There is no victory in this situation for any of the parties involved. At this time, the only obstacle standing in the way of any teams participating in Portage Trail Youth Football League playoffs is Streetsboro’s coach and attorney, Walter Madison. Mr. Madison attempts to make the decision to remove Streetsboro from the League about race in an effort to sensationalize Streetsboro’s removal and garner media attention. The allegations of racial discrimination are false and are refuted by the documentation and statements of the remaining League commissioners. The League and its Commissioner, Teresa Showalter, take these accusations very seriously. To be clear, there have been no allegations of racial discrimination until such allegations were made in the legal action commenced by Mr. Madison on October 16, 2014.

The decision to remove the Streetsboro teams from the League was made after a series of incidents with Streetsboro that occurred throughout the 2014 season, with the most recent being the October 12, 2014 game between Waterloo and Streetsboro where a Streetsboro coach threatened violence with a gun. The decision to remove Streetsboro from the League was not made by Commissioner Showalter. Commissioner Showalter did not call for a vote to remove Streetsboro; she did not participate in a vote to remove Streetsboro. The League’s decision to remove Streetsboro was solely out of concern for the safety of all of the players, coaches, fans and the surrounding communities in which the teams play. Due to the ongoing nature of the legal proceedings initiated by Mr. Madison, the media involvement, and out of concerns for safety, each team has, on its own, decided to forfeit the remainder of the season.