



# TuesNews

Weekly Newsletter of the South Carolina High School League  
Romanda Noble-Watson, Editor

October 3, 2023

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## Upcoming Events

**Officials' Appreciation Week**

**Oct. 1-7, 2023**

**Winter Sports Rule Clinics: Big Teams**

**Oct. 1, 2023 – Oct. 31, 2023**

**Eligibility Appeals Committee**

**Oct 4, 2023**

**Swim Last Day**

**Oct 7, 2023**

**Swim Qualifiers Due 9 p.m**

**Oct 8, 2023**

**Principals, AD Meeting (Virtual)**

**Oct 12, 2023 – 9:00am**

**JOBS**

**For job openings around the SCHSL, visit [www.schsl.org/jobs](http://www.schsl.org/jobs)**

# COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

The SCHSL recognizes that violence (verbal or physical assaults, guns, etc.) at athletic events is on the rise, and reducing violence at middle and high school athletics competitions is essential for the safety and well-being of students and the overall school community. The primary reason for prioritizing safety and violence mitigation at high school games is to safeguard the well-being of student-athletes and all others attending the game. Sporting events should be a place where all can come together to enjoy competition, have fun, and build positive memories. When violence occurs, it endangers the physical and emotional health of all attendees, potentially leading to injuries, trauma, and long-lasting negative impacts.

Parents entrust schools with the safety and well-being of themselves and their children when attending sporting events. Maintaining a safe and violence-free environment not only reassures parents but also strengthens the school's relationship with the community. Sporting events can serve as a unifying force within the school community. When these events are safe and free from violence, they bring together students, families, and alumni, fostering a sense of unity and pride. Conversely, incidents of violence can fracture the community and deter participation and attendance.

The lessons learned from middle and high school experiences, including those related to safety and violence, often carry into adulthood. By fostering a safe and respectful environment, schools contribute to the development of responsible and empathetic citizens.

Here are some specific suggestions to help mitigate violence at these events:

- Strong Code of Conduct:
  - Develop a comprehensive code of conduct that clearly outlines expected behavior for athletes, coaches, students, and spectators during sporting events.
  - Ensure that consequences for violations are well-defined and consistently enforced.
- Pre-Event Education:
  - Conduct pre-event assemblies or meetings to remind students, athletes, and parents of expected behavior and the consequences of violence.
  - Emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, respect, and fair play.
- Security Measures:
  - Increase security presence at athletic events, including the presence of trained security personnel or school resource officers. Make sure security personnel are in positions where they are easily visible.
  - Implement clear bag/bag checks and metal detectors at entrances, if necessary, to prevent weapons from entering the venue.

# COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

- Fan Separation:
  - Separate rival fan groups to minimize potential confrontations.
  - Design seating arrangements to reduce the likelihood of physical altercations.
- Student Leadership:
  - Encourage student leaders, such as captains of sports teams or student council members, to promote positive behavior and sportsmanship among their peers.
  - Empower them to strategically intervene or report incidents.
- Parent and Community Engagement:
  - Involve parents and the local community in supporting positive behavior at athletic events.
  - Promote parental responsibility for their children's behavior and attendance at games.
- Fan Expectations:
  - Encourage respectful cheering and discourage derogatory chants or insults by making announcements before and during the game.
  - Create a fan code of conduct that outlines expected behavior for spectators, including guidelines for cheering and addressing opposing teams and fans.
- Zero Tolerance for Violence:
  - Clearly communicate a zero-tolerance policy for violence and unsportsmanlike behavior.
  - Remove individuals engaging in violence from the event and apply appropriate consequences.
- Post-Event Debriefing:
  - After large events, conduct debriefing sessions with security personnel to identify any incidents or issues and discuss ways to improve security and behavior for future events.
- Positive Recognition:
  - Recognize and celebrate positive behaviors, sportsmanship, and good character by athletes, coaches, and fans.
  - Implement a sportsmanship award or recognition program.
- Anonymous Reporting:
  - Implement a system for anonymous reporting of safety concerns or incidents to encourage students and staff to report potential issues.

Reducing violence at school athletics competitions requires a proactive and collaborative effort involving school administrators, teachers, coaches, students, parents, and key stakeholders within the community. By implementing these strategies, schools can create a safer and more enjoyable environment for sporting events.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**~Dr. Jerome Singleton  
SCHSL- Commissioner**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FALL SPORTS OFFICIALS' APPRECIATION WEEK (OCTOBER 1-7, 2023)



**Reminder:** This week is Fall Sports Officials' Appreciation Week (October 1-7, 2023). Show your appreciation to our officials throughout the state of South Carolina. Officials work to maintain the integrity of the sports they officiate and ensure student-athletes have a safe environment to play in. Without our officials, our student-athletes would not be able to enjoy the sports they love. So show your appreciation to the unsung heroes of interscholastic contests.

Participation in fall sports officials' appreciation week can be as simple or as extravagant as you want it to be. You can get your teams and student groups on campus to get involved. It is a great community project for school student councils, spirit groups or other groups that serve as ambassadors to your school and community. Some ideas that you can use for Fall Sports Officials' Appreciation Week are below.

Officials' appreciation week banners and signage on the fence, wall, etc., surrounding the contest playing area; Gift cards/cookies/donuts/other items presented to the crew by both the home and visiting team; Photos of the officiating crew with both teams and coaches prior to the start of the game (or at the end, depending on timing); Read a PSA at the start of the game, thanking the crew for working the contest; Student escorts of the crew onto the field/court/pitch; "Thank you" cards, signed by the team and coaching staff; Special appreciation signage in the officials' locker room; Recorded "thank you" messages from student-athletes and coaches to officials, posted on social media.

