



**2024-26**

**AAAA**  
**Constitution**  
**&**  
**By-Laws**

# AAAA CLASSIFICATION CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the AAAA Classification of the South Carolina High School League.

## ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of this classification is to strengthen the educational aims and the programs of activities which are held in common by members of the classification; to formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard the educational values of interscholastic competition; to cultivate high ideals of sportsmanship; to develop and direct a program which will promote, protect and preserve the health and physical welfare of all participants, and to promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic competition.

## ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1: Only members of the South Carolina High School League may become members of the classification.

Section 2: Applications for membership in this classification by a non-member school shall be made in writing to the Executive Committee of the classification.

## ARTICLE IV - Officers

Section 1: The officers of this classification shall be a President, a President-elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Past President. The President and the President-elect offices shall rotate each term by a Principal and Athletic Director. The Secretary Treasurer shall be a Principal or Athletic Director of a member school.

Cycle of Positions to be held over the next three terms:

Years 2024-2026	<b>President:</b> Athletic Director	<b>President-Elect:</b> Principal
Years 2026-2028	<b>President:</b> Principal	<b>President-Elect:</b> Athletic Director
Years 2028-2030	<b>President:</b> Athletic Director	<b>President-Elect:</b> Principal

Updated January 2024 – Classification Vote

Section 2: Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President in the interim between annual meetings, the President-elect should succeed him. Should a vacancy occur in other offices, the President shall appoint a successor until the replacement shall be elected at the next regularly schedule classification meeting.

Section 3: Officers of the classification shall be elected at the annual meeting of the classification. The classification year shall run from July 1 to June 30.

Section 4: The term of office shall be two years. Officers may be re-elected.

## **ARTICLE V - Executive Committee**

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the AAAA Classification and the region coordinators for each region. In even number school years (ex: 2015-16) even numbered regions must have principals as coordinators. In odd number school years (ex: 2016-17) odd numbered regions must have principals as coordinators. A school will have only one voting member on the Executive Committee. If the region coordinator is also an officer in the classification, the region will elect a new region coordinator.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the classification, deciding all questions and performing all duties not provided for in the Constitution. The committee will decide all appeals and the ruling of this committee will be final. Any school filing an appeal to the AAAA Classification shall bear all costs involved if their appeal is rejected.

Section 3: The calling of a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be left to the discretion of the President or a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI - Division of Classification**

Section 1: The classification will be divided by the group responsible for the realignment of schools.

## **ARTICLE VII - Delegates**

Section 1: Delegates to the Legislative Assembly of the South Carolina High School League will be the Region Coordinators, except when the Delegate is a Superintendent. In even numbered years the Delegates from the even numbered regions will be Principals or Superintendents. Each year Superintendents must equal at least 1/3 of the delegates. Delegates that are Superintendents (or their designee) cannot serve as a delegate for more than 1 region in the class or for more than 1 class in any given year.

Section 2: The term of office shall be two years. Delegates may be re-elected.

Section 3: In the event that one of the delegates is unable to attend, he shall notify the President. The President shall appoint a substitute delegate provided he/she is a principal from the same region. The President shall appoint another officer to represent the classification in the event that he/she or the Past President cannot attend the Legislative Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Meetings**

Section 1: The AAAA Principals and Athletic Directors will hold their fall meeting in September. The Classification President will schedule the winter meeting during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester before the Spring Conference.

Section 2: A \$50.00 fine will be assessed to any school not represented at the Fall or Spring AAAA Classification meeting. In case of an emergency, the Principal of the school unable to attend should notify the President of the Classification. Fines will be the responsibility of the Principal and must be paid before the next regularly scheduled classification meeting.

Section 3: The annual meeting shall be the spring meeting. The election of officers shall take place at this time.

Section 4: The President may call meetings for special purposes.

## **ARTICLE IX - Classification Championships**

Section 1: The classification shall sponsor and through its proper constituted committees completely control any and all championships where classification members take part. Championships shall be held in any activity where more than two-thirds of the members of the classification vote for it.

Section 2: The President of the classification shall appoint committees to take charge of the activities sponsored by the classification.

Section 3: The committee in charge of an activity will be responsible for promulgating rules and regulations governing that activity. The activity committee will be the initial step in all appeals relating to that activity.

## **ARTICLE X -Eligibility Rules**

Section 1: Any student participating in activities of this classification must be eligible under the eligibility rules of the South Carolina High School League.

