



Greer High School

COMMUNITY ♦ TRADITION ♦ DETERMINATION

3000 East Gap Creek Road, Greer, SC 29651

December 17, 2020

TO: Commissioner Jerome Singleton

Commissioner Singleton,

We are writing to request an appeal to the League's Executive Committee concerning your Hardship ruling that was not in favor of Madeline White receiving retroactive eligibility. It is our belief that Madeline White should be granted a hardship exception for eligibility and would like to present our case to the SCHSL Executive Committee.

In addition, we are requesting to appeal Associate Commissioner Wentzky's decision for sanctions against Greer High School concerning the eligibility of Madeline White. We believe that these sanctions would be determined not to be applicable if the Executive Committee rules in favor of our hardship appeal.

All Executive Committee members will receive a copy of the hardship request and additional information by January 10, 2020.

If there is any other information your need, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Justin Ludley
Principal of Greer High School

Academics, Athletics, and the Arts
An International Baccalaureate High School
www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerhs
864-355-5700 Phone*Fax 864-355-5725



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575
803-798-0120 ♦ www.schsl.org

December 9, 2020

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Johnsonville

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Nation Ford

MICHAEL STONE

Mullins

JOSH TRAHAN

North Augusta

Justin Ludley, Principal
Greer High School
3000 E Gap Creek Rd
Greer, SC 29651

Dear Mr. Ludley:

I have reviewed all the information submitted by Greer High School, including the statements submitted in support of the hardship request. However, based upon the information provided to me, I have determined that the degree of hardship necessary for me to grant a waiver for Madeline Louise White is not evident and, therefore, I must deny the request. In denying the request for an exception to the eligibility rule, I considered that the circumstances are not totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students; that the student transferred without a bonafide change of address; that the alleged bullying and hostile environment by the coach have not been confirmed by the former school's administration (South Pointe); and that the decision to transfer was a matter of choice by the household involved. However, while I cannot grant retroactive eligibility, if eligible in all other ways other than residency, if requested, I will grant eligibility at all levels in all sports in which the student did not participate during the 2019-20 school year.

The League's Executive Committee will meet on January 13, 2021, at the League Building in Columbia to hear appeals. If you desire to appeal this ruling, please notify me in writing by January 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Also, you are to refer to page 1 in the League's Bylaws for the procedure to be followed. Each committee person must receive a complete copy of the hardship request prior to January 10, 2021. Additionally, if you plan to have legal representation (i.e. attorney) at the meeting, please notify this office along with the appeal request. Please note that the meeting will proceed in open session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-10, *et seq.* If you wish for the meeting to be closed to the public, please be prepared to make the request at the beginning of the meeting, identifying the specific exemption under FOIA that applies to your case.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
SC High School League



Application for Hardship Exceptions

South Carolina High School League

PO Box 211575

Columbia, SC 29221-6575

803-798-0120

A waiver of the South Carolina High School League eligibility is possible under By-Laws, Article III, Section 5 of the League's Handbook and may be considered if conditions exist or existed causing a student to be in violation of a rule. There cannot be an exception to the age rule.

Please complete this form and furnish the additional information needed to develop acceptable proof that the student should be considered for this waiver.

School applying for exception: Greer High School

Name of Student: Madeline Louise White Grade: 11

Date student enrolled in your school: 1/15/2020

If a transfer student, list former school(s):

Name: South Pointe High School

Address: 801 Neely Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

Principal: Dr. Marty Conner

Telephone: 803-980-2100

What sport(s) did the student participate in within the last calendar year and list school(s) where participated:

2019 - Cross Country (South Pointe High School)

2020 - Track (Greer High School); 2020 - Cross Country (Greer High School)

For which rule are you requesting an exception? (Check One)

☒ Residence/Transfer ☐ Four-Year Rule ☐ Attendance ☐ Academics

Special Conditions Criteria: (Check One)

☒ Extraordinary Circumstances ☐ Medical ☐ Financial

Each appeal request must be made in writing by the superintendent or principal of the school(s) involved. It must include the reason(s) for requesting the appeal and must contain all the known facts pertinent to the appeal. The information accompanying the request must be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation.

To include the following:

- A transcript, if it is needed to support the request. (Required for appeal of Four-Year Rule & Attendance/Academic Rule)
- Written statements from individuals that have personal knowledge of the facts. We need those persons in authoritative positions such as: school officials; including principals, superintendents, counselors, etc., and doctors, social workers, employers, ministers, etc.
- Written statements from parents
- Written statement of support from the administration of the former school.



