## SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



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**TO:** Superintendents, Principals and Athletics Directors

FROM: Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

SC High School League

**SUBJECT:** NIL Information Update

**DATE:** July 10, 2024

## Greetings,

The SC High School League (SCHSL) has been made aware that many students of member schools have been contacted by creators of "NIL Clubs" inviting them to join the "Club" which is specific to their school and team activity. Students joining the "Club" for that school's team are then able to post content on an online portal which is made available to "supporters" who pay to view the content. The money paid to view the content is then held by the club creator, who keeps a percentage thereof, and then distributes the balance to the students posting the content.

Booster Clubs are not considered NIL Clubs or Collectives if such Booster Club is operated under the supervision of the member school and provides monetary or other benefits to school athletics facilities, athletics equipment, school team meals or other school team benefits rather than to an individual student athlete or selected group of athletes.

The SCHSL considers participation in such NIL Clubs to be a potential violation of the SCHSL Amateur Status Bylaw (Article III; Section 14) and SCHSL member schools should immediately notify their students that joining such an NIL Club could have serious consequences to their eligibility to compete or continue to compete in SCHSL athletics activities as well as to member schools' opportunity to participate in SCHSL sponsored post season SCHSL contests.

The posting by any student of apparel of their school or the SCHSL, equipment bearing the name, mascots or logos of their school or the SCHSL, game footage, or other intellectual property of the SCHSL or its member schools would be a violation of SCHSL Bylaws resulting in potential loss of eligibility to compete.

If any NIL Club supporter, who is connected, directly or indirectly to the student's school, either as an employee, member of a booster club or other booster pays to view the posted content, such actions could be found to be a violation of SCHSL Bylaws (Article III; Section 6) affecting not only the student's eligibility, but also their teams ability to participate in postseason SCHSL contests.

The potential for lost eligibility by students participating in NIL Clubs is magnified as participating students have no control over who pays to view their content, and the status and intent of the supporter in doing so. The SCHSL intends to fully investigate violations of and to enforce its Amateur Status Bylaw which may result in forfeitures of contests, fines, and loss of eligibility.

Member schools with students joining such NIL Clubs should consider the potential consequences of allowing its team members to participate in NIL Clubs and be prepared to preapprove and then closely monitor all "supporters" of the clubs paying to view the content to make sure the "supporters" are not directly or indirectly connected to their school or booster clubs, as well as to preapprove and monitor all postings on the portal by their team members to make sure no content is posted which violates SCHSL Bylaws.

If you need further clarification or would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.