## **ARTICLE XI - Dues and Fees**

Section 1: The classification shall require dues from each member school provided a majority of the classification members' vote for the same.

Section 2: All members of the classification will be responsible for \$200 in dues to the Region Coordinator. Following collection of region dues, the Region Coordinator will distribute a check to SCHSL AAAA for the amount of \$200 per school in their region.

8 Team Region dues = \$1,600

7 Team Region dues = \$1,400

6 Team Region dues = \$1,200

\*Vote passed 4/22/2024

## **ARTICLE XII - Balloting**

Section 1: Each member school shall have one vote for all balloting at the annual meeting and for other meetings of the classification.

Section 2: The principal of a member school, or his duly appointed representative, shall cast a vote.

## **ARTICLE XIII - Quorum**

Section 1: Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE XIV - Parliamentary Authority**

Section 1: Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for this classification.

## **ARTICLE XV - Amendments**

Section 1: Proposed amendments shall be acted upon at a regular meeting and a two-thirds majority of the representatives of member schools present and voting shall be required for adoption.

Section 2: Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the President at least thirty days prior to the regular meeting.

Section 3: Proposed amendments must be submitted to member schools not less than ten days prior to the regular meeting.

Section 4: Any school granted a special meeting of the AAAA Executive Committee to hear an appeal to a ruling shall pay the expenses of the meeting if the ruling is sustained.

Section 5: The AAAA Executive Committee can grant reconsideration to an appeal of its decision only if new evidence is shown that could not reasonably have been known at the time when the AAAA Executive Committee rendered its decision.

# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I - Amendments

- Section 1: By-laws and regulations for this classification may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any regular meeting by a two-thirds majority vote.
- Section 2: Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the president at least 30 days prior to the regularly scheduled AAAA meeting.
- Section 3: Proposed amendments must be submitted to member schools not less than 10 days prior to regularly scheduled meetings.
- Section 4: "Amendments meeting the provisions of Section 2 and Section 3 will require a simple majority vote at the annual meeting."
- Section 5: The provisions of Article 1, Sections 2 and 3, may be omitted at the annual meeting provided the following occur:
- a. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the appropriate standing committee.
  - b. The committee must present the proposal to the body with a vote of support or non-support.
  - c. The proposed amendments must meet the approval of 2/3 of the member schools present and voting.

Section 3: At the annual meeting each year the members of each region will elect a principal or athletic director to serve as region coordinator for the next school year. The coordinator will call meetings to decide on the sites and the method of determining regional champions in accordance with the rules of the AAAA Classification.

## ARTICLE II – Division of Conference

Section 1: The classification will be divided by the group responsible for the realignment of schools. For the 2022-2023 and 2022 and 2023 school years the regions will be:

<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>
Emerald	Berea	AC Flora
Fountain Inn	Blue Ridge	Camden
Laurens	Daniel	Dreher
Southside	Greer	Lancaster
Westside	Pickens	Richland Northeast
Wren	Seneca	South Pointe
	Travelers Rest	York
<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>VI</b>
Aiken	Crestwood	Beaufort
Airport	Darlington	Bishop England
Brookland-Cayce	Hartsville	Bluffton
Gilbert	Lakewood	Colleton County
Gray Collegiate	Lower Richland	Hilton Head Island
Midland Valley	South Florence	May River
North Augusta	Wilson	
South Aiken		

### ARTICLE III - Championships

Section 1: The classification shall sponsor championships in football, competitive cheer, girls & boys basketball, baseball, girls & boys golf, girls & boys track, girls & boys tennis, wrestling, volleyball, softball, girls & boys soccer, girls & boys swimming, girls & boys cross-country and girls & boys lacrosse.

### ARTICLE IV - Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees of the classification shall be composed of three or more principals. Each region will select a representative member for each standing committee. The president shall designate the chairman.

Section 2: The Standing Committees shall be as follows:

Finance	Nominating	Tennis
Volleyball	Constitution/Bylaws	Wrestling
Football	Soccer	Golf
Basketball	Track/Cross Country	Competitive Cheer
Softball/Baseball	Swimming	Bracket
Lacrosse		

Section 3: During those years when realignment of the South Carolina High School League occurs, the Executive Committee of the AAAA Classification shall serve as the AAAA Realignment Committee to compose the regional alignment.

