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208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600

November 6, 2019

Dear SCCPSS Community,

We teach our students the importance of rules, on and off school grounds. Rules must apply in and out of the classroom, including on the courts and playing fields upon which our teams compete with energy and honor. When there is a rule violation, discovered directly or indirectly, my responsibility as Superintendent is to make sure it is corrected swiftly, thoroughly, and justly, and to ensure that structures and processes are in place so that these violations are not repeated.

In recent weeks, district high schools have been notified of alleged violations of Georgia High School Association (GHSA) rules. These notifications often trigger an inquiry or investigation that requires schools to respond with documentation, and perhaps, engage in hearings that address the alleged violations/concerns. The final decisions rendered by GHSA have implications for team standings and other important indicators of team success.

Unfortunately, we have had the unpleasant yet necessary responsibility of informing our community of several athletic competition rule violations that affect the remarkable season record of the Islands High School's football team. The final decision by GHSA regarding these alleged infractions resulted in fines, players deemed ineligible to participate in varsity interscholastic activities, and game forfeitures. These are serious findings in our view, and we are continuing to respond locally to these findings.

Several other anonymous reports to GHSA regarding alleged violations by other area high schools followed the reports to GHSA about Islands High School. GHSA recently offered its ruling on allegations against Jenkins High School. We are happy to report that the alleged violations against Jenkins High School were declared unfounded by GHSA.

Subsequently, additional anonymous reports have been submitted to GHSA. Each report of allegations must be investigated by GHSA. After the investigation and responses/appeals processes conclude, the school and district must adhere to the final decision rendered by GHSA. SCCPSS also recognizes that we have an obligation to report any known infractions to the GHSA. As well, we conduct our own investigations of concerns brought forward to us.

Please know that the SCCPSS administration is taking additional preventive /corrective actions to ensure that rule violations do not occur in the future. These actions include new processes to ensure students and parents are fully aware of GHSA rules and bylaws.

While I do not relish the task of responding to unfavorable GHSA findings, please note that the actions taken by GHSA and the SCCPSS administration in no way discredits the athletes who practiced countless hours and played their hearts out in every game this season. While a record book may show an asterisk on the season record of a team with violations, each school has great teams of scholar-athletes competing at the varsity and junior varsity levels. These players continue to stand tall in the face of controversy and adversity. We applaud them and promise them our commitment to preserving the integrity of our interscholastic competitions.

Sincerely,

M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

*Mission - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.  
Vision - From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures*