Meeting  
December 8, 2021

This is a report of the Hearing of the Super Football Conference (SFC) Controversies Ethics Sportsmanship Committee (CESC) in regard to the suspended football game between Bayonne and Barringer High Schools. The game was played on October 29, 2021 with Bayonne as the host school and held at Don Ahern Veteran's Memorial Stadium, Bayonne.

**Present:**

**CESC Committee Members Attending:**

**Hearing Commissioner:**

Tim Gillen, Director of Athletics, West Milford HS, Retired

**At Large:**

Tim Liddy, Vice Principal, Glen Ridge HS

**Principals:**

Chris Jennings, Bloomfield HS  
Darren Groh, Chatham HS  
Tom Callanan, Hanover Park HS  
Lawrence Pinto, Cliffside Park HS

**Directors of Athletics:**

Mike Baldwin, East Orange Campus HS  
W. Scott Durham, JFK Paterson HS  
Marcellino Marra, Belleville HS  
David Doty, Kinnelon HS  
Cory Robinson, Fairlawn HS  
Dan Whalen, Delbarton School  
Todd Van Orden, Kittitiny HS (Recorder)

**School Representatives:**

Dr. Mike Pierson, Bayonne HS, Director of Athletics  
Richard Baccarella, Bayonne HS, Principal  
Terrence Brogdon, Barringer HS, Director of Athletics

## OVERVIEW

This matter was a result of the game officials suspending the game in the fourth quarter with 8:41 remaining. The crew chief in his game report alluded to:

..... that at the Barringer and Bayonne game tonight a brawl occurred. The fight was between #█ of Barringer and #█ of Bayonne. Several other kids were having issues, so I stopped the game at 8:41 seconds left in the 4th quarter. After calming everything down, I brought both coaches together and advised them that I was ending the game for safety reasons. Several other players were having altercations but █&█ was all out fighting and had to be separated several times. The AD from Bayonne was there he asked his head coach if he was alright with it. I explained to the coach if he would've wanted to continue the game. After ending the game, the teams were apart but they were still trying to talk trash to each other. I advised the coaches that we weren't going to shake hands. Because the players were still upset with each other. The police had to be called and situation was still volatile.

The game was played on October 29, 2021. It was a home game for Bayonne played at Don Ahern Veteran's Memorial Stadium in Bayonne. The game was a crossover game with Bayonne (Freedom White Division) and Barringer (American Red Division). The score at suspension was 24-7 with Bayonne leading.

**Bayonne's Game Report Points of Interest:** After the decision to suspend the game, Coach Williams, Bayonne, turned to his team and told them what the refs decided. The kids weren't happy that the game was called. After that, Coach Williams began to walk across the field and wound up on the sidelines of Barringer shaking the hands of the players and hugging the coaches. Soon thereafter, the Bayonne sideline began to get unruly and the players started looking at Barringer players from across the field. Bayonne players then decided to run around towards the bleachers waving goodbye to Barringer players and making obscene gestures. Both teams then headed under the bleachers which appeared to be meeting up for some kind of fisticuffs.

**Barringer's Game Report Points of Interest:** Punches were being thrown, helmets were flying back and forth by both teams. At this time is when I saw Bayonne security and other personnel, along with Barringer coaches, AD and principal, trying to get in between the two teams. Once the two teams were separated, we ushered our player onto the bus, again, no one from Bayonne security or police escorted Barringer players to the bus. The team loaded the bus and left the stadium. As soon as the bus got out of the gate of the stadium, three kids threw an object and hit one of our buses. I just happen to be standing right there, I immediately flagged a Bayonne police officer, explained to him what just happened, and the police questioned the three kids. After a few minutes of questioning, the officers took down their information and released the kids. I then got in my car and left the stadium. The following Monday 11/1/2021, my coach informed me that Coach Williams called and said they had three of our helmets that were left behind in Bayonne. I called Bayonne's AD and asked when I can retrieve my helmets.

**Helmet Video:** Terrence Brogdon, Barringer, Director of Athletics, was sent a short video of a Bayonne player hitting a Barringer helmet against the floor and wall. The video was shared with Bayonne and all CESC committee members and was addressed by the CESC.

### **Request For Referral to the SFC CESC to Establish a Hearing:**

The matter was brought to the attention of the SFC due to the game being suspended. In accordance with the SFC Bylaws, President Nelson referred this matter to the SFC Controversies Ethics and Sportsmanship Committee (CESC). They were requested to schedule a hearing to address this matter as soon as possible.

1. Each school is required to establish a detailed report on their recollection of the events that occurred at the game.
2. Answer in detail the question of what occurred.
3. Answer in detail the question of how you, your staff and security handled the situation.
4. Answer in detail what the results were in regard to the incident.
5. Answer in detail what has been done to prevent such a re-occurrence.
6. Deadline of 12/2/21.

Ron San Fillipo, SFC Executive Secretary, Caldwell High School, Director of Athletics, Retired, establish a virtual meeting format, obtained a quorum, scheduled the date, December 8, for the hearing, provided the SFC Constitution and Bylaws procedures and guidelines, which would ensure the CESC's adherence to its established procedures. Mr. San Fillipo directed all SFC non-CESC Hearing members to refrain from any communication with the CESC to ensure their adherence to remain independent if called upon for any emergent adjudication.

Tim Gillen, Director of Athletics, West Milford High School, Retired, as the CESC Commissioner, will conduct the Hearing. Mr. Gillen has experience at conducting SFC CESC Hearings.

### **MATERIALS SUBMITTED and RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

- Document A:** Official's Game Report
- Document B:** Barringer Game Report and Helmet Issue
- Document C:** Barringer Q&A Responses
- Document D:** Barringer Response to Bayonne Reports
- Document E:** Bayonne Game Report
- Document F:** Bayonne Police Report, page 1
- Document G:** Bayonne Police Report, page 2
- Document H:** Bayonne Security Report
- Document I:** Bayonne Principal Response
- Document J:** Bayonne Q&A Responses
- Document K:** Hearing Details
- Document L:** Article XI, Bylaws, Penalties
- Document M:** Video of Helmet Damage forwarded via E-Mail.

