

This is a critical conversation in the world of high school athletics. There's a distinct difference between the "growing pains" of an established athletic association and the potential chaos of moving oversight into the political arena,

The Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association (OBCA) remains steadfast in its support of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) as the sole governing body for interscholastic athletics in our state.

While no organization is beyond reproach, and we acknowledge that there are areas where the OSSAA can improve and evolve, we believe it is the only entity equipped to navigate the complexities of high school sports.

We believe the integrity of Oklahoma high school athletics is best protected by those who have lived the experience. The OSSAA leadership and staff offer a perspective that cannot be replicated by external bodies:

- **Shared Professional History:** The OSSAA is comprised of individuals who have served as school personnel and administrators. They understand the educational mission of athletics.
- **The Coaching Perspective:** The staff consists of former coaches from the high school ranks. They understand the nuances of the game, the demands of the season, and the specific needs of student-athletes.
- **Conflict Resolution Experience:** Managing the intersection of competition and community expectations—specifically dealing with parent concerns—is a skill honed over decades in the field.

The OBCA is firmly opposed to shifting the authority of athletic oversight toward parents and politicians. High school sports should be governed by **educational standards**, not political trends or individual interests.

Giving oversight to those without a background in school administration risks compromising the fair play and consistency that our coaches and players rely on. We believe that professional problems require professional solutions, and we are committed to working *with* the OSSAA to address shortcomings rather than dismantling a system that has served Oklahoma for decades.

The OBCA.