

SCHSL 2019-20

VOLUME 4

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT



WHO SAYS IT'S

"JUST A GAME"

SCHSL.ORG

Character & Sportsmanship define a year of athletics across SC despite Covid-19

GAME *noun*

\ 'gām

\

Definition of game

1a(1) : a physical or mental competition conducted according to rules with the participants in direct opposition to each other

(2) : a division of a larger contest

(3) : the manner of playing in a contest

(4) : a particular aspect or phase of play in a game or sport a football team's kicking game

(5) : the set of rules governing a game

(6) : the number of points necessary to win

(7) : points scored in certain card games (as in all fours) by a player whose cards count up the highest

b games plural : organized athletics

c(1) : a field of gainful activity : line the newspaper game

(2) : any activity undertaken or regarded as a contest involving rivalry, strategy, or struggle the dating game the game of politics also : the course or period of such an activity got into aviation early in the game

(3) : area of expertise : specialty sense 3 comedy is not my game

**FIRST WAS
PRACTICE.
THEN A WARM-UP.
NOW, IT'S GAME
TIME!**

The SCHSL Annual Report, an award-winning publication, is published to not only provide information on the league's fiscal year but to also acknowledge our student-athletes, coaches and state accomplishments. Although the school year and spring sports season was interrupted by a worldwide virus, we have much to share, much to celebrate. Enjoy!

GO.

GAME TIME

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SPONSORS



by Commissioner Jerome Singleton

LET THE GAMES BEGIN.

In my 36+ years' experience with South Carolina schools and the SCHSL, no specific time period can compare to the 2019-20 academic year. We have experienced an upending in athletics, academics, and unarguably, LIFE. Worldwide, our way of life has been compromised and challenged. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, our student-athletes could not, would not be stopped! Stellar fall and winter athletic performances, in addition to academic goals, across the board, were being celebrated... SCHSL pride beamed beyond measure. The sudden halt to our way of life during Spring 2020 tested our entire existence...but we overcame. Our obstacles became Options- our troubles became Triumphs- our limitations became Learning on the fly. We Overcame and continue to grow, both intellectually and emotionally during the remainder of this pandemic. SCHSL staff has pivoted with every update, recommendation, rule and policy set forth by governing bodies as well as medical professionals. We, unapologetically, continue to put the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches and fans at the very forefront of every decision. These decisions may not give us the popular vote with some households but we assure you, our #1 goal has never wavered: Safety First. I encourage you to review our 2019-20 annual report with the understanding of a school year cut short of contests, but elongated with hope, determination and fire for what's to come. Zoom, Facebook Live, webinars, virtually every mode of digital communication can't replace human to human interaction, but I am proud of what we accomplished this entire year. Stand with us and the entire student body of South Carolina as we make our way through another unpredictable season of sports and academics. I can assure you we have even loftier *finish lines* and *buzzer beaters* in mind for 2020-21!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the South Carolina High School League is to provide governance and leadership for interscholastic athletic programs that promote, support, and enrich the educational experience of students.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the League is to formulate and maintain policies in accordance with its mission and beliefs that will:

- safeguard the educational values of interscholastic athletic competition;
- advance high ideals of sportsmanship;
- develop and direct a program which will promote, protect and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants; and
- promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic athletic competition.

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe the South Carolina High School League, governed by its member schools, is the recognized state authority on interscholastic athletic programs. We believe participation in interscholastic athletic programs is a privilege. We believe interscholastic athletic programs should be student centered. We believe interscholastic athletic programs should:

- enrich each student's educational experience;
- promote student academic achievement;
- promote good citizenship and a healthy lifestyle;
- foster involvement with a diverse population;
- promote fair play, honesty, sportsmanship and equity;
- promote the participation of students in athletics and multiple sports.

We believe properly trained administrators, coaches, officials, and related support staff promote the educational mission of the academic program of our schools. We believe interscholastic athletic programs promote positive school/community relationships.



A League of Our Own

South Carolina is home to over **420 middle and high schools** who are active members of the SCHSL. We offer a variety of athletic activities to **342,000+** 7th-12th grade male and female students enrolled in public, private, charter and home schools across the state. We provide oversight for member school's athletic programs, both middle and high school. Our goal is to support our student-athletes in their academic endeavors as well as encourage them to participate in the many sports offered. The health and fitness of students extends beyond their physical abilities. The league works to enhance their intellectual, emotional and mental prowess as well. It's never '*just a game*' as participation in athletics goes beyond fields, courts, locker rooms and such. The skills learned while training with experienced coaches and like minded peers will benefit children for a lifetime. **Sportsmanship** is imperative for this growth and a requirement to remain part of the SCHSL. It's definitely more than a game. It's a positive mindset and productive lifestyle for both students and adults. Criteria to determine a sportsmanship award winner will be based on Community Service, Athlete & Coach Ejections, Sportsmanship/Leadership Summit Attendance, Sportsmanship Reports from other schools and/or officials and Sportsmanship within your student and fan sections at events. We have now incorporated sportsmanship pledges for students and coaches. Your school can also earn a unique sportsmanship banner, specific to schools with excellent athletic interactions and reputations. [Click here for details.](#)

Name of the Game

Swim Girls Golf Girls Tennis
Cross Country Volleyball Competitive Cheer
Football

***Game Day Cheer**
Wrestling Basketball

Lacrosse Soccer Baseball
Softball Boys Tennis Boys Golf
Track and Field

**Game Day Cheer is an invitational tournament, not a state championship contest.*

***2019-20 Spring Sports were suspended due to Covid-19. We look forward to having our student-athletes back in action year round in 2020-21.*