## **THE HEARING**

### **A. Meeting of the CESC Prior to the Hearing:**

The CESC met for thirty (30) minutes prior to the opening of the hearing. Commissioner Gillen reviewed the hearing procedures as established in the communication to both schools and the CESC. All CESC members were versed in the proceedings of the game and post-game incident as described in the Overview.

Discussion took place in regard to the incident(s) on 10/29/21 at the Bayonne-Barringer football game at Bayonne. There was a quick review of the provided information as well as a police report taken from that evening. A video was also presented showing a Bayonne player(s) banging a Barringer HS football helmet in the ground and wall.

The following agenda was established for the hearing:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Procedures
  - a. Each school will be allowed time to make a presentation. Maximum allotted time - 10 minutes
  - b. CESC Q&A session with schools.
  - c. Each school will be allowed to make a closing statement - Maximum allotted time – 5 minutes.
  - d. Schools dismissed.
  - e. SFC CESC will discuss and will reach a majority decision.
  - f. Each school will be in receipt of the CESC decision in writing within two (2) business days of the hearing.

### **B. Video Review:**

The CESC received a short video of a Bayonne player hitting a Barringer helmet against the floor and wall.

### **C. Review of Official's, Schools' and Eleven Question and Answer Report**

All CESC members received each schools' game reports, the official's game report and a completed eleven (11) question and answer document submitted by each school. The documents were forwarded prior to the hearing, which provided the CESC members an opportunity to understand the schools' and official's viewpoint of the game and its incidents. With the viewing of all of the documentation, the presentations were better understood, and they were able to ask very pertinent questions.

### **D. Hearing with School Personnel and CESC Members:**

CESSC Commissioner Gillen welcomed Dr. Mike Pierson, Director of Athletics and Richard Baccarella, Principal, representing Bayonne HS and Terrence Brogdon, Director of Athletics, representing Barringer High School.

Members of the CESC introduced themselves at this time. Thirteen (13) CESC members were present.

Commissioner Gillen reviewed the hearing procedure. (The procedure is included in this document.) The Hearing was officially begun as Mr. Gillen requested Barringer's presentation.

### **Barringer High School Presentation**

Terrence Brogdon, Director of Athletics, Barringer High School

- Mr. Brogdon claimed that there was no communication with Mike Pierson personally, but rather through emails between the secretaries at both schools.
- He stated there were chants from the Bayonne players that could be heard in the Barringer HS locker room – chants were “F--- Barringer.”
- There were no altercations during the game until the incident in the fourth quarter, and the officials met with both coaches at mid field to discuss ending the game at that time.
- The Bayonne coach was adamant about finishing the game, and as the game ended the Bayonne players exited and surrounded the Barringer players.
- This is when helmets were thrown back and forth between both schools.
- Once Barringer was able to get on their buses, objects were thrown at the bus by students from Bayonne, not players.
- The only security seen by the Barringer coaches was after the melee.
- There was no security for escorts to and from the locker room.
- The player involved in the fight during the game were suspended for the next game.
- Finally, an estimate cost on the helmets will be forwarded to Bayonne HS.

### **Bayonne High School Presentation**

Dr. Mike Pierson, Director of Athletics, Bayonne High School  
Richard Baccarella, Principal, Bayonne High School

- Mr. Pierson stated that communication took place via email between Bayonne and Barringer.
- Last spring, while in the midst of hiring a head football coach, Mr. Pierson reached out to the Barringer AD, Terrence Brogdon, for a reference check on the head coach.
- Mr. Pierson was told he was a good coach with a lot of college contacts.
- In regard to the game on 10/29/21, there were no reports made to Bayonne officials about chants towards the Barringer players.
- Mr. Pierson stated he has not spoken to anyone from Barringer HS since 11/1/21.
- Bayonne HS will reimburse Barringer HS for damaged/lost helmets.
- Mr. Pierson noted that his head coach and staff were wrong for their actions.
- He notified his superintendent and Colleen Maguire at the NJSIAA on Monday morning that their season was over and they would not be competing in the playoffs/consolation round.
- The Bayonne Head Coach has since been terminated from his position.

### **CESC Questions and Following Answers**

Q – Did the officials follow through on a disqualification of players involved in the on field fight?

A – No form was sent was the response from both Mr. Pierson and Mr. Brogdon

Q – Was there an investigation performed by Bayonne officials?

A – Yes – there were 11 security and 4 officers present at the game. Bayonne takes responsibility for their players not walking up the hill to the HS after the game.

Q – Were the chants that were supposedly made prior to the game reported to Bayonne officials/security?

A – They were not reported due to the fact they could not find anyone to report the chants to.

Q – Was there any conflict in the game prior to the fight in the fourth quarter?

A– No from both Bayonne and Barringer.

Q - What was Dave Hoffmann's role?

A – He is a teacher and head baseball coach at Bayonne HS. He has his administrative paperwork and is BOE approved to be an admin on site.

Q – Were there any administrator from Bayonne at the game and who gives directive to the security?

A – Director of Security is responsible for communication with the staff.

Q – Did the site manager greet Barringer as they arrived?

A – No personnel from Bayonne greeted the team.

Q – Were game day procedures sent to Barringer prior to the game on 10/29/21?

A – Both schools responded yes.

### **Closing the Hearing**

After the conclusion of both schools' presentations and answers to CESC questions, Commissioner Gillen asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked the schools' representatives and proceeded to close the SFC CESC Hearing on the Matter of Bayonne Barringer football game of October 29, 2021.

The CESC proceeded to discuss the incident and it was mentioned that Bayonne HS should have been able to identify the athletes involved in the video of helmet destruction and prior fight after the game. The committee agreed and felt that overall Bayonne HS did a good job of being proactive and handling the situation swiftly and effectively.

