



League Update

April 2009

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

Spring sports are in full swing and this is probably your busiest time of the year (multiple sports, testing, end of year grading, etc.). As you go through second semester, I would like to share and remind you of some League issues.

The Spring Conference in Charleston was very productive. Each classification addressed several athletic issues within their respective conference. I trust that the General Sessions provided opportunities to clarify any misunderstandings.

The Legislative Assembly meeting addressed several constitutional issues. The proposed amendments that were passed will help serve the membership more effectively and efficiently. As members of the League, the schools are obligated to support the constitution. The integrity of the constitution is best protected when supported by the membership. With the constitutional changes made, (to begin with the 2009-2010 school year) the League staff will be available to attend your region and/or conference meetings to further clarify the impact of the changes. If you would like our presence, please contact the League office.

The number of player and coach spring sport ejections is too high! Your help in addressing this issue is greatly appreciated.

In closing, please know that the League office staff is committed to providing our member schools with the best service possible. Thank you for all you do to support the educational values that interscholastic athletic participation provides student athletes.

Legislative Assembly

Article V, Section 2. Annual Meeting

Change to read:

B. The purpose of this meeting shall be to consider legislative proposals and resolutions.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted by the principal or superintendent of a member school to the Commissioner and its classification Conference by July 1. After it has been approved by a majority vote of the Conference members at its fall meeting, it is to be submitted to the Commissioner prior to November 1.

The Commissioner shall work with the submitting member school to edit the amendment so that it meets the purpose for which it was intended. The League's legal counsel shall be consulted by the Commissioner, if need be, on any proposed amendment in the editing process.

The Executive Committee may submit proposed amendments to the Constitution prior to January 1.

A proposed Amendment shall have a purpose statement and an impact statement attached to it that explains the purpose for which it is intended and its impact upon all League members.

Proposed amendments along with purpose and impact statements from member schools shall be publicized in the August Bulletin of the League. All proposed amendments shall be publicized in the January Bulletin of the League.

Failed

Article VII, Section 6, E. Participation and Practice Limitations

Change to read:

No eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) grader shall be allowed to participate in Sub-Varsity games in any Contact Sport. Currently, the contact sports are football, wrestling, soccer and lacrosse.

Failed

Article VII, Section 9. Transfers

Change to read:

A transfer student will be ineligible for all varsity sports for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he transfers under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (J) below and only if he meets the following two criteria irrespective of whether he moves under one of the circumstances set forth in subsections (A) through (J).

Add note: NOTE: Students that do not meet requirements (A) through (J) may play sub-varsity sports.

Failed

Article VII, Section 9, A. 4. Transfers

Change to read:

The entire household must be moved into a new residence.

Passed

Article VII, Section 9, 2. Transfers

Add Exception statement after last sentence:

The student must not have participated on an outside team in which a coach or volunteer coach from the school the student is transferring to coached or had input into the selection of the outside team.

The student would be ineligible in that sport only for one calendar year. Exception: Criteria #2 does not apply if the student is transferring from a non-member school has attended the non-member school the previous two semesters.

Passed

Article VII, Section 9, D. Transfers

Change to read:

A student who enters a high school IB, Magnet School program, charter school, or another school by freedom-of-choice offered by the school district in which the student lives will have a one time move to that program, or school, and a one time move back to his/her home school without loss of eligibility. This rule shall also apply in a move to a private member school. Students entering the magnet program, charter, freedom-of-choice school, or private member school must be made on the first day of school as a 9th grade student. The move to or from these programs or schools must be made the first day of school. A move at any other time will require a one calendar year waiting period for the student to be eligible.

Failed

Article VII, Section 9, E. 4. Transfers

Change to read:

If the separation by court action and/or divorce occurred prior to the student entering the **9th** 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.

Passed

Article VII, Section 15, C. Ineligible Participants

Change to read:

If a student is ineligible according to SCHSL rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such SCHSL rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or SCHSL, 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 Article VII, Section 15.B shall be taken, to include reimbursement, by the school, the League’s legal fees and cost.”

Failed

Article X, Section 2, A. Gate Receipts

Change to read:

The League will receive 20% of the gross gate receipts of specified post-season events with the exception of first round play-off contests. (Post-season payment to the League will begin with second round play-off contests.)

Failed

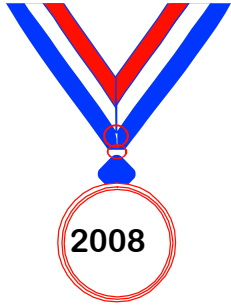
A motion to allow the League staff to develop realignment proposals for 2010-2012 school years.

