



**2010-11**

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL  
LEAGUE**

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# **CONSTITUTION of the SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**

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## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the South Carolina High School League.

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the League, a voluntary organization, is 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 conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants and to promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic competition.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Who May Join**

- A. Public high schools accredited by the State Department of Education whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the League shall be eligible for membership.
- B. Private high schools accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools whose principal or superintendent, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the League shall be eligible for membership.
- C. Junior high schools and middle schools accredited by the State Department of Education and 7th and/or 8th grades housed in the same building with a senior high school shall be eligible for associate membership, provided they fall under the governing board of a member school. The principal, with the approval of the governing board, agrees to conform to the rules and regulations of the League.
- D. Any high school not accredited by one of the above-mentioned agencies, and presently a member of the League, may retain membership as long as it is approved by the Executive Committee of the League.
- E. All sections of the Constitution not so noted will apply to members and associate members.

### **Section 2. How to Join**

- A. Application for membership shall be made in writing to the coordinator of the region in which the school wishes to compete and to the State Conference. Before being admitted, the application must be approved by two-thirds majority of the schools in the region and by the State Conference Executive Committee. The League's Executive Committee must grant final approval.
- B. If a school is unable to comply with the above, the League's Executive Committee may accept the school as a Member-At-Large.  
**NOTE:** An at-large member may participate against other member schools. They may participate for a state championship if it does not require qualifying through the region.
- C. Middle and Junior high schools, under the control of the local governing board, may obtain membership by applying directly to the Executive Committee.
- D. A school becomes a member when final approval for membership is approved by the League Executive Committee and upon payment of its dues according to Article X, Section 1.

### **Section 3. Membership Renewal**

- A. A school's membership is renewed upon payment of its dues according to Article X, Section 1.
- B. If a school fails to pay its dues by the date due, the school will be fined \$50.00.
- C. If the dues and fines are not paid within thirty days, the school will have allowed its membership to lapse and will have to apply for membership under Section 2-A above.
- D. The League year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

## **ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION**

### **Section 1. Officers and Executive Committee**

- A. The officers shall be a president, vice-president and the commissioner.
- B. The governing body shall be the Executive Committee composed of the president, the vice-president, the immediate past president, and the following:
  - 1. Four administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, secondary principals or assistant principals) representing each class and elected by their class delegates to the Legislative Assembly.
  - 2. The State Superintendent of Education or their representative.
  - 3. An elected representative of the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents.
  - 4. An elected representative of the South Carolina Association of Secondary School Principals.
  - 5. An elected representative of the South Carolina School Boards Association.
  - 6. An elected representative of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association.
  - 7. An elected representative of the associate members.
  - 8. An elected representative of the certified game officials of the South Carolina High School League.
  - 9. An elected representative of the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.
  - 10. Up to three members at large, representing any three of the above categories, may be appointed by the Executive Committee to insure gender and ethnic representatives.

**NOTE:** Places a member of the SC Athletic Trainers Association on the Activities Committee of the League. This delegate does not have voting privileges on Executive Committee decisions.

- C. The president and vice-president shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly. (The practice of the League is to rotate the presidency and vice-presidency among classifications.)
- D. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the Legislative Assembly and all meetings of the Executive Committee.

### **Section 2. Qualifications and Terms for Executive Committee**

- A. Superintendents, principals and other school administrators of member schools shall be eligible to hold office in the League. The president and vice-president must be superintendents, principals or other school administrators at the time of their election.
- B. With the exception of the State Superintendent of Education, the 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.

- C. An executive committee member, other than the State Superintendent of Education and the members at large, shall not serve successive terms in any capacity. After a person has been off the committee for four years, they will be eligible to return. This restriction does not apply to the vice-president.

### **Section 3. Vacancies on Executive Committee**

- A. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President in the interim between Legislative Assembly meetings, the Vice-President shall succeed him. Should any other vacancy occur, the President, with the consent of the majority of the Executive Committee, should appoint a successor.
- B. If an Executive Committee representative changes his status so that he is no longer directly connected with the group which he was elected to represent, he must relinquish his place on the Executive Committee and a new representative will be selected in accordance with the above provision.

### **Section 4. Meetings**

- A. The Executive Committee will have four scheduled meetings each year. They will be held on or around August 15, November 25, January 15 and February 25.
- B. Other meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called at the discretion of the President or at the request of any five members of the Executive Committee.

### **Section 5. Power and Duties of the Executive Committee**

- A. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the League, deciding all questions and performing all duties not provided for in the Constitution. The Executive Committee will have the authority to interpret sections of the Constitution using notes and examples where appropriate.

### **Appeals**

- A. The Executive Committee shall be the final authority in all appeal procedures involving member schools.
  - 1. The State Executive Committee shall hear appeals from conference executive committee decisions and protests between schools in different conferences.
  - 2. The Executive Committee shall hear appeals to decisions made by the commissioner. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be final.
  - 3. Appeals may be heard at any properly convened meeting of the Executive Committee. Appeals to be heard at regularly scheduled meetings on or around August 15, November 25, and February 25 must be filed in writing seven days prior to the meeting.
  - 4. Any school granted a special meeting of the Executive Committee to hear an appeal to a ruling shall pay the expenses of the meeting if the ruling is sustained.
  - 5. The 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 the Executive Committee rendered its decision.
  - 6. When an appeal or reconsideration of a decision is granted, the superintendent and principal of all schools involved in the matters leading to the hearing shall be notified in advance of the hearing.

**NOTE:** In order to obtain a new hearing based upon newly discovered evidence, the party seeking the new hearing must establish that the newly discovered evidence:

- 1. will probably change the result if a new hearing is granted,
- 2. has been discovered since the initial hearing,
- 3. could not have been discovered before the initial hearing,
- 4. is material to the issue, and
- 5. is not merely cumulative or impeaching.

A new hearing on the merits of the hardship will be granted if the newly discovered evidence could not have been discovered by due diligence prior to the initial hearing. "Due diligence" is not to what the party actually discovered, but what he or she could have discovered had he or she exercised ordinary care.

Newly created evidence does not constitute newly discovery evidence. Newly created evidence is evidence that was known or should have been know prior to the hearing but did not exist at the time of the initial hearing and was generated thereafter.

The Executive Committee Requires That The Following Procedures Be Used When Making Appeals:

- A. Each appeal request must be made in writing by the superintendent or principal of the school(s) involved. It must include the reason(s) for requesting the appeal and must contain all the known facts pertinent to the appeal. The information accompanying the request must be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation.
- B. Copies of the appeal brief must be supplied in advance, either mailed or hand delivered, to the Commissioner, the members of the Executive Committee and to all other parties involved. All parties are to be offered an opportunity to appear before the Executive Committee. If time is short and the parties to be notified have not received copies of the appeal brief, sufficient copies of the brief must be available to all parties by the scheduled beginning time for the hearing.
- C. The school presenting an appeal will be limited to a ten-minute presentation. In the event that another school is present to present a refutation, the period will be extended to twenty minutes, provided that school has requested time on the agenda. If either school desires additional time, it must apply in advance, stating the reasons why the additional time is needed. An administrator or school official must represent all schools.
- D. At the conclusion of the presentation, members of the Committee will permit a brief period of time for specific questions.
- E. Persons presenting appeals should be businesslike in their presentations and should refrain from socializing with members of the Committee within the hearing room.
- F. Decisions by the Committee will be voted on in open session after the presentation of the case.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Commissioner**

- A. The Commissioner shall be employed by the Executive Committee who shall determine the term of employment, duties, salary and expenses.
- B. The Commissioner will have charge of all funds of the League and he or his designee will make a detailed report at the Legislative Assembly of all monies collected and paid out by the League. He shall pay out all monies under instructions from the Executive Committee, and shall furnish bond in the sum of \$100,000.00. The League will pay this premium.
- C. The Commissioner shall have control of all contests, but the Executive Committee can, for cause, overrule his decisions.
- D. The Commissioner may set aside the Constitution concerning eligibility if special conditions exist.

#### **Section 7. Special Conditions Eligibility**

- A. Ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as coming under the "special conditions" eligibility category. Ordinary cases of ineligibility are defined as those scenarios set forth and provided for in the Constitution.

**NOTE:** The rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League will be set aside only in extraordinary cases of ineligibility which involve the existence of special conditions, which may include medical conditions or financial conditions. Extraordinary cases of ineligibility involving the existence of extraordinary circumstances is defined as follows:

Extraordinary Circumstances:

- A. Circumstances which are unforeseeable, unavoidable and uncorrectable and which are completely beyond the control of the school, the coach, the student, the parents, the immediate household of the affected party, such that none of them could reasonably have been expected to comply with the rule; and
- B. Are not the result of actions, in whole or part, by the school, the coach, the student, the parents, the immediate household of the affected party; and
- C. Cause the imposition of severe and non-athletic burden upon the student and his/her family; and
- D. Are circumstances that are totally different from those that exist for the majority or even a small minority of students (e.g., usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems, and academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or extracurricular activities do not constitute a hardship).

Medical Hardship:

- A. A long-confining illness, injury or death that results in:
  - A change of the residence or the school attendance of the student's immediate household.
  - The significant interruption of the student's normal progression towards graduation.
- B. Conditions which produce severe and unusual emotional conditions which, in turn created a debilitating personal non-athletic hardship which would have prevented a reasonable student under similar circumstances from satisfactorily completing a school year or would have prevented a reasonable student under similar circumstances from remaining at the sending school.
- C. Injuries sustained in playing a sport do not constitute grounds for a medical hardship grant of an additional year.

Illness, injury, severe or unusual emotional conditions or other circumstances of a similar nature must be verified in writing by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.)

Financial Hardship:

To be eligible under a financial hardship, the following criteria must be met:

- A. There must be a change in the financial condition of the student's immediate household that did not exist at the start of the previous school year; and
- B. The changes in financial condition must be non-temporary, substantial and significantly beyond the control of the student and the student's immediate household.
- C. Documentation verifying the financial circumstances must be submitted with the petition (e.g. current & previous check stubs, documentation from previous & current employer, documentation from the South Carolina Employment Commission).

