

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575**

July 22, 2020

The Appellate Panel of the South Carolina High School League met July 22, 2020 via Zoom virtual meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the South Carolina High School League in Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Otis Rawl, Jackie Queen, Raleigh King, Andy Tweito, Bill McCall, and Bob Davis.

Bill McCall called the meeting to order.

Appeals:

Lexington County School District One (Dr. Gregory Little, Superintendent; David Bennett, District Athletics Director; Jeff Caldwell, Student Services)

Lexington County School District One requested an open session for the sports season proposal.

David Bennett and Dr. Little presented the case for appeal which was denied by the SCHSL Executive Committee to alter the sports season calendar due to COVID-19 conditions. Mr. Bennett stated that at a time during a pandemic, if the state is having to modify education, then athletics should also be modified or altered for safety.

Dr. Little stated that their plan minimizes exposure for student-athletes and coaches as safety is the number one priority. They also considered what sports could put together the best safety plan with such a short window of time and the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus. They believe low-to-moderate risk sports can begin sooner rather than later and higher risk sports would take much more planning and modification. This maximizes the opportunity for every sport to take place on the athletic calendar. They do not want a repeat of the spring where coaches and athletes had to sacrifice their seasons. They also want to make sure that multi-sport athletes would have the opportunity to play more than one sport and wouldn't be asking coaches and student-athletes to choose between sports especially in smaller schools that often have to share athletes.

Their plan moves low-to-moderate risk sports to the fall and moderate-to-high risk sports to the spring in four (4) ten-week seasons. By starting high-risk sports now, they believe there is a greater chance of not starting that sport at all or starting only to have to shut it down later.

Mrs. Lafitte presented on behalf of the High School League. She stated that we are in uncharted waters, these are uncertain times, and the High School League and Executive Committee have only focused on the safety and well-being of the student-athletes. Mrs. Lafitte also said that several issues have not been addressed by the plan submitted by Lexington County School District One. There are facility issues for smaller schools; no ability for social distancing in certain situations where athletes might have to share space such as gyms; a potential for overlap of three weeks in some sports which would affect transportation, accommodations, and if spectators come to games; issues with coaches, officials, and players if sports seasons get flipped around; and no consideration has been given for championships and when, where, or how these would be played.

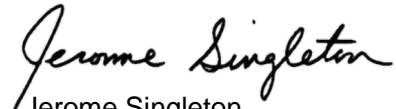
After considerable discussion involving the safety of student-athletes, coaches and the school community, the uncertainty of what the school year is going to look like, concerns about the loss sports in the plan, the Appellate Panel members concluded that they wanted more time to review the current High School League plan in comparison to the presented plan by Lexington School District One.

A motion made by Andy Tweito, seconded by Otis Rawl, to postpone a decision until the next Appellate Panel meeting scheduled for August 10, 2020, at 11:00 am passed 5-1 (6 members present).

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Singleton
Commissioner