



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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

TO: Principals and Athletic Directors

CC: Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner *J.S.*
SC High School League

SUBJECT: 2026-2027 Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Changes

DATE: January 9, 2026

Greetings:

As we approach the upcoming Classification Meetings, it is crucial that we ensure an informed and productive discussion regarding the proposed changes to the SCHSL Constitution and Bylaws.

We kindly request that you:

1. Review the information below: (Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Changes). Please take the time to carefully review the content prior to the meeting.
2. Prepare for Discussion: During the Classification Meetings, we will discuss the proposed changes in detail. Your input and insights will be invaluable to this process, and we encourage you to come prepared with questions or feedback.

Your preparation will help ensure that we have a collaborative and efficient discussion. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to the success of the SCHSL and our member schools.

A Voice Over PowerPoint presentation of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes will be forthcoming at a later date.

We look forward to your active participation in the upcoming meetings.

Constitution
Article V - Membership
Section 1 Who May Join

**Submitted by: Jimmy Armstrong, Greer
Middle College**

Currently Reads:

A. Public high schools, including public charter high schools with athletic programs, but excluding virtual schools, accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League shall be eligible for membership. Before being considered as a member of the South Carolina High School League, the public charter high schools must clearly define its attendance area for athletic eligibility, as the attendance area of the traditional public school in which the school is located. Public high schools, including public charter high schools with athletic programs joining the League, shall be on probationary status and ineligible for the state playoffs during its first year of membership.

B. South Carolina private high schools, excluding virtual schools with athletic programs, accredited by an organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the South Carolina Department of Education whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League shall be eligible for membership. Before being considered as a member of the South Carolina High School League, the private school must clearly define its attendance area for athletic eligibility, as the attendance area of the traditional public school in which the school is located. Private high schools, including public charter high schools with athletic programs joining the League, shall be on probationary status and ineligible for the state playoffs during its first year of membership.

Change to Read:

A. Public high schools, including public charter high schools with athletic programs, but excluding virtual schools, accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League shall be eligible for membership. Before being considered as a member of the South Carolina High School League, the public charter high schools must clearly define its attendance area for athletic eligibility, as the attendance area of the traditional public school in which the school is located. Public high schools, including public charter high schools with athletic programs joining the League, shall be on probationary status and ineligible for the state playoffs during its first year of membership. **Individuals may compete in post regular season events as individuals in sports that do not require qualifying through a region or seeding committee.**

B. South Carolina private high schools, excluding virtual schools with athletic programs,

accredited by an organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the South Carolina Department of Education whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League shall be eligible for membership. Before being considered as a member of the South Carolina High School League, the private school must clearly define its attendance area for athletic eligibility, as the attendance area of the traditional public school in which the school is located. Private high schools, with athletic programs joining the League, shall be on probationary status and ineligible for the state playoffs during its first year of membership. **Individuals may compete in post regular season events as individuals in sports that do not require qualifying through a region or seeding committee.**

Rationale: Allows new member schools to become familiar with athletics and compete as a part of a state association without the pressure of having to make the playoffs in the first year. Additionally, the proposed changes permit individuals to compete in post regular season events as individuals in sports that do not require qualifying through a region or seeding committee.

Constitution

Article V - Membership

Section 3 Classification and Membership

Submitted by: Jimmy Armstrong, Greer Middle College

Currently Reads:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.
- B. The number of classifications will be determined by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee. In making this decision the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will consider the number of schools to be in each of the resulting classifications and the number of regions into which these will be further divided. The schools will be divided among classifications, as evenly as possible, based on multiple factors to include school enrollment count.

Change to read:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from Each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years.

The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

- B. The number of classifications will be determined by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee. In making this decision the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee will consider the number of schools to be in each of the resulting classifications and the number of regions into which these will be further divided. The schools will be divided among classifications, as evenly as possible, based on multiple factors to include school enrollment count.

For the 2028-2030 reclassification, an out-of-zone student will count as a multiplier of 2.0.

Rationale: SCHSL new transfer rule provides the opportunity for a one-time transfer to any member school. The state line has become the boundary for all student athletes that reside in South Carolina. Some traditional member schools may have the unintended consequence of having a higher multiplier number of students. Reducing the multiplier to 2.0 will help balance the effect of an artificial enrollment number on all member schools.

