



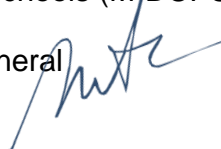
Mary T. Cagle
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To: Honorable Chairwoman Perla Tabares Hantman
and Members, Miami-Dade County School Board

Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent
Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: August 23, 2016

Subject: OIG Final Report of Investigation: *High School Baseball Recruiting Violations*, Ref: SB-1213-1005

Enclosed please find a copy of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Final Report of Investigation. The investigation concerned allegations that Miami Springs Senior High School had baseball players on its team that had been recruited from outside the United States in violation of Florida regulations. The OIG investigation substantiated the allegations. Our findings involved Rudy Camejo, Sr., Willies Vasquez and Eddie Doskow.

This report, as a draft, was provided to Rudy Camejo, Sr., a former M-DCPS employee who was involved in past recruiting violations in 1999 while coaching for Miami Senior High School. The report, as a draft, was also provided to Willies Vazquez, former Head Baseball Coach of Miami Springs Senior High School; and Eddie Doskow, Head Baseball Coach for Miami Southridge Senior High School, for their review and comment. A courtesy copy of the draft report was also provided to the Superintendent, and the principal and athletic director of Miami Springs Senior High School. The OIG did not receive written responses from any of the recipients.

Our report on this matter contains our investigative findings and conclusions and is being provided for whatever action is deemed appropriate. A copy of this final report is also being provided under separate cover to the Florida High School Athletic Association.

Enclosure

cc: Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Jose Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Dr. Jimmie L. Brown, Administrative Director, Office of Professional Standards
Humberto J. Miret, Principal, Miami Southridge Senior High School
Individuals previously provided with the draft report

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High School Baseball Recruiting Violations

INTRODUCTION & SYNOPSIS

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation based on information received from an anonymous source alleging that Rudy Camejo was recruiting baseball athletes from Mexico and Puerto Rico to play baseball for the Miami Springs Senior High School (Miami Springs) Varsity Baseball Team.¹ Additionally, the complaint alleged that these athletes were being charged \$1000 each to join a private league team with promises of being selected to play on a high school team. Consequently, these actions were allegedly displacing local students from being starters or from making the team. The complainant stated that this was illegal and unfair. Further, the complainant alleged that Mr. Camejo was charging these students a fee for the opportunity to play baseball in the United States.

The OIG investigation determined that Mr. Camejo (a former M-DCPS baseball coach) did in fact recruit foreign athletes to play baseball for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)—two athletes from Mexico and two athletes from Puerto Rico. All four students were living full time with Mr. Camejo in a rented house in Virginia Gardens. The investigation also revealed the involvement of Willies “Willie” Vazquez, the head coach for the Miami Springs Senior High School (Miami Springs) Varsity Baseball Team, and Eddie Duskow, the head coach for the Miami Southridge Senior High School (Southridge) Varsity Baseball Team, in the events surrounding these four (4) student athletes. The four student athletes eventually came to reside at a house located in Virginia Gardens, and all four attended Miami Springs. Three of the four student athletes (two from Puerto Rico and one from Mexico) played on the Miami Springs Varsity Baseball Team coached by Coach Vasquez.

The OIG’s investigative findings specific to each of the three individuals are summarized in the following section.

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED & SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Rodolfo (Rudy) Camejo Sr.

Mr. Camejo was a former M-DCPS employee. In the 1980’s, Mr. Camejo was Head Coach for the Junior Varsity Baseball Team² and later an assistant baseball coach for the Varsity Baseball Team at Miami Senior High School. In 1999, the FHSAA found Mr. Camejo guilty of recruiting violations for having foreign athletes he coached living with him during his employment at Miami Senior High School.

Mr. Camejo acknowledges that he has been “sponsoring”³ baseball athletes to play for M-DCPS senior high schools since 1983. He estimated that he has recruited 14 athletes

¹ The OIG also received the complaint from the School Board Attorney’s Office, which in turn had received the same complaint from School Board Member Raquel Regalado.

² See *Miami High Times*, May 20, 1988.

³ Mr. Camejo uses the word “sponsoring” in place of recruiting.

