

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 211575
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575
January 10, 2024**

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met on January 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Jason Warren, Carlos Cave, Dr. Sam Barfell, Billy Blackwell, Kyle Boczkowski, Coby Brandyburg, David Byrd, Ray Cooper, Robert Etheredge, Dr. J.R. Green, Matthew Hiers, Kathy Hipp, Robert Jackson, Dr. Adam Lanford, Julianne Lang, Dr. Rallie Liston, Nicholas Pearson and Andy Rogers.

Jason Warren called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Carlos Cave

Prayer led by Nicholas Pearson

A motion made by Dr. J.R. Green, seconded by Carlos Cave, to approve the minutes from November 15, 2023, meeting passed 17-0 (18 members present).

Appeal:

- South Carolina Athletic Coach Association (SCACA) (Adjustments to closed season) – **APPROVED (Option A – Split the Closed Week)**

Option A broken down:

- Fall Sports Closed Dates: July 22-24
- Fall Sports Open Season Dates: July 25-30
- Fall Sports Closed Season Dates: July 31-August 1
- Last day for teams to attend camps/clinics or use ten days of competition: July 28, 2024

Sub-Committee Reports

Legislative (Julianne Lang, Chair)

2024-25 Proposed Changes

Constitution

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3

Submitted by: Josh Trahan, Fox Creek High School

Add:

G. The South Carolina High School League will create an auditing body comprised of individuals proficient in the South Carolina PowerSchool data collection software. This group will consist of 7 to 10 school counselors or registrars and paid an hourly rate for their validation of school enrollment data. They will work from December 1st through the 15th leading up to the reclassification committee meeting to appropriate

classes and regions. If a school is found to have reported incorrect data on (3) or more students, the reporting school will be issued a warning and expected to write a corrective action plan. If a school is found to have reported incorrect data on (5) or more students, the school will be fined a minimum of \$500 and required to write a corrective action plan. If a school is found to have reported incorrect data on (10) or more students, the school will be fined a minimum of \$1,000, they will not be permitted to participate in any post-season play, and they will be required to write a corrective action plan. If a school is found to have reported incorrect data on (25) or more students, the school will be removed from the League for a minimum of (2) years until the next reclassification.

Rationale: This addition to the constitution would create a body responsible for analyzing the data submitted. It also would remove the issue of having schools report other schools for improper reporting as there currently is not a procedure for this. It would cost the League funds to briefly employ these individuals, however, dues could be increased, or the total cost could be split over the membership.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Constitution ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP Section 3 A

Submitted by: Josh Trahan, Fox Creek High School

Currently Reads:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollment in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of (2) years.

Change to Read:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollment in grades 9-11, The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The enrollment figures will be based on the number of students in the League assigned attendance zone with an additional three (3) multiplier on students participating in League governed athletics who reside outside of the League assigned attendance zone. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of (2) years.

Rationale: This change to the recent amendment passed would no longer include weighting students who do not participate in athletics. It would seem unnecessary to penalize a school who has a large number of transfer students who have chosen to attend that school for fine arts and math and science programs where those students may not participate in athletics.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Constitution
ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP
Section 3 A

Submitted by: Josh Trahan, Fox Creek High School

Currently Reads:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollment in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of (2) years.

Change to Read:

The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollment in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The enrollment figures will be based on the number of students in the League assigned attendance zone with an additional two (2) multiplier on students participating in League governed athletics who reside outside of the League assigned attendance zone. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of (2) years.

Rationale: This change to the recent amendment passed would no longer include weighting students who do not participate in athletics. It would seem unnecessary to penalize a school who has a large number of transfer students who have chosen to attend that school for fine arts or math and science programs where those students may not participate in athletics. The two-multiplier rather than the 3-multiplier established would allow the new calculations to take effect in a manner that would allow easier change in the event that unanticipated negative outcomes arise from this new practice.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Constitution
ARTICLE VI – ADMINISTRATION
Section 4

Submitted by: Dr. Andrew McMillan, Spartanburg High School

Currently Reads:

- A. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will have four scheduled meetings each year. These will be held on or around August 15, November 25, January 15, and February 25.
- B. Other meetings of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall be called at the discretion of the president or at the request of any five members of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee.

