

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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WINTER MEETING

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TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 2020

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The D.C. State Athletic Commission met via video conference, at 6:02 p.m.,  
Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

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

## MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2020: The Chairperson entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting of the Commission. Upon a motion duly seconded the minutes were unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS UPDATE: Director Clark Ray gave the report. DCSAA is currently in a suspended state of play in which there is no student athletic engagement, practice, skill development, or play. Commissioners Hunter and Foster are members of a group convened for the purpose of advisement and guidance in athletics during the pandemic. As of two weeks ago the group determined that they would have to push the start of the winter season from December 14, 2020, out to February 1, 2021, in response to COVID health metrics and data. The initial No Practice No Play mandate from DC Department of Health was clarified in a subsequent Mayor's Order prohibiting any high-school-aged athletic activity in the District including public, private, charter and parochial schools. Middle school athletics do not seem to be included in the order.

Contingent upon the prevailing pandemic status, winter sport practice is slated to begin February 1 with competition commencing February 8 through March 27. Fall season football practice would commence March 1, all other fall sports commencing March 8, and competitions running from March 15 through May 1. Spring practice would begin April 21 and competition would run May 3 through June 12, 2021. Under this five-to-six week-season schedule there is no room for a traditional state championship season. The main objective is to get kids back on the competition field so that they can engage in league play and develop themselves for recruitment.

The coronavirus rate of community spread is a major factor in future state of play. To get to a Phase 3 the daily case rate per 100,000 needs to be at 5 or below, while today the District is currently at 34.96. 301 new cases and 4 deaths were reported the previous day. Needless to say, the metrics aren't trending in the Association's favor.

The Association experienced a budget reduction this fiscal year. It's been asked to cut an additional \$59,000 from the budget, which was affected through the cancellation of contracts for championship venues. The Association may be able to cut more from the budget via security and medical cost savings. These savings may amount to \$10-15,000.

Commissioners Curry and Wills are up for reappointment. The Director entertained questions from the Commission. Commissioner Lynch thanked the staff for their hard work but expressed concern that the slated season will be highly contingent upon the upwardly trending COVID community spread rates.

The Chairperson gave the floor to General Counsel David Martinez, who spoke about conversations with OSSE and the interpretation of the Mayor's Orders regarding state of play. He described a cultural shift in how the DCSAA is seen within OSSE and the District government.. The General Counsel emphasized the Association's mission to govern high school youth athletics. His office is also working with schools to complete Title IX data. Director Ray mentioned that the data looks a bit off because there are no spring 2020 numbers, so this year's reports are somewhat incomplete due to COVID. Though sparse, they are available for the Commission's review.

Kenny Owens stated that DCSAA should aim to give kids some hope toward participating in athletics come 2021. Director Ray mentioned that athletics are still being played within the DMV, but because these opportunities are largely on a pay-for-play basis. The Association has raised the issue of equity, which is one of the underlying bases of the Mayor's Order. Commissioner Franklin asked how the state of play would affect scholarships, to which Commissioner Hunter replied that seniors rely upon film to gain access to certain scholarships. Furthermore, the NCAA has decided to grant every player a register year which reduced the pool of scholarships for 2021. Commissioner Foster made some remarks about athletes losing out on opportunities currently taking place and the importance of giving students hope that they will return to play in 2021. Commissioner Franklin proposed squeezing in four weeks of play in May or June. Commissioner Foster echoed the comment of taking advantage of play later into June.

Commissioner Hunter asked why the Mayor's Order specifically prohibits high school athletics. This is a question Director Ray himself has asked and not received any answer besides the observation that high school aged students tend to congregate more before and after an athletic activity as opposed to younger-aged athletes. DC DOH official Dr. Nesbitt has mentioned that high school students perform better in supervised and controlled environments. Mr. Martinez emphasized that the order prohibits high school athletics based on other activities that attend to high school athletics gatherings. Commissioner Curry asked about liability waivers for students playing in light of the pandemic. Commissioner Hunter replied that there is a COVID statement in the currently liability waiver.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Director Ray noted that the next Commission meeting will take place April 20, 2021. The meeting may likely be virtual once again. Holiday greetings were extended all around. The Chairperson thanked the staff.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion duly seconded the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Winter Meeting at 6:42 p.m.