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over the years, inclusive of the 4 athletes in question in this complaint. The OIG investigation determined that Mr. Camejo:

- Recruited two athletes from Mexico to play varsity baseball in Miami Springs and two athletes from Puerto Rico.
- Housed the two players from Puerto Rico at the request of Coach Doskow.
- Provided free housing (other than \$250 for incidentals and entertainment) for all four aforementioned student athletes, in violation of Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) regulations.
- Was not the “legal guardian duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction,” as required by FHSAA.
- Signed a lease agreement with Coach Vazquez, Miami Springs baseball coach, for the house in Virginia Gardens (Miami Springs High School district), where he housed the four athletes.

Willies “Willie” Vazquez

Coach Vazquez was hired as the Head Baseball Coach for Miami Springs Senior High on April 16, 2012. As of August 1, 2015, he is no longer an M-DCPS employee. The OIG investigation determined that Coach Vazquez:

- Knew that Mr. Camejo was providing housing to the four athletes at the Virginia Gardens residence, which is prohibited by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).
- Signed the lease for the Virginia Gardens house where all four of the student athletes were living, and actually lived in the Virginia Gardens house for at least two to three weeks when the two student athletes from Puerto Rico lived there.
- Knew or should have known that the athletes had been recruited, as Coach Vazquez was aware that the two Puerto Rican athletes had been previously living with Mr. Camejo within the Southridge district boundary and had received a phone call from the Southridge baseball coach (Coach Doskow) accusing him of stealing his players.
- Allowed and coached three of the aforementioned athletes (two from Puerto Rico and one from Mexico) to play on the 2012-2013 Miami Springs Varsity Baseball Team, even though they were ineligible to play on the baseball team.

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Eddie Doskow

Coach Doskow has been employed with M-DCPS since 1995. Mr. Doskow was the head baseball coach at Jackson High School until he moved to Southridge Senior High in 1997 as the assistant baseball coach. He has been the head baseball coach at Southridge since 2003. The OIG investigation determined that Coach Doskow:

- Was involved in the recruitment of the two Puerto Rican athletes, as he (Coach Doskow) had met and made arrangements with an individual who runs a baseball school in Puerto Rico and with the parents of the two baseball players regarding their attendance at Southridge Senior High School to play baseball.
- Requested of Mr. Camejo that he temporarily house the two student athletes from Puerto Rico when the original housing arrangements fell through.⁴

The investigation also revealed that both the baseball coach of Miami Springs and Southridge were very familiar with Mr. Camejo and have known him since they were baseball athletes in high school. In fact, Coach Doskow commented that everyone involved in baseball knows Rudy. The OIG concluded that both coaches were either involved in the recruiting or knew or should have known, that Mr. Camejo was recruiting athletes and providing housing for them.

OIG JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the School Board, the OIG has the authority to investigate M-DCPS affairs; to audit, inspect and review past present, and proposed programs, accounts, records, contracts and transactions; to require reports and the production of records from School Board members and School District officials; and to report our findings and make recommendations to the School Board and Superintendent.

RELEVANT GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

Under Florida Statutes, Section 1006.20, the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is designated as the governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida public schools. FHSAA, as required by law, has adopted bylaws that specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic purposes.⁵ These bylaws also set out mandatory penalties for schools that are found to have recruited student athletes in violation of these bylaws.

⁴ The two athletes from Puerto Rico were originally supposed to play baseball for Southridge; however, the person that was supposed to act as guardian left the country and they had nowhere to live. Mr. Camejo took them in temporarily, but when Coach Doskow was unable to get them a new place to live, Mr. Camejo took the two athletes with him to Virginia Gardens to play baseball for Miami Springs.

⁵ Section 1006.20, Fla. Stat. (2012).