Passed.

Congratulations to the following administrators elected/re-elected to serve on the SCHSL Executive Committee.

Vice President..... Ms. Lynn Cary (Mid-Carolina HS)
Class AAAA Representative Mr. Creig Tyler (Lexington HS)
Principals Association Representative Mr. Reggie Dean (Camden HS)

Thank you to Mr. Henry Adair (Westside HS) for your three years of service on the Executive Committee as Vice-President (2006-07), President (2007-08) and Past President (2008-09).



CONGRATULATIONS



2008

State Champions

Runners-up

2009

BASKETBALL - GIRLS

AAAA	Spring Valley	Anne Long	Orangeburg-Wilkinson	Joshua Staley
AAA	Lower Richland	Debbie Stroman	Darlington	Brian Rozzell
AA	Marion	Leon Sturkey	Pendleton	Tim Wood
A	Christ Church	Sally Pielou	Hardeeville	Greg Cox

BASKETBALL - BOYS

AAAA	Goose Creek	Brad Dobbels	Gaffney	Mark Huff
AAA	Camden	Ron McKie	Greer	Jeff Neely
AA	Southside	Louie Golden	Mullins	Mark Gerald
A	Calhoun County	Zam Fredrick	Great Falls	John Smith

WRESTLING

AAAA	Rock Hill	Cain Beard	Fort Dorchester	B. D. Laprad
AAA	Eastside	Jack Kosmicki	Hilton Head	Mike Newton
AA	Abbeville	Anthony Martin	Loris	Tommy Britt
A	Chesterfield	Will Gainey	Bamberg-Ehrhardt	Cody Slaughter

THANKS

Thanks to the following for hosting basketball play-off games:

Bluffton
 Colleton County
 Dreher
 Georgetown
 Lakewood
 Marlboro County
 Mid-Carolina

Newberry
 Orangeburg-Wilkinson
 Richland Northeast
 Sumter
 West Ashley
 Woodland

Thanks to Ridge View High School for hosting the State Wrestling Duals. Also, thanks to Lexington High School for hosting the State Individual Wrestling Finals.



2009 Football schedules are due **May 1, 2009**.

Please print out instructions from the AD Notebook. Enter your

HOME games only into the Arbiter.net booking program by **May 1, 2009**. When entering the game information, **please remember to include the Pre-game Conference SITE under the NOTES section for each game.** (If you need help doing this, please contact Wynne Dee Cockfield at the League Office.) Without notes your football schedule is incomplete!

S C H E D U L E S



2009 Volleyball schedules are due **May 1, 2009**. Enter your **HOME** games only into the Arbiter.net booking

program by **May 1, 2009**. (If you need help doing this, please contact Wynne Dee Cockfield at the League Office.)

2008-09 Constitutional Questionnaire

On the website we have posted an informational questionnaire. We have provided 67 questions to help you better understand certain items in the constitution.

Please use this questionnaire in any manner you feel will benefit you and your staff.

We would love to have your input, comments, etc. concerning this questionnaire.

Issued Passes

Schools are reminded to return their pass list with the number of the pass issued to each coach.

Please return this list to LaVonda.

Just a Few Reminders.....

- ◆ Football & Volleyball Schedules must be entered into the Arbiter.net by May 1
- ◆ Don't forget to send in your Scholar Athlete Nominations, it's not too late!!
- ◆ Don't forget to send in your Community Service Project Report, it's not too late!!
- ◆ Don't forget to send in your Statistics for the Palmetto's Finest Record Book (forms are in the AD Notebook)
- ◆ Secretaries Day - Wednesday, April 22 10:00 am League Office

The Executive Committee approved the following:

- ◆ The first three days of Football Spring Practice and the first three days of Football Pre-Season Practice (Fall) will be in helmets only.
 - ◆ During the first three days of helmets only practices, field equipment may be used including sleds and ground dummies.
 - ◆ **NO** hand shields, arm shields, and/or stand up dummies of any kind may be used for the first three days of Spring or Pre-Season Practice.
 - ◆ During the last seven days of Spring Practice, a coach can go out in any combination of pads that he prefers for his team. (They are not required to be in helmets only or in full pads only, but in any combination the coach prefers.) During this period, the use of all football equipment is permitted.
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Athletics Secretary Appreciation / Workshop Day

Please allow us the opportunity to show our appreciation for your contributions to our high school athletics programs.