For any hardship sought the facts surrounding the alleged hardship must be clear, undisputed, and supported by appropriate documentation. In any application for a hardship under this Rule, the burden is upon the party seeking the hardship to show entitlement to a hardship by clear and convincing evidence.

The fact that a student has not participated for four seasons will not justify allowing such student to participate in interscholastic sports beyond the eighth semester after his or her entrance into the ninth grade.

A transfer to remedy academic difficulties or failures is not, by itself, considered grounds for a waiver under this provision. However, external circumstances beyond the student's control which can be documented to have caused the academic failure may be considered if the student demonstrates that he or she, and the student's family, exercised reasonable efforts during the year to address the academic deficiencies, and the sending school was unable or unwilling remedy such deficiencies.

1. Each request must be made in writing by the superintendent or principal of the member school and contain all the facts pertinent to the case and demonstrating why the request is not an ordinary case of ineligibility. An application form supplied by the League Office will be used.

**NOTE:** Before submitting a Hardship Request, the student must be a member of the submitting school, the submitting school should consider and determine whether the transfer to, or decision to remain at, the submitting school was the result of any of the aforementioned occurrences or factors beyond the control of the student. The Request should indicate which of the special conditions criteria are believed to be applicable.

2. The request must include sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. All documents necessary to reach a conclusion on the request must be attached to the request. In the event it is determined that a document necessary to reach a conclusion was inadvertently omitted, the Commissioner may contact the superintendent or principal to inform them that a conclusion cannot be made based upon the information submitted or that the conclusion will be adverse to the school without the supporting documentation. The superintendent or principal may then supplement the request provided the supplementation occurs within five (5) working days or two (2) days prior to the Executive Committee meeting (whichever comes first).

- B. Rulings made by the Commissioner may be appealed to the Executive Committee.
- C. The Executive Committee's cause for granting "special conditions" eligibility shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- D. Ignorance of the rule on the part of the school shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside the effects of the rule and shall not constitute a case of ordinary ineligibility.
- E. The decision of the Commissioner (whether appealed to the Executive Committee or not) or the decision of the Executive Committee to set aside the effects of a rule shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of somewhat similar nature.
- F. **The League may not set aside the age rule.**
- G. All parts of the Constitution that are in conflict with this article pertaining to the Executive Committee shall be null and void.

## ARTICLE V - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Section 1. Delegates

- A. The legislative power of the League shall be vested in a Legislative Assembly, composed of delegates representing the membership.
- B. **Each classification will have one delegate representative from each region.**
- C. Each classification will be permitted one vote for each 1,000 (or major part of 1,000) students represented by the class.
- D. Associate members will be permitted two delegates, each of whom will have one vote.
- E. At the time of his election, a delegate to the Legislative Assembly must be a superintendent, a principal, or a school administrator officially designated as such by the governing board. If the administrator is neither principal nor superintendent, he must have at least six years experience certified by the State Department of Education.
- F. **By November 15, delegates and alternates to the Legislative Assembly for the ensuing year shall have been elected by all conferences and submitted to the Commissioner. Failure to submit the delegate(s) by this date may cause the loss of the delegate(s) for that year.**

### Section 2. Annual Meeting

- A. The annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly shall be held on or before the second Wednesday in April.
- B. The purpose of this meeting shall be to consider legislative proposals and resolutions.
  - 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Commissioner by the principal or superintendent of a member school prior to January 1.
  - 2. The Commissioner shall submit the proposed amendments to the State Executive Committee for recommendation or non-recommendation prior to January 15.
  - 3. Proposed amendments shall be publicized in the January Bulletin of the League.
- C. The President and the Commissioner or his designee shall be speaker and secretary respectively of the Legislative Assembly. The secretary shall record the minutes of all Legislative Assembly meetings and mail copies to each school.
- D. The Legislative Assembly, by majority vote, may edit any amendment or resolution submitted for legislative action.
  - 1. A two-thirds majority shall be required for adoption of a proposed amendment and a majority shall be required for the adoption of a resolution.
  - 2. The President, in case of a tie vote, shall cast the deciding ballot.
- E. A delegate must be present at the Legislative Assembly in order to vote.
- F. Any delegate speaking must first give his name and the school area represented.
- G. The League, as determined by the Executive Committee, will pay expenses of the delegates.
- H. Any superintendent or principal who has submitted a proposed amendment may speak to the amendment if he has made the request in writing at least one week prior to the annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly. The above presentation to the Legislative Assembly is limited to five minutes by one person for each proposed amendment.
- I. Robert's Rules of Order will govern the procedures of the Legislative Assembly, and the Executive Committee will employ a parliamentarian.
- J. The Executive Committee will have the responsibility of clarifying amendments by using interpretations and notes.

## ARTICLE VI – CONFERENCES

### Section 1. Classification and Membership

- A. The membership will be divided into a minimum of three classifications determined by enrollments in grades 9-12. The enrollments used in the reclassification process shall be the 135 ADM for each school in the year 2010-2011.

**NOTE:** The number of classifications will be determined by the Executive Committee.

- B. Representatives of the schools in each class will meet and determine the divisions that are necessary. By vote of the Legislative Assembly, this may be delegated to a single committee representing all classifications or to a separate committee for each classification.

**NOTE:** The following reclassification/realignment process will be used:

- The schools will be divided among classifications, numerically, as evenly as possible, with strong consideration given to having an even number of schools in each classification (Example: 48, 50, 52, 54 etc., schools in a classification).
- Strong consideration shall be given to dividing the schools in a given classification into regions as evenly as possible (Example: regions of six, eight, etc.) while being mindful of the geographic issues that may impact this consideration.
- The SCHSL Executive Committee will hear appeals from the member schools in reference to their classification placement.
- The Classification Executive Committee will hear appeals from the member schools in reference to their region placement.
- It shall be the responsibility of each classification to create its Classification Executive Committee in a timely manner so as to not delay the process of finalizing all teams regions placements. The organizing of the Classification Executive Committee must involve all schools within the classification.
- Member schools may appeal decisions made by the Classification Executive Committee to the SCHSL Executive Committee.

### Section 2. State Conference and Region Constitutions

- A. The Executive Committee of all conferences will consist of the region coordinators and designated officers.
- B. At least 50% of the members of each executive committee must be principals or superintendents.
- C. State Conference and region constitutions must be in compliance with the League's Constitution and must be filed in the League Office.
- D. Conference and region organization must be perfected and reported to the Commissioner by May 1 of each year.
- E. Constitutions of new regions become effective the date that the constitution is ratified if there is not an effective date written into the document itself.

**NOTE:** No conference may take any action during a reclassification period that will affect a new member without that member having the opportunity to fully participate in that decision.

### Section 3. Transfers and Combinations of Schools

- A. A school may transfer from one region to another in the same classification with the approval of a majority of the member schools in both regions.
- B. A school transferring from one region to another will be entitled to its share of any funds in the region, but may expect to pay a fee equal to a member's share in the treasury of the new region.
- C. A school may also transfer from one classification to another, but will need a majority vote of the Executive Committees of the respective State Conferences in addition to the approval of

the individual regions involved.

- D. Two or more high schools under the same superintendent and governing board may combine for any activity sponsored by the League, provided the combination is approved by a majority vote of all schools in the region in which they desire to compete and by the Executive Committee of the appropriate State Conference as well as the Commissioner of the League.
1. To obtain permission to combine, the principals of all schools concerned must apply in writing to the region, to the president of the conference in which they wish to compete, and to the Commissioner at least 30 days in advance of the planned combination, clearly stating the reason for the combination.
  2. This must be done for each year that the schools plan to combine.
  3. Combinations where the combined enrollment exceeds the upper limits of a classification will be approved by the Commissioner for regular season play only unless approved otherwise by the State Conference.
  4. For activities decided by open competition, only the approval of the Conference Executive Committee is needed. If a region champion is determined, the affected region must approve the combination.

#### **Section 4. Region Championships**

- A. When a majority of the schools in a region request a championship in any activity, the region executive committee must provide a method of elimination.
- B. No school will be forced to compete in any activity of the League, but a school fielding a team shall play the teams required by the region.
- C. If a region representative(s) is not declared by the region executive committee, the Conference Executive Committee may declare a region representative(s).
- D. When a committee arranging for elimination contests names the teams to take part, the teams so named are released from any conflicting games on their schedules.  
**NOTE:** A contest having a bearing on a play-off position may not be forfeited if it is possible to play the contest.

#### **Section 5. State Championships**

- A. The Commissioner shall arrange schedules for region representative(s) to play for State championships.
- B. The League shall sponsor and control all championships. A championship shall be held in any activity in which more than half the members taking part vote in favor of it.  
**NOTE:** The League will sponsor a championship in each classification that has a minimum of 12 of its schools participating. If this requirement is not met, but a minimum fourteen schools in two adjoining classifications participate in a sport with a majority of the number coming from the higher classification, the League will sponsor a state championship for the combined classification.  
**NOTE:** Sixteen members must sponsor teams in a sport before an open State Championship may be declared.

## ARTICLE VII - STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina High School League, a student must be enrolled in and attending a member or associate member school. The student must also meet other necessary requirements of all sections of this article.