### **SFC CESC Deliberation**

After a considerable amount of time Commissioner Gillen requested a motion. A motion was made, seconded and agreed to by the CESC in regard to the following:

The following are the recommendations from the CESC:

1. Bayonne HS must put a corrective action plan together in regard to security at football games and events. Must be presented to the SFC by March 1, 2022.
2. The SFC requests both schools address the actions of both players, # [REDACTED] and # [REDACTED], and on field fighting. Both schools must show this documentation to the SFC no later than March 1, 2022.
3. Prior to coaching at any SFC school, Coach Williams (Bayonne Head Coach at the time of this incident) and the Bayonne HS assistant football coaches must enroll and complete the NFHS Coaches Modeling Course by March 1, 2022. Failure to do so will result in the inability to coach the following season.
4. Coach Williams shall be placed on probation, per the SFC, for the next football season if employed at a SFC member school.
5. The Bayonne HS Football program is placed on probation for the 2022 football season, per the SFC.

6. Both Bayonne and Barringer High School athletic directors and coaches must develop a sportsmanship criterion to be presented to both of their programs during the beginning of official practices in August 2022. These criteria must be presented to the SFC no later than May 1, 2022.

7. The CESC recommends notifying Mark Bitar, football assignor, of the events that occurred on 10/29/21 at Bayonne High School and the officials' failure to report the ejection of two players in the fourth quarter, stoppage of the game, and the fight that ensued afterwards.

8. Bayonne shall be responsible for the full cost replacement of the three helmets in question. The financial process shall be established by both schools.

Bayonne has made the offer of responsibility. Barringer will forward a price quote for three (3) helmets.

I, as the CESC Commissioner, asked for a motion. A motion was made by Darren Groh and seconded by W. Scott Durham to forward the recommendations and decisions as discussed. It was further agreed to forward this decision to the Schools' Principals and Directors of Athletics, NJSIAA and the SFC membership.  
(Motion carried 12 – 0)

**Timothy S. Gillen**, CESC Commissioner, in The Matter of Bayonne and Barringer High Schools Football game of October 29, 2021.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Article XI of the SFC Bylaws listed below provides the authority to the SFC to assess penalties.

Article X, Section 7. Penalties may be assessed. The penalties may be, but not limited to, contest disqualification, notification of principal, probation, suspension of players and/or coaches, sanction, forfeiture, loss of playing facility and/or schedules, fines and expulsion.

The following are final recommendations by the Super Football Conference CESC and are established to help mitigate any contentious atmosphere that might exist between the schools in regard to their football game:

Most important is making sure the school devises a plan to address any future situations which could lead to such altercations and unsportsmanlike conduct for all sports. The plan must be practiced so that all the coaches know their responsibility and students understand the impact of their actions.

### **A. Future Scheduling of The Football Game:**

#### **1. Scheduling of the Game:**

##### **RESOLVED:**

Since the schools have expressed a desire to not continue playing one another, and the fact that the game was a crossover game, it is recommended that the game not be scheduled in the emerging two (2) year scheduling cycle.

### **B. Contact Assignor in Regard to the Official's Report:**

#### **1. Contact Assignor on Official's Report**

##### **RESOLVED:**

The CESC recommends notifying Mark Bitar, football assignor, of the events that occurred on 10/29/21 at Bayonne High School and the officials' failure to report the ejection of two players in the fourth quarter, stoppage and eventual suspension of the game, and the fight that ensued afterwards.

The official's report does not delineate if #■ and #■ were "suspended" or "ejected" for fighting. If the intent was to eject, neither school was notified.

## CONCLUDING DECISIONS

Article XI of the SFC Bylaws listed below provides the authority to the SFC to assess penalties.

- Article XI, Section 1. The Association reserves the right to assess penalties.
- Article XI, Section 2. Penalties as hereafter set forth A through M, may be assessed for infraction of the NJSFC Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and/or for such Rulings or decision rendered by appropriate Controversies, Ethics and Sportsmanship Committee and Executive Board or others as set forth.
- C. The penalties may include but need not be limited to the following:  
C. Probation.  
A probationary period not to exceed one (1) year may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Conference, certifying that the violations are not continuing. It may be determined that an offending school may not participate in SFC Football schedule.
- D. Forfeiture of Games.  
Under such terms and conditions as the appropriate Committee shall provide.
- F. Suspension of Players.  
A player may be suspended permanently or temporarily for a violation of the Conference Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.
- G. Suspension of Coaches.  
A coach may be barred from the field during sanctioned play and/or the school employing him/her subject to suspension where there is a definite indication that the school district is not fulfilling its

### 1. Suspension of Players:

#### RESOLVED;

- a. The SFC CESC wants clarification if there were two (2) players ejected; one (1) each from each team. (#■■ Barringer and #■■ Bayonne)
- b. The NJSIAA has, within the parameters of their established policies, adjudicated the one (1) game suspension of said players.
- c. The CESC has requested that both Bayonne and Barringer address the actions of their players whether or not they were ejected.
- d. Since the matter in question is were these players suspended or ejected, both players, if not seniors, shall not be permitted to play in the first SFC scheduled football game in the 2022 season. They may not be on the game site the day of the game.
- e. If one or both is a senior, it is the CESC's recommendation that the school's administration place disciplinary action(s) on said player(s) congruent with the punishment that is levied on any player with games remaining in the season but is unable to be adjudicated since the senior does not participate in any other sport.

## **2. In the Area as Related to Coaches' Responsibilities:**

In the area of sportsmanship, the NJSFC Bylaws, Article VI clearly delineates the responsibilities of sportsmanship are in the jurisdiction of each member school.

Article VI, Section 1. Responsibility of good sportsmanship lies with each member school of the North Jersey Super Football Conference. Each school district has responsibility to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with their programs comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner prior to, during and following a contest.

