



District of Columbia State Athletic Commission

Special Session
Saturday, February 24, 2018
10:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Doors Opened – 10:00 AM
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First Street, NE
6th Floor – Charles Drew Room (622)
Washington, DC 20002

10:17 AM – Quorum Reached

- Those Present (Bolded Names are members of the DCSAC)
 - **Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez**
 - **Dwight Franklin**
 - **Karen Curry**
 - **Kevin Wills**
 - **Diana Parente**
 - **Terrence Lynch**
 - **John Koczela (via Phone)**
 - **Michael Hunter**
 - **Wanda Legrand**
 - **Clark Ray**
 - Kenneth Owens
 - John Webster
 - Joy Taylor
 - Mitch Gore
 - Patricia Briscoe
 - Marvin Parker
 - Michael Bryant
 - Dwayne Foster
 - Bryan Bartley
 - Philip Morgan, Sr.
 - Hamzat Saba

***There were members of the public present*

Chair Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez called the meeting to order. First order of business, approval of minutes from previous meeting.

MOTION (Commissioner John Koczela)

Whereas, the minutes from the January 27th meeting have been presented to the body, and Whereas, the body has reviewed the minutes in their entirety with no discrepancies, it is moved that the minutes be approved.

SECONDED: Commissioner Diana Parente

VOTE DONE BY 'AYE' AND 'NAY'

MOTION CARRIED unanimously – Minutes were approved.

Chair Overstreet-Gonzalez turned the floor over to Executive Director Clark Ray.

10:20 AM – Executive Director Updates

DCSAA Executive Director, Clark Ray, discussed the deposition he had to sit on for previous DCPS coach and PCS employee. An OAG attorney was provided for him. Moving forward the OAG attorney will be used until funds are transferred for an FTE to support a general counsel. Executive Director Ray requested that the NFHS send out a survey to member associations regarding transfers. The results from the survey were presented to commissioners. Thirty-four (34) states responded to the survey. Of the 34 respondents, 31 states said that the authority to enforce the transfer rule lies with the executive director of the state association. The DCSAA boys' and girls' basketball state championships will begin on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Games on Tuesday and Wednesday will be played at the higher seeded teams home. There will be two all-star games prior to the start of the finals on Saturday, March 1. ** Commissioner Lynch thanked Executive Director for the updates and surveys, noting that the information was very helpful.

Executive Director Ray gave the floor back to the Chair

Chair Overstreet-Gonzalez opened the floor to remarks from the public.

10:24 AM – Public Remarks (to be limited to two (2) minutes each)

Mitch Gore – Woodrow Wilson Senior High School, Athletic Director

- The term 'LEA' needs to stay within the rules as it represents the entire organization for DCPS. Concerns regarding the attendance rules in section 2701.7 (D) – to keep up with all these days of absence per term is laborious. In section 2701.4 & .5 (O) – These are the same rules written twice. The transfer release form is more of a permission and should be submitted after the transfer. Where DCIAA and PCSAA are defined the part regarding "successors" should be struck.

Patricia Briscoe – Eastern Senior High School, Athletic Director

- Echoed the sentiments of Mr. Gore. The term 'LEA' should stay within the document. DCPS is required to participate in the DCSAA. It is important to include 'LEA' as the schools have to go through the LEA to give information. It seems that the transfer form is encouraging students to transfer and at the current time that is not needed. The attendance policy is an issue. It seems that the commission is just moving too quickly. There needs to be working groups on these topics. Rule 2700.1 (A) places the students at a disadvantage and it is becoming cumbersome. As it relates to the GPA requirement, private schools aren't held to the same standards. We are giving more privileges to those who are already privileged. We discuss equity but keep finding a way to give those with more, more.

Joy Taylor – Capital Athletics

- The rules were not online prior to this meeting and were not provided to individuals in a timely manner. Concerns that the rules have been vetted by the OAG attorney. These rules should not be submitted unless there is an official general counsel. This ensures that there are no loopholes. If the OAG attorney has in-fact vetted these rules, it should be in writing that they are doing these services free of charge and on the behalf of the commission.