### Section 1. Age Limitations

- A. A student who becomes 19 years of age prior to July 1, 2010 will not be eligible to compete in any athletic activities during the 2010-2011 school year. Should a student become too old for a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, he may be considered as enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for eligibility purposes. **NOTE:** Students born before July 1, 1991 are ineligible to participate. A student on an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under team is ineligible if born before July 1, 1995. A student on a 9<sup>th</sup> grade and under team is ineligible if born before July 1, 1994.
- B. Refer to A-30 for Junior High and Middle School limitations.
- C. **The League's age rule may not be set-aside under the special conditions section of the Constitution.**

### Section 2. Birth Certification

- A. Schools shall have on file a copy of an official birth document for all student athletes. Any questions on authenticity will be submitted to the League Office.
- B. Official birth documents must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. It must be an original certified document.
  - 2. It must be obtained from the state, county, or city government in which the student was born.
  - 3. It must include the given and surnames.
  - 4. It must be legible and unaltered.
- C. Children born abroad may supply one of the following documents:
  - 1. If born abroad of American citizens:
    - a. Foreign Service Forms 240 or 545
    - b. Department of State Form 1350
    - c. Citizenship papers
    - d. Passport
  - 2. If born abroad of alien parents who are now U.S. citizens:
    - a. Immigration and Naturalization Service Form G-350
    - b. Original Naturalization Papers
  - 3. If born abroad and still a citizen of a foreign country:
    - a. Birth Certificates
    - b. Alien Card
    - c. Passports issued in foreign countries
- D. The following will not be accepted:
  - 1. Hospital Certificates
  - 2. Birth Notices
  - 3. Copies certified by Notaries
- E. Students participating in programs of member schools will submit official birth certificates to their principal for approval. Copies must be kept on file in the school.

### Section 3. Academic Requirements

- A. A student, while participating, must be a full-time student as determined by guidelines set forth by the State Department of Education. A student who is repeating a course for which he has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility. This is considered as monitoring a course.
- B. To participate in interscholastic athletic activities, students in grades 9-12 must achieve an overall passing average in addition to the following:
  1. To be eligible in the first semester a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school.

To be eligible during the second semester the student must meet one of the following conditions:

- a. If the student met first semester eligibility requirements then he or she must pass the equivalent of four,  $\frac{1}{2}$  units during the first semester.
- b. If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements then he or she must pass the equivalent of five,  $\frac{1}{2}$  units during the first semester.

In most cases on a traditional or AB block schedule, the following example would apply:

- If eligible first semester, must pass four subjects
- If not eligible first semester, must pass five subjects

In a 4 X 4 block schedule where units or  $\frac{1}{2}$  units are granted at the end of the first semester the following will apply:

- If eligible first semester, must earn 2 units

If not eligible first semester, must earn 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  units

2. Students must satisfy eligibility requirements in the semester preceding participation.
  - a. Credits earned in a summer school approved by the State Department of Education may apply for first semester eligibility. A maximum of two units per year may be used.
  - b. Students eligible for a first semester sport will be permitted to complete that sport even if it extends into the second semester. Under the current League program, this will apply to participants in basketball and wrestling in the high school and middle school programs.
3. Handicapped students:
  - a. Students diagnosed as handicapped and being served in a non-diploma program shall be considered eligible for participation in interscholastic activities if he/she is successfully meeting the requirements of his/her Individual Education Plan.
  - b. Students diagnosed as handicapped and being served in a program leading to a state high school diploma must meet all eligibility requirements previously stated for participation in interscholastic activities.
4. A course that is dropped after the 20th day of a semester with a failing average will be considered as a failed course when determining academic eligibility for the following semester.
5. Credit courses used for eligibility purposes must be courses that are applicable as credit toward a state high school diploma. A student may also use college credit courses provided the student has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation.
6. Academic deficiencies may not be made up through enrollment in adult education programs.

7. A maximum of two credit recovery units may be used toward eligibility, to include the two units presently allowed in summer school. The course would have to be accepted by the State Department of Education for graduation and accredited by a certified teacher in that field. To be eligible for recovery credits, the student must have received a minimum grade of 60.

**NOTE: Credit recovery/incompletes must be completed by the following dates:**

**Courses taken for first semester eligibility - August 16, 2010**

**Courses taken for second semester eligibility - March 7, 2011**

- C. A student must not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- D. Academic requirements for students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grades, including first semester 9th graders are:
  1. Students passing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades by academic promotion (not by social promotion or placement) are considered as having met the requirements for academic eligibility for first semester.
  2. Students in grades seven and eight must be meeting the school district promotion policy at the end of the first semester in order to be eligible second semester. (Second semester ninth grade students must meet League academic regulations.)
  3. A seventh or eighth grade repeater shall not be eligible during a school year if academic requirements for promotion were met during the previous year.

**NOTE:** A student failing the seventh or eighth grade is eligible during second semester if he has satisfactorily passed first semester work.
- E. Schools will follow the procedures outlined in the School Administrators Guide, published by the State Department of Education, in accepting or rejecting credits received by a student while the student is enrolled in private schools, including home schools and/or out of state schools.

#### **Section 4. Semesters Defined**

##### **A. FIRST SEMESTER:**

1. The first semester begins when classes convene on the first day of the semester and ends when classes are dismissed on the last day of the semester.
2. A semester is half a school year.

##### **B. SECOND SEMESTER:**

The second semester begins when classes convene on the first day of second semester. Second semester ends when classes are dismissed on the last day of the semester.

**NOTE:** Second semester eligibility begins when first semester ends and the student is added to the certificate of eligibility form signed by the principal.

#### **Section 5. School Enrollment and Attendance**

- A. A student must be enrolled in the school at which he participates. If a school district assigns students to a school in the same district and that school has no athletic program, the district can request that these students be considered as enrolled in the district's school in whose attendance area they live. This request must be made in writing by the school district and must apply to all students assigned to that school. This would be for athletic purposes only. Enrollment is defined as actual matriculation (complete registration) and physical attendance in classes for one day or participation in a contest prior to either semester. Enrollment must be continuous while participating.
- B. If an interscholastic contest occurs before the formal opening of school, a student is eligible to represent the school if he attended the school during the previous semester, or is living in the attendance area of the school because of a change of residence on the part of the parent or legal guardian and has formally registered in the new school.

1. The student must be eligible in all respects.
  2. In case of a new student, he must be properly registered in his new school and he must have been eligible by South Carolina High School League standards to represent the school from which he transfers.
- C. If a student fails to enroll and attend classes for one day by the eighth calendar day of the first semester, he will not be allowed to take part in any contest of the League until he has been a bona fide regular attendant for thirty calendar days. This enrollment must be in the school in which he is in attendance or in the school from which he was forced to transfer.
- D. A pupil enrolled in the eighth grade for the first time and taking subjects offered in the ninth grade for credit toward a high school diploma will not be considered as having enrolled in the ninth grade.

## **Section 6. Participation and Practice Limitations**

- A. A student must not participate under an assumed name.
- B. A student will become ineligible for interscholastic competition at the end of the fourth school year from the time that he first enrolled in the ninth grade. (Once a student enters the ninth grade, he/she has eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.)
- C. A student must be enrolled in the seventh grade or above.  
**NOTE:** Students who have exceeded the eight semesters of eligibility or are in the sixth grade or below may not practice nor participate with the schools' teams to include spring practice.
- D. With the exception of football, wrestling, lacrosse and soccer, eligible seventh and eighth grade students may participate on varsity teams.
- E. Participation on junior varsity and "B" teams will be left to the discretion of the local school authorities. It is recommended that teams below the varsity level be restricted to students in the tenth grade and below.
- F. A student whose name appears on a school's football certificate of eligibility shall not practice with nor participate on another football team for which he has been certified. This restriction includes tryouts. Violation of this regulation will render the student ineligible in football for the remainder of the present school year.  
**NOTE:** Any student in the uniform of and permitted in the bench area of one of the competing teams is considered as having participated.
- G. College tryouts during a sport season are prohibited in that sport.
- H. Students will not be permitted to participate on teams with the opposite sex, except that a girl may participate on a boys' team if no girls' team in that sport is offered.
- I. A student may participate in only one football game in any one day. Students participating in lacrosse, soccer and basketball will be restricted to one game per day except they may play in two games in one day in an invitational tournament. There must be a minimum of one hour's rest between games.
- J. No school shall permit a team to take part in a contest after its regular season or its elimination from the state play-offs. An individual may not transfer to another school team still involved in the regular season or play-offs if his/her team has been eliminated from the play-offs or completed his/her regular season. The Executive Committee may extend the regular season for non-contact activities if in its opinion such extensions are in the best interest of the students involved.  
**NOTE:** Sub-varsity teams must complete their schedule prior to the day of the first round of play-offs in that sport. Exception: Class AAAA football.
- K. No school shall permit out of season practice in any activity that is not open to all students and mandatory for none.

## Section 7. Residency and Attendance Area

- A. A student must reside in the State of South Carolina and is expected to attend the high school which serves the attendance area in which his parent or parents, or legally appointed guardian reside. (Refer to page 15, Section 10 on Guardianship)
- B. A student shall always be eligible under the residency rule at the last school where eligibility was established.
- C. An attendance area must be considered as an area set up by the proper school authorities from which students in such area attend the high school designated for that area.

## Section 8. Original Eligibility

A student establishes his eligibility when he is academically promoted to and first attends school in the seventh grade. He is eligible at this school and the school that it feeds until he attends another school.

**Note:** Should the feeder school (middle or junior high school under the governing board of a member 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 lives. The residence must be in the school district of the middle school that the student is attending.

## Section 9. Transfers

A transfer student will be ineligible 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):

- 1. The student must be eligible to represent the school from which he transferred (see note)  
**NOTE:** A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his former school academically as well as eligible under any district, school or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred.
- 2. 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 and had attended the non-member school the previous two semesters.

In addition to the two requirements set forth above, a student must also transfer under one of the following circumstances to be immediately eligible.

- A. The student and his parents must have a bona fide change of residence from the attendance area of the former school into the attendance area of the new school. A "bona fide change of residence" is defined as follows:
  - 1. The move must be with the intent of being permanent.
  - 2. Under no circumstances can a family have two residences for eligibility purposes.
  - 3. The head(s) of the family must make the change.
  - 4. The entire household and furniture must be moved into the new residence.
  - 5. The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.

**NOTE: (Applies to the above mentioned A1 thru A5)** When parents are not separated by court action and when they are residing in different places, the residence is generally considered the residence formerly used by both parents. It is difficult to determine intent when residences are of short duration. Therefore, should the family move out of the attendance area before one calendar year has

passed, the student will be declared ineligible on the date of the move. When there is doubt, the principal should present all facts to the League Office. The League Office will decide on each case individually, considering the facts of each case.