Article VI, Section 2. The NJSFC recognizes the fact that each school's administration is responsible for the sports in their interscholastic athletic program. This includes the establishment of broad and specific policies relating to sportsmanship.

Article VI, Section 3. The establishment of the principles of good sportsmanship in the minds of the entire school community is the responsibility of every member school. The kind of sportsmanship displayed by school representatives will reflect to each member school's credit or otherwise. Therefore, member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other in a spirit of good sportsmanship.

NJSIAA Bylaws, Article IX, states similar responsibilities.

### **RESOLVED;**

- a. It is evident that the Bayonne head coach failed to effectively convey the importance to his players to except the responsibility to properly comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner no matter the game results;
- b. It is the duty of the head coach to control his players before, during and after the game; therefore, as a result of the actions of the Bayonne players after being informed of the suspension of the game, that occurred in the fourth quarter, it is evident that the Bayonne head coach had no or wanted no control of his players;
- c. What makes the post-game fight even more concerning is the fact that the Bayonne head coach, when informed of the imminent fight about to break out and told by the Bayonne site supervisor to go to the area of conflict responded .....“that's why I have 16 assistant coaches for”;
- d. Due to the Bayonne head coach and coaching staff's inability to mitigate the contentious atmosphere that existed between the two schools in regard to their post-suspension game exit of Barringer;

### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;**

- a. As a result of the testimony presented by representatives from both schools, reviewing the documentation submitted by both Directors of Athletics and game official and by conducting a question and answer session the CESC has determined that the Bayonne High School head football coach shall be placed on probation for the 2022 season.
- b. Prior to coaching at any SFC school, Coach Williams (Bayonne Head Coach at the time of this incident) and the Bayonne HS assistant football coaches must enroll and complete the NFHS Coaches Modeling Course by March 1, 2022.

### **3. Football Programs Probation:**

#### **RESOLVED;**

- a. The evidence stated in the reports of both team's unsportsmanlike behavior displayed during the fourth quarter leading to the suspension of the game and the fact that Bayonne's demeanor did not abate but deleteriously continued during the Barringer team exit is cause for concern. Therefore, the CESC shall proffer a measure with the hopes it would stop any future unsportsmanlike behavior that presently seems to be acceptable;

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;**

- a. The CESC has determined that Bayonne High School shall have their schools' football program placed on probation for the entire 2022 season. Should the program be reported of an unsportsmanlike incident, the SFC would discuss greater consequences.

### **4. Football Program Corrective Action Plan (CAP), Security Plan and Sportsmanship Orientation:**

#### **RESOLVED;**

- a. Both the NJSIAA in their Article IX, Bylaws and the SFC Article VI, Bylaws express the importance of the responsibilities that schools, coaches and student athletes have in regard to sportsmanship;
- b. The CESC believes there is a serious need for both schools to develop a CAP in regard to players' and coaches' comportment in the area of appropriate sportsmanlike behavior;
- c. The CESC also believes there is a need to develop a security plan for the safe egress of the visiting team to their buses;
- d. There is also a need to develop a sportsmanship criterion that must be presented to their teams in preseason;

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;**

- a. Both schools must develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and the CAP must be forwarded to the SFC Executive Secretary by March 1, 2022. Included, but not limited to, must be a CAP establishing coaches' and players' appropriate comportment and coaches' responsibilities [1] Prior to [2] during and [3] post-game.
- b. Bayonne HS must establish or revise a Corrective Action Plan in regard to, but not limited to, game-day security and procedures [1] prior to the game [2] during team ingress, [3] during the game and [4] post-game egress. Said CAP must be forwarded to the SFC Executive Secretary by March 1, 2022.
- c. Both schools must have their Director of Athletics and head coaches develop an appropriate sportsmanship criterion to present to their teams in August 2022 during the first week of practice and forwarded to the SFC Executive Secretary by May 1, 2022.

## FINAL DECISION

This is the decision of the Super Football Conference's Controversies, Ethics and Sportsmanship Committee. It is our final decision. The decision was approved unanimously. Any appeal shall be, in accordance with our SFC Constitution and Bylaws, with the NJSIAA.

I execute my name in the absence of the President for the Super Football Conference as the CESC Commissioner.

*Timothy S. Gillen* this tenth day of December 2021.  
Timothy S. Gillen



**Document K (Hearing Details) - Matter of Bayonne/Barringer**

**SFC CESC Hearing of Bayonne/Barringer Details**

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Virtual via Google Meet

9:30 AM CESC - 10:00 AM Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is the result of the post-suspended game conflict of the October 29, 2021 Football game.

**Hearing Commissioner:** Tim Gillen, Director of Athletics, West Milford HS, Retired

**Hearing Recorder:** Todd Van Orden, Kittitiny HS

**CESSC Committee Members Attending:**

**Hearing Commissioner:**

Tim Gillen, Director of Athletics, West Milford HS, Retired

**At Large:**

Tim Liddy, Vice Principal, Glen Ridge HS,

**Principals:**

Darren Groh, Chatham HS

Chris Jennings, Bloomfield HS

Tom Callanan, Hanover Park HS

Lawrence Pinto, Cliffside Park HS

**Directors of Athletics:**

Mike Baldwin, East Orange Campus HS

W. Scott Durham, JFK Paterson HS

David Doty, Kinnelon HS

Cory Robinson, Fairlawn HS

Dan Whalen, Delbarton School

Todd Van Orden, Kittitiny HS

Marcellino Marra, Belleville HS

**School Representatives: (As of 12/6/21)**

Dr. Mike Pierson, Bayonne, Director of Athletics - [mpierson@bboed.org](mailto:mpierson@bboed.org)

Richard Baccarella, Bayonne, Principal - [rbaccarella@bboed.org](mailto:rbaccarella@bboed.org)

Terrence Brogdon, Barringer, Director of Athletics - [tbrogdon@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:tbrogdon@nps.k12.nj.us)

Dr. Aviles, Barringer, Principal – [javiles@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:javiles@nps.k12.nj.us)

Keith Veltre, Barringer, Supervisor of Athletics, Newark School District - [kveltre@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:kveltre@nps.k12.nj.us)

### **Directory of Materials:**

- Document A:** Official's Game Report
- Document B:** Barringer Game Report and Helmet Issue
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- Document L:** Article XI, Bylaws, Penalties
- Document M:** Video of Helmet Damage forwarded via E-Mail.