Signature of Superintendent or Principal

12/8/20

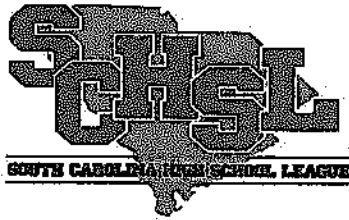
Date

LEAGUE ACTION

Signed

Date

(Last Updated: January 14, 2020)



South Carolina High School League

PO Box 211575

Columbia, SC 29221-6575

803-798-0120

www.schsl.org

December 8, 2020

Mr. Justin Ludley, Principal
Greer High School
3000 East Gap Creek Road
Greer, SC 29651

Dear Mr. Ludley:

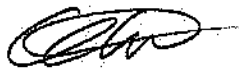
This letter is in response to ineligible student athletes who participated in girls track and girls cross country at Greer High School from February 22, 2020 through October 29, 2020. As you are aware, the league office received information via email pertaining to the eligibility of several athletes who participated in cross country and track at Greer High School during the 2019-20 school year and the 2020 fall season. The league immediately made Greer High School aware of potential issues with student athlete eligibility on October 30, 2020 upon reviewing the information.

After initially reaching out to Greer High School regarding the eligibility of both student athletes for the 2020 cross country season, the league and Greer High School had additional correspondence pertaining to the status of their eligibility and participation in spring sports at Greer High school. In your letters of response you indicated that both students participated for Greer High School in girls track during the 2020 spring season and in girls cross country during the 2020 fall season. In your last letter you stated: "If the retroactive hardship exceptions for Greta and Madeline White are not accepted by the SCHSL, then they both would be considered ineligible for 2020 Track Season and the 2020 Cross Country seasons because the transfer was not processed correctly."

Based on this statement and all of the information provided by Greer High School, I have determined that Greer High School allowed two ineligibles to participate in both girls track and girls cross country during their respective 2020 season. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the South Carolina High School League, Greer High School will fined \$500 for each sport that each ineligible was allowed to participate (\$2,000 total). In addition to the fine, Greer High School will have to notify your opponents that you are forfeiting any individual points earned and/or medals earned by the ineligible student athletes as well as any team championships won in both girls cross country and track.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, feel free to contact me. If you wish to appeal any of these sanctions, please respond in writing to the commissioner within ten days of receipt of this letter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CW', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Charlie Wentzky
Associate Commissioner



Greer High School

COMMUNITY ♦ TRADITION ♦ DETERMINATION

3000 East Gap Creek Road, Greer, SC 29651

December 8, 2020

TO: Commissioner Jerome Singleton

Commissioner Singleton,

On January 15, 2020, Madeline White enrolled at Greer High School as a transfer student from South Pointe High School. After further review, we believe that her transfer was processed incorrectly and that the correct process would have been to request a hardship exception for her athletic eligibility.

We believe that Madeline would have qualified for application for a hardship exception due to the separation of her parents and because she was experiencing a contentious environment between her family and certain personnel at her former school. Madeline's father (Tim White) moved to Greer, SC due to a separation with his wife and also for the purpose of working in Greenville County in the summer of 2019. After speaking with Mr. White about the reason for transfer, he explained that during the fall of 2019, the environment between the White family and certain personnel at Madeline's former school was growing more contentious as the semester went on and that Madeline and the White family were not comfortable in that environment. During the winter of 2020, Mr. White and Madeline sought a new school environment for Madeline to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Through the process of our investigation we have contacted South Pointe High School. Please see the attached letter of support for our request from Dr. Marty Conner. We have found no information that would have deemed Madeline ineligible by the rules of the SCHSL if her residence had not changed.

In closing, we believe that the circumstances surrounding the transfer of Madeline White would have justified applying for a hardship for her athletic eligibility due to her parents' separation and because of a contentious environment with certain personnel at her former school. At this time, Greer High School is requesting a retroactive hardship exception for Madeline White to be eligible at Greer High School dating back to last year, during the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,

Justin Ludley

Principal of Greer High School

Academics, Athletics, and the Arts
An International Baccalaureate High School

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864-355-5700 Phone*Fax 864-355-5725

South Pointe High School

Engage, Empower, Inspire, Every Student, Every Day for Successful Futures

*Dr. Marty S. Conner, Sr.
Principal*



December 4, 2020

Dear Mr. Ludley,

This correspondence is a follow-up to our conversation on November 24, 2020 regarding former South Pointe High School student-athletes Greta and Mattie White who have been enrolled at Greer High School since January 2020 as student athletes.

Greta and Mattie were both outstanding students at South Pointe High School during their tenure at SPHS. They both were exceptional students academically and were great contributors to our cross country team as student-athletes for the two years I knew them. Greta and Mattie demonstrated qualities of leadership, service, teamwork, community and school spirit.

I advised Mr. White, Greta and Mattie's father during the time of their transfer in December 2019, that I would provide any support needed to assist them with an effective and smooth withdrawal/transfer.

Mr. White made me aware on November 12, 2020 (after we had not spoken since December 2019), there were recent challenges with Greta and Mattie transfer to Greer High School due to an independent report made by a volunteer coach from our cross country team.

Per our conversation, I understand the challenges that exists due to the volunteer coach making the report independently. I will provide any support or assistance within the purview and scope of my role as principal of South Pointe High School to effectively address the challenges you and your team are having to address.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance or support.