Add:

- A. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will have four scheduled meetings each year. These will be held on or around August 15, November 25, January 15, and February 25.
- B. Other meetings of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall be called based on the following:
 - i. At the discretion of the President of the Executive Committee
 - ii. At the request of any five members of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee.
 - a. If this occurs, the South Carolina High School League office would work to secure a meeting date that is acceptable for all parties.
- C. 24-hour notice must be given to any meeting to comply with the Freedom of Information Act policies and procedures.

Rationale: Provides clarification in linear form of who can call a meeting and clarifies the league's roles in securing a meeting date that would be acceptable.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Constitution
ARTICLE VII – LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Section 1

Submitted by: Kathy Hipp, Crescent High School

Currently Reads:

- A. The legislative power of the South Carolina High School League shall be vested in a Legislative Assembly, composed of delegates representing the membership.
- B. Each classification will have one delegate representative from each region. At least one-third of the delegates in each classification must be superintendents or superintendent's designee to include assistant superintendent or district athletic director.
- C. Each classification will be permitted one vote for each 1,000 (or major part of 1,000) students represented by the class.

- D. Associate members will elect two delegates, each of whom will have one vote.
- E. At the time of his/her, election, a delegate to the Legislative Assemble must be a superintendent, a principal, or a school administrator officially designated as such by the governing board if the administrator is neither principal nor superintendent, he/she must have at least six years' experience certified by the State Department of Education.
- F. By November 15 delegates and alternates to the Legislative Assembly for the ensuing year shall have been elected by all classifications and submitted to the commissioner. Failure to submit delegate(s) by this date may cause the loss of the delegate(s) for that year.

Change to Read:

- A. The legislative power of the South Carolina High School League shall be vested in a Legislative Assembly, composed of delegates representing the membership.
- B. Each member high school will designate one delegate, each of whom will have one vote.
- C. Associate members will elect two delegates, each of whom will have one vote.
- D. By November 15 delegates and alternates to the Legislative Assembly for the ensuing year shall have been elected by all member high schools and associate members and submitted to the commissioner. Failure to submit the delegate(s) by this date may cause the loss of the delegate(s) for that year.

Rationale: Regardless of population in the school or classification, each member high school only fields one varsity team per sport. Allowing one vote per school enables every member to have an equitable voice regardless of size.

RECOMMENDED

Constitution

ARTICLE VII – LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Section 1 & 2

**Submitted by: Christina Snider, Blackville-Hilda High School
Terra Poetzcher, Palmetto Scholars Academy**

Currently Reads:

Section 1 Delegates

- A. The legislative power of the South Carolina High School League shall be vested in a Legislative Assembly, composed of delegates representing the membership.
- B. Each classification will have one delegate representative from each region. At least one-third of the delegates in each classification must be superintendents or superintendent's designee to include assistant superintendent or district athletic director.
- C. Each classification will be permitted one vote for each 1,000 (or major part of 1,000) students represented by the class.
- D. Associate members will elect two delegates, each of whom will have one vote.
- E. At the time of his/her, election, a delegate to the Legislative Assemble must be a superintendent, a principal, or a school administrator officially designated as such by the governing board if the administrator is neither principal nor superintendent, he/she must have at least six years' experience certified by the State Department of Education.

- F. By November 15 delegates and alternates to the Legislative Assembly for the ensuing year shall have been elected by all classifications and submitted to the commissioner. Failure to submit delegate(s) by this date may cause the loss of the delegate(s) for that year.