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Prohibition on Athletic Recruiting – FHSAA Policy 36

The FHSAA describes athletic recruiting as a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics, and unethical and unsporting.⁶ The FHSAA policies outline the scope of the school's responsibility to include the acts of any employee, athletic department staff members; the acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school's athletic program; and the acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.⁷

Impermissible Benefits to Student Athletes – FHSAA Policy 37.4

Impermissible benefits to student athletes include, "living on a full or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interest or other individual(s) who are not the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.... Any other form of arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability."⁸

Transfer of Student Athletes During the School Year – FHSAA Policy 9.3

The FHSAA has policies governing transfers of students from one school to another during the school year. Under FHSAA Policy 9.3 transfer regulations require that the principal of the school file a notarized, sworn *Notice of Transfer* certifying that the reasons for the transfer of the student are legitimate, the student was not recruited to effect the transfer, the student was eligible at his previous school, etc., and the student is eligible to participate in any sport in accordance with FHSAA bylaws.

Eligibility of Foreign-Born Students & U.S. Non-Immigrant Exchange Students

The FHSAA also has policies and procedures governing the eligibility of foreign-born students attending member schools as well as U.S. non-immigrant exchange students. The students are required to have a student visa in order to play baseball —either an F-1 Student Visa or a J-1 Exchange Student Visa. The policies and procedures include placement with host families of non-immigrant students and immigrant students with permanent residency and non-permanent residency. The student must not have been recruited, to attend the member school for athletic reasons, by any individual or agency.

⁶ Policy 36, *Administrative Policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc., 2012-2013 Edition*

⁷ Id.

⁸ Policy 37.4, *Administrative Policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc., 2012-2013 Edition*

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INVESTIGATION

The investigation substantiated the complaint that Rudy Camejo was recruiting foreign athletes to play baseball for the Miami Springs Varsity Baseball Team. During the investigation, it was discovered that in addition to Mr. Camejo, both the Southridge baseball coach and the Miami Springs baseball coach were involved in the recruiting of these athletes, violating FHSAA recruiting policies.

This investigation entailed the OIG's review of the FHSAA Handbook, Chapter 36, Athletic Recruiting; School Board of Miami-Dade County Policy 2431; Interscholastic Athletics, Section 1006.20 Florida Statutes; Athletics in Public K-12 Schools Handbook; and student files. Additionally, the OIG interviewed M-DCPS personnel, the relevant coaches, and numerous other witnesses. Due to conflicting and inconsistent statements, Mr. Camejo and the coaches (both Coach Doskow and Coach Vazquez) had to be interviewed numerous times.

The OIG also interviewed the newly appointed (at the time) principal of Miami Springs, as well as the assistant principal and athletic director.⁹ All three stated that they were unaware of any issues concerning the baseball team. The Athletic Director, Craig Jay, acknowledged that he knows Mr. Camejo because he has coached baseball in Miami-Dade County for a number of years. He also acknowledged that he had seen Mr. Camejo at the school during the baseball season. The vice principal stated that Mr. Camejo's son was a volunteer coach and had just finished his first year in the baseball program during the 2012-2013 school year.

Statements of Rodolfo (Rudy) Camejo, Sr.

The OIG interviewed Mr. Camejo numerous times during this investigation because of conflicting information on his part, as well as conflicting statements from Coach Vazquez and Coach Doskow. Mr. Camejo stated to the OIG Special Agents that he has been involved in baseball for a number of years and was a scout for Major League Baseball (MLB). Mr. Camejo freely admitted that he had been "sponsoring"¹⁰ high school age baseball athletes since 1983, when one of his baseball contacts, Johnny Rodriguez, called him from Mexico to ask Mr. Camejo to host an athlete he had found with potential to play in the MLB. Mr. Camejo advised that he was able to determine what was legally required and brought the athlete to Miami to play high school baseball. He estimated that he has sponsored 14 athletes over the years—including the 4 athletes that are the subject of this complaint—to give them a chance to play baseball in the United States and get an education. Prior to these four athletes, Mr. Camejo stated that the last baseball athlete he sponsored was in 2007, and that this student athlete played for Southridge.¹¹

⁹ The Miami Springs Principal, Ed Smith, was appointed in the summer of 2013 for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

¹⁰ In his interview, Mr. Camejo uses the word "sponsoring" in place of recruiting.

¹¹ That athlete received an honorable mention in the *Miami Herald* All-Dade Athletic Awards, in 2008. The *Miami Herald* has celebrated the athletic and academic achievements of high school athletes since 1964.