### **Meeting and Quorum Information:**

There will be thirteen (13) CESC members attending. All have voting privileges. We must maintain a quorum. Tim Gillen is the Commissioner and will only cast a vote if there is a tie vote. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend, please contact Tim Gillen and Ron San Fillipo immediately.

Tim Gillen	Cell - 973-670-0826	Email address - <a href="mailto:timgillen@centurylink.net">timgillen@centurylink.net</a>
Ron San Fillipo:	Cell - 201-618-8826	Email address - <a href="mailto:ronaldsanfillipo@comcast.net">ronaldsanfillipo@comcast.net</a>

### **CESC Hearing Schedule**

- ❖ Wednesday, December 8, 2021 ~ Google Meet Virtual
- ❖ 9:30 AM - CESC members will discuss guidelines and procedures for the hearing
- ❖ 10:00 AM - Introductions and review of procedures and guidelines

### **CESC Hearing Procedures and Time Guidelines**

- 1. Oral Presentation**  
Barringer (Ten [10] minutes maximum)  
Bayonne (Ten [10] minutes maximum)
- 2. CESC Q&A**
- 3. Summation**  
Bayonne (Five [5] minute maximum)  
Barringer (Five [5] minute maximum)
- 4. CESC Deliberations, Motion and Vote**

### **Post Hearing Guidelines**

1. Commissioner memorializes motion and vote, permits CESC to review for accuracy, forwards to the two (2) schools and SFC Executive Board within two (2) business days.
2. In the event the CESC cannot resolve the dispute/grievance, or if either party is dissatisfied with the decision or recommendation, either party may appeal to the NJSIAA no later than two (2) business days after receipt of the decision.

## **Hearing Guidelines**

- ❖ Written documentation has been forwarded to the CESC members and is the written documentation proffered by the schools and officials if applicable.
- ❖ Schools are limited to three (3) representatives maximum.
- ❖ Each CESC member has one (1) vote. Commissioner is permitted to vote only to break a tie vote.
- ❖ Hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Hearing Procedures and Time Guidelines section.

## **Document A: Officials' Game Report Bayonne \_ Barringer**

Thanks  
Mark

Good evening gentlemen I am writing you both to inform you that at the Barringer and Bayonne game tonight a brawl occurred. The fight was between ■ of Barringer and ■ of Bayonne. Several other kids was having issues so I stopped the game at 8:41 seconds left in the 4th quarter. After calming everything down. I brought both coaches together and advised them that I was ending the game for safety reasons. Several other players was having altercations but ■ & ■ was all out fighting and had to be separated several times. The AD from Bayonne was there he asked his head coach if he was alright with it. I explained to the coach if he would've wanted to continue the game. After ending the game the teams was a part but they was still trying to talk trash to each other. I advised the coaches that we weren't going to shake hands. Because the players was still upset with each other. The police had to be called and situation was still volatile.

**Document B: Barringer Game - Post Game Report and Helmet Issue**

From: Terrence Brogdon, Director of Athletics, Barringer  
10/30/21

Good day,

This email is in reference to the football game that was played on Friday 10/29, Barringer at Bayonne High School. From the moment Barringer arrived at the stadium to get dressed in the locker room, we could hear Bayonne chanting, f... Barringer, f... Barringer! No one from Bayonne instructed their players to stop the chant. The first three quarters of the game went well with no incidents. Just two teams talking trash to each other. The fourth quarter, that was different. Bayonne players started chanting and taunting Barringer players almost on every play. With about eight minutes and some change in the game, a fight broke out near the line of scrimmage. Both teams throwing punches. I didn't see who threw the first punch. The officials gain control of the game and had a conference with both coaches at mid field. The decision was made to stop the game and award Bayonne the win. When Coach McCombs came to Barringer's bench and informed our kids of the decision, we started packing to get on the bus. That's when Bayonne kids came towards our sideline, saying things like, go back to Newark, y'all suck, that's why you're 0-8. Barringer kids were directed to go to the bus and ignore the Bayonne players. We walked in the opposite direction to get on the bus. We went somewhat near under the bleachers and that's when the Bayonne players ran off the field and went towards the other side of the bleachers and met our kids under the bleachers and all hell broke loose. We heard their fighting under the bleachers. I, along with Dr. Aviles, Barringer's principal and coaches ran to the bleachers to try and break up the fight. Both teams were throwing helmets, punches were being thrown, fans are under the bleachers, some trying to separate kids, other watching. Finally, we separated the teams and Barringer got on the bus to leave. As the buses were leaving, three kids threw a rock or bottle and hit the bus. Luckily I saw the Bayonne police out there and informed them what the three had done. The police stopped them and took their information down and released them. Later on that evening, it hit me, that after the fight on the field and our team was walking to the bus, there was no security escort, nor was there an escort to the bus after the fight on the bleachers. It was one security guard that I saw all night and he was under the bleachers trying to stop the fighting. The questions that I have as an athletic director is, why were Bayonne kids allowed to come over to our sideline after the game was called? Why were the Bayonne kids allowed to walk around the opposite way to go under the bleachers? The fight on the field happened. But the fight under the bleachers could have easily be avoided, if the football staff and security could have stepped in and did a better job. This was an unfortunate incident that occurred from a good game for three quarters.

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Aviles, Jose <[javiles@NPS.K12.NJ.US](mailto:javiles@NPS.K12.NJ.US)>; Veltre, Keith <[kveltre@NPS.K12.NJ.US](mailto:kveltre@NPS.K12.NJ.US)>

**Subject:** RE: Barr. football 10/29/21

According to Terrence, neither the AD or any administrative staff came to him and introduced themselves on the night of the game.