Constitution
Article V - Membership
Section 3 Classification and Membership

Submitted by: Jimmy Armstrong, Greer Middle College

Currently Reads:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from Each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

Change to Read:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from Each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

i. Attendance Zone Multiplier Enrollment Exception:

If the classification process includes the application of a multiplier for students residing outside of school's attendance zone, the multiplier shall not be applied to children of certified professionals at the high school (grades 9 – 12) and military active duty dependent children will not be subject to the out-of-zone multiplier even if they live outside the schools designated attendance zone.

These students shall be counted at a 1.0 value for classification purposes, regardless of residence.

ii. Verification:

Member schools shall be responsible for maintaining and providing appropriate enrollment records to substantiate for any exception listed in this section.

Rationale: The intent of this proposal is to ensure that children of certified professionals employed at the high school level (grades 9–12) and military active-duty dependent children will not be subject to the Out-of-Zone Multiplier, even if they reside outside the school's designated attendance zone.

This exception promotes fairness, preserves the integrity of the reclassification process, and prevents unintended consequences for families whose educational decisions—whether driven by service or employment obligations—are unrelated to athletics.

Constitution

Article V - Membership

Section 3 Classification and Membership

Submitted by: David Padilla, Christ Church Episcopal School & Jimmy Armstrong, Greer Middle

Currently Reads:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from Each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

Change to Read:

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three (3) classifications and a maximum of six (6) determined by multiple factors to include enrollments in grades 9-11. The reclassification process will use the 45 ADM (Grades 9-11) from each school during the fall semester of odd number realignment years. The realignment will become effective the fall semester of the following even-numbered year, for a period of two (2) years.

- i. Attendance Zone Multiplier Continuous Enrollment Exception:**
If the classification process includes the application of a multiplier for students residing outside of school's attendance zone, the multiplier shall not be applied to any student enrolled at the school, or in a designated feeder school, since 5th grade or earlier. These students shall be counted at a 1.0 value for classification purposes, regardless of residence.
- ii. Verification:**
Member schools shall be responsible for maintaining and providing appropriate enrollment records to substantiate for any exception listed in this section.

Rationale: The purpose of this provision is to ensure that students who have been part of a school community since early grades are not treated as transfers made for athletic purposes. These students and their families made their educational decisions long before high-school athletic participation was a factor, and their continued enrollment reflects academic, faith-based, or family priorities rather than competitive intent. Applying a multiplier to these students misrepresents the nature of their enrollment and artificially inflates a school's classification numbers. This exception ensures fairness, maintains the integrity of the reclassification process, and prevents unintended consequences for families who made early educational choices unrelated to athletics.

Constitution

Article VI - Administration

Section 1B – South Carolina High School League Officers and Executive Committee

Submitted by: Dr. Burke Royster Superintendents – Greenville County, with the following co-sponsors: Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Abbeville County Schools; Beaufort County Schools, Charleston County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Chesterfield County Schools; Clover (York 2); Darlington County Schools, Florence 2 and 5, Fort Mill School District (York 4), Georgetown County School District, Greenwood School District 52, Horry County Schools, Kershaw County Schools, Lancaster County School District, Lexington 1, Oconee County Schools, Pickens County Schools, Richland District 2, Rock Hill (York 3), South Carolina Public Charter School District, Spartanburg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Currently Reads:

- B. The governing body shall be the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee composed of the president, the vice president and the following:

1. Administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, secondary principals or assistant principals) representing each class and elected by their class delegates of the Legislative Assembly.
2. The State Superintendent of Education or a designee, which designee shall be an employee of the State Department of Education.
3. A representative of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents, elected by the said Association, which person is actively serving as a superintendent.
4. A representative of the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a high school principal.
5. A representative of the South Carolina School Boards Association, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a board member.
6. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association, elected by said association and actively coaching at the high school level in a member school.
7. A representative of the associate members of the South Carolina High School League, elected by these members.
8. A representative of the certified game officials of the South Carolina High School League, elected by the game officials, which person is actively serving as a game official.
9. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, elected by the said Association and currently serving as an athletics director at the high school level or district athletics director over multiple high schools.
10. Up to five members at large, representing superintendents, assistant superintendents, and principals may be appointed by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee to insure gender, geographical, ethnic, private schools and charter schools representation. Up to three of the at-large members will be selected by the S.C. Association of School Administrators to insure gender, geographical and ethnic representation. Geographical areas for representation are as defined in the Bylaws.

