

# **BY-LAWS**

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## **ARTICLE I. APPEALS**

### **Section 1 Initial Appeals**

The appeal of any decision by the League which is permitted to be appealed, shall be initiated on forms provided by the League and filed with the League by mail, fax or email. Appeals will be determined by the first decision maker on documentary information.

### **Section 2 Subsequent Appeals of Adverse Decisions**

- A. The South Carolina High School League's president shall appoint members of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee to serve on a five (5) member "Eligibility Hardship Appeals Committee." This Appeals Committee will only rule on Residence/Transfer Appeals. The Eligibility Hardship Appeals Committee will hear appeals of students who enroll in the school after the deadline to submit an application for hardship to the Commissioner for the upcoming South Carolina High School Executive Committee meeting. Members of the Eligibility Hardship Appeals Committee shall also participate in appeals to the Executive Committee.
- B. The Executive Committee will hear appeals from the decision of the Commissioner, Eligibility Hardship Appeals Committee, and any of the region or classification decisions which are appealable.

### **Section 3 Procedures for Appeals.**

The South Carolina High School Executive Committee requires that the following procedures be used when making appeals:

- A. Each appeal request must be made in writing by the superintendent or principal of the school(s) involved. It must include the reason(s) for requesting the appeal and must contain all the known facts pertinent to the appeal. The information accompanying the request must be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation.
- B. Copies of the appeal brief must be supplied in advance, either mailed, faxed, emailed, or hand delivered, to the Commissioner, the members of the South Carolina High School Executive Committee and to all other parties involved. All parties are to be offered an opportunity to appear before the South Carolina High School Executive Committee. If time is short and the parties to be notified have not received copies of the appeal brief, sufficient copies of the brief must be available to all parties by the scheduled beginning time for the hearing.
- C. The school presenting an appeal will be limited to a ten-minute presentation. In the event that another school is present to present a refutation, the period will be extended to twenty minutes, provided that school has requested time on the agenda. If either school desires additional time, it must apply in advance, stating the reasons why the additional time is needed. An administrator or school official must represent all schools.
- D. At the conclusion of the presentation, members of the Committee will permit a brief period of time for specific questions.
- E. Persons presenting appeals should be businesslike in their presentations and

should refrain from socializing with members of the Committee within the hearing room.

- F. Decisions by the Committee will be voted on in open session after the presentation of the case.

## **ARTICLE II – CLASSIFICATIONS AND REGIONS**

### **Section 1 Classifications and Region Constitutions**

- A. The Executive Committee of each classification will consist of the region coordinators and designated officers.
- B. At least 50% of the members of each executive committee must be principals, assistant principals, superintendents or assistant superintendents.
- C. State classification and region constitutions, bylaws and regulations must be in compliance with the League's governance documents and must be filed in the League Office in order to be effective. Any amendments must be filed with the League Office to be effective.
- D. Classification and region organization must be perfected and reported to the Commissioner by May 1 of each year.
- E. Governance documents for new regions become effective the date that the documents are filed with the League office if there is not an effective date written into the document itself.
- F. During a reclassification period prospective new members of the class must have the opportunity to fully participate in decisions regarding the constitution of the new classification.
- G. Combination of schools are not applicable in sports where a student may be able to participate as an individual at the school he/she is attending.**

### **Section 2 Transfers and Combinations of Schools**

- A. A school may transfer from one region to another in the same classification with the approval of a majority of the member schools in each affected region.
- B. A school transferring from one region to another will be entitled to its share of any funds in the region, but may expect to pay a fee equal to a member's share in the treasury of the new region.
- C. A school may also transfer from one classification to another, but will need a majority vote of the Executive Committees of the respective classification in addition to the approval of the individual regions involved.
- D. Two or more high schools under the same superintendent and governing board may combine for any activity sponsored by the League, provided the combination is approved by a majority vote of all schools in the region in which they desire to compete and by the Executive Committee of the appropriate classification as well as the Commissioner of the League. Such a combination of schools may not exceed the student population of the largest school in the classification unless otherwise approved by the affected classification.

1. To obtain permission to combine, the principals of all schools concerned must apply in writing to the region, to the president of the classification in which they wish to compete, and to the Commissioner at least 30 days in advance of the planned combination, clearly stating the reason for the combination.
2. This must be done for each year that the schools plan to combine.
3. Combinations where the combined enrollment exceeds the upper limits of a classification will be approved by the Commissioner for regular season play unless approved by the classification.
4. For activities decided by open competition, only the approval of the appropriate classification Executive Committee and Commissioner is needed. If a region champion is determined, the affected region must approve the combination.

### **Section 3 Region Championships**

- A. When a majority of the schools in a region request a championship in any activity, the region executive committee must provide a method of elimination.
- B. No school will be forced to compete in any activity of the League, but a school fielding a team shall play the teams required by the region.
- C. If a region representative(s) is not declared by the region executive committee, the classification Executive Committee may declare a region representative(s).
- D. When a committee arranging for elimination contests names the teams to take part, the teams so named are released from any conflicting games on their schedules.
- E. Contests for play-off positions should not be determined by forfeit, but should be scheduled, if possible, to permit play to determine the position.

### **Section 4 State Championships**

- A. The South Carolina High School League shall sponsor and control all championships. A championship shall be held in any activity in which more than half the members taking part vote in favor of it.
- B. The Commissioner shall arrange schedules for region representative(s) to play for State championships.
- C. The Commissioner shall arrange schedules for open State championships in any sport in which at least sixteen members of the League sponsor teams.
- 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.

## **ARTICLE III - STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1** In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina High School League, a student must be enrolled in and attending a member or associate member school. **Each student file must include a waiver by the student and family to provide student data to the League in any case 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.**

### **Section 2 Age Limitations**

- A. A student, who becomes 19 years of age prior to July 1 of the upcoming school year, will not be eligible to compete in any athletic activities during that school year.
- B. Should a student become 15 years of age prior to July 1 of the upcoming school year, he/she shall be too old for a 7th and 8th grade team, he/she may be considered as enrolled in the 9th grade for eligibility purposes.
- C. **The League's age rule may not be set-aside under the special conditions provisions of the governance documents of the League.**

### **Section 3 Birth Certification**

- A. Schools shall have on file a copy of an official birth document for all student athletes. Any questions on authenticity will be submitted to the League Office.
- B. Official birth documents must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. It must be an original certified document.
  - 2. It must be obtained from the state, county, or city government in which the student was born.
  - 3. It must include the given and surnames.
  - 4. It must be legible and unaltered.
- C. Children born abroad may supply one of the following documents:
  - 1. If born abroad of American citizens:
    - a. Foreign Service Forms 240 or 545
    - b. Department of State Form 1350
    - c. Citizenship papers
    - d. Passport
  - 2. If born abroad of alien parents who are now U.S. citizens:
    - a. Immigration and Naturalization Service Form G-350
    - b. Original Naturalization Papers
  - 3. If born abroad and still a citizen of a foreign country:
    - a. Birth Certificates
    - b. Alien Card
    - c. Passports issued in foreign countries

- D. The following will not be accepted:
1. Hospital Certificates
  2. Birth Notices
  3. Copies certified by Notaries
- E. Students participating in programs of member schools will submit official birth certificates to their principal for approval. Copies must be kept on file in the school.