6. If a student established residence with a person other than a parent prior to enrollment in the seventh grade and this residence is not broken, it will be considered the same as residing with a parent. The student, after entering the seventh grade, will have a one time move to a biological parent(s) and be given immediate eligibility.
  7. The transfer of school following a “bona fide change of residence” must take place prior to the beginning of the following school year. If a student transfers at any other time, he will be ineligible for one calendar year.  
**NOTE:** *If because of changes in attendance area lines by the governing board a student's residence is placed in another attendance area, this will be considered the same as a bona fide change of address.*
  8. Emancipated students that transfer will be ineligible for one calendar year.
- B. A student legally transfers to another school in the same district at the beginning of his/her 9<sup>th</sup> grade year provided the student and his/her family live in the school district.
- C. A student transfers from a nonmember school to a member school.
1. The student's parents must live in the attendance area of the member school.
  2. The student cannot have participated in the sport in which he wishes to be certified during the current school year at the school from which he is transferring. If a student transfers from out-of-state to in-state with a bona fide change of residence, this rule is not in effect.
  3. The student must have been enrolled in the nonmember school for at least 45 school days prior to transferring.
- D. A student who enters a high school IB Diploma (Not Pre-IB) or Magnet School program offered by the school district in which the student lives will have a one time move to that program and a one time move back to his/her home school without loss of eligibility. Students entering the magnet program must do so as 9th graders only. The move to or from these programs 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.
- E. A student, whose parents separate by court action or divorce and establish residency in different areas, has the option of establishing eligibility with either parent.
1. The separation must be by court action, signed by a judge or stamped by clerk of court.
  2. A transfer of schools must take place prior to the beginning of the following school year.
  3. If an in-state student later transfers to the other parent, he will have a one year's waiting period unless the change of residence is necessary because of the death of the other parent.
  4. 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.
- F. A student is placed by the courts in an orphanage or foster home.
1. Written notice of the assignment must be filed in the League Office.
  2. Transfer must be to the school in whose attendance area the orphanage or foster home is located.

- G. A student has parents who are citizens of the United States, but reside outside the contiguous United States. Eligibility will be at the school in whose attendance area his temporary guardian resides. He may not transfer from this school unless there is a bona fide change of residence on the part of the temporary guardian.
- H. If both parents are deceased, the student will become eligible on the day the legal guardianship papers are recorded in the office of the clerk of court.
- I. If a handicapped student is assigned to another school to take a special program associated with the handicapping condition that is not offered in his home school, he will have immediate eligibility at the new school.
- J. When the option of attending a diploma granting vocational school exists and the transfer is made at the end of the eighth grade, the student is eligible at the diploma granting vocational school immediately. Students entering a vocational school at any other time will be required to wait a calendar year before being eligible.

### **Section 10. Guardianship**

A legally appointed guardian will have the same status as a parent under the following circumstances:

- A. Both parents are deceased.
- B. Both parents reside outside the contiguous United States and the parents are United States citizens.
- C. A student becomes a ward of the court and the Department of Social Services assumes legal guardianship.
  - 1. In this case, the parents or former guardians retain no legal rights to or control over the student.
  - 2. Foster parents will be recognized immediately.
- D. A student becomes the ward of an orphanage.

### **Section 11. Foreign Exchange Students**

- 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 League transfer rules in order to maintain eligibility.
  - 2. Are part of an approved foreign exchange student program that is listed by CSIET upon enrolling in a member school.
  - 3. Have been assigned to schools by a method, which ensures that no student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment for athletic purposes.
  - 4. Have not graduated or were not eligible for graduation from high school.
  - 5. Meet all other eligibility standards while a student at a member school.
  - 6. Are submitted on a SCHSL FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUEST FORM that has been approved by a member of the League Staff.
- B. A South Carolina student returning to his original school from a foreign exchange program may resume athletic competition provided he meets all requirements relative to age and semesters of eligibility.
  - 1. If the student did not receive credits for graduation while participating in the exchange program, he will use the semester immediately preceding enrollment in the program to meet the academic standard.
  - 2. The year spent in the exchange program will count as one of the four allowable years of eligibility.

## Section 12. Effects of School Disciplinary Actions

- A. A student dismissed from or facing disciplinary action can return to his/her original school and use credits earned in another school sponsored program in his/her school district in order to meet the academic requirements for athletic eligibility. This student will lose eligibility for a minimum of 45 school days, inclusive of the days spent at the other school-sponsored program.

**NOTE:** Summer school days do not count towards the 45 days.

- B. A student under suspension from school may not participate in an activity of the League.
- C. A student suspended from one school cannot transfer to another school in order to avoid discipline.
- D. A student, who transfers from one school to another while under expulsion or facing expulsion, shall be ineligible to participate in any South Carolina High School League activity for one calendar year.

**INTERPRETATION:** Expulsion is defined as the dismissal of a student from school by the board of trustees.

- E. A student shall not be ineligible for longer than one calendar year for a single disciplinary violation provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

## Section 13. Amateur Status

- A. A student must maintain an amateur status.
- B. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. No participants may accept material awards in excess of actual expenses, including hotel bills and transportation. The word symbolic is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. The following are permitted when given by the school: regular letter awards of the school; miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs, track shoes or other similar emblematic awards; sweaters or jackets; ribbons, banners, medals, trophies, plaques, cups, etc., and banquets. The following are not permitted: wearing apparel; service (such as board, laundry, dry cleaning, etc.); membership in other than school letter organizations; fountain pens or similar articles that have distinct economic value and may be sold freely and easily on the regular market.

**NOTE:** If watches and rings are given, they must be symbolic in value and shall not exceed \$100.00.

**NOTE:** Student athletes who accept a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program will not be in violation of this rule.

Awards or gifts given to golfers or tennis players such as balls, shoes, rackets, or clubs are a violation of this rule. Coaches are responsible for making this known to their players.

## Section 14. Recruiting

- A. The recruiting or proselyting of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing high school athletics.
- B. A student may not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person, or group, in any attempt to entice him to transfer for athletic purposes. Some examples of undue influence are:
  - 1. Asked by a member of the school faculty or member of a "booster organization" of a school to transfer from one school to another.
  - 2. Financial aid for transportation, room, board or clothing.
  - 3. Promise of a job for the student and/or parent or guardian.
  - 4. Special privileges given to parents such as employment, free or reduced rent, etc.
  - 5. Promise of help in securing a college scholarship.

6. Other privileges or consideration made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his athletic ability.
  7. Given any consideration not afforded other students.
- C. Any student transferring as a result of recruiting or undue influence may be declared ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of the determination of the violation. Any school adjudged guilty of being part of such undue influence shall be subjected to disciplinary action by the League.

### **Section 15. Ineligible Participants**

A. **AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER MUST NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION.**

This applies to any level of competition including varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school, "B" and any other teams representing a school. The use of an ineligible player will subject a school to suspension, probation and/or fine. Any student in the uniform of one of the competing schools and permitted in the bench area is considered as having participated in the game or scrimmage.

**NOTE:** Any student that participates before fulfilling the requirements of a mandated athletic suspension will be declared an ineligible participant.

B. The following penalties will apply when an ineligible student participates:

1. The player will be dropped from the team immediately.
2. All contests in which the ineligible player dressed will be forfeited.
3. All honors or individual points earned will be forfeited.
4. The school will be reprimanded and fined \$300.00.

C. 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 Article VII, Section 15.B shall be taken.

D. If the school knowingly played the ineligible student, the Commissioner may fine and/or discipline the school, program or team, to include fine, and/or warn, probation, or suspension. In lieu of the suspension, the Executive Committee may fine the school \$2500.00 for each ineligible player and place the program or team involved on probation for a period of time not to exceed one calendar year.

### **Section 16. Certificate of Eligibility and Other Forms**

A. All students in each sport must be submitted on a certificate of eligibility before being allowed to participate.

1. Eligibility is the responsibility of the principal and the principal must sign all eligibility forms.
2. If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a student, the case should be presented in written detail to the Commissioner.
3. If an ineligible student is submitted on a certificate of eligibility and the student does not participate, the school will be fined \$50.00.
4. Initial eligibility forms containing at least the number of students composing a legal team must be submitted to the League Office at least seven days before the first regular season contest. (A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to any school not meeting this deadline.)

**NOTE:** If a school is participating in a preseason tournament more than seven days prior to its first regular season game, the certificate of eligibility must be submitted before participation in this tournament.

5. The minimum number of students necessary to compose a team are: Football - 11, Volleyball - 6, Cross Country - 5, Tennis - 3, Basketball - 5, Soccer - 11, Wrestling - 7, Golf - 4, Track and Field - 6, Baseball - 9, Softball - 9, Competitive Cheer - 8, Swimming - 6, Boys' Lacrosse - 10 and Girls' Lacrosse - 12.
  6. Eligibility forms will be kept on file in the League Office for five years.
- B. Each school will be furnished three posters summarizing the League's eligibility rules. These posters are to be placed in (1) the boys' dressing room, (2) the girls' dressing room, and (3) a prominent thoroughfare in the school.
- C. Each school shall keep on file, a duplicate copy of all submitted eligibility forms, transfer form (if applicable), a parent's permission record properly filled out and a physical form properly completed by a licensed doctor of medicine or a nurse practitioner in a written collaboration with a licensed medical doctor or a certified physicians assistant in a written collaboration with a licensed medical doctor.
1. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
  2. Forms can be found on the League website.
  3. A physical examination is valid from April 1 of the current school year through the following school year.
- D. *Special Form A* must be sent to the League Office on each transfer student who has not been enrolled in his school or feeder school for at least one calendar year. The League Office must approve all transfer forms before the student is submitted on a Certificate of Eligibility.
- E. A Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility Request Form must be approved by a member of the League Staff prior to submission on a certificate of eligibility. **Do not submit Special Form A for foreign exchange students.**
- F. The records of each school shall be open to inspection or investigation by the Commissioner or his representative. Any school failing to open these records for investigation shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 and/or dismissed from the League for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- Schools who violate any of the preceding sections of this article shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$2,500.00 and/or suspension for not more than one calendar year.**

## ARTICLE VIII. - SCHOOL REGULATIONS

### Section 1. Schedules

Each school will furnish the Commissioner a copy of all varsity sport schedules. Dates for submitting schedules are listed on page B-3. Schools that are late in submitting these schedules will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee.

