

University Interscholastic League

State Executive Committee

Case No. 18-0213-01

CONSIDERATION OF PENALTIES

**February 13, 2018**

**Austin, TX**

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On the above date, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Executive Committee (SEC) held a hearing to consider penalties for violations of Section 50(a)(3), student violations, Section 51(b)(1), school district personnel violations, and Section 52(b), UIL school violations. Appellants were the athletic director, principal and coach of School A, and athletic director and principal of School B. The following members of the SEC were present and participated in the decision of this case: Mike Motheral, Chair, James Colbert, Johanna Denson, Paul Galvan, Marcus Nelson and Daryl Wade.

**Background and Facts**

School A and School B's basketball teams were involved in a fight during a district game. The District Executive Committee (DEC) suspended both teams from their next district game. School B qualified for post-district play, however, School A did not qualify. The DEC also suspended several players for two games. Appellants were required to attend an SEC hearing for consideration of additional penalties.

With 3:55 left in the game, School A's #32 interlocked arms with School B player #0 while blocking out for a rebound from a free throw. Player #32 lost his balance and grabbed #0 pulling him to the ground. School B player retaliated with a shove and then the players started fighting. Two other School B players #4 and #23 jumped on top of School A's #32. School B player #11 left the bench and joined in the fight. School A players #10 and #2 joined the fight. Then all players from School A and School B joined the fight. Parents from both sides ran on to the court. The game was called with School B leading 48-39. The referee ejected all players on the court and the benches. Law enforcement was called to help clear the gym and provide a safe departure for School B players.

**State Executive Committee Discussion**

Appellants were allowed to present facts relevant to the case and answer questions from the SEC. Among other things, SEC members inquired about why the school superintendents from both schools and the head basketball coach from School B were not present, about both schools' procedures and how both schools responded to the fight. School B's athletic director conceded that he made a poor decision not requiring the head coach's attendance since he was involved in the incident. The game was held in School A's gym, where at least one fan was accused of using racial slurs. School B students

reported to their coach that racial slurs were being used by a fan. A coach from School A testified that he heard a racial slur only after the fight occurred. Appellants from School A testified that they investigated the claim and found no evidence supporting the accusations. Appellants from School A admitted they had not interviewed any players or fans from School B. A member of the SEC advised School A to further investigate the claim and report their findings to UIL. Both schools admitted they did not have a belligerent parent policy. Furthermore, only School B reads a statement to the fans regarding their expected behavior before each event they host. Appellants from both schools accepted the penalties administered from the DEC and they both expressed remorse and embarrassment for the incident. Members of the SEC discussed the fairness of penalties since the teams were near the end of their seasons, with only School B having made the playoffs.

### **Decision**

After hearing the argument and evidence presented by the Appellants, the SEC administered the following penalties.

#### School A:

After hearing this case, the State Executive Committee imposed upon:

- Student-athletes, the following penalties and conditions: Player #32– five-game suspension for the first five baseball games of the baseball season.
- School District Personnel, the following penalties and conditions: Head Coach – public reprimand and two-year probation.
- School A, the following penalties and conditions: School A Boys Basketball Program – public reprimand and two-year probation.
- The State Executive Committee also required documentation outlining any new policies and procedures, including belligerent parent policies, and documentation regarding a thorough investigation of racial slurs used at the basketball game between School A and School B.

#### School B:

After hearing this case, the State Executive Committee has imposed upon:

- Student-athletes, the following penalties and conditions: Players #0 and #4– suspension for remainder of basketball season, including the playoffs.
- School District Personnel, the following penalties and conditions: Head Coach– public reprimand and two-year probation.
- School B, the following penalties and conditions: School B High School Boys Basketball Program – public reprimand and two-year probation.
- The State Executive Committee also required documentation outlining any new policies and procedures, including belligerent parent policies.