

Office of the Superintendent



Students First: Inspire,
Educate, Celebrate

Glenn M. Maleyko, Ph.D.
Superintendent

November 8, 2024

Greetings Edsel Ford Community,

We all know the valuable role that athletics can play in a student's academic, social, and emotional growth. Lessons on teamwork, sportsmanship, and overcoming adversity are part of the overall experience of competition. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling error, the Edsel Ford girls volleyball team was not able to include a playoff appearance in this year's athletic experience.

By now, many of you have already heard about the very unfortunate situation preventing the Edsel Ford volleyball team from playing in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's (MHSAA) District Playoff. However, I do want to take a moment to share information with the entire Thunderbird community.

On November 5, the MHSAA informed Edsel Ford that the girls' varsity volleyball team exceeded the 18-day competition limit, competing for 19 days. Exceeding the 18-day limit disqualifies teams from participating in the MHSAA State Tournament, thus ending the Edsel Ford volleyball team's season. The unfortunate isolated error occurred when a "match" was recorded as a "scrimmage" by the Athletic Director and a "competition day" by the Head Coach. It is not uncommon for schedules to be adjusted throughout the year and coaches at Edsel Ford have had flexibility to create their own schedules long before the current A.D. was working in Dearborn.

Mr. Groulx, Edsel Ford Athletic Director, took responsibility for this error in an email sent to the volleyball parents. [\(Please click here to read\)](#) The Volleyball coach was handling the scheduling of games directly which was part of past practices. However, moving forward, this issue will be addressed by having the Athletic Director fully manage all aspects of the schedule to ensure compliance with MHSAA rules. This will also be reiterated at our other two high schools in the district to prevent any future scheduling conflicts.

I contacted the MHSAA directly to advocate for the players on the Edsel Ford Volleyball team because it is unfair that they were denied this opportunity to participate in the playoffs due to an adult scheduling issue. I also suggested to the MHSAA that alternative consequences should be implemented rather than forfeiture. Unfortunately, MHSAA will not provide any flexibility with this situation due to their overall policies and protocols to ensure appropriate administration of athletics across the state. I appreciate the time that MHSAA took to explain their position on this issue, and in the end I respect their rules and final decision even though I may disagree with the ultimate consequence that penalizes our student players for no action of their own.

We would have preferred to watch a cross-town rivalry play out on the court to determine the true winners rather than having the outcome decided by a technicality. Although a playoff match will not occur as part of an official MHSAA competition, we are exploring options for some type of end of season event. I want to congratulate the Edsel Ford Volleyball team for their outstanding regular season that included a Conference Championship. The entire Thunderbird community can be proud of their actions and conduct on and off the court.

For the team, this experience was a difficult lesson on overcoming adversity and the importance of pulling together. For others, this experience may provide an understanding of what sportsmanship is all about.

Go Thunderbirds,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Maleyko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Glenn Maleyko, Ph.D.
Superintendent