Change to Read:

B. The governing body shall be the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee composed of the president, the vice president and the following:

The amendments in order, change to:

In a 6 Classification Structure, Six (6) Superintendents (or designated district level administrator), and One (1) At Large Superintendent selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, with one representing each classification.

In a 6 Classification Structure, Six (6) Principals, who shall be members of the SCASA Secondary Affiliate, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 6 Classification Structure, Six (6) Athletic Administrators, who shall be members of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 5 Classification Structure, Five (5) Superintendents (or designated district level administrator), selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, with one representing each classification.

In a 5 Classification Structure, Five (5) Principals, who shall be members of the SCASA Secondary Affiliate, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 5 Classification Structure, Five (5) Athletic Administrators, who shall be members of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 4 Classification Structure, Four (4) Superintendents (or designated district level administrator), and One (1) At Large Superintendent selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, with one of the four representing each classification.

In a 4 Classification Structure, Four (4) Principals, who shall be members of the SCASA Secondary Affiliate, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 4 Classification Structure, Four (4) Athletic Administrators, who shall be members of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 3 Classification Structure, Three (3) Superintendents (or designated district level administrator), selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, with two representing each classification

In a 3 Classification Structure, Three (3) Principals, who shall be members of the SCASA Secondary Affiliate, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

In a 3 Classification Structure, Three (3) Athletic Administrators, who shall be members of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, one representing each classification, selected by the classification.

One (1) Middle School Representative, selected by Middle School member schools.

Two (2) Representatives from the Private School and Charter School Community, selected by member Private and Charter Schools. Must be a Superintendent, Principal, or Athletic Director.

One (1) Designee from the State Superintendent of Education's Office.

The current Executive Committee shall be removed from office effective June 30, 2026 and replaced with the newly elected members who shall serve staggered terms with the odd numbered classifications originally serving three-year terms and the even numbered classifications two-year terms. The other representatives shall serve two-year terms except for the State Department designee. Upon expiration of these initial terms, all subsequent terms shall be three years. A committee member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms on the Executive Committee in the same representative capacity.

Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to strengthen the governance structure of the South Carolina High School League by ensuring that the decision-making body reflects the individuals most directly engaged in and accountable for interscholastic athletics in South Carolina.

This composition provides:

- Balanced representation across classifications by those directly responsible for administering athletic programs at the school and district level (via superintendents, principals, and athletic administrators).
- Broader educational alignment by including a designee from the State Superintendent's office.
- Recognition of diversity in membership by including middle school and private/charter school representatives.
- Maintains the representative perspective of coaches through the athletic director seats.

By engaging those most invested in the vision, leadership, and operations of athletics, the Executive Committee will be better positioned to address challenges, set direction, and maintain the integrity of high school athletics statewide.

Constitution

ARTICLE VI - Administration

Section 1 – South Carolina High School League Officers and Executive Committee

**Submitted by: Dr. Robert Etheredge, Saluda High School
Samuel Fuller, South Aiken High School**

Currently Reads:

B. The governing body shall be the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee composed of the president, the vice president and the following:

1. Administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, secondary principals or assistant principals) representing each class and elected by their class delegates of the Legislative Assembly.
2. The State Superintendent of Education or a designee, which designee shall be an employee of the State Department of Education.
3. A representative of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents, elected by the said Association, which person is actively serving as a superintendent.
4. A representative of the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a high school principal.
5. A representative of the South Carolina School Boards Association, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a board member.
6. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association, elected by said association and actively coaching at the high school level in a member school.
7. A representative of the associate members of the South Carolina High School League, elected by these members.
8. A representative of the certified game officials of the South Carolina High School League, elected by the game officials, which person is actively serving as a game official.
9. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, elected by the said Association and currently serving as an athletics director at the high school level *or district athletics director over multiple high schools*.
10. Up to five members at large, representing superintendents, assistant superintendents, and principals may be appointed by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee to insure gender, geographical, ethnic, private schools and charter schools representation. Up to three of the at-large members will be selected by the S.C. Association of School Administrators to insure gender, geographical and ethnic representation. Geographical areas for representation are as defined in the Bylaws.

Add:

10. Two representatives from the South Carolina State Legislatures House of Representative Education Committee or designee who are not employees of any South Carolina High School League member school or its school district.

Renumber remaining section.