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Mr. Camejo told OIG Special Agents that he had coached baseball at Miami High in the past. However, he failed to disclose in the first two interviews with the OIG that during his employment Miami High had been found guilty of major FHSAA recruiting violations in its baseball program. The FHSAA also found in its investigation, that Mr. Camejo, in his position as Assistant Coach “used undue influence in an attempt to solicit or encourage the enrollment of student-athletes...”¹² At Miami High, special inducements he provided to these athletes included housing, which was not available to other student athletes.¹³ Similarly, Mr. Camejo provided housing to the four student athletes (described in this report) at the request and/or knowledge of the baseball coaches at Miami Springs and Southridge. It was only during his third interview that Mr. Camejo informed the OIG that he was very familiar with the FHSAA rules regarding recruiting since he “was fired” by Miami High because he had athletes living in his house.

In his first interview, Mr. Camejo mentioned that the two athletes from Puerto Rico originally played at Southridge during the 2012-2013 school year because the students were living with him in the southern end of Miami-Dade County.¹⁴ He stated that they came to live with him through Coach Doskow. According to Mr. Camejo, Coach Doskow “went to Puerto Rico and got those kids in the summer.” Coach Doskow contacted Mr. Camejo and asked him if he would house the athletes until he got someone else to take them.¹⁵ Mr. Camejo told Coach Doskow that he was planning on moving from the Southridge District, but because the two athletes had nowhere else to go Mr. Camejo agreed to house them temporarily. According to Mr. Camejo, when it came time for him to move to Virginia Gardens in October 2012, Coach Doskow had not yet found a place for the two Puerto Rican athletes, so both athletes moved with Mr. Camejo and transferred from Southridge to Miami Springs. Because they moved prior to the baseball season, neither one of these athletes officially played on the Southridge baseball team.

The other two athletes that were living with Mr. Camejo were from Mexico. One athlete arrived in early November 2012 and played catcher for Miami Springs.¹⁶ The other student was unable to play on the team during the 2012-2013 school year because he arrived too late in the season. According to Mr. Camejo, this athlete never returned from Mexico for the 2013-2014 school year, after summer vacation.

During the investigation, the OIG obtained the school files for these students and discovered a copy of the lease agreement for the house in Virginia Gardens where Mr. Camejo and these students were living while attending Miami Springs. A copy of this lease agreement was contained in the file of each of these student athletes in order to establish

Every year, the *Miami Herald* carefully selects the nominees, which are then honored at the All-Dade Athletic Awards, also referred to as the All-County Athletic Awards event.

¹² See, *Miami High School Found Guilty of FHSAA Rules Violations*, Florida High School Athletic Association, FHSAA.org. (August 11, 1998).

¹³ The students Mr. Camejo enrolled in Miami High and provided housing for them were also from Mexico.

¹⁴ Mr. Camejo rented a home within the Southridge school district boundaries.

¹⁵ According to Mr. Camejo these two athletes were originally registered at Southridge by their parents.

¹⁶ This athlete made the All-Dade Baseball Class 8A-6A First Team Spring 2013.

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residency. The lease agreement was for a period of 24 months, beginning November 5, 2012 and ending November 4, 2014. The lease agreement was signed by Mr. Camejo, his daughter and Coach Vazquez, as tenants leasing the property. This fact was omitted by Mr. Camejo during the first interview.

In a subsequent interview Mr. Camejo was confronted and shown a copy of the lease agreement. He explained that Coach Vazquez's lease had expired and he needed a place to stay so they agreed to rent the house together. According to Mr. Camejo, Coach Vazquez lived in the house for about a month, however, he stated that the four athletes were not living there at the same time. In his third interview, Mr. Camejo contradicted this statement by saying that Coach Vazquez and his daughter were boyfriend/girlfriend and were looking for a place to move in together. Mr. Camejo further contradicted his previous statements and claimed that Coach Vazquez moved in for only about a week and did live there at the same time as the student athletes, but the athletes, according to Mr. Camejo, were not in school yet. Mr. Camejo also stated in one of the interviews, that Coach Vazquez was a personal friend who was helping him out because his credit and his daughter's credit were not good enough to rent the house.