#### **Section 4 Academic Requirements**

- A. A student, while participating, must be a full-time student as determined by guidelines set forth by the State Department of Education. A student who is repeating a course for which he/she has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility. This is considered as monitoring a course.
- B. *Specific requirements for academic eligibility are mandated by state law under the Education Improvement Act (EIA).*
1. *To participate in interscholastic athletic activities, students in grades 9-12 must achieve an overall passing average and either:*
    - a. *Pass at least four academic courses, including each subject that the student takes, up to four, required for graduation, or*
    - b. *Pass a total of five academic courses.*

*In most cases on a traditional or AB block schedule, the following example would apply:*

- *Final grade for full year courses and the semester grade for courses taken during the previous semester only.*

*In a 4 X 4 block schedule where full units or ½ units are granted at the end of the first semester the following will apply:*

- *Each full unit course is valued as two courses.*
- *Each ½ unit course is valued as one course.*

3. Students must satisfy eligibility requirements in the semester preceding participation.
  - a. Credits earned in a summer school approved by the State Department of Education may apply for first semester eligibility. A maximum of two units per year may be used.
  - b. Students eligible for a first semester sport will be permitted to complete that sport even if it extends into the second semester. Under the current League program, this will apply to

participants in basketball and wrestling in the high school and middle school programs.

4. Students with Disabilities
  - a. Students diagnosed with disabilities and being served in a non-diploma program shall be considered eligible for participation in interscholastic activities if he/she is successfully meeting the requirements of his/her Individual Education Plan.
  - b. Students diagnosed with disabilities and being served in a program leading to a state high school diploma must meet all eligibility requirements previously stated for participation in interscholastic activities.
  
5. A course that is dropped after the 20th day of a semester with a failing average will be considered as a failed course when determining academic eligibility for the following semester. A course with WF (withdrawn failing) will be considered as a failed course when determining eligibility. The WF equals a numeric value of a 50 average on the transcript. WP (withdrew passing) will be excluded and will not be factored in on the eligibility.
  
6. Credit courses used for eligibility purposes must be courses that are applicable as credit toward a state high school diploma. A student may also use college credit courses provided the student has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation.
  
7. Academic deficiencies may not be made up through enrollment in adult education programs.
  
8. A maximum of two credit recovery units may be used toward eligibility to include the two units presently allowed in summer school. A credit recovery course must be accepted by the State Department of Education for graduation. To be eligible for recovery credits, the students must have received a minimum grade of 50. For eligibility purposes, a passing grade of "p" will equal a numerical grade of 60. Credit recovery/incompletes must be completed by the second Monday in August for first semester eligibility and by the second Monday in March for second semester eligibility. If a grade of FA (failure due to absences) is assigned, it will be factored into the student's overall semester as a grade of 50.

C. A student must not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

- D. Academic requirements for students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grades, including first semester 9th graders are:
  - 1. Students passing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades by academic promotion pursuant to district policy are considered as having met the requirements for academic eligibility for first semester.
  - 2. Students in grades seven and eight must be meeting the school district promotion policy at the end of the first semester in order to be eligible for the second semester. (Second semester ninth grade students must meet League academic regulations.)
  - 3. A seventh or eighth grade repeater shall not be eligible during a school year if academic requirements for promotion were met during the previous year.
  - 4. A student who previously failed the seventh or eighth grade is eligible during the second semester if he/she has satisfactorily passed first semester work.
- E. Second semester eligibility begins when the first semester ends and the student is added to the certificate of eligibility form signed by the principal.
- F. Schools will follow the procedures outlined in the School Administrators Guide, published by the State Department of Education, in accepting or rejecting credits received by a student while the student is enrolled in private schools, including home schools and/or out of state schools.

### **Section 5 Special Conditions Eligibility**

- A. Ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as coming under the "special conditions" eligibility category. Ordinary cases of ineligibility are defined as those scenarios set forth and provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws and Rules.
- B. These provisions for special conditions are for cases of ineligibility which involve the existence of special conditions, which may include medical conditions or financial conditions, or in the proper case of a student with a disability.
- C. Favorable determination under these provisions requires a finding that the facts surrounding the alleged hardship are clear, undisputed, and supported by appropriate documentation. In any application for a hardship under this Rule, the burden is upon the party seeking the hardship to show entitlement to a hardship by clear and convincing evidence. The fact that a student has not participated for four seasons will not justify allowing such student to participate in interscholastic sports beyond the eighth semester after his/her entrance into the ninth grade. A transfer to remedy academic difficulties or failures is not, by itself, considered grounds for a waiver under this provision. However, external circumstances beyond the student's control which can be documented to have caused the academic failure may be considered if the student demonstrates that he/she, and the student's family, exercised reasonable efforts during the year to address the academic deficiencies, and the sending school was unable or unwilling to remedy such deficiencies.

Extraordinary Circumstances are:

- A. Circumstances which are unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable and which are completely beyond the control of the school, the coach, the student, the parents, the immediate household of the affected party, such that none of them could reasonably have been expected to comply with the rule; and
- B. Are not the result of actions, in whole or part, by the school, the coach, the student, the parents, the immediate household of the affected party; and
- C. Cause the imposition of severe and non-athletic burden upon the student and his/her family; and
- D. Are circumstances that are totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students (e.g., usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems, and academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or extracurricular activities do not constitute a hardship).

Medical Hardship is:

- A. A long-confining illness, injury or death that results in:
  - 1. a change of the residence or the school attendance of the student's immediate household; or
  - 2. significant interruption of the student's normal progression towards graduation.
- B. Conditions which produce severe and unusual emotional conditions which, in turn create a debilitating personal non-athletic hardship which would prevent a reasonable student under similar circumstances from satisfactorily completing a school year or would have prevented a reasonable student under similar circumstances from remaining at the sending school.
- C. Injuries sustained in playing a sport do not constitute grounds for a medical hardship grant of an additional year. Illness, injury, severe or unusual emotional conditions or other circumstances of a similar nature must be verified in writing by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.).