### Section 2. Opponents

- A. No school shall enter any contest with a South Carolina public school that is not a member of the League or with a public high school in another state that is not a member of the high school association of that state.
1. Schools may play non-member private schools, parochial schools and preparatory schools. This rule specifically forbids schools from playing South Carolina public schools, which are not members of the League. Refer to page A-28 for Policies governing contests with non-public high schools.

2. Schools may play teams such as college freshman, alumni or textile teams provided these games are included on the regular schedule of the school and inclusion does not cause the school to exceed the limits in number of regular season games allowed.
  3. A game between the team of a school and a team composed of faculty members of the same school is not considered an interscholastic contest and would not come under this ruling. Such game is legal provided it is played within one month after the conclusion of the sport season.
- B. Any school who has reason to believe that another school may be playing an ineligible student must notify that school and the League Office immediately. Any school knowingly playing against an ineligible player shall suffer the same penalty that is imposed on the school playing the ineligible.
  - C. No school shall allow its team to engage in a contest with any school suspended for an infraction of the eligibility rules of the League.
  - D. No school shall allow its team to engage in any invitational or play-off event with a school placed on probation by this or any other State Athletic Association.
  - E. No school shall allow its team to engage in any contest with a school involved in, or subject of, any litigation that prohibits the League, its Executive Committee or its Commissioner from enforcing the Constitution or Rules and Regulations.

### **Section 3. Coaches**

- A. No school shall employ anyone as head coach in any sport who is not at least a half-time employee in the school district, and who does not receive his entire pay for coaching from the governing board of the school district in which he/she is employed.
  1. Any coach who has retired from the South Carolina Retirement System is exempt from this section provided he/she coached the sport for at least ten years.
  2. Assistant coaches who do not meet the foregoing qualifications must receive their entire pay for coaching from the governing board.
  3. All responsibilities and control of the team must be in the hands of the head coach or acting head coach and may not be delegated to an assistant. Assistant coaches should have the same qualifications as the head coach but it is not mandatory.
  4. Exceptions to the head coach policy may be made provided the coach satisfactorily completes the coaches education program. All requests for exceptions to the head coach policy must be submitted in writing for approval by the League Office and:
    - a. A letter giving the following assurances must be submitted to the League Office for approval prior to this person assuming his or her duties.
    - b. The principal of the school certifies that there is no one in the school that can fill the coaching positions.
    - c. The principal assumes full responsibility for the person appointed to fill this position.
    - d. Any pay received for filling this position comes from the governing board.

**NOTE:** Volunteer coaches must do nothing more than help coach. If a volunteer coach becomes involved in any confrontation, the school must assume full responsibility and have them removed from their coaching duties for the remainder of the year in all sports.

- B. A school will not permit its athletic coach to accept a gift if the gift is given as a part of a statewide promotion without the approval of the Executive Committee or if the gift is given by external sources as a means of advertisement.

**NOTE:** The Executive Committee strongly recommends that school boards discourage large or expensive gifts to athletic coaches. It is not the intent of this recommendation to discourage token gifts to coaches by athletic teams.

#### **Section 4. Scouting - Photographic Equipment**

- A. A school will not permit the use of photographic equipment or the use of pictures made with such equipment in scouting the athletic events of opponents except under the following circumstances:
  - 1. If the event is a regular season event and written permission is granted by all participating teams.
  - 2. If the event is a play-off event and written permission is obtained from all competing teams and the Commissioner.
- B. This section does not prohibit exchange of film or tape by coaches.

#### **Section 5. Inter-Team Scrimmages (Grades 9-12)**

- A. Inter-team scrimmages in all varsity sports shall be limited to four pre-season scrimmages.  
**NOTE:** Pre-season is interpreted as being prior to the first regular season contest.
  - 1. An inter-team scrimmage is a scrimmage between two or more teams not composed of students of the same school.
  - 2. Only eligible students may scrimmage.
  - 3. A school may hold an inter-team scrimmage on the eighth day of legal practice.
  - 4. Schools will be permitted two sub-varsity scrimmages and a jamboree.
- B. In all inter-team scrimmages, the following regulations are to be observed.
  - 1. Total time for two teams is four consecutive hours, with maximum scrimmage time of three hours. Total time for three or more teams is five consecutive hours, with maximum scrimmage time of four hours.
  - 2. Schools may charge for **one** inter-team scrimmage.
  - 3. No official will be paid a fee for services. Expenses may be paid.
  - 4. Coaches of either team may stop play at any time for instructional purposes.
  - 5. Officials will be used if available. If not, assistant coaches will be assigned to these duties to help prevent injuries to players.
- C. Schools are permitted one intra-team scrimmage for which admission can be charged without it being considered one of the four allowable scrimmages.

#### **Section 6. Post Season or Bowl Games**

No participation will be allowed in an out of state game that is construed as a post season or bowl game.

#### **Section 7. All-Star Games**

A school will not permit its coaches, its facilities or its students to be a part of any all-star game in which high school students participate other than the North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl Football Game or the annual all-star games sponsored by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association and the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports.

**NOTE:** The League does not claim jurisdiction over students following graduation. However, because of the NCAA All-Star requirements and in order to protect the collegiate eligibility of our graduates, football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, wrestling, golf, tennis and soccer all-star games held by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association are approved.

#### **Section 8. Contracts for Contests**

- A. Failure to fulfill a contract properly signed by the superintendent, principal or athletic director may subject the school to disciplinary action. A contract shall be the agreement of the parties concerned, reduced to writing and signed by each school.
  - 1. Schools will not make contracts for more than two years. Any contract made for more than two years will not be valid.

2. Official contract forms may be obtained from the League Office or from the web page.
- B. So that opponents will know the grade level of the various teams sponsored by a member school, the member school will issue contracts and designate the top grade level permitted on the non-varsity teams for football, wrestling, and soccer. (Example: Junior Varsity--tenth grade and under.)
- C. The Commissioner will not enforce oral contracts or oral agreements to changes in written contracts.

**NOTE:** The Executive Committee considers it a breach of contract and unsportsmanlike conduct when a school official removes a team from the playing area before a game is completed.

### **Section 9. School's Responsibility For Safety and Conduct**

- A. A school shall be responsible for the conduct of its coaches and players and shall provide ample police protection for all games.
  1. If few spectators and no spectator problems are expected, uniformed policemen may not be required for sports other than varsity football and varsity basketball.
  2. It is urged that a fence or wall enclose the football field to aid the officials in the administration of the game.

**NOTE:** The Executive Committee strongly recommends that schools reserve and designate certain sections as visitors' seats. These should be good seats on the opposite side of the playing area from the home fans. Home fans should be restricted from roaming or standing in front of the visitors stands and vice versa.

3. It is the responsibility of the host school to furnish clean and sanitary dressing room accommodations for the visiting school. A school failing to furnish adequate dressing facilities will be reported to the League Office.
- B. Only authorized persons are permitted in the team's bench area and the school is held responsible for the actions of all the persons permitted in this area whether it be coach, physician, cheerleader, student or spectator.
- C. In case of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the coaches, school officials, players, students or spectators of a school, the school will be subject to discipline by the Commissioner consisting of a warning or reprimand, probation not to exceed a year and/or a fine not to exceed \$300.00.
- D. In cases of more serious unsportsmanlike actions, the Executive Committee may discipline the school by a fine not to exceed \$2,500.00 and/or suspension from the League not to exceed one year.

**Schools who violate any of the preceding sections of this article may be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 and not more than \$2,500.00 and/or suspension for not more than one calendar year.** The League's Statement of Policy concerning unsportsmanlike conduct is on page A-25.

## **ARTICLE IX - PROTESTS - CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS**

### **Section 1. Protests**

For the purpose of this section, a protest is an objection to the outcome of a contest or to the eligibility of a student. Protests involving sport rules will be heard only in those sports that allow protests by state adopted rules. **NOTE:** This currently applies to baseball and softball only.

### **Section 2. Procedures for Filing Protests**

- A. Protests based on eligibility and protests between schools of different regions will be ruled on by the Commissioner.

- B. Protests (except those on eligibility) within a region will be ruled on by the region executive committee.
- C. Appeals to rulings by the region executive committee and rulings by the Commissioner shall be heard by the Executive Committee and shall be made in accordance with Article IV, Section 5. A protest against a school will not be considered by any committee of the League until the head of the accused school (or representative) has been furnished copies of all communications having a bearing on the case.
- D. The Commissioner shall not consider any protest against a school without a written request from the principal or superintendent of the school making the protest.
  - 1. The protest must identify the player(s) or situation(s) in question.
  - 2. The protest must stipulate at least one reasonable alleged violation.
- E. The district superintendent and principal of the school filing a request for an investigation or an appeal shall receive a written copy of any decision rendered by the Commissioner or the Executive Committee.

**Section 3. Replacing Teams in Play-offs**

- A. If a team is eliminated before a play-off game, the region from which the eliminated team comes shall have the right to select another region representative.
- B. If a team is eliminated after the first play-off game, the ineligible team will be eliminated as soon as the violation is detected and the schedule of elimination will continue.
- C. If the team with the ineligible player won the last elimination game prior to the time declared ineligible, the game shall not count and the team with the eligible players shall continue in the elimination.

**ARTICLE X - FINANCES**

**Section 1. Dues**

- A. Annual membership dues shall be based on each school's classification according to the following schedule:
 

A.....	\$200.00	AAA.....	\$400.00
AA.....	\$300.00	AAAA .....	\$600.00
- B. Each associate member will pay dues of \$100.00.
- C. All annual dues will be payable on July 1.
  - 1. Membership will terminate if not paid by December 1.
  - 2. Schools playing football must pay dues by September 15 to be eligible to play the current season.
- D. Any school becoming a member of the League will pay an initiation fee equal to a present member's proportionate share of the League's surplus at the end of the preceding year. This fee will be paid in addition to the school's annual dues.
- E. If the League's cash surplus exceeds the League's budget for the following year, the excess will be distributed to the schools in the form of credit on their dues for the following year.