- I. The AAAA President will instruct the officers and region coordinators that they will comprise the above (reclassification) committee. If an officer is also a region coordinator, then that region will elect another region coordinator.
- II. The committee's first called meeting will be at the annual spring meeting of the AAAA classification. This meeting will be called after the region coordinators for the next year have been elected. Procedure for reviewing plans will be decided at this time.
- III. At the fall principal's meeting of a realignment year, the dates for this committee's meetings will be given. **Note:** The 135-day enrollment will not be available at this time but those schools expecting and who can show hardships should make these available to the committee at this time.
- IV. At the winter principal's meeting, the committee will present those plans, which it recommends to be studied for final presentation to the classification.
- V. The number of schools that will make up the AAAA Classification will be distributed to those regions as recommended by the Executive Committee of AAAA.
- VI. This committee will make the final decision to give to the AAAA representative on the SCHSL Executive Committee.

Section 4: The chairman of each committee shall prepare a written report detailing the rules and regulations governing his committee's activity for the following school year for distribution at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE V**

Section 1: Nothing contained in these amendments or bylaws shall supersede the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina High School League.

## **ARTICLE VI**

Section 1: The secretary /treasurer of the classification shall be paid an honorarium of \$1000.00.

## **ARTICLE VII**

Section 1: Any combination of schools request where the combined enrollment of the combining schools exceeds the enrollment of the largest AAAA school will be denied. This will be based on the 135-day count of the previous year as it pertains to the largest school and the requesting combinations. AAAA will follow the guidelines set by the SCHSL in regards to which sports teams are allowed to apply for combination schools.



## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Sportsmanship is a general way of thinking and behaving. In order for school activity programs to continue to be positive educational experiences, fans and participants need to be cognizant of the necessity for good sportsmanship and the means by which it is attained.

Fans attend athletic contests to cheer for and support their team and coaching staff, to enjoy competition, and to demonstrate appreciation for the athletes' skills. Fans should avoid booing, jeering, or making negative antagonistic remarks to participants and other fans.

All viewing fans and participants in high school contest should:

- Show respect for the opponent at all times and treat them as guests.
- Show respect for the officials. Good sportsmanship is the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
- Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- Maintain self-control at all times. Good sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of not only the participants, but also the fans.
- Permit only positive behavior to reflect on your school and its activities.
- Win with character and lose with dignity.

It is suggested that administrators and athletic directors of school see to the following communication items:

- Coaches' expectations regarding sportsmanship of his/her players.
- Principal's expectations regarding sportsmanship to his/her student body (pep rally, assembly).
- A statement on "Sportsmanship" in the football program.
- A PA announcement before the beginning of each game on "Sportsmanship."

### **THINGS GOOD HOST SCHOOLS DO**

1. Prior to the start of a sports season, send a packet of information to visiting schools. Suggested contents may include:

- Maps of school site, directions, & preferred driving routes
- Phone numbers of school and home phone numbers of principal and athletic director, fax number of school
- Agreement on provision of refreshments, pre- or post- game meals, etc.
- Hospital used in case of serious injury of athletes
- Instructions for parking of buses of teams, bands and fans
- Specific of warm-up areas
- Half time information
- Complimentary tickets (if applicable) and instructions for use
- Provisions for press box and video personnel
- Locker room and shower arrangement

2. Arrange for a greeter or escort to meet coaches/team upon arrival.
3. Demonstrate a respectful and welcoming attitude towards the visiting coach and his/her staff.
4. Provide for a secure locker room.
5. Provide emergency medical technicians, EMS units and /or certified trainer on site if at all possible. Have a physician on call or available at the site if possible.
6. Emphasize on PA system the definition and importance of sportsmanship.
7. Provide, to the best of your ability, a safe and easy exit after the contest.

### **THINGS GOOD VISITING SCHOOLS DO**

1. Inform the host coach of your estimated time of arrival.
2. Make known to the host coach your needs (half-time refreshments, pre-game meals, etc.)
3. Supervise and maintain control of your athletes from arrival until departure.
4. Protect and respect host school property, equipment, and facilities.
5. Leave bench area and locker rooms clean of refuse (pick up trash, etc.)

### **SECURITY**

It is the responsibility of the host school to provide a safe and controlled atmosphere. Each school should comply with Article VIII, Section 9 of the High School League Constitution. Participants, coaches, and fans should expect to enjoy an athletic contest without threat or concern for their safety or wellbeing. The visiting school has a mutual obligation to contribute towards this objective.