Financial Hardship is:

To be eligible under a financial hardship, the following criteria must be met:

- A. There must be a change in the financial condition of the student's immediate household that did not exist at the start of the previous school year; and
- B. The changes in financial condition must be non-temporary, substantial and significantly beyond the control of the student and the student's immediate household.
- C. Documentation verifying the financial circumstances must be submitted with the petition (e.g. current & previous check stubs, documentation from previous & current employer, documentation from the South Carolina Department of Employment and WorkForce).
- D. **Procedures to make hardship requests**
  - 1. Each request must be made in writing by the superintendent or principal of the member school and contain all the facts pertinent to the case and demonstrating why the request is not an ordinary case of



ineligibility. An application form supplied by the League Office will be used. The Request should indicate which of the special conditions criteria are believed to be applicable.

2. The request must include sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. All documents necessary to reach a conclusion on the request must be attached to the request. In the event it is determined that a document necessary to reach a conclusion was inadvertently omitted, the Commissioner may contact the superintendent or principal to inform them that a conclusion cannot be made based upon the information submitted or that the conclusion will be adverse to the school without the supporting documentation. The superintendent or principal may then supplement the request provided the supplementation occurs within five (5) working days or two (2) days prior to the Executive Committee meeting (whichever comes first).
  3. Before submitting a Hardship Request, the student must be enrolled in and attending the submitting school. The submitting school should consider and determine whether the transfer to, or decision to remain at, the submitting school was the result of any of the aforementioned occurrences or factors beyond the control of the student.
- E. Rulings made by the Commissioner may be appealed to the Executive Committee.
- F. The Executive Committee's cause for granting "special conditions" eligibility shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- G. Ignorance of the rule on the part of the school shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside the effects of the rule and shall not constitute a case of ordinary ineligibility.
- H. The decision of the Commissioner (whether appealed to the Executive Committee or not) or the decision of the Executive Committee or Appellate Panel to set aside the effects of a rule shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of somewhat similar nature.

## **Section 6 School Enrollment and Attendance**

- A. A student must be enrolled in the school at which he/she practices or participates; except, home schooled students and/or charter school students, and/or virtual 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.
1. If a school district assigns district resident students to a school in the same district and that school has no athletic program, the district can request one of the following:  
If the students are to receive their diplomas from the school that does not offer an athletic program, they may be eligible at the district's

public school in whose attendance area they live,

or

If the students are not to receive their diplomas from the school that does not offer an athletic program, they may be eligible at the district's public school from which they will receive their diplomas.

2. If the district assigns non-district resident students to a school in the same district and that school has no athletic program, the district can request one of the following:

If the students are to receive their diplomas from the school that does not offer an athletics program, they may be eligible at the district's public school in whose attendance area the school's physical plant is located,

or

If the students are not to receive their diploma from the school that does not offer an athletic program, they may be eligible at the district's public school from which they will receive their diplomas.

3. The conditions above are for athletic purposes only. Enrollment is defined as actual matriculation (complete registration) and physical attendance in classes for one day or participation in a contest prior to either semester. Enrollment must be continuous while participating.

- B. If an interscholastic contest occurs before the formal opening of school, a student is eligible to represent the school if he attended the school during the previous semester, or is living in the attendance area of the school because of a change of residence on the part of the parent or legal guardian and has formally registered in the new school.

1. The student must be eligible in all respects.

2. In case of a new student, he/she must be properly registered in his/her new school and he/she must have been eligible by South Carolina High School League standards to represent the school from which he/she transfers.

- C. If a student fails to enroll and attend classes for one day by the eighth calendar day of the first semester, he/she will not be allowed to take part in any contest of the League until he/she has been a bona fide regular attendant for thirty calendar days. This enrollment must be in the school in which he/she is in attendance or in the school from which he/she was forced to transfer.

- D. A pupil enrolled in the eighth grade for the first time and taking subjects offered in the ninth grade for credit toward a high school diploma will not be considered as having enrolled in the ninth grade.

## **Section 7 Participation and Practice Limitations**

- A. A student must not participate under an assumed name.
- B. To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, including practice, a student must be enrolled in the seventh grade or above. Students enrolled

- in sixth grade and above may practice during the month of May in fall sports that are permitted to practice during that time period.
- C. A student will become ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition, including practices, at the end of the fourth school year from the time that he/she first enrolled in the ninth grade. Beginning with the ninth grade, a student has eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.
  - D. With the exception of football, wrestling, lacrosse and soccer, eligible seventh and eighth grade students may participate on varsity teams.
  - E. Participation on junior varsity and "B" teams will be left to the discretion of the local school authorities. It is recommended that teams below the varsity level be restricted to students in the tenth grade and below.
  - F. A student whose name appears on a member school's football certificate of eligibility shall not practice with nor participate on another football team for which he has been certified. This restriction includes tryouts. Violation of this regulation will render the student ineligible in football for the remainder of the present school year. Any student in the uniform of and permitted in the bench area of a competing team is participating within the meaning of this section.
  - G. Students will not be permitted to participate on teams with members of the opposite sex, except that a female may participate on a male team if no female team in that sport is offered.
  - H. Competitive cheer is deemed a sport in which both genders may be on the same team, as limited by rules and regulations.
  - I. A student may participate in only one football game on any one day. Students participating in lacrosse, soccer and basketball will be restricted to one game per day except they may play in two games in one day in an invitational tournament. There must be a minimum of one hour's rest between games.
  - J. No school shall permit a team to take part in a contest after its regular season or its elimination from the state play-offs. An individual may not transfer to another school team still involved in the regular season or play-offs if his/her team has been eliminated from the play-offs or completed his/her regular season. The Executive Committee may extend the regular season for non-contact activities if in its opinion such extensions are in the best interest of the students involved.
  - K. No school shall permit out of season practice in any activity that is not open to all students and mandatory for none.

## **Section 8 Residency and Attendance Area**

- A. A student must reside in the State of South Carolina, unless approved otherwise by the local school district, and is expected to attend the high school which serves the attendance area in which his/her parent or parents, or legally appointed guardian reside. (Refer to Section 10 on Guardianship in this Article)
- B. A student shall always be eligible under the residency rule at the last school where eligibility was established.

- C. An attendance area must be considered as an area determined by the governing body of the school or the district within which students who are resident must attend the high school designated for that area.

