Handbook Review Changes -Approved Changes in Red

1. Definition of pre-season - Addition

Period of time ten days prior to the first legal playing date to include the previous weekend. Any Contests played during this time must be in a tournament and count toward the season limit of games or dates for that sport.

1. Open Closed Season Changes

Fall Sports -March 1-31 AND May 1-31

Winter Sports- September 1-30 AND April 1-30

Spring Sports - October 1-31 AND Jan 1-25

\* NOTE:

* Football has 10 days in full pads in May, after three days in helmets only.
* Cheer can hold tryouts in May
* Lacrosse - Goalies wear full gear during open season
* Boys Lacrosse - January Period - 1st 5 days - Helmets only, then full pads.

1. 75% Rule changed to “Allowable Starters Rule”

If a coach from a school (including volunteer coaches) is associated with an outside team of an outside South Carolina High School League, no more than the number of allowable starters listed below (up to 15) may be on the roster of the outside team. This restriction applies to all students who were included on the school's certificate of eligibility and dressed for a varsity game during the previous season. Students with no remaining eligibility will not count. There is no limit on the number of students from the same school if there is no coach involved from that school. Also, there is no restriction on baseball or softball during the months of May, June, and July as it pertains to the allowable starters rule.

Squad limits are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Swimming 15           Volleyball 6           Tennis 7    Competitive Cheer 15        Cross Country 7 | Football 11  Golf 5  Basketball 5  Wrestling 14  Boys Lacrosse 10 | Girls Lacrosse  11  Soccer 11  Baseball  9  Softball 9  Track 15 |

1. Teams may trade out their jamboree for an additional scrimmage.
   1. Varsity Teams have:

2 scrimmages and 1 jamboree OR 3 Scrimmages and No Jamboree

* 1. Sub Varsity teams will have

1 Scrimmage and 1 Jamboree OR 2 Scrimmages and No Jamborees

1. Competitive Cheer Coaches are now Required to take the Cheer and Dance Safety courses through NFHSlearn.org. This certification is good for four years.  This is an update in the language of the previous course and now makes the course required instead of recommended

1. Football Section: Wording that schools are strongly advised to provide a hotel room for football game officials if no school facilities are available will be revised to state:

Schools need to provide facilities for football game officials to dress that are sanitary, secure and include: chairs, showers, and hot water.

1. Wrestling Section –

New Letter Q:

Procedures for weigh-ins.  Coaches should have two competition data sheets, one for the visiting team and one for the home team.  Each head coach is responsible for recording the actual weights for each wrestler listed on the competition data sheet.  After weigh-ins, each head coach should ensure that there are no discrepancies with the written weights and sign the sheets along with the official.  Once signed, these rosters will be official for the dual match or tournament.

New Letter R

The Official - The official is being used to announce the wrestlers correct net weight so coaches can record on the Data Competition Weigh-In Sheet. They will mediate any discrepancies after the weigh in is complete. The official has no other role in the weight management system.

1. Health and Safety –Health and Safety Information was approved to be placed on one location on the website for easy access and all required health and safety information will remain in the rules and regulations.
2. Track and Field Section

**ALL APPROVED CHANGES ARE WRITTEN IN RED**

1. The League will sponsor a girls' and boys' championship in each class.
2. National Federation Rules shall govern all track and field meets.
3. The head coach must attend a League sponsored rules clinic. All head coaches must be CPR & AED certified. All coaches must verify with their principal completion of the online courses “Concussion in Sports”, “Heat Illness Prevention” and “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” found at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).
4. Track teams are limited to 16 varsity and 12 JV meets, including invitationals. One invitational may be pre-season and start on February 23.
5. The League considers the qualifying meets (region and upper/lower state) to be part of the State Final Series.
   1. All throwing implements will be chosen/designated by the Meet Director and/or event judge for competition.
   2. The Meet Directors will secure knowledgeable officials. Meets must have a referee, exchange zone judges and turn judges. The decision of the judges will be final. No protest will be allowed unless violation of track or eligibility rules occurs.
   3. The forty-eight hour appeal limitation does not apply until after the finals. However, region qualifying appeals will not be heard after the start of the upper/lower state or qualifying meet.
   4. Contestants must be ready at the scheduled time of their events. If not, the Meet Director will scratch them.
6. REGION MEET:
   1. REGULATIONS:
      1. **A Region Qualifying Meet must have a designated referee and appeals committee.**
      2. A student must have participated in at least two regular season track meets prior to entering region qualifying leading to the State Meet. The High School League Executive Committee must make any exceptions.
      3. Be sure that everyone clearly understands Rule 5-10-2. Being listed as one of the six members of a relay team does not count as an event unless the competitor actually participates. Remind them that an athlete may not participate in more than four events. He or she may be listed in two individual events and as a member of three relay teams. However, once this athlete participates in two of these relays he/she is not eligible for the other relay. Once he/she has been listed in any individual event(s), the athlete is locked in.
      4. Schools must register their contestants (using both first and last names) with the region track chairperson by a date set by the chairperson. The best performances of each event in region meets must be sent to the director of the Upper or Lower State Meet. This information is requested in order that contestants may be placed in heats.
      5. **Each team may enter up to 4 athletes per individual event, and one relay team per event.  Relay teams may list up to 6 athletes for the relay pool that will apply throughout the state meet series within the limitations of rule 5-10-2.**
   2. **QUALIFYING:**
      1. **The top four individuals or relay teams will automatically qualify for the Upper/Lower State Meet from each region in each event.  (must meet minimum standards)**
      2. **The top 8 performances in each event from across all Upper/Lower state regions that did not earn automatic qualifying berths will move to the Upper/Lower State Meet as at-large qualifiers. (must meet minimum standards)**
7. UPPER AND LOWER STATE MEET:
   1. **REGULATIONS:**
      1. **Each classification will hold either a State Qualifier Meet OR an Upper or Lower State Qualifying Meet as determined by the classification.**
      2. These meets will be held on May 14. Sites for **state qualifying meets** will be determined by each classification. . The meet director must submit a financial statement to the League Office.
   2. MEET MANAGEMENT:
      1. RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR STATE QUALIFYING **MEETS**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Boys Long Jump followed by Triple Jump | 400 Meter Relay |
|  | Girls Long Jump followed by Triple Jump | 3200 Meter Relay |
|  | Boys Shot Put followed by Girls | 100 Meter Hurdles |
|  | Girls Pole Vault followed by Boys | 110 Meter Hurdles |
|  | Boys High Jump followed by Girls | 100 Meter Dash |
|  | Girls Discus followed by Boys | 1600 Run |
|  |  | 400 Meter Run |
|  |  | 400 Meter Hurdles |
|  |  | 800 Meter Run |
|  |  | 200 Meter Dash |
|  |  | 3200 meter Run |
|  |  | 1600 Meter Relay |
|  |  |  |

