

January 23, 2024

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

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#### **Upcoming Events**

Open Season Ends: Jan. 24, 2024

Class AAAA Meeting: Jan. 24, 2024 – 10:00 am

Track & Field Rules Clinic: Jan. 24, 2024 – 5:00 pm

Class AAA Meeting: Jan. 25, 2024 – 10:00 am

Class A Meeting Jan. 26, 2024 – 9:00 am

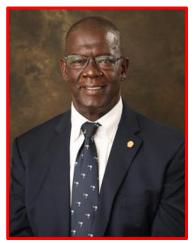
Middle School Wrestling Invitational Jan. 27, 2024

> Spring Sports First Practice Jan. 29, 2024

### JOBS

For job openings around the SCHSL, visit <u>www.schsl.org/jobs</u>

## FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Greetings,

Happy New Year!

I trust that everyone had an enjoyable break and is re-energized to take on the ongoing and new challenges during the remainder of this school year. While your work is never done, please be reminded that it is critically needed and greatly appreciated.

As we come into the final months of the Winter Sports Season and the Spring Sports Season is on the horizon, we want to continue to focus on the teachable moments during the athletics practices and competitions. I ask that we all continue to keep Sportsmanship at the forefront. Over the last couple of weeks, we have seen an uptick in ejections and

unsportsmanlike conduct, not only with student-athletes but coaches and spectators as well.

Sportsmanship is a fundamental aspect of our association's principals. As we engage in spirited contests, let us remember that our actions on and off the playing areas are not only a reflection on ourselves, but on our schools and communities. Displaying good sportsmanship, even in the face of adversity, strengthens the bonds between competitors and fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect.

As we compete on the fields, courts, and track over the next few months, always remember that fair play is the foundation upon which your SCHSL stands. We expect all participants, including athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators, to uphold the principles of fairness, respect, and integrity. Let us embrace healthy competition, respecting the rules and each other, irrespective of the outcome.

The well-being of our student-athletes remains a top priority, and with the unseasonable cold weather we are having in the State, we continue to promote and implement comprehensive health and safety protocols to ensure that every athlete can participate in a safe and secure environment. Coaches and staff are encouraged to remain up-to-date with the latest guidelines, certifications, and training to protect the physical and mental health of our student-athletes.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the coaches, administrators, officials, and volunteers for their dedication to education-based athletics. Your commitment and passion continue to play a vital role in positively shaping the lives of our student-athletes long after their playing days are over.

As we venture into the second half of the academic/athletics school year, let us cherish the memories of the past and look forward to creating new and inspiring moments.

~Dr. Jerome Singleton SCHSL- Commissioner

### **2024-26 SCHSL Classifications**



The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) has updated its classification placements of all schools beginning with the 2024–2025 school year. These classification placements will be in effect for two years.

The League office staff will begin the process of placing member schools in regions within their respective classifications. It is anticipated the classifications/regions placement will be completed and sent to the member schools by January 26, 2024.

Complete information including updated classification placements can be found at <u>https://schsl.org/archives/12780</u>



The Spring Sports Rules Clinic dates are set. It is mandatory that all head coaches attend one of these clinics. All coaches must attend one of these clinics if they did not attend it at the SCACA Summer Conference.

Dates and locations are available at the following link: https://schsl.org/archives/12535.

### **NFHS HOTA & SOS Nomination Deadline**



The NFHS Heart of the Arts and Spirit of the Sports Nominations are due to the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Office by this **Thursday**, **January 25**, **2024**: **12 noon**.

Please send completed nomination forms to <u>Romanda@schsl.org</u> on or before the deadline. Please **do not** send forms directly to the NFHS Office. Nomination Forms were mailed to High School Principals and Athletics Director on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Include any supporting documentation you would like to have considered during the selection process (i.e., action photos). Additionally, please include a head shot of your nominee with the email submission.

Thank you and please feel free to contact the league office with any questions.

#### Heart of the Arts Award: Deadline to SCHSL is Thursday, January 25, 2024: Noon

For the Heart of the Arts Award, the nominee could be any student, adult or group associated with the school's performing arts program. This award seeks to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the art that represent the core mission of education-based activities. Complete criteria are listed on the application.

#### Spirit of Sport Award: Deadline to SCHSL is Thursday, January 25, 2024: Noon

For the Spirit of Sport Award, the nominee can be a coach, athletic administrator, administrator, contest official, trainer, student-athlete, or any others associated with the school or the school's athletic program. This award seeks to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of the sport that represent the core mission of education-based activities. Complete criteria are listed on the application.

#### **Middle School Wrestling Regional Inviataional**



The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) will host the Middle School Wrestling Regional Invitational, Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. The Invitational will take place at two sites: Chesnee High Schoo and North Central High School. Tickets for the Invitational are \$ 10 (Children 3 and under free). Tickets can be purchased in advanced at <a href="https://gofan.co/">https://gofan.co/</a> or at the gate. Additional information can be found at the links below.