Statements of Coach Willis "Willie" Vazquez, Miami Springs Sr. High School

Coach Vazquez was also interviewed on several occasions because of conflicts or omissions that were discovered through the interviews of others. Coach Vazquez mentioned that he has known Mr. Camejo for many years, as well as Mr. Camejo's son who was an assistant baseball coach for Miami Springs. In his first interview, Coach Vazquez identified three of the athletes in the baseball varsity roster that were associated with Mr. Camejo—one from Mexico and the other two from Puerto Rico. He was familiar with the fourth athlete from Mexico, who he did not allow to play on the team because he came late in the season. Coach Vazquez stated that the athletes were documented and properly approved by the school district. Coach Vazquez informed the OIG that he did not know the relationship between the four athletes in question and Mr. Camejo, but he was aware that the four student athletes lived together and played for Mr. Camejo's travel team, the South Florida Thunder. He neglected to mention that he was also named on the lease as a tenant and also signed the lease for the Virginia Gardens house—where the athletes were living—with Mr. Camejo and his daughter.

Once it was discovered that Coach Vazquez's name appeared on the lease agreement for the Virginia Gardens house where the four athletes were living, Coach Vazquez was re-interviewed and gave a different explanation. Coach Vazquez advised that he was moving out of his parents' house to the Virginia Gardens address to be on his own. Around the same time, he had a conversation with Mr. Camejo and learned that he was looking to rent a house with his daughter. Coach Vazquez explained that he decided to let Mr. Camejo lease the house and he would move back to his parents' house. Coach Vazquez was asked why he left his name on the lease if he was not going to live there; Coach Vazquez explained that Mr. Camejo had recently retired and did not have sufficient credit to lease the property so he was doing him a favor by co-signing with him and his daughter. During this

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statement, Coach Vazquez advised that he lived with them for a short time, 2-3 weeks, before moving back to his parents' house, but did not live at the house when the four athletes were living there. This contradicts Mr. Camejo's third interview where Mr. Camejo said that Coach Vazquez lived at the house at the same time as the athletes but only for a week.

Coach Vazquez was interviewed a third time and a different explanation was provided. This time Coach Vazquez explained that he and Mr. Camejo's daughter were dating and planned to move in together and that she wanted to move closer to her job in Midtown. Coach Vazquez stated that Mr. Camejo and his daughter had previously lived together and that Mr. Camejo wanted to move in with them at the Virginia Gardens address.

During this third interview, Coach Vazquez stated that he was aware that Mr. Camejo had two athletes from Puerto Rico staying with him before he moved to Virginia Gardens, and they would be playing baseball for Southridge. Coach Vazquez stated that Mr. Camejo advised him that these student athletes would not be moving with him to Virginia Gardens because Coach Duskow was going to find another family to house them. Coach Vazquez learned that the student athletes were moving to Virginia Gardens with Mr. Camejo when he received a call from Coach Duskow accusing him of stealing his athletes. Coach Vazquez stated that this caused an argument between him, Mr. Camejo and his daughter and that he could no longer stay at the house because of the conflict concerning the student athletes. Coach Vazquez stated that he was in the house for less than two weeks and never stayed there with the students. This statement is in conflict with Mr. Camejo's statement that Coach Vazquez did live in the house when the athletes were there.¹⁷

Statement of Anacristina Camejo

Mr. Camejo's daughter, Anacristina Camejo, was also interviewed. She stated that when her father moved in with her and Coach Vazquez at the Virginia Gardens house, her father brought the athletes from Puerto Rico with him and registered them to go to school at Miami Springs. Coach Vazquez became upset and told her that now these kid are going to school where I coach. Coach Vazquez told her that he could not live with the athletes in the same house and he gave her an ultimatum that either the athletes move out, her father and the athletes move out, or he moves out. Ms. Camejo chose her father; so Coach Vazquez moved out and they ended their relationship. According to Ms. Camejo, Coach Vazquez was in the Virginia Gardens house with the student athletes from Puerto Rico for a week or two before moving out. She stated that Coach Vazquez did not live at the house when the athletes from Mexico moved in.

