

University Interscholastic League

State Executive Committee

Case No. 18-0213-04

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL 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 superintendent, principal, athletic director, and coach of both School A and 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 after a district game. The incident started as the teams were lining up to shake hands. As the players proceeded through the line, #23 from School A pushed his shoulder into School B player #3. The two players along with #32 and #15 began a verbal argument. #32 from School A pushed number #15 from School B. Coaches and players then stepped in between the players and began separating the individuals. At this point, #23 from School A and #3 from School B threw a punch at one another. Players and coaches pulled the two apart. #3 then went across the court and confronted #32 from School A who was being restrained by a coach from School A. #3 then threw a punch at #32. The two players went to the ground and began wrestling. #25 from School B ran through a game official and the athletic director of School A to get to the two players wrestling on the ground. The three players, #32 from School A, #3 and #25 from School B, after much effort were pulled off each other. As the three players were on the ground #24 threw a punch at a School B player and #23 hit a School B JV player from behind. This was in response to the JV player hitting a different School A player from behind. #23 then ran from the gym with School B's JV player chasing him out of the gym area. The incident ended with School B players going to their playing bench and School A players going to their varsity locker room.

The District Executive Committee (DEC) assessed the following penalties for student representatives:

School A

- #24 was suspended for the remainder of the basketball season, to include the postseason. The student is classified as a senior.
- The committee accepted the discipline assigned by School A to #23 which was removal from the basketball program for the remainder of the basketball season, to include the postseason. The student is classified as a senior.

- The committee accepted the discipline assigned by School A to #32 which included a four-game suspension. The student is classified as a senior.

#### School B

- #3 was suspended for the remainder of the basketball season, to include the postseason. The student is classified as a senior.
- Junior Varsity player #15 received the penalty of reprimand with an attached probation for the remainder of his UIL eligibility. The student is currently a sophomore.
- #5 was suspended for the remainder of the basketball season, to include the postseason. In addition, the student received a penalty of reprimand with an attached probation for the remainder of his UIL eligibility. The student is currently classified as a junior.
- The committee accepted the discipline assigned by School B for #32 that included a three-day suspension from school and a one game suspension.

#### **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 the fight, about the schools' procedures, and about how they responded to the fight. Appellants from both schools agreed that the basketball game was played without incident and there were no indicators that would have led them to believe a fight would occur during the handshake. Appellants from School A claimed that several of the adults who looked like parents rushing the court were actually out of uniform security officers hired to work the game. In addition, Appellants from School A clarified that since the game was over, the crowd had started to exit the gym. This led to some of their administrators and security moving outside for crowd control. Members of the SEC agreed to accept the penalties administered by the schools and by the DEC. They discussed further penalties for the coaches and schools.

#### **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 has imposed upon:

- 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 policies and procedures, including reviewing FNG Local policy with school board in a formal setting, and report on administration efforts with coaches due to the UIL.

#### School B:

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

- 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 Boys Basketball Program –public reprimand and two-year probation.
- The State Executive Committee also requires documentation outlining policies and procedures, including reviewing FNG Local policy with school board in formal setting, and report on administration efforts with coaches due to the UIL.