Sincerely,

MConner

Marty S. Conner, Sr.
Principal

TO: Greer High School Athletic Department

FROM: Tim White, parent of Madeline and Greta White

RE: Inter-Conference Transfer

I am writing this letter in reference to my children, Madeline and Greta White, incoming transfer students from Rock Hill School District 3, South Pointe High School.

In a short synopsis, I would like to request or petition a "hardship" transfer request.

There are multiple reasons, and documentation can be supplied if required, but in brief:

- (1) I personally have moved to Greer, SC. I have changed my residency with everyone, including the DMV regarding my licensing and vehicle registration. I have an executed lease beginning August of 2019, all utilities in my name as well. They are moving second semester (January 2020)
- (2) There has been an amicable split between his mother and me. We agreed years ago, based upon a terrible custody battle with his older brother, that we would never put our other children through that.
- (3) South Pointe was no longer able to provide a "safe" environment for Madeline and Greta. When their older brother Dalton moved to Greer at the beginning of the year, the previous Coach's bullying campaign switched to my daughters. It really became unbearable. Neither girl wanted to move from their friends, but both in November requested that they be able to get away from this gal.
- (4) Due to the incident revolving around the Head Coach and her violation, a series of bullying and hostile environment instances occurred towards my girls. No amount of intervention from the school nor District Offices, could remedy the situation. I met in person on multiple occasions with all parties involved to no avail.
- (5) The previous school's principal, Dr. Marty Conner, put in writing that he would do whatever necessary to ensure a "smooth transition" into the new school.

I sincerely thank you in advance for expediting this request. Since this is an Inter District transfer, with the written blessing from the former school, I do not think it's fair to punish these kids for an environment that wasn't safe for them to be in.

-Tim White

(803)-372-8390

tim@madisonhomebuilders.com

South Pointe High School



"Engage, Empower, Inspire Every Student Every Day for Successful Futures"

Principal, Dr. Marty S. Conner, Sr.

December 1, 2020

Good Morning Mr. White,

This communication is a follow up from our initial telephone conversations on November 12th, November 13th, and a follow up conversation on November 19th with Mrs. Parker and you. I understand we both made several attempts to speak again on November 23rd and 24th, but were not able to speak again until today.

During our telephone conversation on November 12th Mrs. Parker and you shared your concerns about a letter you received that was written by SPHS volunteer Cross Country Coach Robert Krolewicz to the SCHSL regarding the eligibility status of your daughters, Greta and Maddie White, who transferred to Greer High School in January 2020 and participated on Greer's Cross Country Team this season. In addition, you also shared the historical context as to the experiences of your son (Dalton) and daughters on South Pointe's Cross Country team which led you to making the decision to transfer them to Greer High School. As I shared at the time of the transfer in January 2020, I respected your decision to do so and would provide any reasonable support I could to assist with the transfer process. I assumed the transfer went well since there was no further communication from you or anyone from Greer High School.

During the conversation Mrs. Parker and you conveyed your concern about the depth and magnitude of the private information that had been shared in the letter. You also communicated that the tone of the letter was harassing and demonstrated your daughters being targeted by Mr. Krolewicz. I advised you during the call that Coach Hare nor I knew about the letter, never endorsed such a letter, nor had we seen the letter. I shared with you that I was concerned that the letter had been written by an affiliate of SPHS and Mr. Krolewicz had operated independently and not on behalf of the school nor as a representative of the school. Mrs. Parker and you also communicated that a person had shared with you that Coach Sacco, while in a circle of adults and coaches at a Cross Country meet in September, Coach Sacco stated, "I am going to ensure the White girls are not eligible."

I advised you I would speak with Mr. Krolewicz, Coach Sacco, and Coach Hare to investigate these matters and follow up with you by November 19th. I spoke with Mrs. Parker and you on November 19th and shared the following from the November 18th meeting with Mr. Krolewicz, Coach Sacco, Coach Hare, and myself:

1. Mr. Krolewicz did confirm he wrote the letter and sent it to SCHSL independently and without Coach Sacco's or school's leadership knowledge.

2. A school investigation was conducted regarding the alleged comments Coach Sacco made about the eligibility of your daughters.

Due to this being a personnel matter involving Mr. Krolewicz and Coach Sacco, any actions or next steps will remain confidential. Lastly, Greer's principal contacted me on November 24, 2020 to share insight on Mattie and Greta's transition to Greer High School. He also asked that I write a letter of support for their transition to Greer High School. I agreed to do so and will send the letter of support to him by December 2, 2020.

I appreciate and respect your professionalism and communication with me the past few weeks to address your concerns. In conclusion, this letter denotes the closure of the investigation by South Pointe High School. I hope this has brought some resolve and is beneficial to you and your family.

If anything additional is needed or you have further questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact me. I wish you, Greta, and Mattie well.

Regards,

M. Conner

Dr. Marty S. Conner, Sr.
Principal