Rationale: Allows the State Legislature an opportunity to participate in the governance of the SCHSL.

Constitution

ARTICLE VI - Administration

Section 1 – South Carolina High School League Officers and Executive Committee

**Submitted by: Dr. Robert Etheredge, Saluda High School
Samuel Fuller, South Aiken High School**

Currently Reads:

B. The governing body shall be the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee composed of the president, the vice president and the following:

1. Administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, secondary principals or assistant principals) representing each class and elected by their class delegates of the Legislative Assembly.
2. The State Superintendent of Education or a designee, which designee shall be an employee of the State Department of Education.
3. A representative of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents, elected by the said Association, which person is actively serving as a superintendent.
4. A representative of the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a high school principal.
5. A representative of the South Carolina School Boards Association, elected by said Association, which person is actively serving as a board member.
6. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association, elected by said association and actively coaching at the high school level in a member school.
7. A representative of the associate members of the South Carolina High School League, elected by these members.
8. A representative of the certified game officials of the South Carolina High School League, elected by the game officials, which person is actively serving as a game official.
9. A representative of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, elected by the said Association and currently serving as an athletics director at the high school level *or district athletics director over multiple high schools*.
10. Up to five members at large, representing superintendents, assistant superintendents, and principals may be appointed by the South Carolina High

School League Executive Committee to insure gender, geographical, ethnic, private schools and charter schools representation. Up to three of the at-large members will be selected by the S.C. Association of School Administrators to insure gender, geographical and ethnic representation. Geographical areas for representation are as defined in the Bylaws.

Add:

11. Two representatives from the South Carolina State Legislatures Senate Education Committee or designee who are not employees of any South Carolina High School League member school or its school district.

Renumber remaining section.

Rationale: Allows the State Legislature an opportunity to participate in the governance of the SCHSL.

Constitution

ARTICLE VI - Administration

Section – Qualifications and Terms for Executive Committee

**Submitted by: Dr. Robert Etheredge, Saluda High School
Samuel Fuller, South Aiken High School**

Currently Reads:

- B. With the exception of the State Superintendent of Education, **selected** officers and the members at large, the term of office for each executive committee member shall be four years. The terms of office for the members at large shall be two years. Elections shall be staggered so one class representative and at least one association representative will be elected each year. Should a member of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee cease to hold the position which initially qualified him/her as a member of the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee, then the individual's position shall be declared vacant and another person selected to fill the balance of the term. The replacement shall be selected by the same group or Association from which the vacating member was elected.

Change to Read:

With the exception of the State Superintendent of Education, **the South Carolina State Legislatures**, selected officers, and the members at large, the term of office for each executive committee member is four years. The terms of office for the members at large and the South Carolina State Legislatures are two years. Elections shall be staggered so that one class representative and at least one association representative will be elected each year. Should a member of the South Carolina High School League cease to hold the position which initially qualified them as a member of the Executive

Committee, their position is declared vacant, and a replacement is selected to fill the balance of the term by the same group or Association that elected the vacating member.

Rationale: Defines the term limit of the South Carolina State Legislatures in the event Constitution Article VI Section 2B is changed to allow two representatives from the South Carolina State Legislatures Senate Education Committee or designee to serve on the SCHSL Executive Committee.

Constitution

Article VI - Administration

Section 5 – Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee

Submitted by: Dr. Burke Royster Superintendents – Greenville County, with the following co-sponsors: Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Abbeville County Schools; Beaufort County Schools, Charleston County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Chesterfield County Schools; Clover (York 2); Darlington County Schools, Florence 2 and 5, Fort Mill School District (York 4), Georgetown County School District, Greenwood School District 52, Horry County Schools, Kershaw County Schools, Lancaster County School District, Lexington 1, Oconee County Schools, Pickens County Schools, Richland District 2, Rock Hill (York 3), South Carolina Public Charter School District, Spartanburg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Currently Reads:

- B. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall hear appeals from classification executive committee decisions and protests between schools in different classifications.

Add:

Section 5 B1 Hearing Officers:

The League Shall establish a panel of Hearing Officers who will be assigned individually to hear appeals prior to such appeals reaching the Executive Committee. Hearing Officers may include retired judges, retired or former administrators, or other individuals with demonstrated legal or interscholastic athletic experience. The decision of a Hearing Officer may be appealed to the Executive Committee under procedures established by League policy.

