

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**  
**P.O. BOX 211575**  
**COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575**  
**July 15, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met via Zoom virtual meeting on July 15, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Sam Tuten, Jason Warren, Dr. Darryl Owings, Anna Miller, Sonya Bryant, Laura Hickson, Karen Radcliffe, Marty Conner, Ray Cooper, Michael Stone, Dr. Andrea Pridgen, Dr. Kandace Bethea, Josh Trahan, Tony Folk, Mike Beasley, Carlos Cave, Ryan Brown, Kyle Boczkowski, and Keith Kiser.

Sam Tuten called the meeting to order.

A motion made by Tony Folk, seconded by Mike Beasley, to approve the at-large members, Josh Trahan and Laura Hickson, passed 18-0 (19 members present).

A motion made by Michael Stone, seconded by Mike Beasley, to approve the minutes from the last meeting passed 18-0 (19 members present).

Mr. Singleton gave an update on the current status of the return to practice/play of sports for the 2020-2021 sports season. The membership is still operating currently under the guidelines of Phase 1 which allows for strength and conditioning in small groups with limited use of equipment. There is currently no opportunity for players to gather in groups of more than 10 to include athletes and staff and only one group to a facility. These are required guidelines as voted on by the Executive Committee at the last meeting. The SCHSL staff is looking at an opportunity to progress into Phase 1.5 where some equipment could be used amongst the athletes in the group. There would still be no competition or scrimmages.

### **Action Items**

**Lexington County School District One** (Dr. Gregory Little, Superintendent; David Bennett, District Athletics Director)

Lexington County School District One requested an open session for the presentation.

David Bennett and Dr. Gregory Little presented the case for the Lexington County School District One 2020-21 sports season proposal in which they are requesting that the Executive Committee alter the current sports season calendar for the safety of student-athletes and coaches due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Little stated that they had four major considerations in developing the plan:

1. Any plan created would have to minimize the risk and exposure for student-athletes and coaches as safety is the number one priority.
2. 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 to low to moderate risk sports could take place now.
3. Have to make sure that every sport would have the opportunity to compete this year and not have a loss to any sports season as happened in the spring.
4. 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.

Dr. Little said they had presented this to 89 other administrators, athletic directors and coaches across the state and used their feedback to make modifications to the plan which in essence would move low-to-moderate-risk sports to the fall and moderate-to-high risk sports to the spring. There would be four ten-week seasons to allow for maximum flexibility throughout the year and to make sure all sports are represented.

Members of the Executive committee stated that they should have gotten more input from sport associations across the state as they put together this plan but agreed that coaches right now do want a plan and answers about how things will move forward. One of the concerns expressed by the Committee was that baseball and softball coaches have said they do not want to lose another season because of changes to the calendar. If they are moved to the fall season and schools close due to the virus, they run the risk of having another season canceled. Another concern of the plan was that small schools depend on the revenue from fall sports to help run spring sports. Moving football to the spring might cause undue hardship on those smaller schools by moving some of the revenue out of the fall.

**The SC High School League** (Jerome Singleton, Commissioner) presented its proposal for the 2020-21 fall sports season. Several surveys were sent out to the member schools to get some feedback and conversations with experts, including DHEC, help create the plan. The League understands that currently, schools are facing challenges as they plan to open schools and realizes that whatever plan is created may have to be adjusted as schools develop their back-to-school plans. Safety of the student-athletes is the main priority but as long as there is an opportunity for school, the League believes there should be an opportunity to play.

In the High School League proposal, the start date for fall sports has been moved from July 31, 2020, to August 17, 2020, however, this date must be flexible as the virus changes in the state and various communities. The League is requesting that the Executive Committee use this plan and allow it to be adjusted as necessary as decisions regarding the school year and the COVID-19 virus are made.

Discussion from the Committee involved questions about the start date for other seasons and whether fall dates might infringe on the dates of the later seasons. Mr. Singleton stated that there might have to be a conversation if the start dates get pushed back further. The Executive Committee would have to decide on whether or not seasons should overlap or there would need to be a new division between the seasons.

Another concern of the Committee was how much practice time would be needed for football before the first contest. The sports medicine advisory committee of the League strongly suggested that a minimum of four weeks would be needed for practice primarily due to heat acclimatization. The challenges of heat become less as we move into the fall so three weeks might be enough. Mr. Singleton stated that in the guidelines that were previously issued, summer workouts could not be mandatory so strength and conditioning were not considered as a factor in the three to four week period of practice before the first game. Non-contact sports would not necessarily need four weeks to be prepared for the season.

Questions were asked about the possibility that a sport could be lost or not played at all if the dates continue to be pushed back. The League again believes that if school is in session there should be an opportunity for sports to be played. There may be challenges of moving sports around into other seasons such as facilities and transportation but if there is school, there could be an opportunity to play.

A motion made by Mr. Beasley, seconded by Mr. Stone, to deny the Lexington County School District One sports season proposal passed 16-1 (18 members present).

A motion made by Mr. Folk, seconded by Mr. Trahan, to approve the SC High School League sports season proposal passed 14-2 (17 members present).

Rational for approving the High School League plan over the Lexington County School District One plan is that while both plans have good points, the League plan offers more flexibility to make changes as the COVID-19 virus conditions change.

**Greenville County School District** submitted a letter to the committee requesting to temporarily suspend all in-person workouts for member schools. Mr. Singleton stated that currently, schools are operating in Phase 1 of strength and conditioning. These workouts are not mandatory. Currently, it is a local decision as to whether or not schools can participate in Phase 1 of workouts.

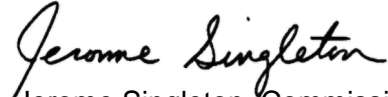
Discussion from the committee was whether a competitive advantage exists for schools that have the ability to work out versus those school districts that are closed and not allowing any athletic activities. Because there is limited use of equipment, the League doesn't feel that an advantage exists at this time.

A motion made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Conner, to deny the request by Greenville County School District to suspend in-person workouts passed 13-1 (15 members present).

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August 4 & 5, 2020.

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

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