2019-20 Total Eligibility

High School: 73,353

Middle School: 17,811

Total = 91,164

**134 student increase from 2018-19*

2019-20 Student-Athlete Transfers

High School : 3586

Middle School : 418

Total = 4004

** 140 student decrease from 2018-19*

HIGH SCHOOLS

Sport

Football	17043
Boys Basketball	6543
Baseball	6916
Boys Soccer	6158
Boys Track & Field	7641
Boys Golf	1548
Boys Lacrosse	2122
Wrestling	4753
Boys Swim	1314
Boys Tennis	1496
Boys Cross Country	3455

Student-Athlete Population

Volleyball	5107
Girls Basketball	4403
Softball	4757
Girls Soccer	5001
Girls Track & Field	5585
Girls Golf	809
Girls Lacrosse	1649
Competitive Cheer	3062
Girls Swim	1500
Girls Tennis	2073
Girls Cross Country	2582
Game Day Cheer	436

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Sport

Football	7772
Boys Basketball	3255
Baseball	734
Boys Soccer	648
Boys Track & Field	866
Boys Golf	22
Wrestling	908

Student-Athlete Population

Volleyball	2445
Girls Basketball	2775
Softball	532
Girls Soccer	591
Girls Track & Field	640
Competitive Cheer	380

Student participation totals are derived from PlanetHS athlete eligibility submissions from each school.
Spring sports athletes were submitted prior to the closure of schools.

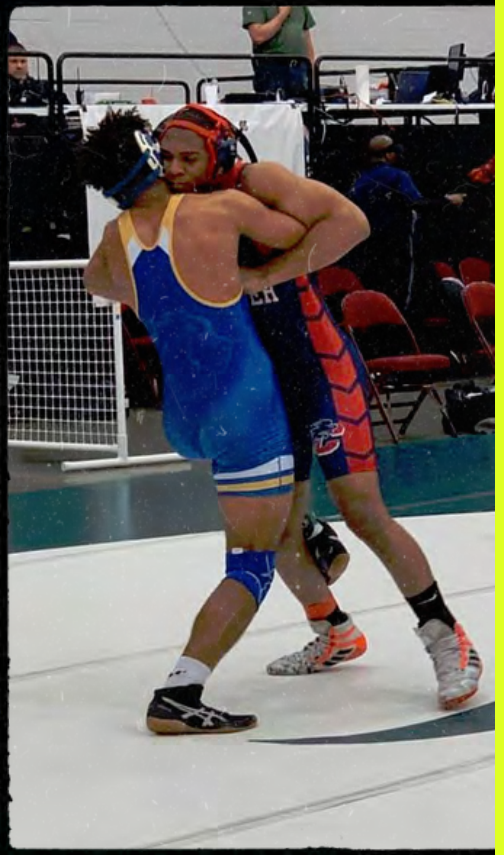
Fall Sports



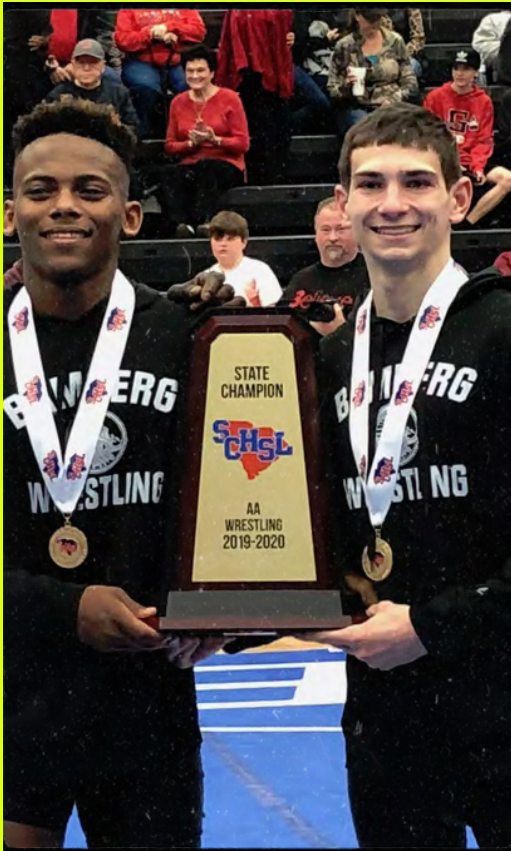
Swim
Girls Golf
Girls Tennis
Cross Country
Volleyball
Football
Competitive Cheer



Winter Sports



Wrestling ~ Game Day Cheer ~ Basketball



Mid-March was the turning point for the entire nation as Covid-19 spread without any signs of stopping. Our communities began to shut down including schools, businesses and churches. Mandatory quarantines went into effect worldwide and, unfortunately, took a major toll on the SCHSL Spring Sports season. After many weeks of reviewing safety measures and options to return to school, on April 22, 2020, SC Governor Henry McMaster and State Superintendent Molly Spearman announced the closing of schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. The virus brought an abrupt end to what was sure to be another record-breaking season for SC athletes.

A collage of vertical strips. The left side shows students cheering, with one student in the foreground wearing a white shirt with 'CHS' and 'MANCA' visible. The right side shows a collection of sports medals, including gold and silver ones with 'SCHSL' and 'SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE' inscriptions, and a blue ribbon.

