



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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To: Superintendents, Principals & Athletics Directors

From: Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner SCHSL

Subject: Sportsmanship

Date: October 17, 2022

Good morning,

As we continue the Fall sports season, I hope this memo greets you with fond memories of your student athletes' efforts during play. We are now approaching the second week of playoffs and championships and some mobile sports (Tennis, Golf, and Volleyball). To those schools participating in the playoffs and championships, I wish you continued success. Additionally, while the stakes are high; I asked that your schools' teams not lose focus of the value of good sportsmanship before, during, and after each contest played.

This past week was marred with multiple unsportsmanlike incidents. Altercation by schools' teams after the contest, stoppage of games due to spectators' behaviors, ejection of student-athletes due to unsportsmanlike behaviors, etc. Thirteen (13) schools were cited for ejections of student-athletes because of unsportsmanlike behaviors. Two (2) of those schools are being cited for a second time this season. When these incidents occur by student-athletes doing competition provides teachable moments that can be and are addressed. However, when these incidents occurred before or after the contest by student-athletes, it shows an unfavorable representation of the school(s) involved.

Additionally, when these incidents occur involving adults or spectators; there is no justification for their actions. In those incidents, the schools are asked to take a more proactive role in addressing these situations. All schools are constantly reminded to video the contest in the event it is necessary to identify individuals who are innocent of any unsportsmanlike action. But, all too often; we are made aware that the camera malfunctioned or was inadvertently turned off during the incidents. Leaving the League Office staff with few options other than assuming that all were involved and addressing it as such. Thankfully, these incidents only represent a small percentage of the member schools.

To the schools with no unsportsmanlike issue this past week, congratulations!!! To the school experiencing challenges with good sportsmanship, I wish you success as you continue to attempt to remove this behavior from your athletic events.

Have a great week with your competition,

Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
South Carolina High School League