

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575
January 13, 2021

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met via Zoom Virtual Meetings on January 13, 2021, at 10:00 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, Laura Hickson, Jason Johns, Marty Conner, Michael Stone, Dr. Kandace Bethea, Andrea Pridgen, Josh Trahan, Tony Folk, Sonya Bryant, Mike Beasley, Carlos Cave, Ryan Brown, Keith Kiser, and Kyle Boczkowski.

Sam Tuten called the meeting to order.

Pledge led by Michael Stone

Prayer led by Jason Warren

A motion made by Michael Stone, seconded by Kyle Boczkowski to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020, and December 9, 2020 meetings passed 17-0 (18 members present).

Appeals:

- Greer High School retroactive eligibility and sanction relief request – **DENIED**

Subcommittee Reports

Legislative (Tony Folk, Chair)

The following Constitution and By-law proposals were submitted for the 2021-2022 school year:

Constitution

Article: V. Membership

Section: 3 A & B Classification and Membership

Submitted by: SCHSL Commissioner

Currently reads:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.
- B. The number of classifications will be determined by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee. In making this decision the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will consider the number of schools to be in each of the resulting classifications and the number of regions into which these will be further divided. The schools will be divided among classifications, numerically, as evenly as possible, based on school enrollment count.

Change to read:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.
- B. The number of classifications will be determined by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee. In making this decision the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will consider the number of schools to be in each of the resulting classifications and the number of regions into which these will be further divided. The schools will be divided among classifications, as evenly as possible, based on multiple factors to include school enrollment count.

Rationale: The change provides the committee(s) charged with creating the Reclassification/Realignment document, flexibility in considering other factors that may help to create more competitive balance.

RECOMMENDED

Constitution
Article: V. Membership
Section 3 D

Submitted by: SCHSL Commissioner

Currently reads:

D. Any appeals from the classification and/or region placements will be heard by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee, or its designee. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee may delegate classification and/or region appeal duties to Classifications Executive Committees selected to represent the member schools of the class, which will determine the appeal as to region assignment. Member schools may appeal decisions made by the Classification Appeals Committee to the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and Appellate Panel.

Change to read:

D. Any appeals from the classification and/or region placements will be heard by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee, or its designee. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee may delegate classification and/or region appeal duties to Classifications Executive Committees selected to represent the member schools of the class, which will determine the appeal as to region assignment. Member schools may appeal decisions made by the Classification Appeals Committee to the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee, and if required by state law or proviso, subsequent appeals may be made to the Appellate Panel.

Rationale: The change further clarifies the authority of the Appellate Panel.

RECOMMENDED

Bylaws

Article: VII. League Passes

Submitted by: SCHSL Commissioner

Currently reads:

- A. The South Carolina High School League office will issue identification cards (passes) to member schools according to the following plan and only League passes will be honored for League play-off contests.

Change to read:

- A. The South Carolina High School League office will issue identification cards (passes) to member schools for entry into South Carolina High School League sponsored athletics events according to the following plan and only South Carolina High School League passes will be honored for League play-off contests.

Rationale: This change clarifies the intended use of the League Passes.

RECOMMENDED

Constitution

Article: VIII – Appellate Panel

Section 1 Powers and Duties

Submitted by: SCHSL Commissioner

Currently reads:

Section 1 Powers and Duties

The Appellate Panel shall be the final authority in all appeals involving member schools. Member schools must have the ability to appeal a ruling of the subdivisions, conferences, or regions of the South Carolina High School League. The Appellate Panel must provide the final ruling in any appeal brought against a decision on appeal from the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee. Decisions of the Appellate Panel shall be the final administrative appeal. Any school or person granted a meeting of the Appellate Panel to hear an appeal shall pay the expenses of the meeting if the ruling of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee is sustained. Individual(s) not representing a school must post a \$200 deposit prior to their appeal.

Change to read:

The Appellate Panel shall be the final authority in appeals involving member schools and consistent with the scope of authority given to the Appellate Panel under state law or proviso. Decisions of the Appellate Panel shall be the final administrative appeal. Any school or person granted a meeting of the Appellate Panel to hear an appeal shall pay the expenses of the meeting if the ruling of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee is sustained. Individual(s) not representing a school must post a \$200 deposit prior to their appeal.

Rationale: This change further clarifies the authority of the Appellate Panel.

