



TuesNews

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

December 17, 2024

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Upcoming Events

SCHSL Office Closed - Holiday Break
Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025

Constitution and/or Bylaws Proposals for
Amendments deadline: **Jan. 1, 2025**

Executive Committee: Jan. 9, 2025

Living Clean Week: Jan. 13-17, 2025

Officials' Appreciation Week: Jan. 13– 18, 2025

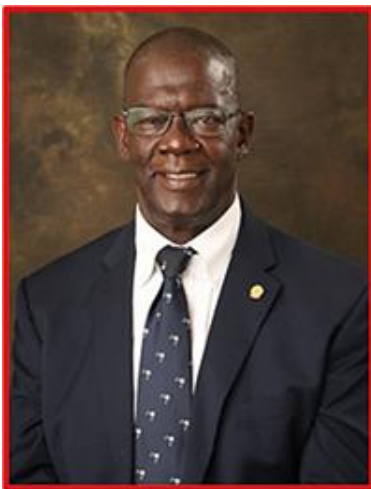
New Principal/AD Meeting: Jan. 15, 2025: 9:00 am

Leadership Summit: Jan. 16, 2025 – 10:00 am



**For job openings around the
SCHSL, visit www.schsl.org/jobs**

FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Happy Holidays!

I trust that this correspondence meets you with great health physically, mentally, and emotionally. As we head into the holiday season, I ask that you take this time to reflect on the first half of the school and athletic year.

With the culmination of the fall sports season, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each member school for your unwavering commitment, passion, and resilience.

The fall sports season, with an additional State Final in many sports, was a testament to the dedication and spirit of our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators. Your collective efforts elevated the standard of competition, fostering an environment of leadership, sportsmanship, and camaraderie that truly embodies the best of high school athletics. From the hard-fought victories to the valuable lessons learned in defeat, the fall season was a showcase of character, perseverance, and excellence.

To our athletes, your commitment to discipline, teamwork, and personal growth has left a lasting mark on the South Carolina High School League. Your performances, both on and off the field, have not only entertained us but have also inspired us, reminding us of the strong impact that interscholastic sports can have on the lives of our youth.

To our coaches, your tireless dedication to mentorship, skill development, and instilling core values is the foundation upon which our student-athletes thrive. Your role extends far beyond the sidelines; you are mentors, educators, and role models shaping the future leaders of our communities, state, and country.

To our administrators, your diligence in organizing and facilitating these events, ensuring a safe and fair playing field, is commendable. Your behind-the-scenes efforts contribute greatly to the seamless execution of our programs, and I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the success of the South Carolina High School League.

As we prepare and embrace the start of winter sports season, I am confident that the same spirit of sportsmanship and excellence will continue to thrive. The enthusiasm displayed during the fall season serves as a light of anticipation for the action-packed contests and achievements that lie ahead. I encourage you all to embrace the winter season with the same vigor, fostering an environment where our student-athletes can thrive, learn, and create lasting memories.

As we approach the upcoming holiday break, I extend my warmest wishes to each of the member schools. May this time of celebration bring you joy, peace, and an opportunity to recharge for the challenges that await in the new year. Take this moment to cherish the company of loved ones, reflect on the accomplishments of the fall season, celebrate the bonds formed, and express gratitude for the shared journey we undertake as members of the South Carolina High School League.

In closing, thank you for your collective contributions to the success and spirit of our League. Your dedication is the driving force behind the transformative impact of high school sports. Wishing you all a restful, joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year filled with continued success.

~Dr. Jerome Singleton SCHSL- Commissioner

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Holidays are a time to reflect and rejuvenate, as well as prepare for a fresh start. The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Commissioner, Dr. Jerome Singleton, and the staff of the SCHSL, wish you a joyous holiday season with peace & cheer in the New Year!

**In Observance of the Holiday Season, the SCHSL Office will be closed:
Monday, December 23, 2024-Friday, January 3, 2025.
Normal business hours (7:30 am-4:00 pm) will resume on Monday, January 6, 2025.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Constitution/By-Laws Proposal

Any proposals for amendments to the League's Constitution and/or Bylaws must be submitted to the Commissioner prior to **January 1, 2025**. The proposal may only be submitted by a principal or superintendent. Proposal submission forms can be found on the League's website in the AD Notebook section or by clicking the following link: <https://schsl.org/archives/2393>.

If you have any questions, please contact Associate Commissioner, Amy Boozer at Amy@schsl.org



Spring Sports Rules Clinic

The 2024-25 Spring sports rules clinic will be available on Big Teams beginning Thursday, January 2, 2025 through Friday, January 31, 2025.

Upcoming Leadership Summit

The SCHSL Leadership Summit's scheduled for December has been moved to January 16, 2025 at 10:00 am. The registration link will be available on January 7, 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Football Rules Survey

High School Principals and Athletic Directors, please share with your Head Football Coach.

