



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575
Phone: 803-798-0120 Fax: 803-737-0029 www.schsl.org

To: Justin Ludley, Principal – Greer High School
From: Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
Subject: Time of scheduled appearance before Executive Committee
Date: January 7, 2021

You are scheduled to appear before the Executive Committee on **January 13, 2021**, to present your case for Timothy, Greta, and Madeline White and sanction relief. The meeting will be held via Zoom Virtual Meetings at the South Carolina High School League Office, 121 Westpark Boulevard, Columbia, South Carolina. Your scheduled appearance time is 9:10 a.m.

Please refer to page 1 of the League's By-Laws for the procedures to be used when making appeals to the Executive Committee. You are to forward copies of your request brief to members of the Executive Committee. Each committee person must receive a complete copy of all pertinent information prior to the meeting. You will have 10 minutes to make your presentation to the Committee.

Date: January 13, 2021
Time: 9:10 a.m.
Site: ZOOM Meetings (login instructions will be provided)
SC High School League
121 Westpark Blvd
Columbia, SC 29210



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 Timothy Dalton White receiving retroactive eligibility. It is our belief that Timothy Dalton 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 Timothy Dalton 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



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

December 9, 2020

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Johnsonville

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Vice President

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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

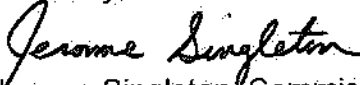
Dear Mr. Ludley:

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 Timothy Dalton 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: Timothy Dalton White

Grade: 12

Date student enrolled in your school: 8/20/2019

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:

Cross Country – 2019 (Greer High); Track – 2020 (Greer High)

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

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

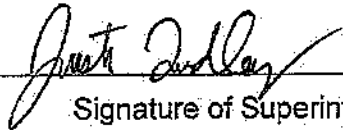
Special Conditions Criteria: (Check One)

☒ 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 an ineligible student athlete who participated in boys cross country and track at Greer High School for the 2019-20 school year. 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.

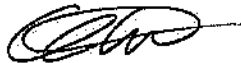
After initially reaching out to Greer High School regarding the eligibility of D. White for the 2019-20 school year, the league and Greer High School had additional correspondence pertaining to the status of his eligibility and his participation in spring sports at Greer High school. In your letters of response you indicated that he participated in both boys cross country and boys track for Greer High School during the 2019-20 school year. In your last letter you stated: "If the retroactive hardship exception for Dalton is not accepted by the SCHSL, then he would be considered ineligible for the 2019-20 school year 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 an ineligible to participate in boy cross country and boys track during the 2019-20 school year. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the South Carolina High School League, Greer High School will fined \$500 for each sport that an ineligible was allowed to participate (\$1,000 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 athlete as well as any team championships won in both boys cross country and track.

After reviewing the results of the 2019 SCHSL 4A Boys Cross Country State Championships, it has been determined that without the ineligible participating that Greer High School would have finished in second place. Greer High School will need to notify the 2019 Runner-up in Boys Cross Country of the new results of the state meet.

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 stylized flourish extending from the end.

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 August 20, 2019, Timothy Dalton White enrolled at Greer High School as a transfer student from South Pointe High School. After further review, we believe that his transfer was processed incorrectly and that the correct process would have been to request a hardship exception for his athletic eligibility.

We believe that Dalton would have qualified for application for a hardship exception due to the separation of his parents and because he was experiencing a contentious environment between his family and certain personnel at his former school. Dalton's father (Tim White) moved to Greer, SC due to a separation with his wife and also for the purpose working in Greenville County in the summer of 2019. After speaking with Mr. White about the reason for transfer, it was apparent that Dalton was not progressing in a positive manner in his social, emotional, and academic growth at his former school. During the summer of 2019, Mr. White and Dalton sought a new school environment for Dalton to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. We have found no information that would have deemed Dalton ineligible by the rules of the SCHSL if his residence had not changed.

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

Sincerely,

Justin Ludley
Principal of Greer High School

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Greer High School

COMMUNITY ♦ TRADITION ♦ DETERMINATION

3000 East Gap Creek Road, Greer, SC 29651

December 8, 2020

Statement Supporting Transition

On August 20, 2019, Timothy Dalton White enrolled at Greer High School as a transfer student from South Pointe High School. In examining Timothy Dalton White's permanent records that include his time at South Pointe High School and Greer High School, Dalton demonstrated a history of good academic standing. We have found no academic or behavioral information that would have deemed Dalton ineligible by the rules of the SCHSL.

Sincerely,

Justin Ludley

Principal of Greer High School

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

TO: Greer High School Athletic Department

FROM: Tim White, parent of Dalton White

RE: Inter-Conference Transfer

I am writing this letter in reference to my child, Dalton White, an incoming transfer student 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. Dalton changed his DL as well.
- (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 Dalton. They have violated his federal 504 status on two occasions. The first resulted in a trip via ambulance from the school to the hospital. The former AD (who was present in all of our educational/strategic meetings with the school regarding his condition) provided him with his life-threatening food to eat. The second came from his Head Coach for Cross Country. She purposely planned and excluded him from a team outing, so that she could reward other teammates with a meal from a business unsafe for Dalton.
- (4) Due to the incident revolving around the Head Coach and her violation, a series of bullying and hostile environment instances occurred towards Dalton. 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) It became bad enough, my son requested the ability to "drop out", get his GED, and forget running.
- (6) The former school's AD, Adam Hare, suggested to us that we "move" him to somewhere he could be safe.

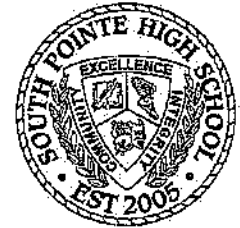
I sincerely thank you in advance for expediting this request. Since this is an Inter District transfer, with the written blessing from the former school, I do not think it is fair to punish this kid for an environment that wasn't safe for him to be in.

-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 SPSHS 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 SPSHS 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,

Mconner

Dr. Marty S. Conner, Sr.
Principal