### **Section 9 Original Eligibility**

A student establishes his/her eligibility when he/she is academically promoted to and first attends school in the seventh grade. He/she is eligible at this school and the school that it feeds, unless alternately assigned by the school district; until he/she attends another school. Should the feeder school supply students to more than one high school, each student's eligibility on a high school team will be determined by the attendance area of the high school in which he/she lives, unless alternately assigned by the school district. The residence must be in the school district of the middle school that the student is attending. If the residence is not in the school district of the middle school, which feeds multiple high schools, that the student is attending, that student shall be eligible at the district's public high school in whose attendance area the middle school's physical plant is located, unless alternately assigned by the school district. All alternate assignments are in effect the affected school year.

### **Section 10 Transfers**

A transfer 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).

1. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he/she transferred.
2. The student would be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student has participated on an outside team in which a coach or volunteer coach from the school to which the student is transferring coached or had input into the selection of the outside team. This second criteria does not apply if the student is transferring from a non-member school and had attended the non-member school the previous two semesters.

<sup>1</sup> This provision has been superseded by Section 1.58 of the S.C. Department of Education Budget Proviso, which states "Eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be no more restrictive in language or application than the rules or policies of the association, body, or entity that were in effect on January 1, 2020." Pursuant to this Proviso and while the Proviso is in effect, the following is the applicable language of this provision:

A transfer 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). An ineligible transfer student meeting the two criteria, but not any of the circumstances of subsection (A) through (N) may compete with LIMITED ELIGIBILITY only and must have a letter of support from the principal of the school from which the athlete is eligible. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year. This type of transfer of eligibility is only allowed once every (365 days) calendar year and only applicable to inter-district transfer.

1. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he/she transferred.
2. The student would be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student has participated on an outside team in which a coach or volunteer coach from the school to which the student is transferring coached or had input into the selection of the outside team. This second criteria does not apply if the student is transferring from a non-member school and had attended the non-member school the previous two semesters.

In addition to the two requirements set forth above, a student must also transfer under one of the following circumstances to be immediately eligible:

- A. The student and his/her parents must have a bona fide change of residence into the attendance area of the new school. The transfer of school following a "bona fide change of residence" must take place prior to the beginning of the following school year. If a student transfers at any other time, he/she will be ineligible for one calendar year. If because of changes in attendance area lines by the governing board a student's residence is placed in another attendance area, this will be considered the same as a bona fide change of address.
- B. If a student established residence with a person other than a parent prior to enrollment in the seventh grade and this residence is not broken, it will be considered the same as residing with a parent. The student, after entering the seventh grade, will have a one-time move to a biological parent(s) and be given immediate eligibility. The transfer eligibility will be recognized when the transferred student participates in an athletic competition representing the school. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year.
- C. Emancipated students that transfer will be ineligible for one calendar year.
- D. A student transfers to a school in the same district where he/she is currently eligible, or to a school in the district where the student and his/her family lives. The transfer must occur at the beginning of the student's 9th grade year.

<sup>2</sup> This provision has been superseded by Section 1.58 of the S.C. Department of Education Budget Proviso, which states “Eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be no more restrictive in language or application than the rules or policies of the association, body, or entity that were in effect on January 1, 2020.” Pursuant to this Proviso and while the Proviso is in effect, the following is the applicable language of this provision: A student transfers to a school in the same district where he/she is currently eligible; to a school in the district where he/she is currently ineligible (as it relates to residency), or to a school in the district where the student and his/her family lives. The transfer must occur at the beginning of the student’s 9th grade year.

- E. A student transfers from a nonmember school to a member school.
  - 1. The student's parents must live in the attendance area of the member school.
  - 2. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year at the school from which he/she is transferring. If a student transfers from out-of-state to in-state with a bona fide change of residence, this rule is not in effect.
  - 3. The student must have been enrolled in the nonmember school for at least 45 school days prior to transferring.
  
- F. A student who enters a middle or high school IB Program or High School Magnet School program offered by the school district in which the student lives and is attending school will have a one-time move to that program and a one-time move back to his/her home school without loss of eligibility. Students entering the magnet program must do so as 9<sup>th</sup> graders only. The move to or from these programs must be made the first day of school. A move at any other time will require a waiting period until the first day of the next academic year for the student to be eligible. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year.
  
- G. A student, whose parents separate by court action or divorce and establish residency in different areas, has the option of establishing eligibility with either parent.
  - 1. The separation must be by court action, signed by a judge or stamped by the clerk of court.
  - 2. A transfer of schools must take place prior to the beginning of the following school year.
  - 3. If an in-state student later transfers to the other parent, he/she will have a one year's waiting period unless the change of residence is necessary because of the death of the other parent.
  - 4. If the separation by court action and/or divorce occurred prior to the student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and has been for a period longer than one calendar year, the student may move to the other parent one time and be given immediate eligibility. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year.

- H. A student is placed by the courts in an orphanage or foster home.
  1. Written notice of the assignment must be filed in the League Office.
  2. Transfer must be to the school in whose attendance area the orphanage or foster home is located.
- I. A student has parents who are citizens of the United States, but reside outside the contiguous United States. Eligibility will be at the school in whose attendance area his/her temporary guardian resides. He/she may not transfer from this school unless there is a bona fide change of residence on the part of the temporary guardian.
- J. If both parents are deceased, the student will become eligible on the day the legal guardianship papers are recorded in the office of the clerk of court.
- K. If a student diagnosed with a disability is assigned to another school (within the district) to take a special program associated with the disability condition that is not offered in his/her home school, he/she will have immediate eligibility at the new school.
- L. When the option of attending a diploma granting vocational school exists and the transfer is made at the end of the eighth grade, the student is eligible at the diploma granting vocational school immediately. Students entering a vocational school at any other time will be required to wait a calendar year before being eligible.
- M. A student transfers to another school in the same district other than ninth grade, provided the affected superintendent and schools' principals approve the transfer. This type transfer is allowed once every (365 days) calendar year and only applicable to member schools located within the district. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year.
 

§ This provision has been superseded by Section 1.58 of the S.C. Department of Education Budget Proviso, which states "Eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be no more restrictive in language or application than the rules or policies of the association, body, or entity that were in effect on January 1, 2020." Pursuant to this Proviso and while the Proviso is in effect, the following is the applicable language of this provision:  
A student transfers to another school in the same district, to include member charter and private schools located in the district; other than ninth grade, provided the affected superintendents and schools' principals approve the transfer. This type of transfer is allowed once every (365 days) calendar year and only applicable to member schools located within the district. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he/she wishes to be certified during the current school year.
- N. A student transfers to another school under the McKinney-Vento Act.

