

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**  
**P.O. BOX 211575**  
**COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575**  
**May 18, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met via Zoom on May 18, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Sam Tuten, Jason Warren, Darryl Owings, Sony Bryant, Jason Johns, Ray Cooper, Michael Stone, Andrea Pridgen, Tony Folk, Anna Miller, Mike Beasley, Carlos Cave, Ryan Brown, Kyle Boczkowski and Keith Kiser

Sam Tuten called the meeting to order.

**Appeal:**

**Buford High School** (Michael Belk, Principal, Principal; Eric Funderburk, Athletics Director; Craig Hatcher, Athletics Director Chesterfield High School; Harrison Goodwin, Superintendent Chesterfield County School District; Jonathan Phipps, Superintendent Lancaster County School District)

Buford High School requested an open session for the appeal.

Sonya Bryant recused herself.

Michael Belk presented the case seeking to overturn a decision made by the Class AA Executive Committee regarding baseball. On Saturday, May 15, 2021, the Class AA Executive Committee met and voted to overturn Class AA-Region 4's vote for the AA State Baseball qualifiers. These decisions came as the result of penalties imposed on Legion Collegiate Academy for self-reporting ineligible participation resulting in the forfeiture of games, one of which was a game against Chesterfield High School. These forfeitures would move Chesterfield High School in third place and Buford High School out of the playoffs. It would also move Andrew Jackson High School in first place with Legion Collegiate Academy moving to second place.

When Class AA-Region 4 athletic directors were made aware of the ineligible participation and the impact of these circumstances, they contacted the South Carolina High School League for clarification and were informed that seeding was a region decision and should be made based on the guidelines in their constitution. The region met and voted to leave the region qualifiers as they were with 1. Legion Collegiate Academy, 2. Andrew Jackson High School, and 3. Buford High School. Chesterfield High School appealed the decision of the region to the Class AA Executive Committee. At this meeting, the Class AA Executive Committee voted to overturn the region's decision thus making 1. Andrew Jackson High School, 2. Legion Collegiate Academy, and 3. Chesterfield High school. Mr. Belk stated that he is making this appeal on behalf of his school, players, and the community who have worked hard this year to help this team make it to the baseball playoffs.

A motion made by Mr. Boczkowski, seconded by Mr. Johns, to hear from the Chesterfield High School representative, Craig Hatcher, passed 13-0 (14 members present).

Mr. Hatcher stated that historically wins and losses are dictated by the standings. After the penalties were issued against Legion Collegiate Academy by the League and the forfeitures were issued, the standing would put Chesterfield High School in third place. He is here to fight for what he believes is in the best interest of Chesterfield High School.

A motion made by Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Boczkowski, to uphold the decision of the Class AA Executive Committee passed 11-0 (12 members present).

## **Other Business**

Due to the appeals by Class AA – Region 4 and the potential appeal for the decision made today to the Appellate Panel, delays have resulted in the baseball playoffs for Region 4 and their opponents. A proposal was sent to Mr. Stone to halt Class AA baseball until all appeals have been exhausted and a final decision has been made. There were concerns that an advantage might exist for schools that have been not been playing, particularly regarding pitch-count and being able to rest pitchers when other schools may have to play back-to-back games.

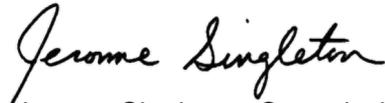
A motion made by Mr. Boczkowski, seconded by Mr. Cave, to halt the Class AA playoffs until Buford has an opportunity to appeal to the Appellate Panel giving the authority to the High School League to readjust the schedule to determine dates.

This motion was amended by Mr. Boczkowski to halt the Class AA baseball playoffs until a decision has been finalized and to give the authority to the High School League to extend the season to a date no later than June 8, 2021, to complete the Class AA baseball playoffs. This motion, seconded by Mr. Cave, passed 11-0 (12 members present).

Mr. Singleton discussed the results of a survey sent to member schools regarding 2022-2022 reclassification/realignment and competitive balance. Based on the results, there wasn't much support for the option as it was presented. The League will continue to research other ways of maintaining competitive balance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome Singleton".

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

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