Additionally, Terrence only had a conversation with the athletic secretary confirming the game. No conversations took place with both ADs prior.

It should be noted that the new head coach at Bayonne, Dwayne Williams, is the former Head Coach at Barringer and was not renewed for this season. A conversation should have taken place about a potential issue.

Terrence spoke briefly with the AD today and no mention was made of the fight that broke out between both teams on Friday night.

Both Superintendents spoke to each other on Saturday.

We understand that you would have to get an account from Bayonne as well and await next steps.

Liz

**Elizabeth Arango-CAA**  
**Director**  
**Office of Health, Physical Education**  
**and Athletics**  
**Newark Board of Education**

#### **Barringer Helmet Video**

Good Afternoon Gentleman,

Please see email below and attached video from Barringer Athletic Director, Terrence Brogdon. This is an extremely unfortunate incident and we hope to resolve this as soon as possible.

In addition, we are requesting that we are compensated for any helmet(s) that were destroyed by the Bayonne Football team. I believe they have three of our helmets as of now. There is no place in high school football for the destruction of an opposing team's equipment, helmets, and/or uniforms.

Please advise.

Keith

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**From:** Brogdon, Terrence  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 11:21 AM  
**To:** Veltre, Keith <[kveltre@NPS.K12.NJ.US](mailto:kveltre@NPS.K12.NJ.US)>  
**Cc:** Aviles, Jose <[javiles@NPS.K12.NJ.US](mailto:javiles@NPS.K12.NJ.US)>  
**Subject:** Helmet video

Keith,

On Monday November 1, I contacted Mike Pierson, AD at Bayonne, in regards to three football helmets that were left in Bayonne after the fight. Coach Williams of Bayonne reached out to Coach McCombs of Barringer and informed him that they had three of our helmets. He also said we could not get them back right now, because the helmets were evidence and they needed to complete their

investigation. On Tuesday November 2, I received this video of a Bayonne player destroying our helmets. This was posted on social media. This took place after the game on Friday night and as you can see the players are still in uniform. Mike Pierson has not responded back from my request of the helmets on Monday.

Thank you.

**Terrence Brogdon, CAA**



**Document C: Barringer Q&A**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Virtual**

**Opening Established Questions**

**Bayonne and Barringer Questions Together When Applicable:**

**(To be completed and returned to RSF prior to or by 4:00 PM, Thursday, 12/2/21)**

The following questions are to be directed to Directors of Athletics, principals and/or head coaches. Under no circumstances use any players' names.  
Reply NA (non-applicable) if appropriate.

**School: Barringer High School Responder/Title: Terrence Brogdon/Athletic Director**

1. Has your interscholastic athletic program at any time been on probation since the 2017-18 season? If so, what sport? **No.**
2. Has your present head football coach been placed on probation by either the NJSIAA, SFC or by your school district since the 2017-18 season? **No.**
3. Was your present head coach the head football coach in 2019 and 2020? **No.**
4. Since 2017-18 have any of your interscholastic programs been prohibited from NJSIAA tournament play due to ejections? If so, what sport? **No.**
5. Have any of your players been ejected in 2021 football? If so, please explain. **No.**
6. How many players dressed for the Bayonne - Barringer game and how many coaches are on the sideline with the team? **Barringer had about forty players and seven coaches total. Five on the field and two were in the press box.**

7. What is Bayonne's site security plan for post-game egress of visiting team?
  
8. Answer the question of how you, head coach, coaching staff and security handled the 10/29/21 post game incident. Myself, Barringer's principal Dr. Aviles and the coaching staff ran to where the players were fighting. We made our way towards the front of the fighting and starting pulling our kids away from the fight and pushed them towards our bus. Once we divided the players and all of Barringer's players were on the bus, the team left.
  
9. Since 10/29/21, have you taken any action with your team in regard to the incident? If not, why not and if so what action. No. Since my principal was present at the game and saw first-hand what happened, he didn't believe the Barringer players were in the wrong.
  
10. Please provide in detail how your head coach addresses his team on the importance of sportsmanship, how to react to an any incident on or off the field and when that is done. My coach expresses the importance of sportsmanship but explaining to the players the rules and procedures that must be followed by the NJSIAA, NPS and Barringer High School. If these rules and procedures are not followed, there are consequences that players will face, some that may lead to suspension or being removed from the team. He also explains the importance of sportsmanship by informing them of recruiters and college coaches that may be in attendance. This could affect the chances of a player being recruited and earning an athletic scholarship. My coach preaches to his player on how they should just walk away and live to play another play. I believe they did just that on 10/29/21, until they were threaten with violence and they had to defend themselves.
  
11. Please provide your Corrective Action Plans (CAP) in detail in regard to the future of this game, if applicable, and for next season to mitigate any reoccurrences of this type. Corrective Action Plan N/A. Next season, my principal is considering having NPS security travel to away games. Just in case we face a situation like 10/29/21, where the security was bare minimal.

