

*Office of
Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Personnel/Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee

FROM: John N. Werner
Supervisor of District-Wide Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

RE: Drop WAHS Swim Cooperative Agreement

DATE: November 16, 2007

We have been approached by parents of Warren Area High School members of the WAHS Swim Team. They have requested that the PIAA recognized cooperative agreement between Eisenhower and Sheffield High Schools and Warren Area High School be terminated. Their rationale is that our combined enrollment currently ranks our Swim Team in the AAA classification where as the WAHS enrollment alone would rank us as a AA team. There are presently at least 7 swimmers participating in the YMCA swim program from outside the WAHS attendance area that would be eligible to participate on the WAHS Swim Team through the co-operative agreement. There are of course, two sides to the issue. A summary of some of the pros and cons follows.

PRO

- AA Classification as opposed to AAA
 - More competitive in AA region
 - Lower PIAA qualifying standards
- Students from other schools can swim as independents.
- Current "co-op swimmers" may continue until graduation. (Grandfathered)
- EHS, SHS & YHS could all participate in the same capacity.

CON

- Swim available to SHS & EHS.
- Independent swimmers may only swim if a lane is available.
- Independent swimmers may not receive favorable lane assignments.
- Independent swimmers may not participate on relay teams.
- Independent swimmers may experience a lack of camaraderie with team members.

The issue is further complicated by the time table imposed by the PIAA. Any revision to a cooperative agreement that impacts classification must be presented to the PIAA Board of Directors at the December meeting of an odd numbered year. The District 10 Committee would have to forward this to the PIAA at their December 5 meeting. If this request is not forwarded to the District 10 Committee from the December 3 Board meeting, we would not be able to make the request until 2009.

JNW/wn