



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sterling volleyball team must forfeit two games, relinquish district title

Goose Creek CISD announced Thursday that the Ross S. Sterling High School volleyball team must forfeit two district games for playing an ineligible student.

As a result, the Sterling volleyball team must relinquish its District 21-5A title. Channelview now becomes the district champion, while Sterling drops into a second place tie with North Shore.

Campus personnel did not file paperwork establishing the residency and the eligibility of the student in question before the season began as required by the University Scholastic League.

Once the violations were discovered, Sterling Principal Don Beck reported them to the 21-5A District Executive Committee.

On Wednesday, that committee approved a public reprimand of the school. The forfeitures were automatic, according to the UIL Constitution and Contest rules.

Goose Creek CISD will not appeal the decision.

Beck and head coach Nadine Horne informed the volleyball team and parents about the unfortunate turn of events on Thursday night.

"It's a sad day for Sterling. I made a mistake and let my players down, and for that I am deeply sorry," said Horne who has coached volleyball at Sterling for two decades. "But we're going to learn from this, and we're going to get things right from now on."

The District will take appropriate action to see that this does not happen again, including meeting with all extracurricular sponsors and insisting that they are familiar with and adhere to all UIL guidelines.

"As painful as it is to have to vacate a district title, there's no glory if it comes at the expense of the process. We must be diligent in our responsibilities," said Dr. Toby York, Goose Creek CISD Superintendent of Schools. "It's a very, very valuable lesson learned the hard way."

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