## **Document D: Barringer Response to Bayonne Report**

Ron,

I agree with David Hoffmann's report up to the officials calling the game in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then our stories are a little different. Barringer's head coach Dave McCombs, came to our sideline and informed myself, the principal, coaches and the team, that the game was called and Bayonne would receive the win. The team started packing up and Coach Williams came over to shake some hands and behind him came some of the Bayonne players, taunting and yelling at our players to go back to Newark and that's why y'all suck. The coaches and the principal instructed our players to ignore them and continue to pack up so we could leave the stadium. Once the team was packed, they proceeded to exit around the bleachers of the stadium, towards our bus. When the Bayonne players saw that they were leaving, they ran around the opposite side of the bleachers to cut them off before they could get to the bus and that's when the second fight started. Now, after the on field fight, during the taunting and Barringer exiting the stadium to walk to the bus, there was NO security or police that escorted the team out of the stadium. This was witness and discussed by myself and the principal, because we stayed on the field to make sure all players were exiting and that no one from Bayonne would follow. When we heard that they were fighting under the bleachers, we all ran towards the fight and it was a melee. Punches were being thrown, helmets were flying back and forth by both teams. At this time is when I saw Bayonne security and other personnel, along with Barringer coaches, AD and principal, trying to get in between the two teams. Once the two teams were separated, we ushered our player onto the bus, again, no one from Bayonne security or police escorted Barringer players to the bus. The team loaded the bus and left the stadium. As soon as the bus got out of the gate of the stadium, three kids threw an object and hit one of our buses. I just happen to be standing right there, I immediately flagged a Bayonne police officer, explained to him what just happened and the police questioned the three kids. After a few minutes of questioning, the officers took down their information and released the kids. I then got in my car and left the stadium. The following Monday 11/1/2021, my coach informed me that Coach Williams called and said they had three of our helmets that were left behind in Bayonne. I called Bayonne's AD and asked when can I retrieve my helmets. His response was, everything is still under investigation and he would get back to me. I received a video that was on social media two days later, of Bayonne players destroying three of our helmets after the game. I never heard from anyone from Bayonne since I spoke with the AD on that Monday.

Thank you.

**Terrence Brogdon, CAA**  
**Director of Athletics**  
**Barringer High School**

## **Document E: Bayonne Game Report**

Bayonne Report:

David Hoffmann: Administrator in Charge

Statement:

I was the administrator in charge for the football game this past Friday night 10/29/21 at 6:30pm vs. Barringer HS at Veteran's Stadium in Bayonne. Since the weather was treacherous with high speed winds and heavy rain, the crowd at the game was nonexistent. With Bayonne leading the game 24-7 with just under 7 minutes to go in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2 players, one from Bayonne # [REDACTED] and one from Barringer # [REDACTED] go into physical altercation on the field where they both threw multiple punches at each other. Several other players from both teams began to push and shove each other which led to both coaching staffs to come on the field to intervene. Order was restored relatively quickly. After that took place the refs called both head coaches to mid field and began proposing scenarios that they felt would be in the best interest of both teams. The consensus was to call the game right then and there, award Bayonne the victory and only suspend the one player from each team which threw the punches. Unfortunately at that particular time that suggestion didn't sit well with our head coach. As I explained to officials who I was and what my responsibilities were at the game and that I agree with their recommendation. Coach Williams turned to me and said "I got this Hoff". Another few minutes elapsed where the officials and I continued to implore what would be the best decision for all parties involved. After explaining the SAME scenario a 5<sup>th</sup> time, Coach Williams finally agreed with the official's decision ending the game and taking the win. After that decision was enforced, Coach Williams turned to his team and told them what the refs decided. The kids weren't happy that the game was called. After that, Coach Williams began to walk across the field and wound up on the sidelines of Barringer shaking the hands of the players and hugging the coaches. Soon thereafter, the Bayonne sideline began to get unruly and the players started looking at Barringer players from across the field. Bayonne players then decided to run around towards the bleachers waving goodbye to Barringer players and making obscene gestures. Both teams then headed under the bleachers which appeared to be meeting up for some kind of fisticuffs. I caught up with Coach Williams and implored him to get there, because a brawl was about to ensue. His response to be was "that's why I have 16 assistant coaches for". I got to the lock room area and instructed all the players and coaches to get in and stay in the home locker room, however, a lot of damage was done. Bayonne PD was already on the scene trying to retain order. Bayonne Players had Barringer helmets with them in the locker room. They kept trying to fight their way out but I also had a few security staff and police officers assisting me. A member of the security staff, Jamie Dugan, was hit in the head with a helmet, an assistant coach, Vinny Gorski, was also hit in the head as well. And a Bayonne HS player was also injured in the melee and taken out by paramedics. After about 30 minutes or so the scene was cleared by BPD and BHS security, so the football players could be escorted back to the High School locker room. That is my recollection of last night's events to the best of my knowledge. If there is anything else you need, please let me know.

## **Document H: Bayonne Security Report**

Bayonne Report:

Timothy Carey: District coordinator of Safety and Security

Question: What is Bayonne Security plan for post game egress of visiting team?

Visiting teams are escorted on and off the field directly from/to their bus by staff members. Their buses are located on the west side of the parking lot directly in front of the northern gate. The home team leaves via the east side of the field through a gate with no contact with the opposing team.

Question: How security handled the 10/29/21 postgame incident?

The security team acted immediately to break up the altercation. In fact, officers were stationed appropriately. The opposing team ran directly into them, where one of the officers received a head injury due to a helmet being thrown and striking her in the head. There were eleven (11) Bayonne Security guards and four (4) Bayonne Police Officers who were assigned to the game. The Bayonne Police Department had to call for an all assist to stop the melee between both teams.

Question: Since 10/29/21, have you taken any action with your team in regard to the incident? If not, and if so, what action?

The Superintendent shut down the remaining football season, including participating in the state tournament. This incident is still under investigation; numerous statements (coaches, students, fans, staff, and security) are still being evaluated along with several videos being reviewed. Once the investigation is completed appropriate actions will be taken.

## **Document I: Bayonne Principal Statement**

Bayonne Report:

Richard Baccarella: Principal, Bayonne High School

Question: What action was taken against the football team after the incident on Friday – October 29<sup>th</sup>?

Administration decided to end the BHS football season and did not allow participation in the playoffs. Each student/athlete was called to the Principal's office to prepare a written statement with regard to said incident.



**Document J: Bayonne Q&A Response**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Virtual**

**Opening Established Questions**

**Bayonne and Barringer Questions Together When Applicable:**

**(To be completed and returned to RSF prior to or by 4:00 PM, Thursday, 12/2/21)**

The following questions are to be directed to Directors of Athletics, principals and/or head coaches. Under no circumstances use any players' names. Reply NA (non-applicable) if appropriate.