### **Section 11 Guardianship**

A legally appointed guardian will have the same status as a parent under the following circumstances:

- A. Both parents are deceased.
- B. Both parents reside outside the contiguous United States and the parents are United States citizens.

- C. A student becomes a ward of the court and the Department of Social Services assumes legal guardianship.
  - 1. In this case, the parents or former guardians retain no legal rights to or control over the student.
  - 2. Foster parents will be recognized immediately.
- D. A student becomes the ward of an orphanage.
- E. The student resides in the same residence with a guardian(s) other than the parent for 365 consecutive days with no change in guardianship.

### **Section 12 Foreign Exchange Students**

- A. Foreign exchange students may be granted eligibility for a maximum of one calendar year from the date of enrollment provided they:
  - 1. Reside in the attendance area of the school in which they are enrolled. Any subsequent transfers must be according to South Carolina High School League transfer rules in order to maintain eligibility.
  - 2. Are part of an approved foreign exchange student program that is listed by CSIET upon enrolling in a member school.
  - 3. Have been assigned to schools by a method, which ensures that no student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment for athletic purposes.
  - 4. Have not graduated or were not eligible for graduation from high school.
  - 5. Meet all other eligibility standards while a student at a member school.
  - 6. Are submitted on a SCHSL FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUEST FORM that has been approved by a member of the League Staff.
- B. A South Carolina student returning to his/her original school from a foreign exchange program may resume athletic competition provided he/she meets all requirements relative to age and semesters of eligibility.
  - 1. If the student did not receive credits for graduation while participating in the exchange program, he/she will use the semester immediately preceding enrollment in the program to meet the academic standard.
  - 2. The year spent in the exchange program will count as one of the four allowable years of eligibility.

### **Section 13 Effects of School Disciplinary Actions**

- A. A student expelled, dismissed, or under suspension from school may not participate in an activity of the League.
- B. A student suspended from one school cannot transfer to another school in



- order to avoid discipline.
- C. A student, who transfers from one school to another while under expulsion or facing expulsion, shall be ineligible to participate in any South Carolina High School League activity for one calendar year.
  - D. A student shall not be ineligible for longer than one calendar year for a single disciplinary violation provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

**Section 14 Amateur Status**

- A. A student must maintain an amateur status during the period he/she competes in any League sponsored sport program.
- B. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. No participants may accept material awards in excess of actual expenses, including hotel bills and transportation.

**The following is a clarifying note made by the Executive Committee and will be voted on at the next Legislative Assembly for permanent placement or deletion.**

A student may earn compensation from the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL) in compliance with Article III, Section 14 (Amateur Status) of the SCHSL bylaws provided:

- The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement.
- The compensation is not provided as an incentive to enroll or remain enrolled at a specific school.
- The compensation is not provided by the school or any person acting as an agent for the school.
- In seeking compensation for name, image, and likeness:
  - No “marks” may be used, including but not limited to school logos, school name, school mascot, or any SCHSL logo or acronyms.
  - No school apparel or equipment shall be worn which includes school name, school logo, school mascot, or any apparel displaying SCHSL logos or acronyms.
  - No member school facility may be used for the purpose of name, image, and likeness compensation.
  - No activities in conflict with a member school’s local school district policy may be endorsed. Examples include but are not limited to tobacco or alcohol products.

- A student who violates any portion of the Amateur Rule shall be penalized according to the sanctions below:
  - *First Violation:* The student shall receive a formal warning and return any award(s) or money received in violation of this rule. The SCHSL shall direct the student in violation to immediately remove any endorsement,

advertisement, sponsorship, or other promotional activity that is in violation of the Amateur Status Rule.

■ *Second Violation:* The student shall be ineligible to participate in SCHSL interscholastic athletics at any level of competition for a period of one (1) year from the date of SCHSL's determination of the second violation.

■ *Third Violation:* The penalty and any additional period of ineligibility will be determined based on a consideration of the nature of the violation(s) and the extent to which the violation(s) may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard of the provisions of this rule.

C. It is not a violation of this rule for a student athlete to accept a standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program not operated by a member school or the South Carolina High School League.

### **Section 15 Recruiting**

A. The recruiting or proselytizing of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing high school athletics.

B. A student may not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person, or group, in any attempt to entice him/her to transfer for athletic purposes. Some examples of undue influence are:

1. Asked by a member of the school faculty or member of a "booster organization" of a school to transfer from one school to another.
2. Financial aid for transportation, room, board or clothing.
3. Promise of a job for the student and/or parent or guardian.
4. Special privileges given to parents such as employment, free or reduced rent, etc.
5. Promise of help in securing a college scholarship.
6. Other privileges or considerations made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his/her athletic ability.
7. Given any consideration not afforded other students.

C. Any student transferring as a result of recruiting or undue influence may be declared ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of the determination of the violation. Any school adjudged guilty of being part of such undue influence shall be subjected to disciplinary action by the League.

## Section 16 Ineligible Participants

- A. AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER MUST NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTER-SCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (to included scrimmages, jamborees, tournaments and regular contests), at any level of competition whether varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school, "B" and any other team representing a member school. The use of an ineligible player may subject a school to suspension, probation and/or fine. Any student in the uniform of one of the competing schools and permitted in the bench area is considered as having participated in the game, jamboree or scrimmage. A student that participates before fulfilling the requirements of a mandated athletic suspension is an ineligible participant.
- B. The penalties which may be assessed when an ineligible student participates are:
1. The player will be dropped from the team immediately.
  2. All contests in which the ineligible player dressed may be forfeited.
  3. All honors and individual points earned may be forfeited.
  4. The school will be reprimanded and fined.
- C. Levels of Violations:
1. Minor violation is defined as any violation in which a team or individual gains NO competitive advantage.
  2. Major violation is defined as any violation where a team or individual gains a competitive advantage.

Level 1: Self-reported minor offense: The member school discovers a possible violation and reports to the SCHSL within two business days. (Paper Work)

Level 2: Non-Reported minor violation: Any action initiated by the SCHSL. (Paper Work)

Level 3: Self-Reported major violation: Competitive advantage in a contest.

Level 4: Non-Reported major violation: Competitive advantage in a contest.

### Penalties

Level 1: Fine the violating schools an amount not to exceed \$500.

Level 2: Fine the violating school an amount not to exceed \$1,000. The team will lose one pre-season scrimmage, jamboree, or tournament.

Level 3: Fine the violating school an amount not to exceed \$2,500. The team will be suspended from all scrimmages, jamborees, and tournaments for one year. Forfeiture of games.