Section 5 B 2 Recusal of Executive Committee Members:

If an appeal proceeds to the Executive Committee, any member of the Executive Committee whose classification is directly involved in the appeal shall recuse themselves from both discussion and voting on that appeal.

Rationale: This amendment strengthens the League’s appeals process by introducing an impartial Hearing Officer system to review cases prior to Executive Committee involvement. This structure:

- Ensures appeals are reviewed by individuals with relevant legal and interscholastic athletic experience.
- Improves fairness, timeliness, and efficiency in handling appeals.
- Reduces undue burden on the Executive Committee while preserving the right of final appeal.
- Promotes impartiality by requiring Executive Committee members from the classification involved in the case to recuse themselves.
- Mirrors the expulsion hearing process followed by most school districts in the state.
- The intent is that hearing the appeal of any issue will originate at the Hearing Office level.

This approach aligns with best practices in due process and governance for educational and athletic organizations.

Constitution

Article VI - Administration

Section 5 – Powers and Duties of the Commissioner

Submitted by: Dr. Burke Royster Superintendents – Greenville County, with the following co-sponsors: Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Abbeville County Schools; Beaufort County Schools, Charleston County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Chesterfield County Schools; Clover (York 2); Darlington County Schools, Florence 2 and 5, Fort Mill School District (York 4), Georgetown County School District, Greenwood School District 52, Horry County Schools, Kershaw County Schools, Lancaster County School District, Lexington 1, Oconee County Schools, Pickens County Schools, Richland District 2, Rock Hill (York 3), South Carolina Public Charter School District, Spartanburg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Currently Reads:

- D. The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee shall adopt and promulgate the Rules and Regulations of the League consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the League. Such shall be published to the membership on a regular basis and may be amended by the Legislative Assembly by majority vote at the annual meeting provided that the member proposing same shall give notice of his/her proposal with the call to the meeting.

Add:

Section 5 New E. Petition of Assembly

Upon petition of a majority of member schools to the Commissioner, a delegate assembly will be scheduled to address League matters. That assembly will be held in a location geographically central to the member schools.

Rationale: This amendment provides member schools with a clear and democratic mechanism to convene a Delegate Assembly when significant League matters require broader discussion and input.

It ensures:

- Greater member engagement and transparency in the decision-making process.
- A formal pathway for schools to collectively request discussion of policies or governance issues that directly affect them.
- Balanced accessibility by requiring the assembly to be held in a geographically central location.
- Enhanced accountability and responsiveness of League leadership to the collective concerns of its member institutions.

This provision reinforces the League's commitment to representative governance, ensuring that member schools retain a voice in shaping the direction and policies of the SCHSL.

Constitution

Article VI - Administration

Section 6 – Powers and Duties of the Commissioner

Submitted by: Dr. Burke Royster Superintendents – Greenville County, with the following co-sponsors: Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, Abbeville County Schools; Beaufort County Schools, Charleston County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Chesterfield County Schools; Clover (York 2); Darlington County Schools, Florence 2 and 5, Fort Mill School District (York 4), Georgetown County School District, Greenwood School District 52, Horry County Schools, Kershaw County Schools, Lancaster County School District, Lexington 1, Oconee County Schools, Pickens County Schools, Richland District 2, Rock Hill (York 3), South Carolina Public Charter School District, Spartanburg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Currently Reads:

- A. The commissioner shall be employed by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee who shall determine the term of employment, duties, salary and expenses.

Change to Read:

- A. The commissioner shall be employed by the South Carolina High School League Executive Committee who shall determine the term of employment, duties, salary and expenses.

Add:

1. The contract of the Commissioner shall not exceed three (3) years in length.
2. The contract may be renewed annually for one (1) year upon action of the Executive Committee.
3. The current contract may not be extended until it has less than three years remaining.
4. No contract with the Commissioner shall include an “evergreen provision” or any automatic renewal clause extending the contract beyond the term expressly approved by the Executive Committee.

Rationale: The intent of this amendment is to ensure transparency, accountability, and responsible governance in the employment relationship between the South Carolina High School League and its Commissioner.

- Limiting the Commissioner’s contract to no more than three years provides stability while allowing for regular evaluation of performance.
- Requiring annual renewal ensures that the Executive Committee maintains oversight and can respond to the needs and direction of the membership.
- Prohibiting evergreen provisions prevents automatic extensions that may diminish accountability or restrict the League’s flexibility in leadership decisions.
- This places the Commissioner’s contract more in line with multi-year contracts for local school administrators.