**Section 2. Gate Receipts**

- A. The League will receive 20% of the gross gate receipts of specified post-season events. Region Tournaments and play-in games are considered post-season play.
- B. The League will receive 20% of the gross gate receipts for jamborees after fifteen hundred dollars for expenses have been excluded. The League's share from any jamboree shall not exceed five thousand dollars.
- C. The League will not receive any share of invitational tournaments.
- D. A financial statement for all interscholastic events not on the regular season schedule as well as the League's 20%, when applicable, must be sent to the League Office within fifteen

days.

**NOTE:** In any play-off contest in which disbursements exceed receipts, the League Office will refund to the play-off director the amount of the loss not exceeding the total amount of the 20%.

#### **ARTICLE XI - LEAGUE PASSES**

- A. The League Office will issue identification cards (passes) to schools according to the following plan:
1. All coaches verified by their principal as full time coaches. Up to two cheerleader sponsors may be included with this list of coaches for schools who do not participate in competitive cheer. Schools may include certified athletic trainers and one athletic secretary to receive passes.
  
  2. Associate member schools that have an interscholastic program in football and/or basketball may receive a maximum of six passes for administrators, coaches and certified athletic trainers.
- B. Each superintendent, assistant and/or area superintendent, principal and assistant principal (designated as such on the State Accreditation Report of a member school) will be issued a pass.
- C. Members and former members of the Executive Committee and the League Staff will also receive passes.
- D. Athletic directors, athletic coaches, principals, and superintendents with a minimum of ten years experience in any category, and retired from the State Retirement system, may receive a pass by applying in writing to the League Office.
- E. Four passes shall be issued to four-year in-state colleges and/or universities with football programs.
- F. All other four-year in-state colleges shall be issued two passes.
- G. The spouse of a deceased athletic coach who coached for at least ten years shall be issued a pass upon written request to the Commissioner.
- H. In addition, district directors of officials' associations will receive passes to be used for scouting their particular sports.
- I. Replacement passes will cost \$20.00.

**NOTE:** Only League passes will be honored for play-off contests.

#### **ARTICLE XII - OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS**

National Federation Rules shall govern all athletic contests.

**NOTE:** There will be no deviations other than those adopted by the Executive Committee or the Legislative Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE XIII - AWARDS**

- A. The student's principal or the Commissioner must approve all awards.
- B. Outside agencies that desire to present awards or recognize students should first secure concurrence of the school principal.
- C. Permission for statewide recognition should be received from the Commissioner.
- D. A plan for awards to State Champions and runners-up, both individual and team, will be devised by the Executive Committee and will be given to the League Office as instructions.
1. All trophies awarded in any tournament in competition towards a state championship shall

- bear the seal of the League.
2. No awards other than those presented by the High School League will be permitted for any competition beyond region play.
  3. Region trophies may not exceed 21" in height.

#### **ARTICLE XIV - OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATIONS**

##### **Section 1. Organization**

- A. The League has the authority to organize and institute officials' associations for the sports in which its members participate.
- B. These organizations will furnish schools with certified officials for their games.
- C. All officials in any varsity football, basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, volleyball, competitive cheer, lacrosse and soccer contests must be certified by the office of the Commissioner.

##### **Section 2. Fees**

- A. Officials' fees shall be set at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.
- B. Fees to be charged each official for membership shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

**NOTE:** Officials' associations must submit their proposals to the Commissioner by December 1.

#### **OTHER REGULATIONS**

##### **Scholar Athlete**

Each year the League will recognize student athletes who excel academically. The following criteria will be used for selection:

1. Selections must be seniors who have lettered in two sports for at least one season or in one sport for at least two seasons. Outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship must have been exhibited.
2. Selections must have achieved at least a 3.5 GPR.
3. All selections must be submitted to the League Office by March 15. Grades will be cumulative through the end of first semester.

**NOTE:** It is recommended that the student letter as a senior to receive this award.

The school at their end of the year ceremonies should present awards furnished by the League. A news release to the media will be made.

##### **Support Cheerleaders**

It is necessary to regulate certain activities of cheerleading squads when they are performing at League events. This is to better insure the safety of the athletes and the officials as well as the cheerleaders themselves. **It is the responsibility of the school administration to enforce these regulations.**

###### 1. FOOTBALL

If cheerleaders are allowed along the sidelines, a parallel line five yards from the sidelines must restrict their movement toward the field. Jewelry will not be worn at any time.

###### 2. BASKETBALL

Cheerleaders must be in the bleachers except during full time-outs, end of quarters and half time. Mascots are considered cheerleaders. Megaphones for vocal cheering will be used only by cheerleaders. Jewelry will not be worn at any time.

###### 3. ALL SPORTS

When building pyramids, no cheerleader may stand or sit on another cheerleader who does

not have at least one foot or knee on the floor. Jewelry will not be worn at any time. **No basket tosses or double-twist to a cradle are allowed.** It is recommended that cheerleaders and cheerleader coaches/advisors follow the Spirit Rules book published by the National Federation of State High School Associations. These guides may be obtained from the League Office.

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

The State Athletic Administrators Association has joined with the League's Executive Committee in continuing to emphasize the urgent need for impeccable sportsmanship by our players, coaches, and fans. Good sportsmanship and good conduct go hand in hand with high school athletics. Athletic administrators, coaches, players, and officials have the greatest responsibility to see that conduct and sportsmanship are at the highest level possible.

**Athletic Directors** are responsible for administration and supervision of local athletic programs, including the conduct of fans at athletic events. The Board of Education should develop a sportsmanship policy and philosophy and direct the administrators to carry it out. Guidelines and policies need to be implemented, and those attending games should be informed through news media, cheerleaders, and others, that poor conduct and poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

**Coaches** must exemplify through their own actions and behavior an acceptable example of good sportsmanship and conduct. Coaches have access to their players on a daily basis and they need to take time to stress the importance of good conduct and sportsmanship by players in interscholastic contests. Allowing players to commit an unsportsmanlike act without a reprimand is really telling the player he has done nothing wrong.

**Players** must be held accountable for their actions and be taught what is acceptable and what is not. Actions by individuals to call attention to themselves are a distraction to any game and are counterproductive to the high school philosophy of promoting a total team concept.

Fireworks – All fireworks and explosive devices are prohibited on school facilities at League events. **A \$1000 fine will be imposed per occurrence for violations of this rule.**

Baiting and taunting must be eliminated totally from all athletic activities. It should be the goal of everyone to have the outcome of each contest determined by athletic skills and hard work and to never let baiting and taunting or other negative actions be a factor. Examples of baiting and taunting are: finger pointing, shooting motions to imply superiority, gestures with obscene connotations, excessive talking to distract or intimidate. This will also include signs or flags used to incite spectators and interfere with the orderly flow of the game.

The above list is not complete but it should give enough direction to coaches and officials to reach agreement on the kinds of conduct that must be eliminated. It will take a concerted effort, but we are convinced that we can keep interscholastic sports as the greatest perpetuator of sportsmanship in athletics today.

The South Carolina High School League expects that all persons representing a member school shall treat their opponents with respect and courtesy and anything less is unacceptable. Personal conduct of athletes, coaches, and other school personnel in which interscholastic athletics are not involved is a matter to be resolved by the member school. This position also gives the host school the authority to determine who may perform as a supplement at an athletic event.

**Officials** at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of professionalism, self-discipline, independence and responsibility.

## UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

**Unsportsmanlike acts** that take place at the site of an interscholastic contest are League matters. All ejections must be reported by the school to the League office by noon of the following day. The League shall discipline violators of the following items:

1. An athlete who is ejected for using abusive language, flagrantly or maliciously contacting another person, making obscene gestures to opponents or spectators, shall be ineligible for a minimum of the next contest to the maximum of one year depending on the seriousness of the violation.  
Any attempt to verbally abuse, make obscene gesture to, threaten or strike an official or member of the opposing coaching staff, shall be considered a serious violation making the athlete ineligible for a minimum of the next two contests to the maximum of one year. Any action that warrants a maximum penalty will also require that the school be placed on immediate probation in that sport. The League Office will review any other action(s) that result in an ejection with the possibility of additional penalties.  
**NOTE: Ejections that subject a player to next game(s) suspension will result in a minimum of two (2) games for all sports except football, cheer, swim and lacrosse.**  
**NOTE: Any ejection that warrants games(s) suspension will require the removal of the athlete's eligibility until the suspension has been served at the level of the ejection.**
2. Any athlete who leaves the bench area to become involved in a fracas will be disqualified from that game and will be subject to a minimum of a next game suspension depending on his or her involvement. A school whose athletes violate this bench policy will be subject to League discipline.
3. An athlete who is ejected for the second time in the same sport will have his or her athletic eligibility removed for a minimum of two weeks. An athlete who has been ejected from three contests during a school year (all sports) shall become ineligible for the remainder of the school year. Game officials must report all player ejections so that the League Office can officially notify the school of each violation. When an athlete is ejected for the second time in the same sport, the school is required to immediately begin the above prescribed penalty.
4. **Any post game unsportsmanlike activities that involves athletes, coaches and/or other school personnel while at the playing area.**
5. A coach will be in violation of the standards for good sportsmanship established by the League for:
  - a. making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest either on the field of play, from the bench or through any public news media;
  - b. arguing with officials or going through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision;
  - c. detaining the official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official; or
  - d. being ejected from any contest.
6. A coach's action that leads to an ejection will be considered as serious unsportsmanlike conduct. **The minimum penalty will be a next game suspension (Must be served at the level of ejection before resuming coaching duties at games) and a \$100.00 fine.** The minimum penalty for a second offense will be two games suspension and a \$200.00 fine. A suspended coach may not attend the contest. **NOTE: If a coach is ejected from the final game of the season, the minimum penalty will be a \$100.00 fine assessed to the school.**
7. A school must control its spectators. In cases where spectators physically assault an official, coach, or athlete, the school shall be given one of two options: (1) To take legal action against the offender(s) that is acceptable to the League or (2) be disciplined by the League.