Level 4: Fine the violating school an amount not to exceed \$5,000. The team will be suspended from all scrimmages, jamborees, and tournaments for one year. Forfeiture of games. The school will be placed on probation not to exceed one calendar year.

- D. If a student is ineligible according to South Carolina High School League rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such South Carolina High School League rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or South Carolina High School League, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determinations, those actions stipulated in Section 16.B shall be reinstated.
- E. If the school knowingly played the ineligible student, the Commissioner may fine and/or discipline the school, program or team, to include fine, warning, restrictive probation, or probation.
- F. If a school is forced to forfeit more than one game that affects playoff seeding, the school shall be ineligible for the play-offs in that sport.

### **Section 17 Certificate of Eligibility and Other Forms**

- A. All students in each sport must be submitted on a certificate of eligibility before being allowed to participate.
  - 1. Eligibility is the responsibility of the principal and the principal must sign all eligibility forms.
  - 2. If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a student, the case should be presented in written detail to the Commissioner.
  - 3. If an ineligible student is submitted on a certificate of eligibility and the student does not participate, the school will be fined \$50.00.
  - 4. Initial eligibility forms containing at least the number of students composing a legal team must be submitted to the League Office at least seven days before the first regular season contest. (A \$50.00 late fee will be assessed to any school not meeting this deadline.) Should the team participate in a preseason tournament more than seven days prior to its first regular season game, the certificate of eligibility must be submitted before participation in this tournament.
  - 5. The minimum number of students necessary to compose a team are: Football - 11, Volleyball - 6, Cross Country - 5, Tennis - 3, Basketball - 5, Soccer - 11, Wrestling - 7, Golf - 4, Track and Field - 6, Baseball - 9, Softball - 9, Competitive Cheer - 8, Swimming - 6, Boys' Lacrosse - 10 and Girls' Lacrosse - 12
  - 6. Eligibility forms will be kept on file in the League Office for five years.
- B. Each school shall keep on file for all student athletes, a certified copy of the student's birth record, a duplicate copy of all submitted eligibility forms, transfer form (if applicable), a parent's permission record and preparticipation physical evaluation history form(s) properly filled out and a current physical form properly completed by a licensed doctor of medicine or a nurse practitioner in a written collaboration with a licensed medical doctor or a certified physician assistant in a written collaboration with a licensed medical doctor.
  - 1. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
  - 2. Forms can be found on the South Carolina High School League

website.

3. **A physical examination is valid from April 1 of the current school year through the following school year.**
- C. Special Form A must be sent to the South Carolina High School League Office on each transfer student who has not been enrolled in his/her school and/or feeder school for at least one calendar year. The South Carolina High School League Office must review all transfer forms before the student is submitted on a Certificate of Eligibility.
- D. A Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility Request Form must be approved by a member of the South Carolina High School League staff prior to submission on a certificate of eligibility. **Special Form A is not accepted for foreign exchange students.**
- E. The records of each school shall be open to inspection or investigation by the Commissioner or his/her representative. Any school failing to open these records for investigation shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 and/or dismissed from the South Carolina High School League for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- F. **Schools that violate any of the preceding sections of this article shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$5,000.00 and/or probation for not more than one calendar year.**

## **ARTICLE IV - SCHOOL REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1 Schedules**

Each school will furnish the Commissioner a copy of all varsity sport schedules. Dates for submitting schedules are listed in the Rules and Regulations on page 3. Schools that are late in submitting these schedules will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee.

### **Section 2 Opponents**

- A. No school shall enter any contest with a South Carolina public school that is not a member of the League or with a public high school in another state that is not a member of the high school association of that state.
- B. Member schools may play non-member private schools, parochial schools and preparatory schools. Member schools may play teams such as college freshman, alumni or textile teams provided these games are included on the regular schedule of the school and inclusion does not cause the school to exceed the limits in number of regular season games allowed. A game between the team of a school and a team composed of faculty members of the member school is not considered an interscholastic contest and is permitted provided it is played within one month after the conclusion of the sport season.
- C. Any school who has reason to believe that a member school is playing an ineligible student must notify the member school and the League Office immediately. Any member school knowingly playing against an ineligible player shall suffer the same penalty that is imposed on the school playing the ineligible.

- D. No member school shall allow its team to engage in a contest with any school suspended for an infraction of the eligibility rules of the League.
- E. No member school shall allow its team to engage in any invitational or play-off event with a school placed on probation by the League or any other governing body for amateur athletic competitions.
- F. No school shall allow its team to engage in any contest with a school involved in, or subject of, any litigation that prohibits the League, its Executive Committee or its Commissioner from enforcing the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations of the League.

### **Section 3 Coaches**

- A. No school shall employ anyone as head coach in any sport who is not at least a half-time employee in the school district, and who does not receive his entire pay for coaching from the governing board of the school district in which he/she is employed.
  - 1. Any coach who has retired from the South Carolina Retirement System is exempt from this section provided he/she coached the sport for at least ten years.
  - 2. Assistant coaches who do not meet the foregoing qualifications must receive their entire pay for coaching from the governing board.
  - 3. All responsibilities and control of the team must be in the hands of the head coach or acting head coach and may not be delegated to an assistant. Assistant coaches should have the same qualifications as the head coach but it is not mandatory.
  - 4. Exceptions to the head coach policy may be made provided the coach satisfactorily completes the coaches' education program. All requests for exceptions to the head coach policy must be submitted in writing for approval by the League Office and:
    - a. A letter giving the following assurances must be submitted to the League Office for approval prior to this person assuming his/her duties.
    - b. The principal of the school certifies that there is no one in the school that can fill the coaching positions.
    - c. The principal assumes full responsibility for the person appointed to fill this position.
    - d. Any pay received for filling this position comes from the governing board.
  - 5. Volunteer coaches must do nothing more than help coach. If a volunteer coach becomes involved in any confrontation, the school must assume full responsibility and have them removed from their coaching duties for the remainder of the year in all sports.
- B. A school will not permit its athletic coaches to accept a gift if the gift is given as a part of a statewide promotion without the approval of the Executive Committee.
- C. A school will not permit its athletic coaches to accept a gift if the gift is given by external sources as a means of advertisement or inducement.

- D. The Executive Committee strongly recommends that school boards discourage large or expensive gifts to athletic coaches.

#### **Section 4 Scouting - Photographic Equipment**

- A. A school will not permit the use of photographic equipment or the use of pictures made with such equipment in scouting the athletic events of opponents except under the following circumstances:
  - 1. If the event is a regular season event and written permission is granted by all participating teams.
  - 2. If the event is a play-off event and written permission is obtained from all competing teams and the Commissioner.
- B. This section does not prohibit exchange of film or tape by coaches.