Baseball
Boys Golf
Soccer

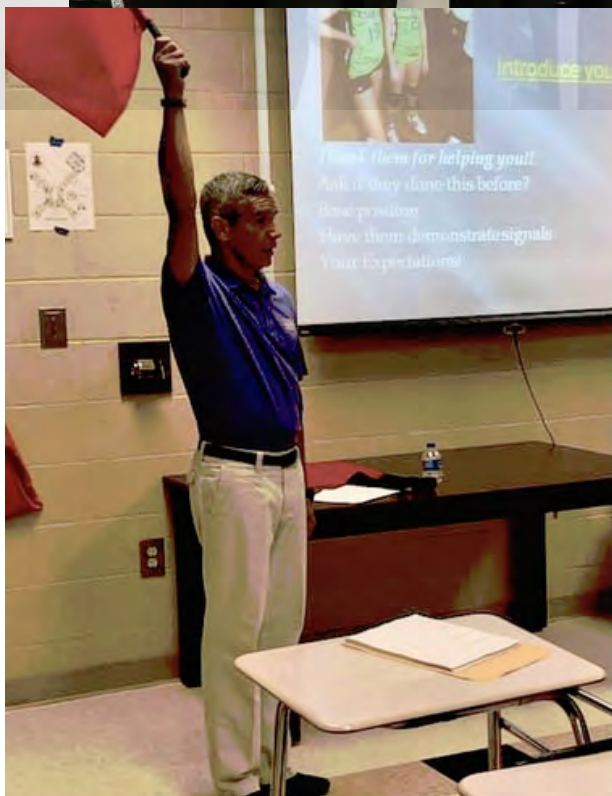
Lacrosse
Softball
Boys Tennis
Track and Field

Spring Sports

WE GOT GAME...

LOTS OF IT!

OFFICIATING ~ TEACHING ~ LEARNING

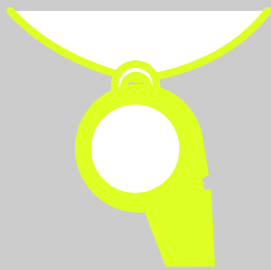


Make it OFFICIAL!

#BECOMEANOFFICIAL

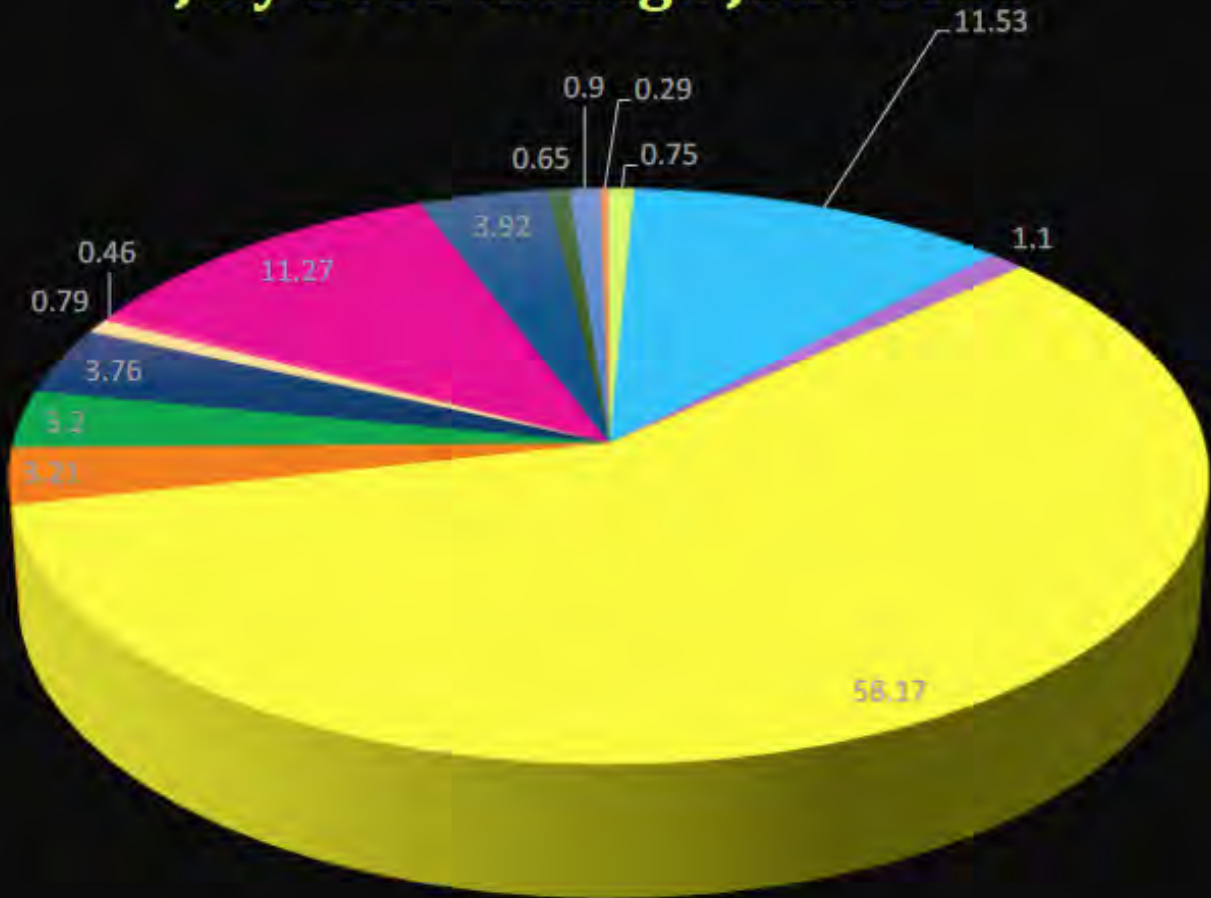
SCHSL needs middle and high school officials for all sports. If you have a passion to stay in the game by helping our youth, please contact our office for details on how you can be a "shot caller" for SC athletes. Training is accessible and ongoing throughout your officiating career. You will meet new friends, help your community school athletics programs and stay in the game!

