



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
LESLIE RUTLEDGE

Opinion No. 2021-080

January 11, 2022

The Honorable Kim D. Hammer  
State Senator  
1201 Military Road PMB #285  
Benton, AR 72015

Dear Senator Hammer:

This is in response to your request for an opinion from this office concerning the Arkansas Activities Association (“AAA”). As background for your request, you have submitted information about the AAA’s rules and certain issues surrounding the interpretation of those rules and the scope of AAA’s authority.

**RESPONSE**

Regretfully, I am unable to be of assistance in this matter. The issues identified in the material attached to your correspondence appear to involve the interpretation and application of AAA rules. The AAA is a voluntary association of member school districts that have agreed—through signed, written agreements—to abide by AAA rules.<sup>1</sup> Questions concerning the interpretation and application of the agreed-upon rules fall outside the scope of an opinion from this office, which must be limited to questions of state law interpretation.<sup>2</sup>

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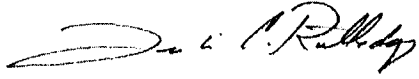
<sup>1</sup> See Ops. Att’y Gen. 2003-107, 92-107 (regarding the AAA’s history and its rulemaking authority). The Arkansas Supreme Court has observed that “[i]t legitimately falls within the purview of a voluntary association like the AAA, acting in conjunction with the schools, to regulate [student athletics].” *Arkansas Activities Ass’n v. Meyer*, 304 Ark. 718, 722–23, 805 S.W.2d 58, 61 (1991).

<sup>2</sup> Ark. Code Ann. § 25-16-706 (Repl. 2014).

The Honorable Kim D. Hammer  
State Senator  
Opinion No. 2021-080  
Page 2

Again, I regret I cannot be of assistance in this instance. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of future assistance in some other respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Rutledge", written in a cursive style.

LESLIE RUTLEDGE  
Attorney General