#### **Section 5 Inter-Team Scrimmages**

- A. Inter-team scrimmages in all varsity sports shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages. Pre-season is defined as being prior to the first regular season contest.
  - 1. An inter-team scrimmage is a scrimmage between two or more teams not composed of students of the same school.
  - 2. Only eligible students may scrimmage.
  - 3. A school may hold an inter-team scrimmage on the eighth day of legal practice.
  - 4. Schools will be permitted one sub-varsity scrimmage and a jamboree. (See Middle School section for Middle School regulations.)
- B. In all inter-team scrimmages, the following regulations are to be observed.
  - 1. Total time for two teams is four consecutive hours, with maximum scrimmage time of three hours. Total time for three or more teams is five consecutive hours, with a maximum scrimmage time of four hours.
  - 2. Schools may charge for **one** inter-team scrimmage per sport.
  - 3. No official will be paid a fee for services. Expenses may be paid.
  - 4. Coaches of either team may stop play at any time for instructional purposes.
  - 5. Officials will be used if available. If not, assistant coaches will be assigned to these duties to help prevent injuries to players.

#### **Section 6 Post Season or Bowl Games**

No participation will be allowed in an out of state game that is construed as a post season or bowl game.

## **Section 7 All-Star Games**

**The following is a clarifying note made by the Executive Committee and will be voted on at the next Legislative Assembly for permanent placement or deletion.**

A school may permit its coaches, its facilities, **equipment**, and its student-athletes who are seniors, to be a part of any all-star game in which high school students participate that does not conflict with the North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl Football Game or the annual all-star games sponsored by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association and the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports. Further, football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, wrestling, golf, tennis and soccer all-star games held by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association are approved.

## **Section 8 Contracts for Contests**

- A. Failure to fulfill a contract properly signed by the superintendent, principal or athletic director may subject the school to disciplinary action. A contract shall be the agreement of the parties concerned, reduced to writing and signed by each school.
  1. Schools will not make contracts for more than two years. Any contract made for more than two years will not be valid.
  2. Official contract forms may be obtained from the South Carolina High School League Office website.
- B. So that opponents will know the grade level of the various teams sponsored by a member school, the member school will issue contracts and designate the top grade level permitted on the non-varsity teams for football, wrestling, and soccer. (Example: Junior Varsity—tenth grade and under.)
- C. The Commissioner will not enforce oral contracts or oral agreements to changes in written contracts.
- D. The South Carolina High School League considers it a breach of contract when a school official removes a team from the playing area before a game is complete.

## **Section 9 School's Responsibility for Safety and Conduct**

- A. A school shall be responsible for the conduct of its coaches and players whether the home team or the visiting team. The home team shall provide ample police protection for all games. Uniformed security should be provided at all varsity football and basketball games. In other sports, the level of security should be based on the experience and expectation of the coaches and the administration of the member school. Fencing and designated areas for the teams and the fans assist the security personnel, the coaches and the administration to monitor and enforce security protocols.
- B. It is the responsibility of the host school to furnish clean and sanitary dressing room accommodations for the visiting school. A school failing to furnish adequate dressing facilities will be reported to the League Office.
- C. Only authorized persons are permitted in the team's bench area and the school is held responsible for the actions of all the persons permitted in this area whether it be coach, physician, cheerleader, student or spectator.



- D. In case of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the coaches, school officials, players, students or spectators of a school, the school will be subject to discipline by the Commissioner consisting of a warning or reprimand, probation not to exceed a year and/or a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
- E. In cases of more serious unsportsmanlike actions, the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee may discipline the school by a fine not to exceed \$2,500.00 and/or suspension from the League not to exceed one year.
- F. **Schools which violate any of the preceding sections of this article may be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$5,000.00 and/or probation for not more than one calendar year.** The League's Statement of Policy concerning unsportsmanlike conduct is in the Rules and Regulations section of this handbook.

## **ARTICLE V – PROTESTS**

### **Section 1 Protests**

For the purpose of this section, a protest is an objection to the outcome of a contest or to the eligibility of a student. Protests involving sport rules will be heard only in those sports that allow protests: baseball and softball. Objections not falling within the definition of a protest under this article may be handled by the Commissioner.

### **Section 2 Procedures for Filing Protests**

- A. Protests based on eligibility and protests between schools of different regions will be ruled on by the Commissioner.
- B. Protests (except those on eligibility) within a region will be ruled on by the region executive committee.
- C. Appeals to rulings by the region executive committee and rulings by the Commissioner shall be heard by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and shall be made in accordance with Article I, Section 3. A protest against a school will not be considered by any committee of the League until the head of the accused school (or representative) has been furnished copies of all communications having a bearing on the case.
- D. The Commissioner shall not consider any protest against a school without a written request from the principal or superintendent of the school making the protest.
  - 1. The protest must identify the player(s) or situation(s) in question.
  - 2. The protest must stipulate at least one reasonable alleged violation.
- E. The district superintendent and principal of the school filing a request for an investigation or an appeal shall receive a written copy of any decision rendered by the Commissioner or the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee.

### **Section 3 Replacing Ineligible Teams in Play-offs**

- A. If a team is eliminated before a play-off game, the region from which the eliminated team comes shall have the right to select another region representative.

- B. If a team is eliminated after the first play-off game, the ineligible team will be eliminated as soon as the violation is detected and the schedule of elimination will continue.
- C. Other than the first round and semifinals, if the team with the ineligible player won the last elimination game prior to the time declared ineligible, the game shall not count, the position is vacated, and the opposing team in the next round will receive a Bye.

## **ARTICLE VI - LEAGUE INCOME**

### **Section 1 Gate Receipts**

- A. The South Carolina High School League will receive 20% of the gross gate receipts of specified post-season events. Region tournaments and play-in games are considered post-season play.
- B. The South Carolina High School League will not receive any share of invitational tournaments.
- C. A financial statement for all interscholastic events not on the regular season schedule as well as the League's 20%, when applicable, must be sent to the South Carolina High School League office within fifteen days of completion of the event.
- D. In any play-off contest in which disbursements exceed receipts, the South Carolina High School League office will refund its share of the receipt to the play-off director the amount of the loss not exceeding the total amount of the 20%.