SPORT	2019-20	2018-19	+ / -
Swim	117	123	-6
Volleyball	239	244	-5
Competitive Cheer	39	60	-21
Football	730	713	+17
Basketball	737	730	+7
Wrestling	130	126	+4
Lacrosse (Boys)	57	64	-7
Lacrosse (Girls)	71	73	-2
Soccer	478	492	-14
Softball	392	365	+27
Baseball	473	450	+23



[Click for info!](#)

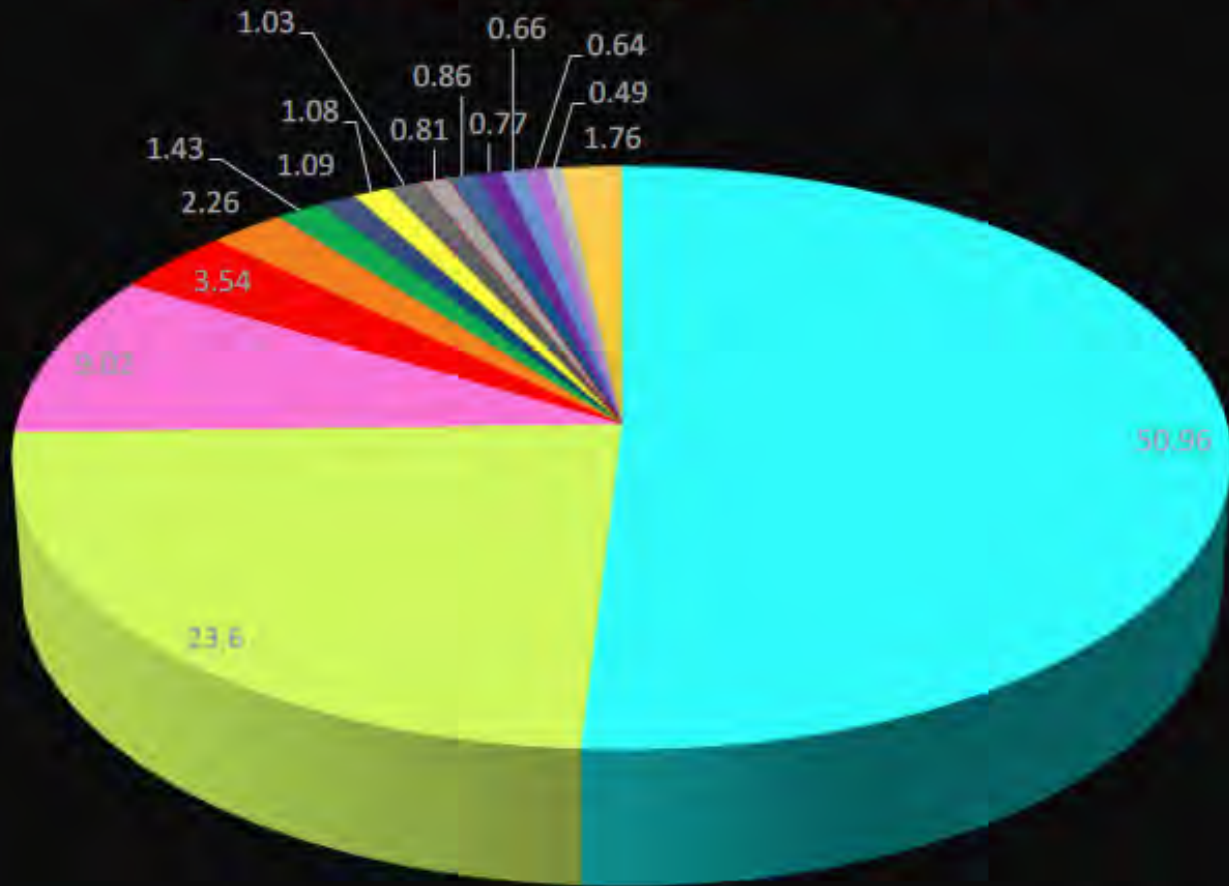
Income Summary July 2019 through June 2020



■ Booking Fees 0.75%	■ Corporate Sponsorship 11.53%
■ Fines & Late Fees 1.10 %	■ Gate Receipts 58.17%
■ Capital Outlay 3.24%	■ Membership Dues 3.20%
■ Officials Registration Fees 3.76 %	■ Rulesbooks & Medals 0.79%
■ Sanctioning Fees 0.46%	■ Catastrophic Insurance 11.27%
■ PPP Grant Revenue 3.92%	■ Gain on Investments 0.65%
■ Interest & Dividends 0.90%	■ Other Income 0.29%

TOTAL INCOME: \$4,093,099

Expense Summary July 2019 through June 2020



■ Sport Expenses	50.96%	■ Salary, Ins. & Retirement	23.6%
■ Cat Insurance Expense	9.02%	■ Official's Related	3.54%
■ Awards	2.26 %	■ Depreciation	1.43%
■ Professional & Consulting Fees	1.09%	■ Books & Materials	1.08%
■ Utilities	1.03%	■ Committee Expense	0.81%
■ Building/Landscape/Security	0.86%	■ Staff Travel	0.77%
■ Insurance Expense	0.66%	■ Computer & Internet	0.64%
■ Legal Fees	0.49%	■ Other Expenses	1.76%

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,823,186

CHANGE IN ASSETS: 269,913

Ahead of the Game...