This amendment promotes good governance and keeps the League’s leadership structure aligned with best practices in nonprofit and educational administration.

By-Laws

ARTICLE III – Student Eligibility

Section 9 – Original Eligibility

Submitted by: Matthew Hall, Bluffton High School

Currently Reads:

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, 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. 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.

Change to Read:

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.**

Rationale: This proposed change would allow the school district to alternately assign a middle school student's high school eligibility to an alternate high school within the district. Currently, students who attend a direct-feeder middle school can change their high school eligibility during 7th or 8th grade by transferring to another direct-feeder middle school. However, students enrolled in middle schools that feed into two or more high schools do not have the same opportunity. Under existing rules, their eligibility defaults to their residential attendance area and cannot be altered through a middle school transfer.

As written, families in mixed-feeder situations face limited options: students may only participate in athletics at a high school they do not plan to attend if they take advantage of their school choice in 9th grade or remain at the middle school level until 9th grade. Many middle schools do not offer the full range of sports available at the high school level, which can result in students opting out of athletics until 9th grade, at least in certain sports.

Additionally, this policy can place unnecessary burdens on families, particularly those with siblings attending different high schools within the district. Transportation, scheduling and other dynamics become more complex when younger students are prevented from participating at the same high school as an older sibling.

This by-law change would address these challenges by providing all middle school students—regardless of feeder pattern—an opportunity to participate in athletics at their intra-district high school of choice if alternately assigned by the school district when middle school transfers will not affect high school participation.

By-Laws**ARTICLE III – Student Eligibility****Section 9 – Original Eligibility**

**Submitted by: Dr. Mark Smith, Spartanburg
District 1**

Currently Reads:

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, 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. 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.

Change to Read:

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, until he/she attends another school. **Should the feeder school supply students to more than one high school, each student's eligibility is determined by the superintendent of that district to one of the already established feeder high schools.**

Rationale: Middle school students at a split feeder should be able to establish their eligibility at the high school they will attend by school choice in the 9th grade. There is no reason to force them to play at another school for two years before moving to their school of choice.

By-Laws**ARTICLE III – Student Eligibility****Section 10 - Transfers**

**Submitted by: Dr. Keith Price,
Lexington School District 1 &
Todd Stafford, Eastside High
School**

Currently Reads:

(3) 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 below circumstances and only if he/she meets the following three criteria irrespective of whether he/she transfers under one of the below circumstances:

- i. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he/she transferred.
- ii. The student will be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student moves in with a coach of the coaching staff, 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.

Change to Read:

ii. **The student will be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student moves in with a coach of the coaching staff, has participated on an outside team in which a coach or volunteer coach from the school to which the student is transferring coached, has received or attended personal training sessions with any coach or volunteer coach from the school to which the student is transferring coached, or had input into the selection of the outside team.**

Rationale: The proposed by-law is necessary to eliminate improper recruitment pathways, protect student-athletes from undue influence, ensure competitive equity among schools, and uphold the standards and spirit of the South Carolina High School League.

**By-Laws
ARTICLE III – Student Eligibility
Section 10 - Transfers**

Submitted by: Commissioner, SCHSL

Currently Reads:

(3) 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 below circumstances and only if he/she meets the following three criteria irrespective of whether he/she transfers under one of the below circumstances:

- i. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he/she transferred.
- ii. The student will be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student moves in with a coach of the coaching staff, 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.

Change to Read:

ii. **The student will be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student moves in with a coach of the coaching staff of the new school.**

Rationale: The proposed by-law is necessary to eliminate improper recruitment pathways, protect student-athletes from undue influence, ensure competitive equity among schools, and uphold the standards and spirit of the South Carolina High School League.

By-Laws
ARTICLE III – Student Eligibility
Section 10 - Transfers

Submitted by: Matthew Hall, Bluffton High School

Currently Reads:

(3) 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 below circumstances and only if he/she meets the following three criteria irrespective of whether he/she transfers under one of the below circumstances:

- i. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he/she transferred.
- ii. The student will be ineligible in the sport for one calendar year if the student moves in with a coach of the coaching staff, 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.
- iii. The student must be a United States citizen or has attended school in the United States the previous calendar year and is not part of an approved foreign exchange program.