## **ARTICLE VII - LEAGUE PASSES**

- A. The South Carolina High School League office will issue identification cards (passes) to member schools for entry into South Carolina High School League sponsored athletics events according to the following plan and only South Carolina High School League passes will be honored for League playoff contests.
  - 1. A pass for each high and/or middle school coach and each certified athletic trainer verified by their principal as full time coaches or certified trainers; up to two cheerleader sponsors for schools which do not participate in competitive cheer, and one athletic secretary as submitted by the school principal.
- B. Each superintendent, assistant and/or area superintendent, district level directors, principal and assistant principal will be issued a pass, as submitted by the district superintendent.
- C. Members and former members of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and the League staff will also receive passes.
- D. Athletic directors, athletic coaches, certified trainers, cheerleader sponsors, athletic secretaries, principals, assistant principals, and superintendents and assistant superintendents with a minimum of ten years' experience in any category, and retired from the State Retirement system, may receive a pass by applying in writing to the South Carolina High School League Office.

- E. Four passes shall be issued to four-year in-state colleges and/or universities with football programs. All other four year in-state colleges. shall be issued two passes. Additional passes may be purchased for university/college coaches.
- F. Any other state supported institution for post-secondary education may request passes and will be granted up to two passes.
- G. The spouse of a deceased athletic coach who coached for at least ten years shall be issued a pass upon written request to the Commissioner.
- H. In addition, district directors of officials' associations will receive passes to be used for scouting their particular sports.
- I. Replacement passes will be reissued at a cost \$50.00.

#### **ARTICLE VIII OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS**

National Federation Rules shall govern all athletic contests between member schools and in League sponsored events. Any deviation from these rules must be pre-approved by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee or the Legislative Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE IX – AWARDS**

- A. The student's principal or the Commissioner must approve all awards.
- B. Outside agencies that desire to present awards or recognize students should first secure concurrence of the school principal.
- C. Permission for statewide recognition should be received from the Commissioner.
- D. A plan for awards to state champions and runners-up, both individual and team, will be devised by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee and will be given to the League office as instructions.
  - 1. All trophies awarded in any tournament in competition towards a state championship shall bear the seal of the South Carolina High School League.
  - 2. No awards other than those presented by the South Carolina High School League will be permitted for any competition beyond region play.
  - 3. Region trophies may not exceed 21" in height.

## **ARTICLE X - OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Section 1 Organization**

- A. The South Carolina High School League has the authority to organize and institute officials' associations for the sports in which its members participate.
- B. These organizations will furnish schools with certified officials for their games.
- C. All officials in any varsity football, basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, volleyball, competitive cheer, lacrosse and soccer contests must be certified by the office of the Commissioner.

### **Section 2 Fees**

- A. Officials' fees shall be set at the February meeting of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee.
- B. Fees to be charged each official for membership shall be designated by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee.
- C. Officials' associations must submit their proposals on fees to the Commissioner by December 1 of each year. If no proposal is submitted, the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will retain the fee structure in place.

## **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or 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.
- Section 2. The Commissioner shall submit the proposed amendments to the State Executive Committee prior to January 15. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will publish the proposed amendments in the January Bulletin of the League with its recommendations on each proposal.
- Section 3. The Legislative Assembly, by majority vote, may edit any amendment or resolution submitted for legislative action.
- Section 4. A two-thirds majority shall be required for adoption of a proposed amendment to the bylaws.
- Section 5. The President, in case of a tie vote, shall cast the deciding ballot.
- Section 6. A delegate must be present at the Legislative Assembly in order to vote.

## **ARTICLE XII - DEFINITIONS**

### **Section 1 Semesters Defined**

#### **A. FIRST SEMESTER:**

1. The first semester begins when classes convene on the first day of the semester and ends when classes are dismissed on the last day of the semester.
2. A semester is half a school year.

#### **B SECOND SEMESTER:**

The second semester begins when classes convene on the first day of second semester. Second semester ends when classes are dismissed on the last day of the semester.

### **Section 2 Bona fide change of residence:**

#### **A. A "bona fide change of residence" is defined as follows:**

1. The move must be with the intent of being permanent.
2. Under no circumstances can a family have two residences for eligibility purposes.
3. The head(s) of the family must make the change.
4. The entire household and furniture must be moved into the new residence.
5. The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.
6. When parents are not separated by court action and when they are residing in different places, the residence is generally considered the residence at which the owner occupied exemptions are given or the residence for taxation of personal property.
7. Should the family move out of the attendance area before one calendar year has passed, the student athlete will be declared ineligible on the date of the move.
8. When there is doubt, the principal should present all facts to the South Carolina High School League Office. The League Office will decide on each case individually, considering the facts of each case

### **Section 3 Expulsion**

Expulsion is defined as the dismissal of a student from school by the board of trustees.

### **Section 4 Symbolic**

The word symbolic is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. The following are permitted when given by the school: regular letter awards of the school; miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs, track shoes or other similar emblematic awards; sweaters or jackets; ribbons, banners, medals, trophies, plaques, cups, etc. and banquets. The following are not permitted: wearing apparel; service (such as board, laundry, dry cleaning, etc.); membership in other than school letter organizations; fountain pens, or similar articles that have distinct economic value and may be sold freely and easily on the regular market. If watches or rings are given, these should not be so valuable as to likely be resold easily on the regular market.

## **Section 5 Geographical Representation**

The League will use the following allocation of counties into five geographical areas for representation based on consideration of the district allocations by the Association of School Administrators. This allocation is based on student population.

- 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

## **Section 6 Administrator**

Administrator is a person certified as an administrator by the South Carolina Department of Education and serving in a position classed as administrative.

## **Section 7 Definition: overall passing average**

Overall passing average may be calculated by GPA or by numerical average, whichever is more advantageous to the athlete.

## **Section 8 Volunteer coach**

A volunteer coach is a person who gives his/her time and expertise to the coaching of a member school's team and does not receive pay, does not recruit students to the member school and does not oversee funding projects for athletic programs. A volunteer coach must be approved by the administration of the member school and the superintendent. If feasible, the volunteer coach should be insured with other coaching staff and receive training with the other coaching staff in risk minimization programs and coaching education League rules.

## **Section 9 Limited eligibility**

Limited eligibility is exclusion from participation with varsity level sports. In most instances this will limit a student to participation on sub-varsity teams only.

## **Section 10 Public School**

Wherever the term public school is used in these governance documents, and inclusive of the phrase public charter school, the term refers to a school which is supported with state and/or local tax dollars and which school has a site where students and teachers convene for the purposes of academic instruction on a regular basis complying with the state mandated school attendance requirements for a high school diploma and that at least 80% of the instructional time of the students is at this site or another site that meets these criteria.