SCHSL staff, although small in numbers, has an impressive combined total of 155+ years in K-12 education and/or athletics experience. Not only do league staff regulate the rules and policies of high school athletics, they also serve on various NFHS committees and notable boards of distinction. Trust that you have true professionals leading the way in SC sports. Visit www.schsl.org and click ABOUT US for contact information and areas led by these staff members.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Amy Boozer, Associate Commissioner

Charlie Wentzky, Associate Commissioner

Daniel Brooks, Assistant Commissioner

Jan Hogan, Director of Technology

Tammie Newman, Director of Communications/Public Relations

Cindi Drakeford, Director of Financial Services/Asst. to Commissioner

Allison Meyers, Receptionist

Derek Scott, Teall Properties General Manager, SC/SCHSL Marketing Representative

**Sara Harrell, Public Relations Intern- University of South Carolina*

Member Services includes but not limited to the following benefits:

- Coaches Education
- Sports Review Committee
- High School League Passes
- Middle School Task Force
- Rules Clinics
- Officials Workshops
- Student Leadership
- New Principals and Athletic Directors Meetings
- Superintendents Workshops
- Transfers and Eligibility
- Disciplinary Issues and Policy Enforcement
- Palmetto's Finest State Records



Executive Committee

Sam Tuten, President

Jason Warren, Vice President

Jason Johns (Term expires 2021) AAAAA

Marty Conner (Term expires 2022) AAAA

Ray Cooper (Term expires 2023) AAA

Michael Stone (Term expires 2024) AA

Dr. Andrea Pridgen (Term expires 2024) A

Ryan Brown (Ongoing) State Department of Education

Dr. Darryl Owings (Term expires 2024) Superintendents Association

Sonya Bryant (Term expires 2024) Principals Association

Tony Folk (Term expires 2023) School Boards Association

Mike Beasley (Term expires 2022) Coaches Association

Anna Miller (Term expires 2023) Associate Member

Kyle Boczkowski (Term expires 2024) Officials Association

Carlos Cave (Term expires 2024) Athletic Admin. Association

Laura Hickson (Term expires 2024) Member At Large

Josh Trahan (Term expires 2022) Member At Large

Dr. Kandace Bethea (Term expires 2021) Member At Large

Keith Kiser (Term expires 2021) Member At Large

At the national level...

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) provides ample growth opportunities for state association staff, student-athletes, parents and coaches/athletic directors. The NFHS writes the rules for high school sports and provides guidance on a variety of national issues. We offer online education courses through the NFHS Learning Center. They also showcase high school sports online with the NFHS Network. Here are some services offered by the NFHS:

NFHS Learn Courses
Student Leadership Summit
National Recognition Award Programs
Game Officials Recruitment Campaigns
High School Today HST Magazine
#MyReasonWhy Campaign
Section/National Conferences
Committee Meetings
and more.

TM



APPELLATE

First Congressional District
Second Congressional District
Third Congressional District
Fourth Congressional District
Fifth Congressional District
Sixth Congressional District
Seventh Congressional District

Bill McCall, III
Otis Rawl
Andy Tweito
Bob Davis
Jackie Queen
Raleigh King
Vacant

The Appellate Panel, established in 2014, consists of seven members who serve four-year terms. Members are appointed in the following manner:

- One person appointed by the legislative delegations of each congressional district.
- Members of the Appellate Panel may not concurrently serve as officers of any the South Carolina High School League subdivisions, conferences or regions and may not have served as a member of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee within the last three years.
- The Appellate Panel provides the final ruling in appeals brought against a decision on appeal from the Executive Committee of the League.
- Decisions made by the Appellate Panel are the final administrative appeal.

PANEL



After 35+ years in academics and athletics,
Samuel "Skip" Lax is officially off the clock and 'reLAXed.'
Happy Retirement, Skip!



Skip Skip, Hooray!



Put me in, Coach!

DANIEL BROOKS



Danny Brooks was brought onboard in January 2020 as the Director of Educational Services which transitioned into Assistant Commissioner in July 2020. He is now charged with swim, cross country, wrestling, track and field in addition to the League's education-gearred initiatives. He has an extensive history in education and athletics spanning decades. Be sure to give him a warm welcome and words of encouragement when you see him in action at the next athletic contest and/or educational services event.

SCHSL Game Changers

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) continues to be an integral part of our ongoing student leadership initiative. Each region of the state is represented by a member of SAAC and serves as a SCHSL Ambassador for two years. These leaders serve as volunteers and league conversation starters on matters that contribute to the betterment of services offered by our office. The purpose of SAAC is to provide a voice for our student-athlete population as well as the communities who support them. The projects and tasks shared with SAAC members connects our office with member schools to educate students on the importance of athletics in addition to preparing them for future leadership opportunities beyond high school. Unfortunately, our Spring 2020 Student Leadership Summit was canceled due to Covid-19 but we are already planning the 2021 event with even more exciting presenters and activities.



Her turn to **Intern: Sara Harrell, USC**



Sara became an official SCHSL college intern during the fall of 2019, however, she started her *volunteer* career two years prior once she enrolled at the University of South Carolina to major in public relations. She has shadowed staff in multiple capacities and is now pursuing an advanced degree while working for the SC State Department of Education. Best of luck to Sara as she continues her studies.

THE G.O.A.T. ...