If your school would like to have the athletic secretary attend Athletics Secretary Appreciation Day, please email LaVonda by Tuesday, April 14. lavonda@schsl.org

Date: Wednesday, April 22
Time: 10:00 am - until Lunch will be provided
Place: 121 Westpark Blvd., Columbia 29210

Congratulations to
Lynn Hicks, Wren High School
Selected
2008 National Softball Coach of the Year
by the NFHS Coaches Association

Congratulations to
Catherine Lempesis, Dutch Fork High School
Selected
NFHS Hall of Fame
Class of 2009

PLAYOFF SITES

TRACK

May 9

AAAA Qualifying Meet TBA

AAA Qualifying Meet Lower Richland HS (Dreher HS)

AA Upper - Broome HS
Lower - Bishop England HS

A Upper - Landrum HS
Lower - Charleston Southern (Johnsonville HS)

State Finals

May 15 - 16 TBA

SOCCER

May 22

AA Girls 3:00 pm

AAA Girls 5:00 pm

AAAA Girls 7:00 pm

May 23

A Boys 11:30 am

AA Boys 2:00 pm

AAA Boys 4:30 pm

AAAA Boys 7:00 pm

Site: Memorial Stadium, Columbia

BOYS TENNIS

Team May 15-16

Lexington County Tennis Center
Columbia, SC 803-957-7676

Individual May 22 - 2:00 pm May 23 - 9:00 am

Caughman Road Tennis Center
Columbia, SC 803-776-3250

BOYS GOLF

A May TBA

AA May 11-12 True Blue (Waccamaw HS)

AAA May 18-19 Quail Creek (North Myrtle Beach HS)

AAAA May 11-12 Furman University (Mauldin HS)

Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

The High School League has been very fortunate to have great corporate sponsorship of our high school athletic programs. These companies donate money and time to give our association an opportunity to have first class programs. Sponsors such as Wendy's, Gatorade, State Farm, Rawlings, Spalding, Marines and Team IP have made it possible to provide the best equipment, awards, and locations to play our State Championships. Without their support, many of these opportunities would be lost.

Please help support these great sponsors. They do so much for our schools.



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.



The National Federation of State High School Association has a publication (High School Today) that is distributed monthly. The publication has a number of great articles that address the state of high school athletics in today's society.

While reading the March 2009 edition, I came across two articles (one addressing safety and the other addressing sportsmanship) that I would like to share with you. I found them to be quite interesting and thought provoking. These articles and others may be found on the NFHS website at WWW.NFHS.ORG.

Jerome Singleton
Commissioner

Kentucky Coach's Arrest in Player's Heat-stroke Death Should Force Changes to Better Protect Student-athletes

By Douglas J. Casa, Ph.D., ATC, Director of Athletic Training Education, University of Connecticut

The decision by Kentucky authorities to charge a local high school football coach with reckless homicide in connection with the heat-stroke death of one of his players brings the entire athletics community into unchartered territory.

Max Gilpin, a 15-year-old football player at Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Louisville, collapsed during practice on August 20, 2008, and died as a result of the extensive hypothermia three days later. The subsequent arrest of coach David Jason Stinson appears to be a first for high school athletics.

While the criminal charges play out in court, coaches and high school administrators should use the heightened awareness brought about by the Pleasure Ridge Park case to demand long-overdue changes to ensure athlete safety. Many existing policies designed to protect student-athletes during training are insufficient when it comes to preventing heat stroke. Some schools and states have no regulations regarding the phase-in of high school practices to protect players and some have substandard rules or those that do not apply to all sports during the August pre-season training sessions. New regulations regarding the phasing in of practice should be enacted based on existing medical and scientific research literature. This research has clearly established the risks and proposed guidelines to minimize health concerns for athletes who must do intense exercise during the hottest time of the year.

With this death, we are reminded of 1905 when Theodore Roosevelt became appalled at the numerous deaths in college football. His mandate was the impetus for the founding of the NCAA and was the emotional foundation for the legendary quote at this time from the president of Syracuse University, James Roscoe Day: "One human life is too big a price for all the games of the season."

There are many steps schools and coaches can take to deal with exertional heat stroke. First and foremost, all high school athletic departments should employ athletic trainers to provide on-site medical care for their athletes during practices and events. On-field assessment and treatment of emergency sport injuries is key. Other measures that can be taken include: ensuring proper hydration, taking rest breaks and scheduling to avoid the hottest time of the day.

