



**WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

The Executive Committee of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Executive Board heard an appeal from the North Franklin School District on Sunday, June 6 regarding actions taken by the Yakima Valley Interscholastic Activities Association (YVIAA) following racist acts which occurred during a basketball contest on May 22, 2021.

Following the game, the North Franklin School District and Connell High School self-imposed penalties, including:

- Student-athletes in the student section during the game would be suspended from athletic contests since all documented racist comments came from the student section
- No Connell High School students would be allowed at home or away games for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season
- A third party would conduct an investigation of the incident
- Connell High School students would be educated on racial and sportsmanship issues

The South Central Athletic Conference (SCAC) accepted the self-imposed penalties and imposed the following additional penalties:

- Connell High School boys and girls basketball teams would end their seasons on June 5, 2021
- The SCAC League wrestling event scheduled June 12, 2021 would be moved to Wapato HS
- Connell High School would not be allowed any fans including adults or students between May 26 and June 12, 2021





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The appeal to the WIAA Executive Committee requested that the sanction of not allowing Connell High School basketball teams to participate in the postseason, as well as the sanction prohibiting parents from attending any contests for the remainder of the year, be overturned. To abide by [Washington State Statute RCW 28A.600.200\(3\)\(b\)](#) and [RCW 28A.605.020](#), the WIAA Executive Committee granted the appeal, as there was no evidence of any Connell student-participants or parents contributing to the racist acts. The Committee also added the following sanctions in an attempt to protect the victims in the short term and to create long term systemic change:

- Connell High School administrators and all participants, including coaches, must complete the NFHS Implicit Bias class, or equivalent, prior to being allowed to attend/participate in any Connell High School playoff event/contest
- Connell High School cannot host any contests this year
- Connell High School is placed on a one-year probation
- Connell High School is assessed a \$1,000 fine to be used by the school to develop, with league input, an SCAC League-wide Student Sportsmanship Conference that allows students from every high school in the League to attend and participate in student initiatives, with clearly stated outcomes that address sportsmanship, respect, and anti-bias behavior among the League