ALEX ENGLISH

NFHS 2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

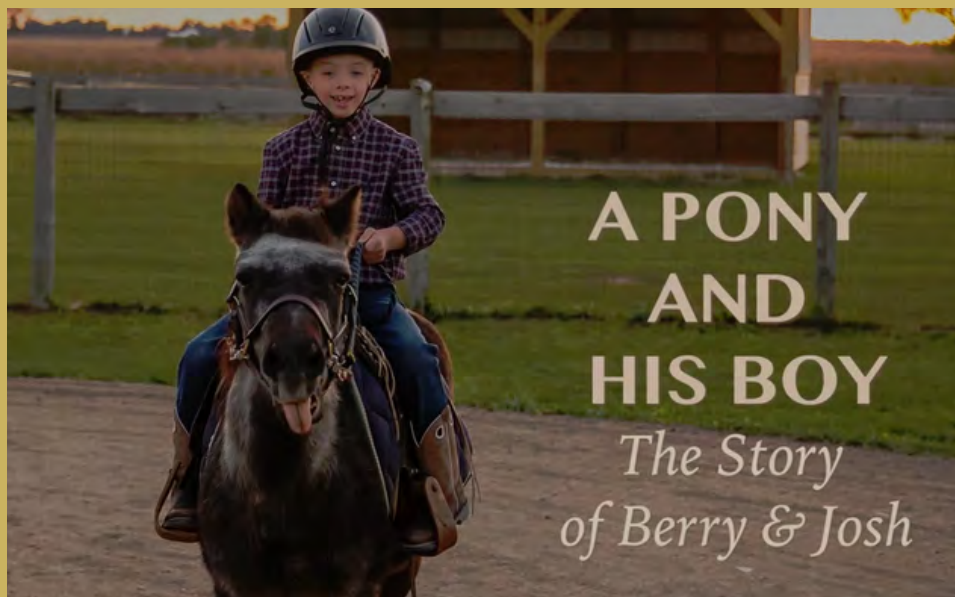
Dreher High, University of South Carolina, Denver Nuggets



SCHSL's humble nominee, Alex English, was selected as a Class of 2020 NFHS Hall of Fame inductee. Prior to his stellar college and professional careers, Alex English was one of the top high school basketball players in South Carolina history during his days at Dreher High School in Columbia. English was a first-team all-state selection three consecutive years, Player of the Year in South Carolina in 1971 and 1972, and was a two-time all-American. He set the all-time scoring records at Dreher High, and his No. 22 jersey was retired earlier this year. He stayed close to home for his college career and is still known as the greatest player in the University of South Carolina history. He ranks first in scoring and third in rebounding in Gamecocks' history and was a two-time all-American, and he had his second No. 22 jersey retired by USC. While he played for four teams during his 16-year professional career, he will always be remembered for his decade of the 1980s with the Denver Nuggets. He was the NBA's leading scorer in the 1980s with 19,682 points and was the first player in league history to score 2,000 points in eight straight seasons. English set 31 records in 10 seasons with the Nuggets and is the team's all-time leader in points (21,645) and assists (3,679). English was an eight-time all-star – all with the Nuggets – and was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997. Congratulations Mr. English, #22!

THE HEARTS OF CHAMPIONS

NFHS HEART OF THE ARTS- SECTION 3 AWARD **Fairfield Central High School**



The South Carolina High School League's nominee for the 2020 NFHS Heart of the Arts Award, the Fairfield Central High T3 (Theatre Tech Team), was selected by the NFHS Heart of the Arts Selection Committee to receive the NFHS Section 3 Heart of the Arts Award.

Although the SCHSL is not an activities association, all states are encouraged to nominate their state's best arts activities and projects. Last year, South Carolina won the national title with Beaufort High School's theater club. There are only eight section award winners in the country each year.

"I am already so proud of the students, so to learn that their accomplishments were appreciated outside of the district was truly heartwarming. For the past three years these students have come together from such a variety of backgrounds and interests, from athletes to STEM Cohort members, from G&T Artistic identifications to students with special needs, they've worked as a team to bring important stories to the forefront in our community, and they've done it together," Fairfield County School District Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts Julianne Neal said.

2020
Citation
Winner



Nessie Harris
South Carolina High School League



NFHS Citations are awarded to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activity programs through their association with one of the following groups of professionals: state associations and NFHS staff, athletic directors, coaches, officials and other activity related areas. Congratulations to retired SCHSL Associate Commissioner, Nessie Harris.



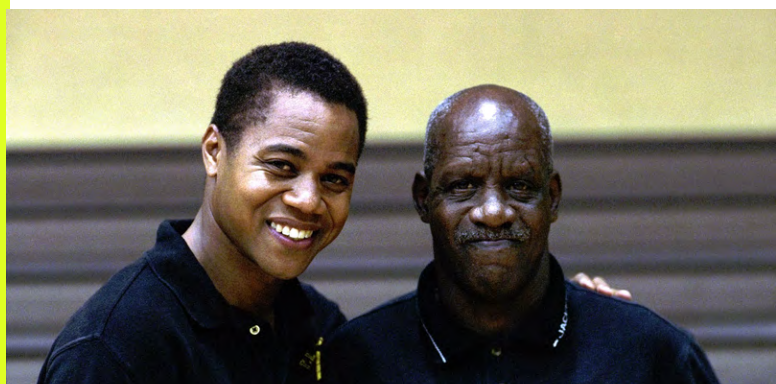
NFHS **"Heart of the Arts"** Section III winner, Fairfield Central High School's "Theater Tech Team (T3)," program coordinator Julianne Neal, accepts award on behalf of T3. See page 25 for details.