Section 2 Annual Meeting

- A. The annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly shall be held on or before the second Wednesday in April.
- B. The purpose of this meeting shall be to consider legislative proposals and resolutions submitted by members of the South Carolina High School League and to consider the adoption of notes and interpretations of the Executive Committee.
 - 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted to the commissioner by the principal or superintendent of a member school prior to January 1. The commissioner may also submit proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws for consideration and/or legislative action.
 - 2. The commissioner shall submit the proposed amendments to the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee prior to January 15.
 - 3. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will publish the proposed amendments, including recommendations for permanent placement of notes and interpretations, in the January bulletin of the South Carolina High School League with its recommendations on each proposal.
- C. The president and the commissioner, or a designee, shall be speaker and secretary respectively of the Legislative Assembly. The secretary shall record the minutes of all Legislative Assembly meetings and provide copies to each member school.
- D. The Legislative Assembly, by majority vote, may edit any amendment or resolution submitted for legislative action.
 - 1. A two-thirds majority shall be required for adoption of a proposed amendment to the Constitution and/or By-Laws and a majority shall be required for the adoption of a resolution.
 - 2. The president, in case of a tie vote, shall cast the deciding ballot.
- E. A delegate must be present at the Legislative Assembly in order to vote.
- F. Any delegate speaking must first give his/her name and the school area represented.
- G. The South Carolina High School League, as determined by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee, will pay expenses of the delegates.
- H. Any superintendent or principal who has submitted a proposed amendment may speak to the amendment if he/she has made a request to speak in writing at least one week prior to the annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly. Said speaker is limited to five minutes.
- I. The most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will govern the procedures of the Legislative Assembly, and the Executive Committee will employ a professionally certified parliamentarian.
- J. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will have the responsibility of clarifying amendments by using interpretations and notes. The interpretations and notes of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall be effective for only twenty-four months unless adopted by the Legislative Assembly as a portion of the Constitution or By-Laws.
- K. The Legislative Assembly recognizes and appreciates that any change in state or federal law which affects the activities of this organization shall supersede the governing documents of this organization which are its Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

Change to Read:

Section 1 Delegates

- A. The legislative power of the South Carolina High School League shall be vested in a Legislative Assembly, composed of delegates representing the membership.
- B. Each geographic district is outlined by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) and is created based on student enrollment. The districts are:

District 1	Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood
District 2	York, Chester, Cherokee, Union, Newberry, Fairfield, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Laurens
District 3	Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Aiken, Barnwell, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick
District 4	Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Colleton, Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Allendale, Orangeburg, Bamberg
District 5	Horry, Georgetown, Sumter, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro, Darlington, Florence, Williamsburg, Clarendon, Lee, Chesterfield, Kershaw

- C. Each district will send seven (7) delegates to the legislative assembly.
- D. The seven delegates will be one from each classification and two At-Large positions. If all classifications are not represented in a district, the number of At-Large positions will increase until seven delegates are selected.
- E. The delegates can be a Superintendent, Superintendent’s designee, Principal or Athletic Director.
- F. The SCHSL Commissioner will appoint a chairman of each district to oversee the district’s election of delegates and the initial vetting of proposals. The chairman’s sole duties will be to conduct district elections and oversee district annual meetings and will not have voting authority.
- G. District Delegates will be nominated and voted on by all schools within the district. These elections shall occur electronically and be completed by October 1 of each year.

Section 2 Annual Meetings

- A. The annual meeting of the District Delegates shall occur before November 15 of the current school year.
- B. The annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly shall be held on or before the second Wednesday in April.
- C. The purpose of these meetings shall be to consider legislative proposals and resolutions submitted by members of the South Carolina High School League and to consider the adoption of notes and interpretations of the Executive Committee.
 - 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and by-Laws must be submitted to the District Chairman by the Principal or superintendent of a member school within the district prior to November 1.
 - 2. At the annual District meeting, proposed amendments will be heard, amended, and approved for submission to the joint legislative committee.
 - 3. The Commissioner may also submit proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws for consideration and/or legislative action to be heard at the joint legislative committee meeting without approval from a district.
 - 4. In order for proposed legislation to be approved out of the districts, a simple majority vote is needed (4/7). In order to be passed at the joint legislative assembly, two-thirds of the delegates present must vote in favor (24/35).

All other information will be updated to reflect the correct lettering as that is the only changes needed.

Rationale: The Legislative Process Review Committee was formed August 19, 2022. A Principal and Athletic Director from each classification were selected for this committee who met through April 2023. The

mission of the committee was to establish equal voting throughout the classifications by having an equal number of delegates represent each region at the legislative meetings. Members of the committee: Jeremy Rich, Principal; Robert Jackson, Principal; Jim Maciejewski, Athletic Director; Andrew McMillian, Principal; Bryan Hearn, Principal; Edward Moore, Athletic Director; Daniel Minkin, Athletic Director; Rodney Barr, Athletic Director; Shelley Gordon, Athletic Director; Christina Snider, Principal.

RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE II – CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGIONS

Section 2 D

Submitted by: Dr. Jason Warren, Greenville High School

Add:

- G. Combination of schools are not applicable in sports where a student may be able to participate as an individual and represent the school, he/she is attending.

Rationale: While the school(s) may not have enough participants to create a team, the student is still eligible to compete as an individual at the school he/she is attending.

RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE II – CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGIONS

Section 4 D

Submitted by: Paul Prescott, Dixie High School

Currently Reads:

- D. The League will sponsor a championship in each classification that has a minimum of twelve of its schools with teams participating. If this requirement is not met, but a minimum fourteen schools with teams in adjoining classifications participate in a sport with a majority of the number coming from the higher classification, the League will sponsor a state championship for the combined classification.

Change to Read:

- D. The League will sponsor a championship in each classification that has a minimum of eight of its schools with teams participating. If this requirement is not met, but a minimum ten schools with teams in adjoining classifications participate in a sport with a majority of the number coming from the higher classification, the League will sponsor a state championship for the combined classification.

Rationale: Currently, the South Carolina High School League By-Laws require a minimum of 12 teams for a classification to sponsor a state championship. This threshold has been especially detrimental to schools in Class A. During the 22-23 school year Class A schools combined with higher classifications to compete in competitive cheer, girls' golf, lacrosse (boys and girls), girls' soccer, swimming (boys and girls), boys' volleyball, and wrestling. Reclassification for 2024-2026 will make it more difficult for Class A to meet the current minimum requirement to qualify for a championship. Lowering the championship threshold from twelve to eight would be another positive step towards competitive equity. This By-Law change would allow member schools in rural and economically disadvantaged areas to have meaningful postseason experience.

NOT RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE III – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Section 1

Submitted by: SCHSL COMMISSIONER

Currently Reads:

In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina High School League, a student must be enrolled in and attending a member school or associate member school. The student must also meet other necessary requirements of all sections of this article.

Change to Read:

In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina High School League, a student must be enrolled in and attending a member school or associate member school. Each student eligibility file must include a waiver by the student and family to provide student data to the League in any cases where it is required to determine eligibility. They must agree in order to be eligible to participate in the athletics activities. The student must also meet other necessary requirements of all sections of this article.

Rationale: Helps to address FERPA and HIPPA laws. Since participation in SCHSL athletics is a privilege and not a right, students who chose to participate should have their eligibility records available for review by the League staff.

RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE III – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Section 6

Submitted by: Jimmy Armstrong Jr., Greer Middle High School

Currently Reads:

- A. A student must be enrolled in the school at which he/she practices or participates; except, home schooled students, and/or Governor’s schooled students subject to certain conditions, are eligible at the public school in the attendance zone of their residence. Governor’s schooled students, subject to certain conditions, are eligible at the public school in the attendance zone of which the Governor’s schools’ physical plants are located.

Change to Read:

- A. A student must be enrolled in the school at which he/she practices or participates; except, non-membered private schooled students, home schooled students and/or charter school students, and/or Governor’s schooled students subject to certain conditions, are eligible at the public school in the attendance zone of their residence. Governor’s schooled students, subject to certain conditions, are eligible at the public school in the attendance zone of which the Governor’s schools’ physical plants are located.

Rationale: Student athletes who attend a non-membered private school should be afforded the opportunity to have a chance at participation in a sport that is not offered at said non-membered private school and offered at the public school in the attendance zone of their residence.

NOT RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE III – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Section 10

Submitted by: Josh Trahan, Fox Creek High School

Currently Reads:

A student will be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N) below and only if he/she meets the following two criteria irrespective of whether he/she moves under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N).

Change to Read:

A student will be eligible to participate in athletics at any school on the first day of the student's ninth grade year. A student will be permitted a one-time transfer to another high school with no eligibility restrictions as long as that move occurs before the first day of school for the new school year. The one-time transfer only

applies for the student's 10th and 11th grade years. A student may be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the following two criteria irrespective of whether he/she moves under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (N).