Delete:

- iii. The student must be a United States citizen or has attended school in the United States the previous calendar year and is not part of an approved foreign exchange program.**

Rationale: Removing this qualification would better align the by-law's transfer requirements with its purpose and mission of supporting fair and equitable opportunities. This portion of the by-law unnecessarily excludes students for one calendar year who otherwise meet all other requirements, including school enrollment, are academically qualified, and strive to become active members of the school athletic community, based solely on citizenship or prior schooling location.

By-Laws
ARTICLE III - Student Eligibility
Section 10 Transfers (6) Senior Transfers

Submitted by: Dr. Deborah Elder,

Rock Hill School District

Currently Reads:

(6) Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22 calendar days period of ineligibility or 1/3 the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Delete:

(6) Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22 calendar days period of ineligibility or 1/3 the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Rationale: Treating senior transfers differently from underclassmen creates inconsistencies and unnecessary barriers for students. Aligning senior transfer rules with those for grades 9–11 ensures all students are provided fair and equitable opportunities to participate.

Many families experience legitimate reasons for transferring during a student's senior year, including changes in residence, academic needs, or personal and family circumstances. Imposing extended ineligibility on seniors can negatively impact their final season of participation, hinder scholarship opportunities, and present avoidable hardship during an important transition year.

This rule change also simplifies and streamlines the eligibility process for schools, athletic directors, and the state association. Consistent rules reduce confusion, minimize disputes, and support a student-centered approach that prioritizes fairness, clarity, and accessibility for all stakeholders.

By-Laws

ARTICLE III - Student Eligibility

Section 10 Transfers (6) Senior Transfers

Submitted by: Dr. Keith Price, Lexington School District 1 & Samuel Fuller, South Aiken High School

Currently Reads:

(6) Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22 calendar days period of ineligibility or 1/3 the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Change to Read:

(6) Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a period of ineligibility 1/2 the Maximum Number of Contests, in all sports, in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Rationale: Increasing penalties for senior transfers made for athletic purposes is essential for maintaining competitive equity, curbing recruitment pressures, fostering school stability, and protecting the educational integrity of high school athletics throughout South Carolina.

By-Laws
ARTICLE III - Student Eligibility
Section 10 (8) Transfers

Submitted by: Scott White, Abbeville High School

Currently Reads:

(8) General application.

a. This Transfer Rule applies to all athletes at all levels of participation (not just varsity athletes) and is applicable to all SCHSL-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. Transferring students may participate in a new sport without penalty.

b. The period of ineligibility will begin on the Competition Start Date of each sport. For students who transfer after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment.

c. When calculating the period of ineligibility using the Maximum Number of Contests, the South Carolina High School League will round down to the nearest whole number if the number of contests is not divided evenly. For example, if the Maximum Number of Contests were 14, then the calculation for a Senior Transfer (14 divided by 3) would be 4.67 and rounded down to a 4 contest sit.

d. Emancipated students that transfer will be ineligible for one calendar year.

Add:

e. Students who transfer during a period of academic ineligibility must restore their academic eligibility prior to the start of the transfer-ineligibility period.

Rationale: Prevents an academically ineligible student from transferring without consequence. Under the current system, a student may transfer while academically ineligible and allow the two ineligibility periods to overlap, effectively eliminating the

transfer penalty. This revision closes that loophole and reinforces the priority of maintaining academic eligibility.

By-Laws
ARTICLE III - Student Eligibility
Section 12 Foreign Exchange

**Submitted by: Daniel Tooman, Bridges
Preparatory School**

Currently Reads:

- 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.

Change to Read:

- 1. Reside in the attendance area of the school in which they are enrolled **or reside within the school district of a member charter school.** Any subsequent transfers must be according to South Carolina High School League transfer rules in order to maintain eligibility.

Rationale: Foreign exchange students come to the US for a cultural experience which includes the opportunity to play competitive sports. They do not determine where they are enrolled in school as this is at the discretion of the host families. Due to districts and schools across the state have varying policies on acceptance or limits of foreign exchange students enrolling many host families enroll students into a local charter school. In addition, many host families have students currently enrolled in a school of their choice. Under the current guidelines, this negatively impacts foreign exchange students without any recourse to gain eligibility. Allowing immediate eligibility within the residing school district of a member charter school would allow host families to enroll their foreign exchange student in a school of their choice, which all current students have the choice with the one-time transfer rule. This change would provide the full cultural experience for their exchange student.