SCHSL 'Spirit of Sport' Award '20



James "Radio" Kennedy

This award, at the state and national level, seeks to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represents the core mission of education-based athletics. Radio earned this year's South Carolina High School League "Spirit of Sport" Award as he was the ultimate student, cheerleader, coach and *spirit* of the T. L. Hanna High community. He gained international fame when his life story was turned into a motion picture with Cuba Gooding, Jr. starring. South Carolina didn't need the lights of Hollywood to know we had a star among us. James Kennedy passed away December 15, 2019. He will never be forgotten and his spirit lives on across the state, especially Anderson, SC. RIP, Radio. [Watch nomination video here.](#)





****IMPORTANT****

"Guidelines for Return to Play/Practice Team Sports"

The return of team sports in 2020-21 comes with specific guidelines to be followed. This information has carefully been compiled and surmised by a task force of representatives from the League staff, SC Superintendents, member school athletics directors and coaches, and the SCHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC). Additionally, the information has been reviewed and vetted by the SC Department of Education's AccelerateED Task Force, DHEC, and discussed with a representative from the SC Governor's office. [Click here to read more.](#)



As we move forward with continued Covid-19 concerns, please follow all CDC and DHEC recommendations to save upcoming 2020-21 sports seasons.

Our student-athletes and coaches are counting on YOU to:

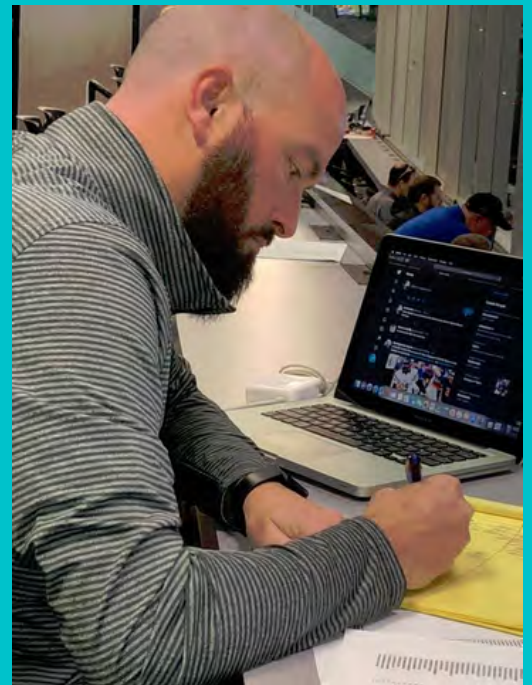
- ~ Wear a mask
- ~ Sanitize all public use areas and items
- ~ Know the symptoms and get tested
- ~ Social distance when in public
- ~ Wash hands throughout the day
- ~ SAFETY FIRST



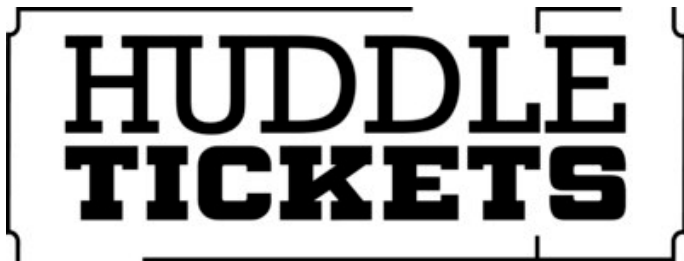
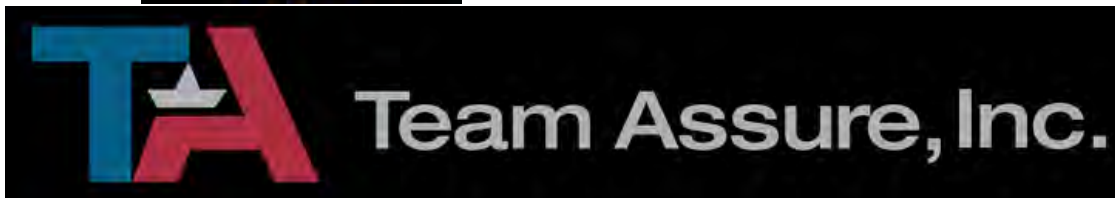
South Carolina's press corp is known nationally for its candor, humor and outright appealing, informative coverage of all topics of interest to its citizens; however, one topic often eclipses every category of news... SPORTS. The SCHSL is fortunate to have multi-talented men and women from all genres of media to include TV, newspaper, radio, internet services such as blogs, podcasts and photo journalism just to name a few. We encourage sports fans to subscribe to their local media outlet's coverage of SCHSL athletic events and programs for up to the minute stories, scores and seasonal forecasts. We appreciate the consistent coverage of our student-athletes and athletic programs. SC media professionals represent the very best in journalism and fan support.