Statements of Coach Eddie Duskow, Miami Southridge Sr. High School

The OIG interviewed Coach Duskow on more than one occasion as well. The first time, Coach Duskow was given the names of the two athletes from Puerto Rico and asked if he

¹⁷ The athlete from Mexico was registered to attend Miami Springs as of October 1, 2012, under the temporary custody of Mr. Camejo at the Virginia Gardens house rented by Mr. Camejo, his daughter and Coach Vazquez.

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remembered them. One name he said sounded vaguely familiar but he did not recall the other athlete. He believed that the one athlete that he vaguely remembered played in a summer league for a Puerto Rican team. He stated that neither one ever played for Southridge, nor did he know anything about these two athletes transferring to Miami Springs.

After receiving contradicting information from Mr. Camejo that 1) Coach Duskow actually was responsible for bringing these two athletes from Puerto Rico, and 2) Coach Duskow asked Mr. Camejo to house the athletes temporarily until he (Coach Duskow) found them a place to live, the OIG took Coach Duskow's sworn statement. Coach Duskow stated that he has known Mr. Camejo since he (Coach Duskow) was a high school student. At this interview, Coach Duskow finally acknowledged that he knew the two athletes from Puerto Rico who came to Miami to play high school baseball. Coach Duskow stated that in July, he was celebrating his wedding anniversary in Puerto Rico when he got a call from Luis Castro, a friend who runs a baseball school there. Mr. Castro invited Coach Duskow to dinner that night and told him of two of his players: one player was moving with his mother and his uncle to Miami who lives near Southridge, and the second player was moving to Miami with his mother and brother. Coach Duskow stated that the following day he met the parents of the athletes. Coach Duskow stated when the one athlete's family arrived in Miami in August, the uncle, César Castro, whom he was supposed to live with, had gone to the Dominican Republic on vacation and decided not to return. Accordingly, the student athlete was looking for a place to live. As to the second athlete, according to Coach Duskow, he came with his mother and brother who was going to go to nursing school.

It should be noted that contrary to Coach Duskow's statement, it appears that the plan for both athletes was to live with César Castro not with their mothers or brother. The official school files for Southridge contain sworn affidavits signed under oath by the parents of each of the two boys declaring that their sons will be under the custody of César Castro and will reside at a residence located within the Southridge district boundary with Mr. Castro. The sworn affidavits were signed in Puerto Rico on July 10, 2012 and July 12, 2012.

When Coach Duskow was asked if he called Mr. Camejo to house these students, Coach Duskow denied it and stated to the OIG that he had no idea how the two students met Mr. Camejo and came to live with him in the house located within the Southridge district boundary. He stated that he only found out that the students moved when they withdrew from Southridge. Coach Duskow also denies calling Coach Vazquez about taking his athletes.

Coach Duskow did acknowledge that the two athletes played for him (Coach Duskow) in an M-DCPS baseball tournament in August of 2012, but does not remember if they played for him during the fall games. Coach Duskow advised that the two student athletes left shortly after the school year started so that if they did play in the fall it would have been only one or two games. Pursuant to Coach Duskow, neither athlete played at Southridge during the varsity baseball season, which usually starts in February.

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The Temporary Custody/Guardianship of the Athletes

The FHSAA bylaws require that “Guardianship must be permanently appointed legally by a court of competent jurisdiction.” From the documentation obtained from Miami Springs and Southridge, Mr. Camejo was not appointed legally by a court of competent jurisdiction as required by the FHSAA. The FHSAA specifically prohibits arrangements wherein an athlete lives with an individual who is not the parent or legal guardian.¹⁸

The OIG reviewed the guardianship documentation in the student athletes’ school records. The parents of both athletes from Puerto Rico signed affidavits giving temporary custody of their sons to a “César Castro.” The sworn affidavit of one of the parents, identifies César Castro as the athlete’s uncle. The sworn affidavit of the other athlete, does not identify César Castro as a relative, but in the *Student’s Information* registration form, Mr. Castro is named as his uncle. Both athletes were going to live with César Castro in an apartment on Old Cutler Road and attend Southridge. According to statements, when César Castro went to the Dominican Republic and decided not to come back both athletes needed a place to live.

