

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575
January 30, 2020

The A Classification Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met on January 30, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Carlos Cave, Brandy Huggins, Donald Addis, Josh McLaurin, Paris Mason, Larry Odom, Jamie Johnson, and Matt Schilit

Carlos Cave called the meeting to order.

Appeals:

Christ Church Episcopal High School (Wes Clarke, Principal; Molly Miller, Athletics Director; Tommy Bobo, Assistant Athletics Director)

Christ Church requested an open session for the change in classification and region placement appeal.

Ms. Miller presented the case for a change from Class AA – Region 1 to Class A – Region 1. She stated that Christ Church has been a member in good standing of the SC High School League since the mid-1970s. To her knowledge, the school has never received any type of violation or penalty.

Ms. Miller gave the following reasons for the appeal:

The guidelines that were given to the High School League by the guidelines committee state that Class A shall have a base of 50 schools with flexibility to move plus or minus four (4) schools, thus a range of 46–54 schools. All schools ranging from 47-54 shall be considered for Classification A. Christ Church is ranked the 47th smallest school having five schools with larger enrollments/ranking placed in Class A.

She expressed safety concerns for students participating in contact sports. Of the 51 schools in Class A, 40 are listed as fielding football teams. All five of the schools with larger enrollment/ranking and placed in Class A have football teams.

Christ Church has a strong international population with 40 students included in their enrollment count of 306. Ten students are confirmed to return to Germany at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Of the current eligibility, five of the international students participated in a varsity sport.

Finally, Ms. Miller stated that there was no unity in the collection of the 45-Day ADM; that there was discrepancy from member schools on how they calculated this information; that not all schools use Power School; and that clear guidelines were not shared for how to determine this number.

When asked about support from other schools in the region, Ms. Miller stated that she had verbal support from Ware Shoals High School, Calhoun Falls High School, Dixie High School and SC School for the Deaf & Blind. She believed Whitmire High School was the only school in opposition. She was also asked about how Christ Church collected its 45-Day ADM. It was her understanding that the number sent to the High School League was the school enrollment count on the 45th day of the school year.

A motion made by Mr. Addis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to deny the change in classification and region passed 8-0 (8 members present.)

Burke High School (Corey McDonald, Assistant Principal; Deon Richardson, Athletics Director)
Burke High School requested an open session for the classification and region placement appeal.

Deon Richardson presented the case for a change from Class AA – Region 6 to Class A – Region 7. Mr. Richardson gave the following reasons as the request for the change:

The majority of the schools in the region they wish to be placed in, Class A – Region 7, are in Charleston County, the same area as Burke High School. This would decrease the amount of travel time when competing against other schools out of the area. They would also lose instructional time having to leave school early for away competition.

Mr. Richardson stated that his school is facing some of the struggles of many inner-city schools and they are hoping that the change in region and classification would spark interest in some of their previous rivalry games. Due to scheduling issues, many of these games cannot be played as non-region games. He also expressed safety concerns over the gap in the distribution of competition from Class AA to Class A.

When asked about support from the current and prospective regions, Mr. Richardson stated he believed he had full support. The Classification Committee expressed its concerns regarding the 45-Day ADM submitted by Burke High School which was 314. It was stated that there was a significant difference between the enrollment count of Burke High School and other schools in Class A and approving this appeal would not be fair to those schools.

A motion made by Paris Mason, no second, to approve the appeal failed.

A motion made by Jamie Johnson, seconded by Donald Addis, to deny the appeal passed 5-3 (8 members present.)

Denmark Olar High School (Dr. Deonia Simmons, Principal; Gregory Wright, Athletics Director)

Denmark Olar requested an open session for the change in region placement appeal (football only).

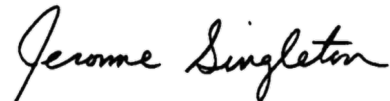
Mr. Wright presented the case for a change in region placement from Class A – Region 3 to Class A – Region 6 for football only. He stated that Region 6 would allow for more non-conference games than the current region placement. The change would also reignite competition in rivalry games in the region, and it would help the school's overall budget with less travel distance and time than the current region placement.

The Committee asked why the change for football only. Mr. Wright stated that not all of the schools in the requested region have football, and this would be the least disruptive to the current region placement.

A motion made by Matt Schilit, seconded by Jamie Johnson, to deny the appeal passed 7-1 (8 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,



Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

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