You have been invited to participate in the NFHS rules-writing process by completing the annual Football Rules Questionnaire. This questionnaire allows a national sampling of coaches and registered officials to provide feedback, which will be considered by the NFHS Football Rules Committee.

Please note that the questionnaire will close on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

To participate, please follow the link below to the NFHS Questionnaire Menu, select your sport, and complete the rules questionnaire. You are not required to log in to access or complete the questionnaire. We appreciate your time and input.

<https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/nfhs-sport-questionnaires>

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner, Charlie Wentzky at Charlie@schsl.org

Arbiter Reminders

Below, are some important reminders related to basketball and wrestling scheduling in Arbiter. Contact Jill White, SCHSL Arbiter Booking Coordinator, at Jill@schsl.org with any questions regarding scheduling. Please review the bullet points below and address any issues ASAP.

- Varsity games should be set to SCHSL 101800 for officials.
- Girls and boys games are linked for officials to be assigned, please verify the times match and the sites are the exact same.
- Schools should not make any changes to schedules in Arbiter. Varsity game changes and updates should be emailed to Jill@schsl.org.
- Contact your local assigner to verify your Sub-Varsity games.
- Contact your wrestling assigner to verify your matches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officials' Spotlight

Throughout the year, we will shine the spotlight on the unsung heroes of high school sports, our officials. We will profile officials from different sports so that you can get to know them and why they do what they do.

This month we spotlight Alphonso Smith – Football & Basketball Official



1) How long have you been an official in the SCHSL?
12 years

2) What sports do you currently officiate?
Football & Basketball

3) Is officiating your full-time job? If not, what is your profession?
I am a Senior Buyer for ITW Hartness in Greenville, SC.

4) Why are you a high school official?

I worked in athletics for 14 years at Clemson and University of Memphis. When I got out of that, and went into the private sector, I wanted to do something that made me feel like I was still a part of the game and I wanted to give back to athletics. Some friends of mine were high school officials, and I went to a meeting in Anderson and started officiating.

I was lucky to be taken under the wings of two (2) of the best officials South Carolina has ever seen in Lee Blackman and Steve Hughes. They taught me everything from the basics to how to become a better official every day. I went to games and followed them and to their pregame meetings and did all I could to just listen, study, and become a part of the game. Until this day, I work on as many games as I can with them so I can just absorb the knowledge that they have.

Being an official is not about the money to me; it is about making an impact. Our young men and women work hard all year to have the best officials on the field and that is why I go on the field and every day I study the rules to make sure I do all I can to be a good official.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAAC Member Spotlight

Throughout the year, we will shine the spotlight on the members of the South Carolina High School League's Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). We will profile members of the Council so that you can get to know them and the schools they represent.



The week's spotlight is Kelly Gristwood, the President of SCHSL SAAC.

Kelly is a senior from Sumter High School where she is a member of the Varsity Girls Golf Team. Kelly is an International Baccalaureate (IB) student, a National Honor Society member, Secretary for Sumter High's School Improvement Council and for the Principal's Advisory Council. She is the Vice President of Sumter High's First Priority, and a YoungLife Capernaum volunteer.

Kelly believes that her involvement in activities is more than a hobby.

"IB gives me a sense of purpose and drive to be a learner in every situation. YoungLife Capernaum not only helps me connect with friends who have disabilities, but also see people for who they are on the inside." She continues, "Golf helps me learn to lose and find ways to win and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council gives me a chance to recognize the individual student-athletes in our state and make their experience with the league one of many fond memories to reflect on."

Inspired by her wonderful school and principal, Mrs. Anamaria Sandor, Kelly says she "try to take every opportunity to rise above and make the most out of every situation, a maxim I believe everyone should live by."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024-25 League Pass

The instructions on how to download the 2024-25 SCHSL League Pass was emailed to Superintendents and Principals earlier this fall. If you have not received a link to download a pass, please see the appropriate individuals.

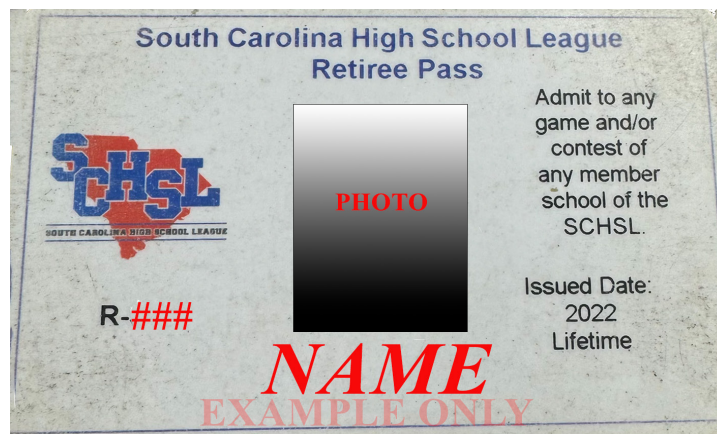
Additionally, please be reminded that in order to upload a photo, you must first download the pass. If you have any questions, contact Keith Warren, Director of Technology at keith@schsl.org.