We encourage you to submit pictures of your school and athletes showing appreciation to our officials by clicking: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/SouthCarolinaHighSchoolLeague/FallSportsOfficialsAppreciationWeek>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Public Notice Posted

The Eligibility Appeals Committee, a subcommittee of the SCHSL Executive Committee, will hold a virtual meeting, Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 10:00 am. All public viewing will be done via live stream on the NFHS Network website: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/schsl/evt-bef615f37a>

## SCHSL Annual Impact Report

The SCHSL Annual Impact Report is now available. The report can be accessed by visiting <https://schsl.org/archives/11976>

## Winter Sports Rules Clinic

The Winter Sports Rules Clinic is now available on Big Teams. The Rules Clinic is available through October 31, 2023.

<https://www.bigteams.com/>

## Save the Date



The 2023 Girls and Boys SCHSL Swim State Championships are scheduled for Saturday and Monday, October 14 and 16. Information for the Championships can be found by visiting <https://schsl.org/archives/11463>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Fall Sports Brackets

The 2023-24 Fall Sports Brackets are available on the SCHSL website. Brackets can be accessed under the brackets link on the SCHSL website, [www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org), or by clicking the following link: <https://schsl.org/brackets>.

For additional information on brackets please contact Romanda Noble-Watson, Director of Communications and Public Relations at [Romanda@schsl.org](mailto:Romanda@schsl.org).

## Student-Athlete of the Month



The SCHSL is pleased to announce the September 2023 Student-Athletes of the Month. Amelia Whirrett of Philip Simmons High School has been named the Girl's Student-Athlete of the Month and Jalen Swilley of Fairfield Central High School has been named the Boy's Student-Athlete of the Month.

**Whirrett** is a senior who is a varsity tennis player for Philip Simmons. She carries a 5.277 grade point average. She has been a member of the Philip Simmons varsity tennis team since its inception. In addition to playing tennis, Whirrett is a member of the Beta Club, Beta Convention Member, Renaissance Club, SGA, National Honors Society, Spanish National Honors Society and the Society Fashion and Film Club.

**Swilley** is a senior three-sport athlete at Fairfield Central, and carries a 4.353 grade point average. He is a dual-enrollment student and will graduate from Midlands Technical College in May 2024 before receiving his high school diploma in the same month. Jalen is also enrolled in Barbering at Fairfield Career and Technology Center and will test to earn his Master Barber License prior to graduation. Additionally he is a member of the school's National Honor Society, National Beta Club, SGA, Superintendent Advisory Council, and he mentors middle and elementary school students. His community service activities include volunteering with Harvest Hope, Meals on Wheels, Pumpkin Patch, and the Railroad Museum.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to Lamar High School Chain Crew, this week's SCHSL Chain Crew of the Week sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

We encourage you to nominate your crew for this honor by filling out this form:  
<https://form.jotform.com/222336706249053>.

Each week, one of the nominated crews will be chosen and spotlighted with special vests for them to wear, along with a PA message for you to utilize during that week's game. We will also ask that their picture be taken in the Chain Crew of the Week vests and provided to the SCHSL office for use in social media and website recognition. If you have any questions about this initiative, please email [Derek@schsl.org](mailto:Derek@schsl.org).



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Breast Cancer Awareness

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., **1 in 8** women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. In 2023, an estimated **297,790 women and 2,800 men** will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

Awareness of the facts and statistics surrounding breast cancer in the United States is key in empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their health.

The staff at the SCHSL will wear pink once a week during the month of October in support of the fight.

For additional information visit <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts/>.





# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The Health Spot

### EAP Practice

The SCHSL would like to thank all schools that participated in EAP practice week last week. The importance of developing and practicing an EAP in case of a medical emergency cannot be overstated. Although this week was implemented to help initiate EAP practice, the EAP can be practiced anytime during the year.

We would like to celebrate your efforts in practicing your EAP! Please go to the following link and upload any pictures that you took so that we can put them on our website. Again, thank you for your efforts in making sure that our student-athletes are kept safe.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/SouthCarolinaHighSchoolLeague/EAPPracticeFall2023>

Direct all questions for this section to Tim Kinney, Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness, at [Tim@schsl.org](mailto:Tim@schsl.org).

## Officials' Whistle

It's Fall Sports Officials' Appreciation Week (October 1-7, 2023). Participation in fall sports officials' appreciation week can be as simple or as extravagant as state associations and/or schools want it to be.

Many schools will not only get their teams involved in the fun but will ask student groups on campus to get involved. It is a great community project for school student councils, spirit groups or other groups that serve as ambassadors. Be sure to show your officials you appreciate them.

Refer to page 4 for complete details on Fall Sports Officials' Appreciation Week,

Direct all questions for this section to Associate Commissioner Sarah Hayes at [Sarah@schsl.org](mailto:Sarah@schsl.org).

## Tools for Success

The NFHS is celebrating National High School Activities Month during the month of October. This is a great time to celebrate all the activities that your schools are doing. The SCHSL encourages all schools to participate this month by following along with each theme per week. We would like to recognize your participation and celebrate you. We are proud of the hard work that you do on a daily basis. Please take pictures of your celebrations and activities throughout the month and upload them using the following link: [National Activities Month Form](#). Example of images to capture are:

- Celebrating officials, coaches, advisors, and sponsors.
- Performing Arts activities like dance, band, and theater.
- Highlighting PA announcers, fans, and other acts of sportsmanship.
- Capturing community service projects and youth awareness forums.

Direct all questions for this section to Dr. Curtrell Rhodan, Director of Educational Services at [Curtrell@schsl.org](mailto:Curtrell@schsl.org).