**School: BAYONNE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Responder:**

**Michael B. Pierson, Ph.D.**

**Vice Principal/Athletics/Community Education**

**RESPONSES**

1. Has your interscholastic athletic program at any time been on probation since the 2017-18 season? If so, what sport?

**No**

2. Has your present head football coach been placed on probation by either the NJSIAA, SFC or by your school district since the 2017-18 season?

**No**

3. Was your present head coach the head football coach in 2019 and 2020?

**No**

4. Since 2017-18 have any of your interscholastic programs been prohibited from NJSIAA tournament play due to ejections? If so, what sport?

**No**

5. Have any of your players been ejected in 2021 football? If so, please explain.

**With the exception of the 1 player ejected from this game, there have been no other ejections.**

6. How many players dressed for the Bayonne - Barringer game and how many coaches are on the sideline with the team?

**Approximately 45 players and 9 Coaches were present, 2 were in the Press Box.**

7. What is Bayonne's site security plan for post-game egress of visiting team?

**See attached info from the District Supervisor of Security.**

8. Answer the question of how you, head coach, coaching staff and security handled the 10/29/21 post game incident.

**Administrator/Site Manager of the game attempted to stop the Altercation.  
Coaches present with the Team attempted to stop the Altercation  
District Supervisor of Security statement attached**

9. Since 10/29/21, have you taken any action with your team in regard to the incident? If not, why not, and if so what action.

**Principal's statement attached.**

10. Please provide in detail how your head coach addresses his team on the importance of sportsmanship, how to react to any incident on or off the field and when that is done.

**All Coaches are provided with a copy of the Department of Athletics Handbook and there is a review of the contents at our Pre-Season Meetings. The Head Coach discusses sportsmanship with the team and all team members complete a Student/Athlete Sportsmanship Affidavit provided by the HICIAL with the Sportsmanship Policy included. (attached)**

11. Please provide your Corrective Action Plans (CAP) in detail in regard to the future of this game, if applicable, and for next season to mitigate any reoccurrences of this type.

**Bayonne High School has had no similar incidents involving our Football Program, nor with our entire program of over 50 Interscholastic Teams. This is testament to our diligence with ensuring proper behavior and adult supervision of our student-athletes.**

**Needless to say, this incident was an embarrassment to our Program, District, Administration, and Community. Less than 24 hours after the incident, the NJSIAA was notified that the Bayonne District Administration was removing the team from the Football Playoffs and consequently, ended the season. Our Zero Tolerance Policy for fighting and improper behavior was immediately implemented and meetings with Central Office Administration were held. Additionally in conversation with Director Vivino of the SFC, Bayonne will remove Barringer from our schedule for next season. We have addressed this situation and will continue discussions with our staff, in order to enhance our written game day assignments for both Athletic and Security Personnel.**

**Please note that any additional information or decisions made regarding our Football Program will be forwarded at the conclusion of the ongoing District investigation.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this matter.**

**Document L: SFC Bylaws, Penalties**

**BYLAWS  
ARTICLE XI  
PENALTIES**

Article XI, Section 1.

The Association reserves the right to assess penalties.

Article XI, Section 2.

Penalties as hereafter set forth A through M, may be assessed for infraction of the NJSFC Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and/or for such Rulings or decision rendered by appropriate Controversies, Ethics and Sportsmanship Committee and Executive Board or others as set forth.

The penalties may include but need not be limited to the following:

- A. Loss of Playing Facilities.  
In the case when a school's playing facility is deemed unsafe, hazardous, and/or unfit, the Conference shall prohibit play at said facility. A review of the facility shall be conducted prior to adjudication.
- B. Notification of Principal.  
Correspondence will be forwarded to the Principal in the case of violations of the Constitution and Bylaws and any other component of the Conference's business.
- C. Probation.  
A probationary period not to exceed one (1) year may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Conference, certifying that the violations are not continuing. It may be determined that an offending school may not participate in NJSFC Football schedule.
- D. Forfeiture of Games.  
Under such terms and conditions as the appropriate Committee shall provide.
- E. Forfeiture of Championship Rights.  
A school may be required to forfeit championship rights as determined by the appropriate Committee.
- F. Suspension of Players.  
A player may be suspended permanently or temporarily for a violation of the Conference Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.
- G. Suspension of Coaches.  
A coach may be barred from the field during sanctioned play and/or the school employing him/her subject to suspension where there is a definite indication that the school district is not fulfilling its responsibility to the control of the athletic program.

- H. Minor Fines.  
Schools, Principals, Athletic Directors, and/or coaches may be fined by the appropriate Committee in an amount not to exceed \$500.00 per party.
- I. Major Fines.  
Schools, Principals, Athletic Directors and/or coaches may be fined by the appropriate Committee with approval of the Executive Board in an amount exceeding \$500.00 but not to exceed \$1000.00 for serious violations of the NJSFC Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations.
- J. Expulsion.  
Schools and/or coaches may be expelled by the appropriate Committee with approval of the Executive Board for serious violations of the NJSFC Constitution, Bylaws or Football Rules and Regulations.
- K. Loss of Playing Schedule for One (1) Year Period.  
Schools may be denied a Conference schedule for a period of one (1) year.
- L. Costs of Protests Related to Hearings  
Member schools and/or their related personnel may be required to pay full or partial cost including counsel fees, for an unsuccessful protest filed by said member school and/or its authorized representatives. Same shall be payable within one hundred-twenty (120) days following the final rendered decision.



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2021-2022**

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**Conference Representatives:**

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- \*HCIAL:** Jerry Maietta, North Bergen High School, Director of Athletics
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**Coaches Association Liaisons:**

- SEC:** Bill Fitzgerald, Seton Hall Prep
- Big North:** TBD (Lead Communication Liaison)
- NJAC:** Brian O'Connor, Mt. Olive High School
- HCIAL:** Robert Hampton, Lincoln High School

\* Voting Member