Chesnee Site: <u>https://schsl.org/archives/12773</u> North Central Site: <u>https://schsl.org/archives/12771</u>



The SCHSL is once again partnering with Dick's Sporting Goods on a special Sales Weekend for all member schools. It takes place this weekend, January 26-28, 2024 at all Dick's Sporting Goods locations across the state of South Carolina. Please share the link below with your students, coaches and families to take advantage of this great offer.

https://cmm.dickssportinggoods.com/crmcdn/getoffer.aspx?offer\_entity\_code=O241CZHB&tok en=8qlz1yyHXkZXNSCk3WHv1psGBR8WfXkMiUuFN19SN6y-s1TQB2gXRlaTgerQ2TLj1eM5 xcVKDmd2E72k7uwCUA2

## **Promote Positive Behavior**

Positive behavior is important at contests to ensure student-athletes, coaches, and spectators all have a good experience at games.

The Bench Bad Behavior toolkit produced by the NFHS is a great resource for promoting positive behavior at contests throughout your athletic department and school.

A few tips for your school to use to Bench Bad Behavior at contests can be found in the Officials' Whistle Column on page 8. Be sure to download the Bench Bad Behavior toolkit from <u>www.</u> <u>benchbadbehavior.com</u>.

#### **Sportsmanship: Know the Difference**



### **Arbiter Reminders**

Below, are some important reminders related to wrestling and basketball scheduling in Arbiter. Please review the bullet points below and address any issues ASAP. Please double check to make sure your basketball schedules are correct in Arbiter.

<u>Click here</u> to access the Arbiter Help site. Once on the site, enter a couple of keywords in the search bar.

- Varsity games should be set to SCHSL 101800 for officials.
- Contact your local assigner to verify your Sub-Varsity games.
- When entering girls and boys games linked on the same day, please make sure the sites are the exact same.
- Contact your wrestling assigner to verify your matches.

Contact Jill White, SCHSL Arbiter Booking Coordinator, at Jill@schsl.org with any additional questions regarding scheduling.

### **Retiree Passes/Book Order Links**

The links to order SCHSL Retiree Passes and Rules Books, Case Books, and Umpire Manuals are now available on the home page of the SCHSL website, www.schsl.org. The links can be found on the right side of the page under Quick Links. You can also access the pages by clicking below.

#### Retiree Pass Application Link

SCHSL Rules Books, Case Books, and Umpire Manuals

For additional information, contact Office Coordinator, Maeoceisha Jenkins-Suber at Maeoceisha@schsl.org

## **Winter Sports Brackets**

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

For additional information on brackets please contact Romanda Noble-Watson, Director of Communications and Public Relations at Romanda@schsl.org.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **The Health Spot**

#### **HYPOTHERMIA**

As we head into the winter months, it's important to understand how cold weather can affect our student-athletes. Hypothermia is when the body loses heat faster than it can generate it, resulting in a drop in core body temperature below the normal range of 95-98.6. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of hypothermia is crucial for coaches, student-athletes, and support staff to ensure prompt intervention. Key indicators include:

- Shivering
- Numbness
- Confusion
- Fatigue
- Slurred speech

If a student-athlete exhibits these signs, move them to a warm environment, remove wet clothing, and provide dry layers. Warm beverages and blankets should be used to raise the body temperature gradually, and professional medical attention should be sought if symptoms persist or worsen. For more information go to: CDC Hypothermia.

Direct all questions for this section to Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness, Tim Kinney atTim@schsl.org.

Below are a few tips for your school to use to Bench Bad Behavior at contests:

- 1. Official's are to ensure the integrity and safety of student-athletes on the floor or field, but it is the Administration's role at each contest to handle inappropriate behavior of spectators immediately. When you see a spectator getting out of hand, take care of it then and there. Remember, what you allow, you promote.
- 2. Be sure to have security present. You know your spectators, have the appropriate amount of security for your contests. (ie. rivalry games)
- 3. If you have a student section at your contests, be sure to set parameters for their behavior. Meet with students to establish baselines for behavior at contests.
- Positively cheer on your school's team
- Do not make negative or degrading remarks towards the officials or opposing team.

For additional questions concerning the Officials' Whistle contact Associate Commisioner Sarah Hayes at Sarah@schsl.org.

### **Officials' Whistle Tools for Success**

Living Clean week, January 8-12, 2024 was quite the success. The theme for the week centered around keeping the sport clean. This meant, NO EJECTIONS, NO EXCUSES, CLEAN IT UP!

During the week we encouraged many schools to emphasize kindness on and off the field. A big shout out to the following schools for Living Clean!

Abbeville American Leadership Clover Gray Collegiate Academy Irmo Riverwalk Rock Hill Westwood



Direct all questions for this section to Director of Educational Services to Dr. Curtrell Rhodan at Curtrell@schsl.org