1. **All LANED races will be run in 3 heats of 8, slow to fast.  All entries will be seeded by performance from the region meets.**
2. **All NON-LANED races will be run in 2 heats of 12, slow to fast, seeded based on region performance.  The race will be started using a 1-turn stagger. The 3200 will be run in 1 heat using a double alley start.**
3. **Horizontal jumps and throws will be conducted in 2 flights of 12 athletes each, seeded worst to best based on region performance.  Athletes will take 3 attempts, and the top 9 reseeded in reverse order will take 3 more attempts.**
4. QUALIFYING:
   1. **The top four individuals or relay teams will automatically qualify for the State Championship from Upper and Lower State in each event.  (must meet minimum standards)**
   2. **The top 8 performances in each event from across the two qualifying sites that did not earn automatic qualifying berths will move to the State Championship as at-large qualifiers.  (Must meet minimum standards)**
5. STATE TRACK MEET:
   1. REGULATIONS:

The State Meet will be held on May 20 & 21.

* + 1. An admission will be charged to everyone except those participating in the State Finals. Spectator admission fee will be based on SCHSL recommendations.
    2. **Up to Sixteen athletes or relays will compete in each event in the State Championship Meet.**
    3. Eight places will score in the State Meet as follows (10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1)
    4. Because of differences in starting procedures, jumping pits, throwing circles, tracks, watches, etc. the following regulations govern State Track Records:
       1. Records may be broken only in the State Meet.
       2. Metal or fiberglass tapes will be used and all records will be measured and certified by the meet director or referee, the head field judge and the person running the event.
       3. A record must meet the requirements of National Federation Edition of the Track and Field Rules.
    5. The League will furnish trophies and medals for the State Champion and Runner-up in each classification. Medals will be given to first, second and third place finishers in each event. 1
    6. Refer to pages 5 & 6 for additional regulations.
  1. MEET MANAGEMENT:
     1. **All LANED races will be run in 2 heats, slow to fast.  Upper and Lower State Champions will be placed in lanes 4 and 5 of heat 2, all others will be seeded by time based on performance at Upper and Lower State.**
     2. **All NON-LANED races will by run in 1 heat of 16 using double alleys with lanes 1 & 2 for the top seeds at the Upper and Lower State Qualifier meets.**
     3. **All horizontal jumps and throws will be conducted in 1 flight of 16 athletes each, seeded worst to best, with the Upper and Lower State Champions being seeded as the last two competitors.  Athletes will take 3 attempts, and the top 9 reseeded in reverse order will take 3 more attempts.**
     4. **All vertical jumps will be seeded worst to best, with the Upper and Lower State Champions being seeded as the last two competitors.  Vertical jumps will start two heights below the lowest qualifying height with using minimum starting heights (HJ: 4’0/5’6; PV: 7’0/9’0)**
     5. **All running events will take place as finals, scored versus time.**

* 1. Only rubber-soled shoes may be used for the shot put and discus. Track flats or spikes that do not exceed ¼" spikes may be used for the pole vault, high jump, long jump and all running events.
  2. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE TRACK AREA EXCEPT CONTESTANTS IN UNIFORM AND OFFICIALS.
  3. During the week of the state meet no school may practice at the site of this meet unless the site is on its campus. NOTE: All throwing implements & relay batons will be chosen/designated by the Meet Director and/or event judge for competition.