PRESS PLAY





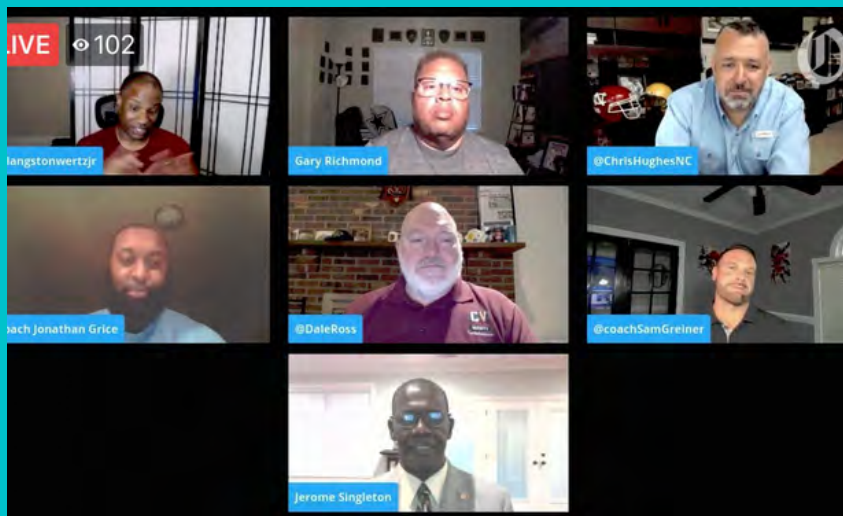
Partnerships that Empower



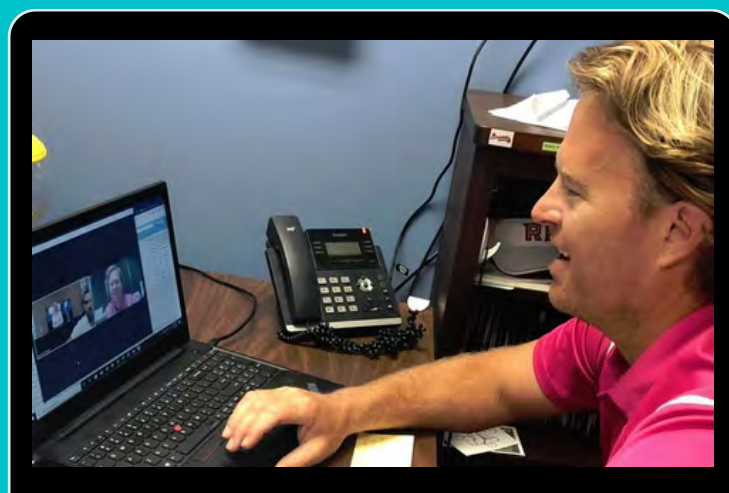
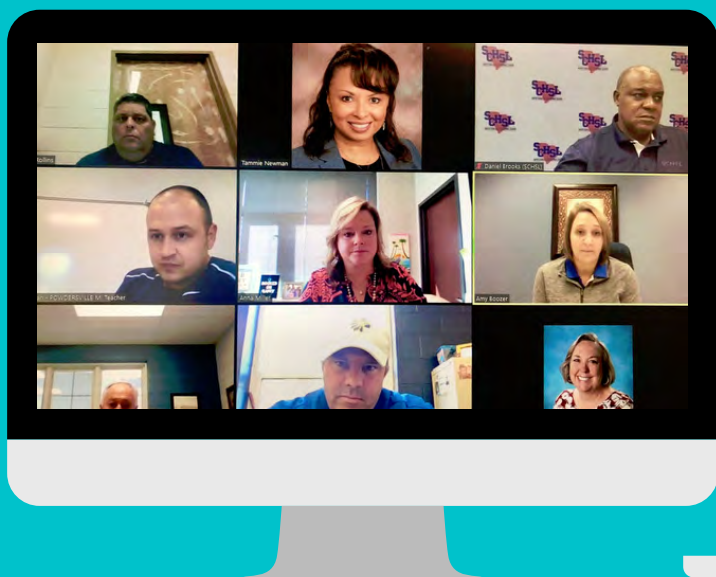
The good ole days:
Face to face interaction and
large gatherings...



Quickly turned into...



"Anyone ever heard of **ZOOM?!'**"
Since the onset of Covid-19, SCHSL
staff have collectively attended more
than **375** Zoom meetings and **350+**
conference calls, webinars and virtual
training courses. We miss our
membership, hugs and handshakes.



Team Mentality

THANK YOU, South Carolina



Although the 2019-20 school year did not end as we had planned or hoped for, South Carolina is blessed with the most loyal, determined student-athletes, coaches, school administrators, fans, sponsors, league staff and beyond. We pulled together to close the school year with purpose, dignity and hopes for continued success for our Class of 2020 athletes as they entered adulthood; college, military and/or the workforce. We predict the 2020-21 school year to be one of ongoing yet exciting challenges which will create opportunities to extinguish doubt in what we can accomplish when we work as a TEAM. Again, thank you for the consistency in your support for the South Carolina High School League and *staying in the game*. Our membership appreciates every kind word, gesture and social media post you make to uplift middle and high school sports. #SCHSL #SCStrong

South Carolina High School League

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Columbia, SC 29210

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Let's not forget...



ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED BY:

Tammie Newman

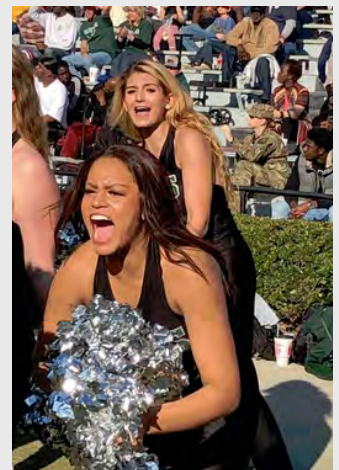
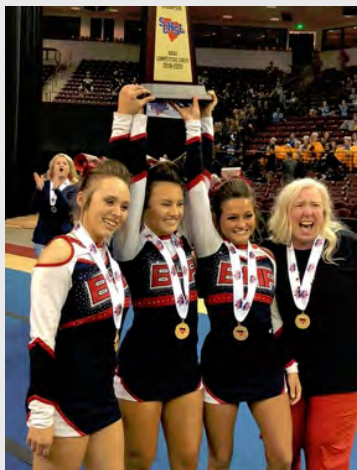
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We are in this **TOGETHER!**



Family ~ Friends ~ Fans ~ Fun ~ Future