Mr. Camejo agreed to house the athletes temporarily and, accordingly, the parents of one of the athletes from Puerto Rico signed a sworn affidavit on February 21, 2013, giving temporary custody of their son to Mr. Camejo, but with an effective date of August 2012. This temporary custody affidavit was signed months after the athlete was already living with Mr. Camejo. Additionally, the sworn affidavit, as well as other school registration documents, identifies Mr. Camejo as his godfather, although he had never met the athlete prior to agreeing to house him.

The father of the second athlete from Puerto Rico signed a Power of Attorney in Orlando, Florida, on October 12, 2012, giving Mr. Camejo authorization to make any decisions related to his son. This Power of Attorney was not signed by the athlete’s mother—only by the father. One of the registration documents for Miami Springs also identifies Mr. Camejo as the godfather.

As to the athletes from Mexico, Mr. Camejo was appointed as the temporary guardian by the mothers of both athletes. School registrars are required to send foreign student guardianship paperwork by email to the M-DCPS Federal & State Compliance Office. The guardianship paperwork of only one of the athletes from Mexico was received by the compliance office. M-DCPS administrators provide compliance training and instructions during mandatory workshops various times throughout the year to the school registrars. Accordingly, the school registrar should have been fully aware that the guardianship paperwork for the second athlete should have been provided to the compliance office.

The documentation appointing Mr. Camejo as guardian of the four athletes appears to be legally sufficient for M-DCPS, except that Mr. Camejo was appointed as the guardian of

¹⁸ See Policy 36.4 *Impermissible Benefit, Administrative Policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc., 2012-13 Edition.*

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one of the athletes from Puerto Rico four months after the athlete was registered at Miami Springs. In the parent information ISIS printout, the mother's name appears as the parent/guardian and Mr. Camejo's name appears as the godfather not as the guardian, although the student was living with him. In addition, the registrar failed to send the guardianship documents of one of the students from Mexico to the compliance office for approval. They were not legally sufficient under the FHSAA bylaws and policies.

M-DCPS Federal and State Compliance Office

The OIG interviewed Terry Ceballos, Coordinator Student Transfers, regarding student transfers, guardianships, and eligibility to enter schools. Ms. Ceballos stated that M-DCPS has an "open door policy" and employees do not request information on the immigration status of any student. If a foreign student or parent asks about obtaining a visa, they will advise them of the proper procedures to obtain the different student visa e.g. F-1, issued by the foreign student's country, or a foreign exchange student visa J-1 issued through the State Department in Washington D.C. They additionally will inform the student or parent that they will be required to pay the Full Time Equivalent Cost (FTE) to attend the school under the student visas. In her experience, families do not want to pay the FTE so they do not follow up on obtaining the F-1 or the J-1 visa. The District will not deny them entry to school, so the undocumented student may register in school without the student visa, bypassing the requirement to pay FTE.

While the undocumented student will be allowed to attend school (bypassing payment of FTE) they are not eligible to play any organized school sport sanctioned by FHSAA. Ms. Ceballos stated to the OIG, that it is the coach's responsibility to verify that athletes on his team have the appropriate student visa before allowing them to be on the team and play.

Neither athlete from Mexico had a student visa (F-1 or J-1) as required by the FHSAA. Although one of the athletes did not get to play on the team because he arrived too late in the school year to play, the other athlete from Mexico was ineligible and Coach Vazquez should not have allowed him to play on the varsity baseball team. This ineligible athlete made the Miami Herald All-Dade Baseball Class 8A-6A Team for Spring 2013.

Failure to File Notice of Transfer with the FHSAA

The OIG's investigation revealed that no transfers were filed as required by the FHSAA for the two Puerto Rican athletes who transferred from Southridge to Miami Springs (ultimately living with Mr. Camejo) or *Notice of Transfer* filed with the FHSAA. Under the FHSAA rules, the principal of the school is required to file with the FHSAA a signed, notarized sworn *Notice of Transfer*, certifying that the reason for the transfer of the student is legitimate, the student was not recruited to effect the transfer, the student was eligible at his previous school, etc., and the student is eligible to participate in any sport in accordance with the FHSAA bylaws.¹⁹ The OIG interviewed Athletic Director Craig Jay, but he could not

¹⁹ Policy 9.3, *Transfer Regulations, Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc., 2012-13 Edition*.

