

June 15, 2009

David Doyle
Superintendent of Schools
Scarborough School Department
P.O. Box 370
Scarborough, ME 04070-0370

Dear Superintendent Doyle,

It is my pleasure to inform you that on Monday, June 8, 2009 the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching (MCSC) Board of Directors approved the accreditation of Scarborough School Department, making Scarborough an official *Sports Done Right* school community. The Board acted favorably on the strong recommendation for full accreditation status presented by the Site Visitation Team, comprised of Jim Marascio, Thor Nilsen, and myself.

Accompanying this letter, you will find a copy of the report that was completed by the Site Visitation Team and approved by the MCSC Board of Directors. I have provided a brief synopsis of the Board's review below.

The Board of Directors and the Site Visitation Team offer the following commendations.

- The Scarborough school board is playing a key role in the implementation process and sports policy development, drafting and approving a wide-array of policy that guide the oversight of the athletic program and ensure consistency in decision-making processes.
- The Scarborough administration at all levels demonstrate a strong commitment to the *Sports Done Right* program and value the role sports play in the overall educational experience for students.
- Scarborough demonstrates a strong commitment to interscholastic athletics by providing adequate financial support to expand opportunities for students and minimize dependence on external sources to fund program essentials.
- Scarborough understands the importance of participation, as evidenced by the no-cut policy and number of developmental teams at the middle school level.
- The Scarborough School Department and Community Services have established a formal partnership to increase opportunity, and to organize and schedule athletic events and facilities for students.
- District facilities are outstanding and provide a wide variety of athletic opportunities for students.
- The Leadership Team, student-athletes and coaches believe Scarborough demonstrates good sportsmanship on a consistent basis.
- The high school athletic director and middle school liaison model a close and effective working relationship to ensure consistency between programs, coaching staff, and pre-season informational meetings.
- The Leadership Team understands the value of student involvement, as evidenced by students

- active role on the *Sports Done Right* Leadership Team and coaching evaluation process.
- When selecting a coach, Scarborough demonstrates a desire to hire district staff. School administration report that the majority of the coaching staff are on-staff.
- The majority of coaches interviewed by the visiting team report positive relationships and experiences with parents in the community.
- Following the interview with the coaching staff, it is clear to the visiting committee that the coaching staff believe in, and try to emulate, the philosophy of *Sports Done Right*. Even when faced with large numbers of participants, coaches remain dedicated to providing each student a quality and meaningful experience.
- Middle level coaches must fulfill the CPR and first aid requirement established by administration.
- The Scarborough Leadership Team maintained focus and momentum, demonstrating a commitment to the *Sports Done Right* core principles, despite significant administrative transitions.

Sports Done Right accreditation has a 5-year duration, with a self-assessment due at the end of the 3rd year to be submitted to the MCSC Board of Directors. **At that time, the Board of Directors will consider Scarborough School Department's response to the following recommendations:**

- While there is a high level of opportunity to participate at the middle level, the visiting team is concerned about the safety and supervision of students participating in the high-interest sports (i.e., 44 students on the lacrosse team: 1 coach). It is recommended the school board consider volunteer/assistant coaches and/or additional expansion teams to accommodate the number of students wishing to participate to ensure an appropriate ratio.
- The Board of Directors recognizes and congratulates administrations effort to eliminate the pay-to-play fee for the coming school year. The Board of Directors recommends the school board review the current pay-to-play policy and develop a strategy to eliminate the fee required of students who wish to participate.
- Scarborough is fortunate to have a large percentage of students interested in athletic participation. Continue to strengthen the partnership with Community Services to sustain the high level of student participation and offer alternative physical activities for students of all abilities.
- Given the number of athletic opportunities provided to students, the Board of Directors recommends Scarborough review current practices concerning the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.
- The MCSC Board recommends continued outreach and communication with parents and students to improve understanding of *Sports Done Right*, the core principles, and the school's athletic philosophy.
- Consider extending the coaching evaluation process to the middle level.
- Given the number of athletic opportunities at the middle level and the expectations and responsibilities of the middle level athletic liaison, it is recommended that the school board review the administrative needs of the middle level athletic program.

As an official *Sports Done Right* school district, the MCSC will continue to serve as a resource, partner and ally in your efforts to create a healthy and positive environment for all student-athletes. The MCSC will waive the fee for the Online Coaching Eligibility Course for all Scarborough coaches, at all levels including coaches for Community Services, for the 5-year duration of accreditation. In addition, the MCSC will provide your district with banners that state, "We are a *Sports Done Right* school community," to honor the hard work of the Scarborough

School Department. Scarborough also has access to the *Sport Done Right* logo, which you may acquire by contacting the MCSC.

In closing, the Board found the district's passion for *Sports Done Right* extremely impressive and inspiring. Your work has provided us with valuable information that we will now use when working with other communities moving forward with *Sports Done Right* implementation. The accreditation of Scarborough is being hailed as a milestone for the *Sports Done Right* initiative, yet it is also a milestone for your community and the state of Maine. The level of support the school board provides to co-curricular activities is unique to the state of Maine, and demonstrates Scarborough's commitment to the overall educational experience. Congratulations. The Board of Directors encourages your district to "wear *Sports Done Right* on your sleeve" and to share this letter with your constituencies. Be proud to incorporate the core principles and core practices, as we are proud of you.

Congratulations and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen B. Hawkes".

Karen B. Hawkes
Director, Maine Center for Sport and Coaching

cc: Gary Groves, Student Activities & Athletic Director, Scarborough High School