

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575
May 5, 2021

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met on May 5, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Sam Tuten, Darryl Owings, Jason Johns, Ray Cooper, Sonya Bryant, Marty Conner Michael Stone, Tony Folk, Ryan Brown, Keith Kiser, and Kyle Boczkowski.

Sam Tuten called the meeting to order.

Prayer led by Sonya Bryant

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ray Cooper

Appeals:

Philip Simmons High School (Chris Buchholz, Principal; Dan Minkin, Athletics Director; Deon Jackson, District AD & Chief Administrative Officer for Pupil Services)

Philip Simmons requested an open session for the appeal.

Mr. Buchholz presented the case for the Class A and Class AA Boys' Tennis combination for the state finals. Article II, Section 4D of the SCHSL Rules & Regulations states that the League will sponsor a championship in each classification that has a minimum of twelve schools. If this requirement is not met, but a minimum of fourteen schools with teams in adjoining classifications participate in a sport with a majority of the number coming from the higher classification, the League will sponsor a state championship for the combined classification. They are asking for an exception to this rule because currently, only twelve teams have agreed to participate in a Class A/Class AA combination.

Mr. Buchholz stated that in 2018 Class A and Class AA combined to have fourteen teams with a state championship and in 2019 a combination of the same classes had only twelve teams with a state championship. He stated that due to COVID-19, boys' tennis did not have an opportunity to play in 2020 and would miss the same opportunity this year if the exception is not granted. This would result in two years in a row with no state championship. They are not asking for any major modifications to the brackets and since a venue has already been secured, there would be no additional cost to the League.

Mrs. Boozer, Assistant Commissioner for the League, stated that the exception in 2019 was made because at the time of seeding there were enough teams, but when the bracket was posted, teams withdrew from the tournament. Mr. Singleton stated that since that time, a new rule has been implemented that imposes sanctions on schools that withdraw after agreeing to participate. This has curtailed some of the problems with schools agreeing to participate so the number can be met and then deciding not to play.

Mr. Boczkowski stated that due to declining numbers in participation of boys' tennis, the membership may want to consider changing the rule regarding the number of teams if they want to continue having state championships.

A motion made by Mr. Owings, seconded by Mr. Boczkowski, to make an exception to the rule and allow the Class A & Class AA boys' tennis combination to occur for the state championship passed 10-0 (11 members present).

Legion Collegiate Academy (Dr. TK Kennedy, Principal)

Legion Collegiate Academy requested an open session for the appeal.

Dr. Kennedy presented the case for the appeal of an interpretation of the Bonafide Change of Address By-Law. He stated that Legion Collegiate Academy (LCA) had a student transfer from California to South Carolina and was living with a family member who attended Legion Collegiate Academy. The transfer student immediately enrolled at LCA and never enrolled at Fort Mill High School, the school in which the family members were zoned. He stated this was a temporary living situation until their family could locate housing. He indicated that the student was in good standing at her previous school in California. She was added to Legion Collegiate Academy's eligibility for softball based on their interpretation of the Bonafide Change of Address By-Law and participated in junior varsity softball games. He stated that she never participated at the varsity level.

Dr. Kennedy said that they didn't get approval from the principal at Fort Mill High School initially because the student was never enrolled and no staff at Fort Mill High School knew who she was. He didn't know the student was ineligible until he received notice from the High School League. After the League's notice, Legion Collegiate Academy reached out to the principal of Fort Mill High School to get a signed letter of support for the transfer, but the principal denied the request. Dr. Kennedy said that at the time of this meeting, he wasn't sure of the current address of the student and her family.

Mr. Singleton explained that when a student moves into an area, that's where the eligibility goes. Because Legion Collegiate Academy used the bonafide change of address exception, the student's eligibility automatically transferred from her school in California to Fort Mill High School which was the school zoned for the address where she was living. In absence of that exception, the student would have had no eligibility as a student-athlete at Legion Collegiate Academy. To be eligible at Legion Collegiate, the student would have had to have moved into Legion's attendance area.

A motion made by Mr. Boczkowski to uphold the League's interpretation of the Bonafide Change of Address By-Law was seconded by Mr. Stone and was approved 8-2 (11 members present).

Another motion made by Ryan Brown to grant retroactive eligibility to the student and for the remainder of the school year was seconded by Mr. Folk. This motion was amended to grant retroactive eligibility for junior varsity sports to the student and eligibility for the remainder of the school year.

Members of the committee discussed if the motion as stated would include removing all penalties which included the forfeiture of all contests the student participated in and a \$500.00 fine.

The motion, amended again by Mr. Brown to remove the retroactive eligibility and only allow eligibility for the remaining games this year at the sub-varsity level and until they have reached the date at which she is eligible for varsity play, was seconded by Mr. Boczkowski. The motion failed with a vote of 5-6 (11 members present).

Other Business

Mr. Singleton discussed the track rule which states that a student must have participated in at least two regular-season meets before entering the region qualifier leading into the state meet. Because a lot of contests have been canceled due to weather-related issues, many schools cannot meet that number. This has been set aside in the past.

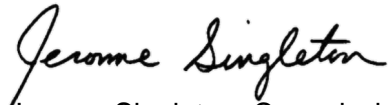
A motion made by Mr. Owings, seconded by Mr. Kiser, to waive the two meet requirement for athletes to participate in the state meet passed 10-0 (11 members present).

The League will continue to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) as it relates to wearing masks.

A motion made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Boczkowski, to follow the current CDC guidelines regarding wearing masks but to allow the SCHSL Commissioner to make changes to the mask policy if any changes are made to the CDC guidelines passed 10-0 (11 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome Singleton".

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Note: In all votes, the President only votes in the event of a deciding vote.