Rationale: This revision allows any student school choice with eligibility on the first day of school and the opportunity for a one-time transfer over the course of their first three years of high school. This change would eliminate the need to dig into the rationale for a student transferring. In many of those cases the details can be very personal and difficult to explain to the committee. Subsection (A) through (N) would still exist for specific cases falling outside the beginning of the school year.

NOT RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE IV – SCHOOL REGULATIONS

Section 8

Submitted by: Jason Warren, Greenville High School

Add:

- E. Regions are required to establish contracts for all region contests that are used to qualify for the state playoffs. Forfeiture clauses must include a monetary consideration not to exceed \$10,000. Competing schools, with agreement, may choose to waive the forfeiture clause. In absence of a contract, and schools not agreeing to waive the forfeiture clause, the League will determine the monetary consideration for forfeitures (not to exceed \$5000 for football, \$2000 for basketball, \$1000 for all other sports).

Rationale: Schools are placed in region to insure a regular season schedule. Written contracts help to create an enforceable remedy if a school chose to forfeit a contest.

RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

Submitted by: Dr. Andrew McMillan, Spartanburg High School

Add:

Article XIII – DEMOCRATIC PARTNERSHIPS

Section 1

All committees, committee members and purposes of said committees created and, or consulted the SCHSL for recommendation and voting purposes must be made available to the member schools prior to the discovery process beginning.

Section 2

All official recommendations made by any committee, subcommittee, or Executive Committee member must be made available to the member schools within 10 business days of official recommendations.

Section 3

When a committee is created or consulted by the SCHSL to study aspects that directly pertain to a specific sport and this sport has a professional ancillary organization, this organization shall have the opportunity to appoint who represents them on said committee. This includes aspects that may cover a multitude of sports, such as realignment, calendars, health, and safety, etc.

Section 4

Ancillary sport organizations must be offered an opportunity to collectively engage with the directors of the SCHSL and any committees created or consulted by the SCHSL as part of the discovery processes when said ancillary organization is working to develop proposals as to bring all professional organizations and knowledge to the table during development.

Section 5

Notice of an upcoming vote(s) to add, delete, or amend the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, calendars, venues, and fees of the SCHSL by the Executive Committee, all sub-committees within the Executive Committee, Appellate Panel, SC Medical Adversity Committee, rules and regulations committees, and all other committees created by or partnered with by SCHSL, and/or commissioner must be given to the member schools prior to the vote or league decision.

Section 6

Minutes of all meetings which include a vote(s) by the Executive or Appellate Panel of the SCHSL must be available to the member schools within ten business days of the meeting's conclusion. These minutes must include the roll call vote cast by each member. This includes votes to table. Also, all formal recommendations, approved or not, presented at the time of these votes must also be made available along with the recommending body. Minutes may be electronic if the entire meeting is recorded with both audio and video. The roll call votes may be recorded with technologies such as Google or Microsoft Forms.

Rationale: Article XIII is an attempt to strengthen professional relationships and inform the democratic processes used by the South Carolina High School (SCHSL), its member schools and ancillary sports organizations.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Activities (David Byrd, Chair)

A proposal from North Central High School for spring sports playoffs contests to be completed if a contest had to be stopped, was discussed.

TABLED for further discussion from the classifications.

Personnel & Finance (Dr. J.R. Green, Chair)

- The financial statement for the SC High School League (as of December 31, 2023) was presented and discussed.
- A motion was made to approve the hiring of a Director of Unified Sports for the SC High School League passed 15-0 (16 members present).
- A motion made by Mr. Etheredge, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to accept the recommendation of the personnel & finance committee regarding Commissioner Singleton's evaluation passed 15-0 (16 members present).

Other Business:

Report from Commissioner Singleton

- Appeals for the 2024-2026 Reclassification/Realignment will be held on Tuesday (January 16, 2024) and Wednesday (January 17, 2024) to the Executive Committee first.

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hiers, to adjourn the meeting passed 14-0 (15 members present).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton, D.D.

Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Note: In all votes, the President only votes in the event of a deciding vote.