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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ASHWAUBENON BOYS SOCCER APPEAL REJECTED BY WIAA**

Ashwaubenon, WI – October 15, 2009 – Due to an unusually high number of student absences, Ashwaubenon High School was closed on Thursday and Friday, October 15 and 16. Flu like symptoms have caused student absences to increase during the week to a point where safe and productive education was no longer possible to achieve.

Due to this school closure, WIAA guidelines caused all athletic events to be cancelled. This includes Ashwaubenon's Boys Soccer team forfeiting its WIAA Tournament game on Thursday, October 15. By the WIAA guidelines, the most recently defeated team in the tournament, in this case Shawano, will take Ashwaubenon's place in the tournament competition. Boy's and Girl's Cross Country and Boy's Varsity Football will also be forfeiting contests. All practices for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 15-17, have also been cancelled as per WIAA guidelines.

This decision by the WIAA was appealed on Thursday, October 15, 2009. On the same day, the WIAA Executive Director communicated via phone that the appeal was denied. A written confirmation of this response has not yet been received. The School District of Ashwaubenon and our community is disappointed in the WIAA's denial of the appeal. Given the unique nature of the school closure and the opportunity to move the game to another date without disrupting other tournament games made this decision even more difficult to understand. David Schmidt, Superintendent states, "We understand the dynamics and breadth of decisions the WIAA must make related to cases like ours, but we would have expected more flexibility where opportunities exist. There were opportunities in this case".

For more information please contact David Schmidt, Superintendent, at 492-2905 ext.1003 or dschmidt@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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