RECOMMENDED

Bylaws

Article: III. Student Eligibility

Section: 10 Transfers

Submitted by: Fox Creek High School

Currently reads:

A transfer student will be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N) below and only if he/she meets the following two criteria irrespective of whether he/she moves under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N).

Change to read:

A transfer student will be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N) below and only if he/she meets the following two criteria irrespective of whether he/she moves under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N). An ineligible transfer student meeting the two criteria, but not any of the circumstances of subsection (A) through (N) may compete with LIMITED ELIGIBILITY in any sport with a letter of support from the principal of the school from which the athlete is eligible. An ineligible transfer student meeting the two criteria, but not any of the circumstances of subsection (A) through (N) may compete with ELIGIBILITY in any sport they did not participate in at their previous school and must have a letter of support from the principal of the school from which the athlete is eligible. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year. This type of transfer of eligibility is only allowed once every (365 days) calendar year and is applicable to inter-district and intra-district transfers.

Rationale: This change allows a student to participate with FULL ELIGIBILITY in a sport or sports, he/she has not participated in during the previous sport(s) season(s) at their previous school. It also ensures that a child be permitted LIMITED ELIGIBILITY at any school they attend provided age and grade guidelines are met. The intent is to promote extracurricular activity amongst all students to help promote positive social-emotional health.

RECOMMENDED

Activities Committee (Mike Beasley, Chair)

The following items were presented by the activities committee and will be attached as a part of the minutes:

- The winter sports playoffs and finals schedules for basketball and wrestling were approved out of the activities committee by a vote of 10-0. A motion by the Executive Committee to approve the winter sports playoffs schedule passed 15-0 (16 members present).
- Spring sports modifications were approved out of the activities committee by a vote of 10-0. A motion by the Executive Committee to approve the modifications passed 15-0 (16 members present).
- Spring sports playoffs schedule was approved out of the activities committee by a vote of 10-0. A motion by the Executive Committee to approve passed 15-0 (16 members present).

A motion made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Beasley to make an addendum to the documents presented from the activities committee in regards to the winter and spring sports playoffs schedules that would give authority to the SC High School League Commissioner to adjust the dates for the finals should teams have to cancel, passed 15-0 (16 members present).

Personnel & Finance Committee (Jason Warren, Chair)

- A copy of the current statement of cash and investments was presented to the committee. This statement was presented as information only and no action was taken.
- The personnel & finance committee submitted proposed changes to the current ticket prices in the playoffs and finals for selected sports beginning the 2021-2022 sports season. These changes were approved out of committee by a vote of 6-1. A motion made by the Executive Committee to approve the changes passed 13-1 (15 members present).
- A proposal from the personnel and finance committee to remove the entry fee maximum of \$100 per team in sports that charge entry fees including cross-country, tennis, swim, wrestling, and track beginning the 2021-2022 sports season. Entry fees will be \$25 per athlete no matter the number of participants. This proposal was approved by the personnel & finance committee with a vote of 7-0. A motion to approve by the Executive Committee passed 14-0 (15 members present).

A motion made by Jason Warren, seconded by Jason Johns, to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters passed 14-0 (15 members present).

A motion made by Jason Warren, seconded by Sonya Bryant to exit executive session passed 14-0 (15 members present).

A motion made by Josh Trahan, seconded by Kyle Boczkowski, to approve the commissioner's evaluation as presented by the personnel and finance committee passed 14-0 (15 members present).

In executive session, the League's Attorney, Mr. Montgomery provided updates on legal matters. No action was taken. Mr. Kiser and Mr. Trahan recused themselves from the discussion.

Other Business

Mr. Singleton discussed the current environment on the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to guidelines on return-to-play for athletes that have tested positive. The League suggests that schools work directly with their local health departments on the protocols for return after positive tests.

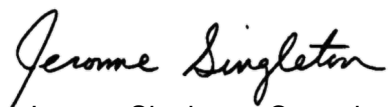
He also discussed the challenges many schools and teams are having with game cancellations in basketball and wrestling due to COVID-19, the recent increase in positivity rates, and the fact that these sports are held indoors. He stressed that school districts should make the best decisions for their students.

The spring conference has been canceled this year as an in-person meeting. Since the Legislative Assembly meeting is usually held on the last day of this conference, the League is exploring other opportunities to have the Legislative Assembly meeting in person with the idea that only delegates will be present for the meeting. More information will be provided as a decision is made.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021.

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.