

March 7, 2023



TuesNews

Weekly Newsletter of the South Carolina High School League

Romanda Noble-Watson, Editor



COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

Greetings,

Hope your weekend went well and you are off to the start of a successful week. Winter sports season has officially ended with culmination of the Basketball State Finals this past weekend (Thursday-Saturday). Congratulations to all the State Champions and Runners-up.

If the Fall and Winter sports seasons are any indications of what is ahead, the Spring sports season will be filled with great competition. While as administrators and coaches, we take this opportunity to allow the thousands of athletes to showcase their talent, let's not forget our responsibility/obligation to seize the "teachable moments," teamwork, determination, humility, fair play, sportsmanship, etc., and respect for authority. To promote these behaviors, we must model these behaviors. It takes all involved (administrators, coaches, spectators/fans, and game officials) to create safe environments which our student-athletes can perform, learn, and grow. The absence of positive influence from any of those groups results in the short-changing of the student-athlete's experience. All are needed.

With that stated, nationally, there is a steady decline in the number of game officials willing to be involved. As the number of game officials decreases, so do opportunities for student-athletes to compete during their sports seasons. The reasons for leaving the game officials' avocation varies. However, the common theme is a "lack of respect for their authority as a game official." I share with you a Facebook post shared by a game official and the reason for leaving the avocation.

(Excerpt from Facebook post)

I officiated my last event yesterday. People keep asking me why....you're too young, you're one of our best (I'm not saying it....others are, I'm not pulling a Trump here.) At the end of the day, this is why....it's a second job, and it's one where I get treated with less respect than I do at my actual job. And I don't need the second job. When I started, I was eager to learn, scooped up every game I could. And yes, back then there were a bunch of coaches and parents who quite frankly s u c k e d, thought their kids were Tom Brady's and they little Belichicks. But it's just so much worse now, and it's no longer fun. It used to be hard, hard work, but it was fun. It's not fun anymore. Every time I get to a venue all I think about is when this is going to end. And it's not fair to me or the kids. So that's why I'm done. As for whose fault it is....it's all of us. It's the officials organizations in Massachusetts allowing coaches and whackjob parents get away with what they get away with. It's the coaches acting the way they do, which the whackjob parents see and they then think it's OK to misbehave. And that trickles down to the kids too. Are we perfect? No, of course not. Do we know more than you, Jimmy and Janey in the stands? A million times yes. And that goes for most coaches as well. There are a lot of great coaches who bark, but do it respectfully and understand how hard our job is. I'm thankful for every one of them. I'm also thankful for every parent who has thanked me and my crew for our work after an event. True story, I was officiating the New England's last year in Providence and I was waiting with the rest of the crew for an elevator to head downstairs to our locker room when a woman came up to us and said very simply 'thank you for being here' and I nearly broke down crying. As powerful as that was, it shouldn't be that way. The extra money has always been nice, but it's not nearly enough to stay. The love for the sport is not enough to make it worth it anymore when we deal with what we deal with. I have other things to do, things I would've liked to have done but couldn't because of my officiating obligations. The cons outweigh the pros at this point. I will take tons of great memories from the last 20 years with me....but I'm out.

While this does not represent the mindset of all game officials, it is a snapshot of the challenges that are before us. As member school representatives, we must make intentional efforts to change this downward trend by creating safe and welcoming environments for the game officials to work. The future of educational athletics as we know it depends on it.

In closing, I share an update of last week's ejections of coaches and/or student-athletes for unsportsmanlike behaviors. 17 schools had coaches and/or student-athletes ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior. Four coaches were ejected, and 22 athletes were ejected. We can all agree that this is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Congratulations to the teams that competed last week without ejections. Have a great week of educational athletics practices and competitions.

Note: I will be out of the office next week and will not be contributing to next week's TuesNews.

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SCHSL- Commissioner**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

Each year the SCHSL will recognize student-athletes who excel academically. The deadline to submit selections for the Scholar Athlete Award is next **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**. The following criteria will be used for selection:

1. Selections must be seniors who have lettered in two sports for at least one season or in one sport for at least two seasons during their academic career. Outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship must have been exhibited.
2. Selections must have achieved at least a 3.5 GPA. Grades will be cumulative through the end of the first semester.

[Click Here](#) for Scholar Athlete form.

LIVING CLEAN WEEK APPROACHING

The start of the 2023-24 Living Clean Cycle in the SCHSL is here. March 20-25, 2023 is the first Living Clean Week of the new cycle. Please remind all your sports teams that our goals are an ejection free week and a display of sportsmanship. Additionally, all schools are encouraged to participate in litter clean up during the week. Additional information will be included in upcoming TuesNews.

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STATE FINALS NEWS



Upcoming Events

Living Clean Week
Mar 20-25, 2023

Spring Break
(Office closed)
Apr 5-11, 2023

For a complete SCHSL
Calendar visit the league
website at www.schsl.org



JOB

Jobs Around the SCHSL

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March 2-4, 2023, the SCHSL held its 2023 Girls State Basketball Finals presented by Absolute Total Care. At the end of the three-day event, five teams were crowned State Champions.

A: Military Magnet Academy; AA: Gray Collegiate Academy; AAA: Camden High School; AAAA: North Augusta High School; AAAAA: Mauldin High School.



A: Military Magnet Academy



AA: Gray Collegiate Academy



AAA: Camden High School



AAAA: North Augusta High School



AAAAA: Mauldin High School



STATE FINALS NEWS

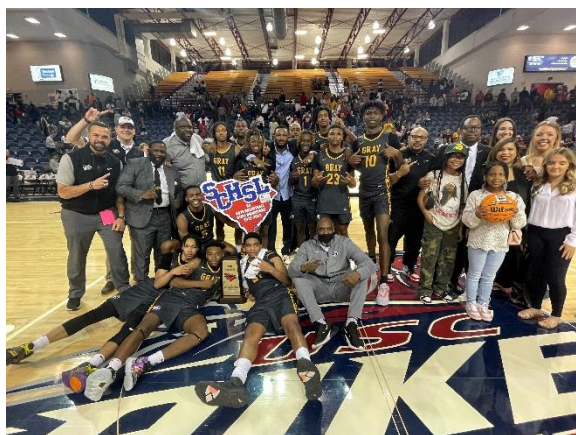


March 2-4, 2023, the SCHSL held its 2023 Boys State Basketball Finals presented by Absolute Total Care. At the end of the three-day event, five teams were crowned State Champions.

A: Christ Church Episcopal; AA: Gray Collegiate Academy; AAA: Wren High School; AAAA: Irmo High School; AAAAA: Dorman High School.



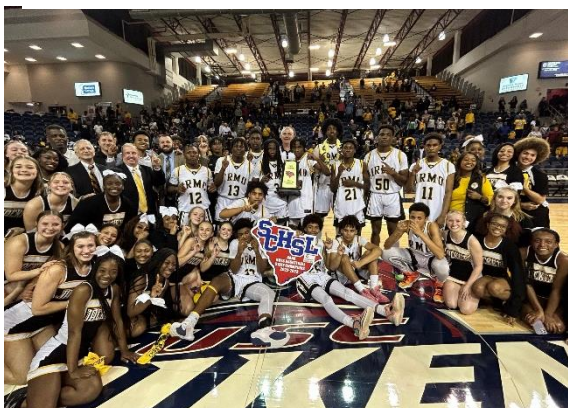
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