Retiree Pass Information

Retiree Passes: New retirees and those with retiree passes that contain an expiration date should fill out the form at the link below to obtain a pass.

Individuals with a retiree pass denoting **Lifetime** under the issued date (see image below) do not need to request a new pass. Schools are to accept these passes for all League sponsored contests.

[Retiree Pass Link](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Orders

The 2025 Spring Sports Rule & Case Books are now available for purchase on the SCHSL Shopify store, available at the link below. You can also access the store on the SCHSL website, www.schsl.org. The store link is located on the right side of the page under Quick Links.

Please allow 5-7 business days from the order date to receive your item. If an item is out of stock, you may still place the order and the item will be sent immediately upon availability.

[SCHSL Rules Books and Case Books](#)

For questions or issues with the system, contact Office Coordinator Maeoceaisha Jenkins-Suber at Maeoceaisha@schsl.org or 803-896-5573.

Sanctioning

Please be reminded that any event outside of regular season play, must be sanctioned by the SCHSL. Sanctioning requests must be submitted online. Additional information, including the sanctioning form can be found at the following link: [Sanctioning Information](#).

Please direct all questions/concerns to Cindi C. Drakeford, Director of Finance at cindi@schsl.org.

Playoff Financial Forms Due

Reminder: If your school hosted a volleyball playoff match or a football playoff game, a playoff financial statement must be completed and sent to the League Office within 15 days of the event. All financial forms are located on the SCHSL website at the following link: [Financial Forms](#). The financial forms are mid-way down on the link.

Please direct all questions/concerns to Cindi C. Drakeford, Director of Finance at cindi@schsl.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

2024 Football State Finals Recap

The 2024 SCHSL Football State Finals were held last Thursday-Saturday, December 12-14, 2024, at the Oliver C. Dawson Stadium on the campus of South Carolina State University. At the end of the three-day event, six teams were crowned champions.

2024 Football STATE CHAMPIONS

Class A: Abbeville High School

Class AA: Clinton High School

Class AAA: Oceanside Collegiate Academy

Class AAAA: South Florence High School

Class AAAAA-Division 1: Dutch Fork High School

Class AAAAA-Division 2: Northwestern High School

Images of the State Champions are on page 3.



CONGRATULATIONS

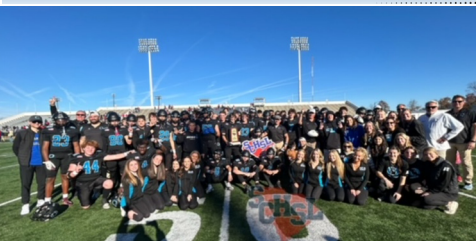
2024 SCHSL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



CLASS A
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
ABBEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS AA
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS AAA
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



CLASS AAAA
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
SOUTH FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS AAAAA-DIVISION 1
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS AAAAA-DIVISION 2
2024 FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Health Spot

Cold Weather Guidelines

As we head into the winter months, recognizing athlete safety in cold weather is critical to prevent conditions such as hypothermia, frostbite, and cold-related injuries. Coaches and athletes should monitor weather conditions, dress in layers, and limit exposure during extreme cold. Proper hydration and warm-up routines are also essential to maintain performance and safety. The South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) provides detailed guidelines on cold weather safety to help schools and teams protect their athletes. For more information, visit [SCHSL Cold Weather Guidelines](#).

For additional information contact the Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness, Tim Kinney at Tim@schsl.org.

Officials' Whistle Tools for Success

Become an Official

We are always looking for passionate individuals who are interested in being officials. Get back in the game and make a difference by becoming a high school sports official. Whether you're a former athlete or simply a sports enthusiast, we need you to help shape the future of high school athletics.

Below you will find the link to a flyer/announcement you can hang up at your facility or say at contests to help recruit those to the officiating avocation.

#BecomeAnOfficial

[Flyer/Announcement](#)

Note: Winter sports Officials' Appreciation Week is January 13-18, 2025.

Direct all questions for this section to Associate Commissioner Sarah Hayes at Sarah@schsl.org.

Happy Holidays

What a fantastic fall season for education-based athletics! So far this year, we've hosted two Captains Courses and a Health Summit, where our student-athletes demonstrated exceptional engagement and gained valuable tools to become outstanding leaders. These events featured inspiring sessions led by former athletes turned professionals, athletic trainers, athletic directors, and Hall of Fame coaches. Their insights left a lasting impact on our student-athletes, equipping them with skills that go beyond the field or court.

As we take a moment to reflect on this year and prepare for the next, consider these questions: Is my school actively involved in educating our student-athletes? Can we be more intentional about fostering sportsmanship and leadership?

If the answer is yes, take pride in your efforts—you're making a difference! At the heart of it all, we know that athletics is one of the most dynamic platforms for teaching student-athletes life lessons that will serve them well beyond their playing days.

Thank you for all that you do to support and elevate interscholastic sports!

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