

The **Fort Dorchester Wrestling** team got a shot at a state title after all.

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League voted to overturn a league decision to kick **Fort Dorchester** out of the 2018 Class AAAAA duals playoffs due to an athlete who had originally been ruled ineligible. On Feb. 14 during a hearing in Columbia, the executive committee voted 11-0 to overturn the league's original ruling so the Patriots advanced to face **Rock Hill** in the 5A state championship match Feb. 20, after press time.

Fort Dorchester defeated River Bluff 40-26 in the 5A Lower State semifinal of the duals playoffs Feb. 7 to advance to the state finals. Later that week, **Fort Dorchester** officials were informed their **wrestling** program had been booted from the playoffs.

The high school league issued a press release Feb. 9 stating "After a comprehensive investigation by members of the South Carolina High School League staff, the **Fort Dorchester** High School **wrestling** team will not be allowed to compete in the AAAAA State **Wrestling** Duals Championship due to an ineligible wrestler. The AAAAA Championship Match (originally scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2018) is postponed until further notice."

Under league guidelines, if an athlete is found to be ineligible then the team he or she competes for must forfeit all contests that athlete participated in during the school year. However, the executive committee has the authority to overturn decisions and interpret the intent of league guidelines.

Rock Hill defeated Byrnes in the Upper State semifinal to advance.

The last time the Patriots made it to a state championship match was three years ago, when it fell 45-24 to **Rock Hill**. The Patriots do have two state **wrestling** championships in school history, which were earned during the 2006-07 and 2009-10 school years under the leadership of head coach B.D. LaPrad.

Rock Hill has 17 **wrestling** state championships. The last time **Rock Hill** advanced to the state finals was last year, when it fell 31-30 to River Bluff in the first 5A state title match.