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For Immediate Release  
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May 16, 2024  
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**Statement of Rep. Jerry O'Connor on the WIAA's Decision to Bar Campbellsport High School's  
Josh Onwunili from Competing**

MADISON - Representative Jerry O'Connor (R- Fond du Lac) released the following statement on the WIAA's wrongful decision to bar Campbellsport High School's Josh Onwunili from competing in varsity track events:

“Josh's Mom Carolyn Grahl-Onwunili is married to Godfrey Onwunili, who came to America for training and alternatively returns to his homeland as a Pastor/Missionary. Their permanent home is located in the Campbellsport school district. I personally know Josh's parents and this is a tragedy being carried out by the leaders at WIAA against him and his family.

Is this a slight because his parents are Christian missionaries? Is this a power move by a board of directors who are more concerned about their turf than the amateur turf Josh wants to compete on?

The purpose of the WIAA rules is to stop kids from competing in school districts where their parents do not live. This would allow a school district to recruit and stack their teams with star athletes. All they need to do is find a place to live in the recruiting school district. This is a reasonable restriction.

However, this sentiment does not apply to Josh who just wants to compete in his hometown community in the sport he loves. As my fellow lawmakers said, “The decision to exclude Josh from competition based on residency technicalities risks overlooking the fundamental spirit of high school sports.”

Let's return to common sense. Josh is not transferring from one Wisconsin school to another. His other school is on the other side of the world. He is asking to compete where his parent's permanent home is located and where he grew up.

We need the WIAA to immediately correct this faulty and unjust ruling. Contact WIAA today at 715-344-8580 and make the case to "LET JOSH RUN!"

To read more about Josh and this unjust situation, click here: <https://www.fox6now.com/news/wiaa-track-championship-campbellsport-ineligible-lawmakers>.

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