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remember whether the sworn *Notice of Transfer* was filled out and could not find a copy of the notice in his office. Mr. Jay claimed that if the *Notice of Transfer* had been filled out, it could have been misplaced during one of his many office moves the past few years. However, the FHSAA informed the OIG that none of the students were registered with the FHSAA through the transfer procedures (i.e., no *Notice of Transfer* filed) and neither of the athletes from Mexico were registered with the FHSAA through its international student process. The FHSAA stated that three of the students were on the FHSAA State Entry List (SEL) in 2013 and two of the athletes were on the SEL in 2014.²⁰ But being on the SEL, does not equate to being properly registered and eligible to play.

RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT REPORT

This report, as a draft, was provided to Mr. Rodolfo Camejo Sr., Coach Willie Vazquez, and Coach Eddie Doskow for their review and discretionary written response. The OIG did not any receive written responses to this report.

The draft report was also provided to Miami Springs High School Principal Ed Smith and Athletic Director Craig Jay through the M-DCPS Office of the Superintendent. NO comments were received.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the OIG investigation, that both Coach Vazquez and Coach Doskow were involved in the recruiting of these athletes, including providing a benefit to these athletes that eligible student athletes did not receive. Coach Vazquez is no longer working for M-DCPS and Mr. Camejo is no longer living within the Miami Springs or the Southridge school district boundaries. Coach Doskow is still the varsity baseball coach at Southridge. The athletes have since left Miami Springs and M-DCPS—the students attended Miami Springs through the end of the 2012-2013 school year and two stayed through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Nevertheless, under the FHSAA policies, the school principal is responsible for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program.

Recruiting is considered a major violation for which the school is responsible—whether committed due to a lack of administrative control or through ignorance of the rules. The OIG is cognizant that Miami Springs had a newly appointed principal at the time who may have been unaware of any problems with the baseball team. However, the vice principal, the athletic director and the baseball coach were all familiar with Mr. Camejo. It appears that none of them confronted Mr. Camejo about recruiting athletes even though Mr. Camejo—a former baseball coach who was involved in recruiting violations while a coach at Miami High—had four student athletes registered as students living with him under his guardianship and candidly admitted that he was “sponsoring” them. Neither the vice principal nor the athletic director appear to have questioned any recruiting violations or illegal incentives to athletes even though the rental lease agreement filed with the

²⁰ The FHSAA State Entry List is a roster listing the athletes on the varsity team for the season. Principals and Athletic Directors have to submit approvals.

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Registrar's office on behalf of all four student athletes to prove residency, was also signed by Coach Vazquez, the baseball coach for Miami Springs.

The massive education bill signed by the governor this year includes new student transfer rules that go into effect in the 2017-2018 school year. The new legislation will allow students from any school district in the state to enroll in any public school, including charter schools, that has not reached capacity in the district.²¹ Students that enroll under the controlled open enrollment process, are immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities if the student has not participated in that same sport at another school during the school year. Exceptions to this rule for a student enrolling in a different school include military, foster placement, court order, or school district placement by policy. This new legislation will, in some ways, make it easier for coaches and other individuals to recruit student athletes to their schools based on their athletic abilities alone. However, the new legislation does enhance the FHSAA penalties for recruiting violations as of July 1, 2016, imposing stringent escalating penalties.²² In addition, it revises the FHSAA's burden of proof from "clear and convincing" to a "preponderance of the evidence."

Recruiting is unfair to student athletes. Recruiting players from other schools and from other countries (especially recruiting from foreign sports academies as occurred here)²³ affects other schools and athletes competing in the sport. We strongly agree with the FHSAA that "Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct, and is forbidden by FHSAA bylaws (FHSAA Bylaws 6.3)."²⁴

²¹ Florida Statutes, Section 1002.31, Controlled Open Enrollment; Public School Parental Choice.

²² Florida Statutes, Section 1006.20(2).

²³ The FHSAA defines "Sports Academy" as, but not limited to, a facility, center or school that exists for the purpose of training athletes in specific sport(s).

²⁴ FHSAA Policy 36.1.1.