Dwayne Foster – DCIAA, Deputy Director of Athletics

- Thanked the commission for their work thus far. Acknowledged the task at hand and the amount of work it is taking. Concerns regarding rule 2700.6. The public charter and private schools are given the option as to which sports they want to be members. This is not fair to DCPS as they are required to be full members. All members should be full members; not allowed to pick and choose. This weakens the integrity of state athletics. Schools should not be allowed to “opt-out” at their leisure. Concerns regarding rule 2701. This section places a disadvantage to DCPS.

Michael Bryant – DCIAA, Assistant Director of Compliance and Student Affairs

- Has an extensive background in NCAA governance, ten (10) years. Has seen implementation and governance of rules at the collegiate level. It should be the LEA responsibility to give eligibility requirements, the LEA should be applying the rule. The executive director should not have the complete authority to determine transfer rules and to grant transfers. Just as DCPS has the DCIAA there public charter schools need an athletic board to govern athletics. Reclassification is a major issue. The transfer release form does nothing but creates recruitment. The form is plagiarized. The form is reminiscent of the NCAA Permission to Contact form. We need a permission to disseminate information form. As it relates to FERPA this protects all parties involved. We should not be sending out a student’s information without the parents’ consent. Reviews over 200 student-athlete files and transfers.

Philip Morgan, Sr. – HD Woodson Senior High School, Athletic Director

- Concerns about rule 2702.8, making sure that the crime fits the punishment as it relates to coaches repercussions. The rules are set for us (coaches) to fall. There needs to be a set of procedures for the rules. Coaches are told to follow one rule and not the other rule. Concerns about rule 2701.7 (D), the rules need to take into account extenuating circumstances that cause a student to be absent from school.

Hamzat Saba – Paul Public Charter School, Athletic Director

- Asked for a point of clarity as it relates to the private schools. What are we doing in terms of that, are they being held to the same rules as it relates to transfers?

Clark Ray – DCSAA, Executive Director

- Wanted to address some of the major concerns that were brought up by the public. The rules have been vetted by the OAG attorney. OSSE is the promulgator for them. We do have legal sufficiency for the rules. As it pertains to the DCIAA, the law defines the DCIAA as a league, if that is to be changed, you would have to amend the law. Nowhere in the rules is there anything about opting-out. All members are full members. As it relates to opting-out, only two teams have opted-out of a championship, with one of them happening yesterday (February 23, 2018). Team B opted-out of the girls’ basketball state championships. They had the players to play but they didn’t want to play. There were no extenuating circumstances. Full membership is not defined in the rules. Agrees that there needs to be written consent for sending information. OAG has said that written consent is needed. Mentioned that of the 200 plus files that Mr. Bryant reviews, he has only asked questions on six (6) students and still cannot receive the information needed. DCPS gave permission for a Ron Brown student to go to Friendship Collegiate to play on their Varsity team, when Ron Brown had an established basketball program. At the state level, the rules need to be a minimum that is required and enforced across the board. The leagues can then enforce stricter rules.
 - o Dwayne Foster refuted the statements regarding opting-out stating that St. John’s and Gonzaga have opted-out of football. Executive Director Ray corrected this statement, making it known that from a safety standpoint St. John’s and Gonzaga have been told that they cannot play in the DCSAA football state championship. It is a safety issue when you compare the teams. Team B admitted that they had players to play in the

tournament but did not want to because they lost one of their best players, heard from the coach directly to get this information.

- **Commissioner Micheal Hunter**
- *We are looking too much at equity from the tournament standpoint. We need to be creating equity all around. That is where the greatest disconnect lies.*

Commissioner Diana Parente

- *Thanked the members of the public for their comments. Reminded the body and the public that it is important that we are doing what is best for the student-athlete. Suggested larger discussions about the issue to get greater feedback. The use of the term 'LEA' needs to be in the rules, as the LEA is the operational unit. To avoid confusion and be consistent use LEA and Member- School.*

Chair Overstreet-Gonzalez opened the floor to the present commissioners to make comments

- **Commissioner Terrence Lynch**
 - *Appreciation for the public comments.*
- **Ex-Officio Commissioner Wanda Legrand**
 - *Thanked the public for sharing their opinions. Suggested that there be a thoughtful approach and that when it comes to voting on rules that it is not rushed.*
- **Commissioner Dwight Franklin**
 - *Thanked the public for coming. Personally was enlightening.*

Chair Overstreet-Gonzalez called for a recess before the start of the in-camera session. 11:20 AM