8. A school shall not allow vulgar chants by its supporters.
  9. Violation of any of the above policies will warrant League discipline for the school or individual. **Degrees Of League Discipline Are:**
    - WARNING:** An official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanlike action is a matter of record and must not happen again.
    - PROBATION:** A team may compete in regularly scheduled contests but may not play in a jamboree, an invitational event or for a region or state championship.
    - FINE:** May be levied in addition to other disciplines and may range from \$25.00 to \$2,500.00 for each violation.
    - SUSPENSION:** A suspended school may not compete against another member school or a school in another state whose association is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations.
    - NOTE:** A school that has been placed on probation or had a program suspended during that sport season, must appeal within 10 working days. If the suspension or probation occurs during the last contest of the season, the appeal must be made prior to the beginning of the sport the next season.
  10. **POLICE PROTECTION:** The host team must furnish adequate police protection at all varsity football and basketball games. Police protection may also be required at other contests if so deemed by the home school administration. Police protection must be given to all varsity football and basketball officials. Failure to protect the officials will bring immediate probation, pending an investigation. Failure to have required uniformed protection will result in a \$25.00 fine against the host school.
  11. **HANDLING A FRACAS:** Should a fracas begin, only the head coaches will go on the playing field or court to stop the fracas. All assistant coaches are to keep the substitutes off the playing area. The officials are instructed to stop a fracas from starting but not to be involved once it gets underway. **All cameramen must be instructed to keep the camera running and film all of the fracas. This is vital to our investigation of the responsible parties.**
  12. In all situations of unsportsmanlike conduct committed by the school's coaches, bench personnel, and/or players, sanctions should be issued against the individual(s) as opposed to the entire team, if at all possible. It shall be the responsibility of the offending school to investigate and report to the League Office all individuals involved in unsportsmanlike conduct that cannot be detected by video, game officials' report(s), or witness statements. In absence of information (videotape, witness statements) being provided by the school, the League may sanction the school. The League may address the reported individuals of the unsportsmanlike act individually or collectively. The League shall use information obtained through video, game officials reports, law enforcement reports, witness statements, etc., and the offending schools report to determine action(s) to be taken to address the unsportsmanlike conduct.
- NOTE:** Repeated unsportsmanlike behaviors by teams involving multiple student athletes during the same sport season may subject the school's program/team to more severe penalties, to include possible probation and/or suspension.

## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

While at the site of a League sponsored activity, neither a participant, game official nor a coach shall use, be in possession of or be under the influence of alcohol or any other mood altering drug. This restriction will also apply to any form of tobacco (including smokeless varieties).

A student violating this policy will be prohibited from participating in the specific event and the future eligibility status of this student will be subject to review by the South Carolina High School League.

The philosophy of the League should be obvious as it attempts to address some items in our society which have been proven to be harmful to the physical as well as emotional well being of our student athletes. In this regard, the League also recognizes the responsibility of coaches and other school personnel in dealing with the problem.

The South Carolina High School League is also adamantly opposed to anabolic androgenic steroid use at the high school level. The issue goes beyond protecting the integrity of a sport. The use of steroids in sports is considered to be cheating. We stand opposed to the use of steroids by athletes and all members of the student body because of health and ethical concerns.

## **POLICIES GOVERNING CONTESTS WITH NON-PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

Non-public high schools are either members or non-members insofar as the League's rules and regulations are concerned. The non-public schools that are members of the League must abide by all rules and regulations of the League. The non-member schools must follow only minimum requirements in order to compete with member schools.

**LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP** - A non-public high school may become a member of the League if such school is accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges and the principal of the school agrees to conform to all rules and regulations of the League.

Before being considered as a member of the League, the non-public school must clearly define its attendance area as one of the following: (1) the attendance area of the public school in whose attendance area the school is located, (2) the school district in which the school is located, and (3) the county in which the school is located.

All applications for League membership by non-public schools must be submitted to the conference in which the school wishes to compete and if approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the conference, to the Executive Committee of the League for final approval. The Executive Committee must approve any change in the attendance area after a non-public school's acceptance into the League. The Executive Committee may seek advice from the conference in which the school is a member.

**CONTESTS WITH NON-MEMBER NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS** - Member schools may compete with non-member non-public schools provided certified officials are used in varsity contests. If a non-member non-public school is invited to attend an invitational event, such non-public school may get permission to enter from the Commissioner of the League.

## OUTSIDE COMPETITION

### In Season

Participation on an outside team during a sport season is permitted in all sports except football. College or professional try-outs during the season in all sports are prohibited. Violation of this policy renders a student ineligible to return to his/her school team.

### Out of Season

During the out of season period, no school shall allow practice(s) that involve(s) the coach(es) and/or players except:

1. If a coach from a school (including volunteer coaches) is associated with an outside team, no more than 75% of the allowable starters for that sport may be on the roster of the outside team. Examples of squad limits are: Swimming (3), Football (8), Volleyball (4), Tennis (2), Competitive Cheer (15), Golf (3), Basketball (3), Wrestling (11), Soccer (8), Baseball (7), Softball (7), Track (3), Boys' Lacrosse (7) and Girls' Lacrosse (9). This restriction applies to all students who were included on the school's certificate of eligibility and dressed for a varsity game during the previous season. Students with no remaining eligibility will not count. There is no limit on the number of students from the same school if there is no coach involved from that school. Also, there is no restriction on baseball or softball during the months of May, June, and July as it pertains to the 75% rule.
2. Member schools will be permitted 10 days of competition in summer leagues, team camps, or other outside organizations during the time period of June 1 through July 23, 2011. They may use school facilities and equipment for these 10 days. The exact 10 days must be documented by date and records of these days supplied to the League Office if requested.

**NOTE: Any school violating either of the above may be fined up to \$500.00 and placed on probation in the sport involved.**

### CAMPS

1. From June 1 through July 23, 2011, schools may attend team camps. Participation in these camps will count toward the allotted 10 days of summer competition.
2. Attendance at camps from August 1 to the closing of school are governed by the following restrictions:
  - a. The student or the parents must pay all fees and expenses.
  - b. Students may be transported by their coach to camps or clinics at any time.
  - c. A coach may serve as an instructor at the camp, but may not teach skills to students from their own school or feeder school(s).
  - d. Attendances at camps during a sports season that are controlled entirely by a school and restricted to its students are exempt from these regulations.
  - e. A violation of any part of this section (a-d) will result in a \$500.00 fine and probation on the school.

### CLINICS

1. The principal of a member school must approve a clinic held on school facilities.
2. A coach may serve as an instructor at the clinic, but may not teach skills to students from their own school or feeder school(s).
3. A clinician's fee and expenses should be reasonable. Principals should pay close attention to this item before giving approval.
4. Room and board must not be a part of the clinic.
5. The clinic must not exceed three days.
6. Team competition is prohibited and all physical activity must be restricted to fundamentals.
7. The coach may transport his players to the clinic.
8. A violation of any part of this section (1-7) will result in a \$500.00 fine and probation on the school.

## SEVENTH, EIGHTH AND NINTH GRADE ACTIVITIES RULES AND REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to all 7th, 8th and 9th grade students participating in Junior High or Middle School programs as well as students participating on exclusively 7th and 8th grade teams under the High School Program. All ninth grade students participating in a high school program will not be restricted by these regulations or the regulations restricting junior high school teams in the National Federation rules books.

- A. General philosophy and aims to be considered in the interscholastic activities program for seventh, eighth and ninth grade students:
1. Since there is a great range in individual differences among boys and girls of this age (age; body build; interest; ability; experience; health, and the stages of physiological, emotional and social maturity), the program planned should be based on the principle of "The greatest good to the greatest number of participants involved."
  2. The interscholastic athletic program for boys and girls in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades should supplement, rather than serve as a substitute for, an adequate program of required physical education, intramural and physical recreation for all students.
  3. The program must be suited to the needs of boys and girls of this age. It must contribute to desirable growth and development of these participants physically, socially and otherwise. The program must be justified on a basis of contribution to the desirable development of the participants. The welfare of the youth concerned is of greatest importance. All other needs and problems should be secondary.
  4. This interschool competitive program should be operated from as broad a base as possible to offer experience to many boys and girls.
  5. The program should place considerable emphasis on:
    - a. Companionship among the participants on a squad and among squads of different schools.
    - b. Sportsmanship.
    - c. Physical skills, techniques and training.
    - d. Character development.
  6. The Executive Committee favors an interscholastic program but feels this program should be carefully controlled, regulated and limited.
- B. Rules and Regulations:
1. Students below the seventh grade may not participate in interscholastic athletics. Students in grades 7 and 8 will not be permitted to participate on varsity interscholastic teams in football, wrestling, lacrosse and soccer.
  2. Participation on junior varsity or "B" teams will be left to the local school authorities. These regulations do not forbid an overlapping of the two "graded" groups on such teams. Schools are reminded that a student may not participate on more than one team and participate in more than one football game or two basketball games per week.
  3. It is recommended that athletic contests be played with a start time no later than 4:00 pm.
  4. All sports are allowed one scrimmage, one jamboree and two tournaments. A team may not play more than a half of a regulation contest in a jamboree. No exceptions.
  5. Sub-varsity teams must complete their schedule prior to the day of the first round of play-offs in that sport; exception: Class AAAA football.
  6. The eligibility requirements will be substantially the same as for high schools with the following variations:  
BIRTH CERTIFICATION - Students will submit certificates to their principal for approval. Copies must be kept on file in the school.

AGE - A student who becomes 15 years of age prior to July 1, 2010 will not be able to compete on an 8th grade and under team in any athletic activities during the 2010-2011 school year. For a 9<sup>th</sup> grade and under team, substitute 16 years of age for 15. A student who becomes too old for a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team may be considered as enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for eligibility purposes.

NOTE: A student on an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under team is ineligible if born before July 1, 1995. A student on a 9<sup>th</sup> grade and under team is ineligible if born before July 1, 1994.

ADVANCED PARTICIPATION - A junior high or middle school student promoted to a high school varsity, junior varsity, or other interschool squad, may not return to junior high or middle school competition during the current year in the same sport if he has participated in a game played by the advanced squad.

