

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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SPRING MEETING

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TUESDAY
APRIL 20, 2021

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The D.C. State Athletic Commission met via ZOOM (Due to Covid-19 and the ensuing public health emergency), at 6:04 p.m. EDT, Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

ROSALYN OVERSTREET-GONZALEZ, Chairperson
LARRY CARROLL, Commissioner
KAREN CURRY, Commissioner
DWAYNE FOSTER, Commissioner
DWIGHT FRANKLIN, Commissioner
MICHAEL HUNTER, Commissioner
BENJAMIN WATKINS, Commissioner
KEVIN WILLS, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

CLARK RAY, Executive Director, DCSAA
KENNY OWENS, DCSAA
DAVID MARTINEZ, DCSAA
MICHAEL BRYANT, DCIAA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM: The Chairperson determined that there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2020: The Chairperson entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2020, Winter Meeting of the Commission. Upon a motion duly seconded the Minutes of the Summer Meeting were unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Director Clark Ray gave the report. DCSAA's return to a state of play has been a frustrating time. The Mayor's December Order prohibiting high school-aged sports and related activity expired March 17, 2021, during which time Maryland and Virginia jurisdictions have been returning to play. The DCSAA released a return to play guidance document on March 18, 2021, pursuant to the Mayor's March 17, 2021, Order. The order stated that the DC State Athletic Association in consultation with the Department of Health shall issue guidance for returning to a spectrum of play for member schools and LEAs. The guidance provides clearance for reengagement, skill development, practice, and competition in low-risk spring sports, being softball, baseball, outdoor track and field, and tennis. Flag football was classified as medium contact and all other sports were classified as high-contact athletic activities. Student athletes are allowed to do skill development and conditioning in high contact sports but they cannot have practice or competition for those sports. Therefore DCSAA stated that they would offer state level events in low-contact, low-risk sports. There will be championships in track and field, baseball, softball, and tennis. Across member schools, stakeholders have shown eagerness to return to a state of play. The track and field championship will be spread over a number of days. The Director expressed a desire for a "normal" fall. The Director observed, as an aside, that nothing has highlighted the socioeconomic divide in DC high school sports like the COVID-19 pandemic. Student athletes with the financial means or recognizable athletic talent can play sports across a number of jurisdictions in the DMV, although a segment of the student population has not had such opportunities.

The Association is just about ready to release the 2021-2022 calendar. One addition to the calendar will be golf, with potential for wrestling, swimming and diving, and lacrosse.

Tina Carrillo, Athletic Trainer from Friendship Collegiate, and Jennifer Rheeling, Athletic Director from H.D. Woodson, were instrumental in drafting and writing the guidance document.

In budgetary news, the Association has received a Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 maximum allowable ceiling request (MARC) of \$1,114,504, down \$71,139.00 from the Association's FY2021 MARC of \$1,185,643. \$100,000.00 of that is budget authority for any money raised through sponsorship, meaning the Association can spend up to \$100,000 from the special purpose revenue fund without having to ask OCFO for authority. Furthermore, an email from OCFO restored \$42,000 of the FY21-FY22 delta, bringing the Association's FY22 budget to \$1,156,504, just \$29,139 short of the FY21 MARC. DCSAA estimates that wrestling, lacrosse, golf, and swimming will cost \$56,000 to add to the FY21-22 calendar. Combined with the current budget cut, this leaves the Association about \$85,000 short of its desired budget MARC, which it will seek through the

Mayor's budget oversight process. The Director said that in the current environment, 85k is not a big ask. Commissioner Carroll asked the reason for the budget reductions, to which the Director replied that the Mayor applied a 6% reduction for every agency as revenues were projected to be low due to the pandemic.

In sponsorship news, Teall Property Group (TPG) has been instrumental in raising money for the DCSAA this year. They have sourced, committed, and closed on about \$103,000 in sponsorships for the Association and they have verbal commitments for \$76,000 more. However, since there have not been any events this year it has been hard to take the money from the sponsors. Commissioner Watkins asked whether the Association had seen any savings from the past year. Director Ray replied that the Association has not spent any money on items relating to athletic activity.

The Chairperson congratulated Commissioner Hunter on his marriage. She also thanked the Commission and staff for their contribution to the letter written to the Deputy Mayor for Education urging for students' return to play. Although the Commission did not receive a direct response, the Mayor's office has heard the Association's concerns as reflected in the Mayor's March 17 Order.

Commissioner Hunter expressed concern about the direction the Association is moving into the new school year. Director Ray replied that they would release the summer and fall calendars within a week, and expect that they will reflect a normal season. The public health emergency is set to expire on May 20, 2021, subject to extension, at which point the prohibition on medium- and high-contact sports will expire as well. The Director projected a more normal landscape for high school athletics. Furthermore, the DC Department of Health uses the terms "medium-" and "high-contact", which is the reason that language is reflected in the Mayor's Order. The Director has had extensive conversation with the Mayor's staff about high school sports and notes that the March 17 Order is the first in which the Mayor mentions DCSAA.

Commissioner Foster shared excitement about moving forward with the next eight weeks of spring competition and practice. He projected that summer would be crucial for creating a normal workout space in preparation for fall so that DC student athletes can begin to put this tough year behind them. The Chairperson echoed the hope for progress. Commissioners Curry, Wills, and Watkins applauded the Association's emphasis on safely returning to play. Mr. Martinez emphasized the positive effect the Commission's letter to the Deputy Mayor had on the new athletic policy.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Director Ray remarked that the United Bank \$1,000 scholarship is open and will be extended for at least three more weeks. Hall of Famers Elgin Baylor, John Thompson, Sheila Weaver, and John Tatum all passed since the last Commission meeting. The Association is currently making travel plans for the upcoming NFHS conference. The next Commission meeting will take place in summer, 2021, likely via virtual teleconference again. The Chairperson thanked the Commission and the staff.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion duly seconded the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Spring Meeting at 6:50 p.m.