



Appellate Panel Meeting

August 8, 2024
10:00 AM

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Appeal:

10:00 AMMountain View Preparatory (Sanction Relief)

Other Business

Adjourn

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

May 7, 2024

The Appellate Panel of the South Carolina High School League met on May 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. for a special called meeting at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Bob Davis, Raleigh King, Bill McCall, Jackie Queen, Otis Rawl, and Andy Tweitto.

Bob Davis called the meeting to order.

Appeal:

Berkeley High School (Heather Ducker, Principal; Tim McDowell, District Athletic Director; Brian Welch, Athletic Director; and Brandon Gaskins, General Counsel for the Berkeley County School District)

Berkeley High School requested an open session to appeal the relief that was heard and denied by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Gaskins presented the case for Berkeley High School requesting this appeal for the season long suspension of the assistant baseball coach. The coach takes full responsibility for his actions, that is in questioned. Mr. Gaskins continued by referring to the additional information that was sent to the Appellate Panel which included a statement from the assistant coach (who could not be present) along with 2 statements from local umpires (who were spectators) that were present at the baseball game on April 19, 2024.

Mr. Gaskins requested the Appellate Panel to look at the totality of the evidence that has been presented and the entirety of the assistant coach career. He has served the Moncks Corner community as a baseball coach, in one compacity or another, for almost 40 years. For the last 15 years, he has been the assistant varsity baseball coach at Berkeley High School and for 13 of those years, he was a paid assistant. The last two years, he has served as the volunteer coach. In his 15 years, he has never been ejected from a game.

Mr. Gaskins concluded by stating this case is different because the coach was ejected as a volunteer coach and under the rules, the minimum sanction for an ejection, and a \$300 fine and the school is responsible for removing the volunteer coach for the remainder of the year. The coach has not always been a volunteer coach at Berkeley High School and was paid assistant and has already been suspended for 6 games and the baseball team is still ongoing. They are asking for the coach be allowed to return to the baseball field and finish out the season so he can continue to have a positive impact on the baseball players.

Mr. Montgomery, the League Attorney, commented that the League sanction the program and Berkeley High School is here on behalf of their program at their school and not on behalf of the coach. He also clarified that during the Executive Committee meeting the school asked for the consequences to be overturned and if not, they wanted the coach to attend the games as spectator and that relief was granted and the original sanction was for the coach to be removed from his coaching duties.

The Appellate Panel expressed several concerns with this appeal including the confusion between the paid stipend as an assistant coach and a volunteer coach as well as the situation with the timeline for scheduling this appeal.

A motion was made by Otis Rawl, seconded by Andy Tweitto to uphold the Executive Committee's decision for the \$300 fine and accept the six games suspension imposed on the coach at Berkeley High School as time

served and the Executive Committee's decision to suspend the coach for the remainder of the baseball season is overturned passed 4-2 (6 members present).

A motion was made by Bill McCall, seconded by Otis Rawl, to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 (6 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton, D.D.

Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

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