

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### **BGHS baseball sanctions eased**

Sanctions against the Battle Ground High baseball team for using an ineligible player in a game last April have been partly lifted by the District Directors' Appeals Board of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

The action on Jan. 22 by the board means that the Tigers will be allowed to play post-season ball if they qualify for the playoffs. The original ruling in May had banned the team from any post-season play this year, regardless of its won-loss record.

But the District Directors' Appeals Board did not lift the portion of the 2011 ruling that banned Coach Billy Hayes from coaching in any post-season play this year, should the team qualify. It also left in place a separate penalty banning Hayes from coaching the first five league games of the 2012 season. That penalty was imposed by the school district last summer as part of an agreement that allowed Hayes to retain the coaching job.

The school does not intend to appeal further, said Karla Kalian, BGHS athletic director and assistant principal.

The issue arose after Hayes inserted an ineligible player into the Tigers' lineup during an April 30 game against Heritage High. The player, Luke Heyer, was ineligible under WIAA rules that require a one-year wait before a transfer student may play varsity ball for his/her new school.

The sanctions were handed down May 4, 2011, by the 4A Greater St. Helens League and upheld later that month by WIAA District 4 directors.

Heyer had transferred to BGHS from Heritage in May 2010 and did not play with the BGHS team until that April 30 game, which Heritage won 10-0. BGHS Athletic Director Kalian then barred Hayes from coaching in the Tigers' final game of the season, May 3.

Hayes has been head baseball coach at BGHS since the 2005 season. He is a non-school district employee, working under contract.

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Media use only -- more information:

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**Karla Kalian**, BGHS, 885-5000

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