



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575
Phone: 803-798-0120 www.schsl.org

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors
FROM: Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner *J.S.*
SC High School League
SUBJECT: Good Sportsmanship During the Playoffs
DATE: October 31, 2023

=====

Greetings,

Congratulations to the teams in the football playoffs!

As we approach the exciting football playoffs, I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the importance of good sportsmanship. The essence of high school sports goes beyond the scoreboard, and it is our responsibility to set a positive example for our students, coaches, and fans.

Our commitment to sportsmanship means treating opponents, officials, and fellow spectators with respect, regardless of the outcome. Here are some important reminders for all member schools participating in the football playoffs:

1. **Respect for Opponents:** Encourage your athletes to show respect for their opponents before, during, and after the game. If appropriate, a simple handshake or a few words of appreciation can go a long way in promoting a positive atmosphere.
2. **Respect for Officials:** Remember that referees and officials are crucial to the integrity of the game. Even when decisions may not go in your favor, it's essential to treat them with respect and refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. **Fans' Behavior:** It is important to remind your school's fans about appropriate behavior. Encourage them to support our teams vocally and passionately but to do so in a manner that reflects positively on our school and community.
4. **Coaches' Conduct:** Coaches are the role models for student-athletes. It is imperative that they lead by example and emphasize good sportsmanship during practice, games, and interactions with opposing teams.
5. **Post-Game Handshakes:** After each game, our schools should participate in the traditional post-game handshake to show respect and appreciation for their opponents' efforts.

NOTE: If you feel that handshaking will create an opportunity for problems, reserve the handshakes for coaches only.

6. **Display of Integrity:** Emphasize the importance of integrity on and off the field. Winning should never come at the expense of ethics and good sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship reflects the character of our schools and our student-athletes. Let's remember that we are not just competing for a trophy but also to instill valuable life lessons in our students.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that the football playoffs are conducted with the highest level of sportsmanship. I look forward to an exciting and respectful tournament. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification. **GOOD LUCK IN THE PLAYOFFS!!!!**