Phasing-in practices during the first week in terms of amount of equipment; number of practices, length of time, intensity, etc. is an extremely potent way to prevent heat stroke. Most problems occur in the first two to three days of preseason practice, so it is essential to be extra cautious during this time. If exertional heat stroke does occur, the chances of survival dramatically increase if the athlete is immediately cooled on-site by immersion in cold water. A \$100 investment in a sturdy Rubbermaid plastic tub filled with icy water at practice time can be a key piece of equipment in saving lives. Cool first, transport second is the exertional heat stroke mantra when appropriate medical staff (athletic trainer or physician) is on-site. The importance of having trained medical staff on-site cannot be overstated. There are many reasons why an athlete may collapse during practice that would warrant immediate immersion in icy water, such as a head or spinal cord injury, a cardiac problem, asthma, diabetes, a lightning strike or some other event.

In the wake of this tragic death, athletes and their parents should stand up and demand action. The policies and procedures to prevent and treat exertional heat stroke that are currently in place by most schools and states need dramatic improvement. Maybe this strong message from the criminal justice system in Kentucky will finally provide a long-needed wake-up call to the coaches and administrators that something needs to change.

Coaches: No Arguing With Officials

By Paige Flynn

Principal Joe Loomis has seen many policies pass over his desk at Fortville (Indiana) Mount Vernon High School. During his years as an administrator, he has tried to be an advocate of good behavior and better reputation for the students and educators for whom he is responsible. He also doesn't like what he has seen evolve on television, with professional coaches on the sidelines visibly arguing with the game officials.

About 10 years ago, Loomis realized he had a problem. Mount Vernon was having difficulty hiring people to officiate its athletic contests. Loomis says that he already considers the number of officials in the state low, but he wonders who would even want the job. In addition to being a low-paying position, Loomis feels that officials are given a "bad time" by everyone - parents, administrators, players and especially coaches.

This singular concern a decade ago inspired him to turn things around. Loomis instilled a new philosophy for Mount Vernon athletics: coaches were no longer permitted to argue with officials. The program is still in effect there in programs and contests across the board.

Loomis admits to rocky roads of adversity when first trying to implement the new policy. He says the transition was easier for some than it was for others, and regrets that some coaches were not able to continue working for him when the idea was introduced. After a tough period of change, he saw the opportunity of hiring new coaches as the key to a fresh start.

"I think most coaches in most schools think it's part of their job," Loomis said. "They think it's OK. Regardless, sportsmanship is critical."

Loomis refers to his "no-arguing" philosophy as a practice rather than a policy, because the rule hasn't been set in writing. Instead, Loomis relies on the state of Indiana to outline the penalty for unruly coaches, with the option of schools imposing their own penalties for varying situations.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association's (IHSAA) bylaws outline the course of action for unruly coaches. In most instances, the IHSAA mandates a one-game suspension and a filed report by the principal of the school.

The IHSAA has tips for good sportsmanship on its Web site for teens, parents and coaches. Under all three headings, there is a pointer about respecting the officials. For coaches, tip No. 4 reads: "You've got to set a good example for players and fans alike to follow. This means treating game officials with respect - even when you disagree. And no arguing, gesturing or throwing stuff - including your hat, clipboard, or jacket." The IHSAA also has an unsporting behavior form available on its Web site for officials or anyone else to file a complaint against an offending school or coach.

Loomis adds that some states issue additional punishment for severe disciplinary cases, such as ejection, and he expresses hopes that these actions expand to the national level. There is also a coach education program available from the NFHS designed to assist coaches in creating healthy environments for student-athletes.

What about at the local level? Loomis expresses regret that he does not have more authority at the middle and elementary school athletic levels at Mount Vernon. He does hope, though, that the younger athletes see examples that his staff is setting for all sports at the high school level. Loomis is also relying on the program directors at his level to steer the next generation in the right direction. "We're learning," he says. "Younger kids see the examples we set."

So far, Loomis says he sees his program as a success. He boasts that Mount Vernon very seldom gets declined by an official. Now that Loomis is set to retire at the end of the year, he hopes to see his practices continued after he's left the school.

"Now that it's here, I don't think it'll leave," Loomis says. "We don't want teachers acting inappropriately in the classroom, so we don't want coaches acting inappropriately at a game."

Paige Flynn is a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a sophomore at Butler (Indiana) University, majoring in journalism (public relations and advertising) and minoring in digital media production.