PLAY-OFFS - No play-off beyond region level is permitted between seventh, eighth and ninth grade teams.

TRAVEL - Junior high and middle schools will not permit their athletic teams to travel more than 150 miles round trip for any contest.

OFFICIALS - Certified athletic officials should be provided in all cases possible. When this is not possible, competent adults should be obtained whom the schools concerned mutually agree upon in advance. High school students shall not be used as game officials.

### C. Other Regulations

Schools are permitted three weeks of open season in all sports during the school year. (No prohibition to number of students participating.)

The following weeks apply:

1. Three weeks in May for Fall Sports (May 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>) No player equipment for football other than shoes and headgear.
2. Three weeks in September for Winter Sports (September 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)
3. Three weeks in November for Spring Sports (November 1<sup>st</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)

### D. Game Rules and Game Conditions:

#### FOOTBALL

1. The football season will open on September 8 and close on November 5. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first game.
2. No school team, or individual player, may participate in more than eight games, which shall be scheduled with no more than one game per week. In extreme cases, games may be rescheduled. A minimum of three days must elapse between games.
3. Practice may begin August 10. No practice session shall exceed two hours in length and no more than one practice may be held in any one day. Practice may be held on 6 days in one week during the preseason. After the first legal playing date, schools will be restricted to 5 practice days per week.
  - Practice may begin..... August 9 (helmets)
  - First practice in pads ..... August 12 (helmets & shoulder pads)
  - Practice in full gear..... August 16
  - First scrimmage..... August 25
  - First contest..... September 8
4. A school must hold at least fifteen sessions before playing an inter-team game.

5. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams shall play eight-minute quarters only.
6. Free substitution is encouraged.
7. No game may end in a tie. The Ten Yard Line Overtime Procedure as printed in the National Federation Football Rules Book will be used.
8. Other than the above, National Federation Rules shall apply.
9. Middle and Junior High teams shall be permitted one inter-team scrimmage and one jamboree.

#### VOLLEYBALL

1. Practice may begin on August 9.
2. The volleyball season will open on September 8 and close on October 23. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first match.
3. Schools are limited to 14 play dates including invitational tournaments.

#### COMPETITIVE CHEER

1. Practice may begin on August 9.
2. The competitive cheer season will open on September 8 and close on November 6.
3. Schools are limited to 6 competitions.

#### BASKETBALL

1. Practice may begin on November 1.
2. The basketball season will open on November 29 and close on February 12 including tournaments. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first game.
3. At least 15 organized practice sessions must be conducted before interschool play is to be permitted. Practice sessions shall not exceed 1-½ hours in length and shall not exceed more than one practice per day.
4. Middle and Junior High teams shall be permitted one interschool scrimmage. At least 5 practices must be held prior to the scrimmage.
5. No junior high team, middle school team, or individual may participate in more than 14 regular season basketball games and enter more than 2 tournaments, provided one of the tournaments is a region tournament at the conclusion of regular season play.
6. A team may not participate in games on more than two school days (Monday through Friday) in any week nor participate in more than three games in any seven-day period. A student has the same limitation on playing as does a team.
7. A student will be restricted to one game per day except they may play in two games in one day in an invitational tournament. There must be a minimum of one hour's rest between games.
8. The length of quarters shall be 6 minutes and play will be according to National Federation Rules.
9. By state adoption, all girls' teams will use the legalized smaller ball. This ball is 1 inch smaller and 2 ounces lighter than the ball used by the boys' teams.

#### WRESTLING

1. Practice may begin on November 1.
2. The wrestling season will begin on November 29 and close on January 30. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first match.
3. The following weight classes will be used: 82, 90, 98, 105, 112, 119, 126, 132, 138, 145, 155, 167, 185 and unlimited. To compete in the unlimited division, a student must weigh a minimum of 185 lbs.
4. Each team is limited to 12 wrestling dates including invitational tournaments.

## SOCCKER

1. Practice may begin on January 31.
2. The soccer season will open on March 7 and close on May 7. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first match.
3. Schools are limited to 12 matches and two tournaments.
4. A student will be restricted to one game per day except they may play in two games in one day in an invitational tournament. There must be a minimum of one hour's rest between games.

## TRACK AND FIELD

1. Practice may begin on January 31.
2. The track season will open on March 7 and close on May 6. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first meet.
3. There is no restriction on the number of track meets a school may enter.

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

1. Practice may begin on January 31.
2. The season will open on March 7 and close on April 27. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first game.
3. Schools are limited to 12 baseball and 12 softball games and two tournaments.
4. Games may be scheduled for 5 innings.
5. All games are limited to 2 hours regardless of score.

## GOLF AND TENNIS

1. Practice may begin on January 31
2. The golf and tennis seasons will open on March 7 and close on April 30. Eligibility forms are due in the League Office at least 7 days before the first match.
3. There is no restriction on the number of golf and tennis matches.

## AUDIO AND VIDEO BROADCASTS

1. WRITTEN POLICY - Each school (or school district) should have a written policy concerning broadcasting. This does not necessarily mean that restrictions are needed. Broadcasters need to know this policy if they are to serve the public.
2. REGULAR SEASON GAMES - The broadcast rights are the exclusive property of the home school. Applications to broadcast regular season games must be directed to the principal of the host school. (See Item 8 below.)
3. REGION BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS - Broadcast rights of region basketball tournaments are the property of the region. Requests to broadcast region games should be directed to the region coordinator or region tournament director.
4. UPPER AND LOWER STATE PLAY-OFFS - Any contest beyond region play is considered a state play-off. Requests to broadcast football or basketball games beyond region play will be directed to the principal of the host school.
5. STATE BASKETBALL PLAY-OFFS - Requests to broadcast state basketball play-off games will be directed to the Commissioner of the League if such play-offs are held in Columbia. If play-offs are held in cities other than Columbia, requests will be made to the play-off director.
6. INVITATIONAL EVENTS - Requests to broadcast invitational events will be directed to the invitational event director.
7. FEES FOR BROADCASTING RIGHTS - All contracts concerning regular season games must be left to the host school and the interested party. State play-off fees are as follows:

### FOOTBALL

#### Live (Radio and/or Internet)

	AAAA	AAA	AA	A
1 <sup>st</sup> Round	\$200.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	\$300.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Round	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$75.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Round		\$225.00	\$150.00	

No charge for delayed broadcasts over 3 hours delay from game time.

#### Live (Television and/or streaming video)

Play-offs and/or State Finals	(Delayed)
Fee Negotiated	\$300.00 - All Classes, if delayed 72 hours or more

### BASKETBALL

#### Live (Radio and/or Internet)

Play-offs All Classes - \$50.00 per game  
 State Finals All Classes - \$100.00 per game

#### Live (Television and/or streaming video)

Play-offs and/or State Finals	(Delayed)
Fee Negotiated	\$200.00 - All Classes, if delayed 72 hours or more

## ALL OTHER SPORTS

### Live (Radio and/or Internet)

Play-offs All Classes - \$50.00 per game  
State Finals All Classes - \$100.00 per game

### Live (Television and/or streaming video)

Play-offs All Classes - -\$1,000.00 per contest  
Delayed ( All Classes)  
No charge if delay 72 hours or more

8. APPLICATIONS FOR BROADCASTING RIGHTS - The form to be used by all parties in making application to broadcast high school athletic contests should be made out in triplicate. After signing the application, the host school will keep one of the carbon copies. The original and the other carbon copy will be returned to the broadcasting party. The broadcasters will keep the original and send a copy to the visiting team.

A broadcaster will not go to an athletic contest for the purpose of broadcasting the contest without first receiving written permission from the host school, tournament director or Commissioner. A broadcaster will limit its working personnel to three persons and will accept available facilities.

## **GUIDELINES FOR FINES AND LATE FEES ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

School discipline has always been a great concern to the League Office and to the Executive Committee. Many problems arise during the school year in the enforcement of rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility, eligibility forms, activity schedules and unsportsmanlike conduct. In order to avoid inconsistencies and to assist the League Office in being uniform in its dealings with the membership, the Executive Committee has adopted a set of "Guidelines For Fines." No personal checks will be accepted. These guidelines, as set forth by the Executive Committee, are as follows:

### **TWENTY-DOLLAR FINES**

1. Violation of Article VIII, Section 1 - Failure to submit schedules by designated times.
2. Violation of Article VII, Section 16 - Failure of a school to file a Certificate of Eligibility form prior to the specified deadline in an activity. (No games forfeited.)
3. Failure to submit "minimum weight certification" form by the scheduled date.

### **FIFTY-DOLLAR FINES**

1. Minor unsportsmanlike actions by players, coaches or spectators.
2. Failure to pay a fine within 60 days.
3. A school official places the name of an ineligible student on a certificate of eligibility form and the student does not participate in a contest. (No games forfeited.) **NOTE:** As stated in the League Handbook and as referred to in these Guidelines, "Any student in the uniform of and permitted in the bench area of one of the competing teams is considered as having participated."

### **ONE-HUNDRED DOLLAR FINES**

1. A school fails to file Certificate of Eligibility or have on file any other required form prior to participation in a contest or omits a student's name that participates. (No games forfeited)
2. Participation of a student, who was eligible in all other respects, who had a valid birth certificate but the school failed to have a copy on file.
3. Unsportsmanlike actions of players, coaches or spectators (more serious than \$50.00 fine.)
4. A second offense during a school year of an offense calling for a \$50.00 fine. (Does not include payment of fine.)
5. Failing to meet the deadline to enter the play-offs.
6. Non-attendance at mandatory rules clinics.
7. Serious unsportsmanlike actions of players, coaches or spectators. (Includes ejection of coach. See Statement of Policy.)
8. A school permits an ineligible student to participate in a scrimmage or jamboree.

### **THREE-HUNDRED DOLLAR FINES**

1. A school official removes a team from the playing area before a game is completed.
2. The second offense during a year of an offense calling for a \$100.00 fine. (Does not include ejection of coach. See Statement of Policy.)
3. Use of fireworks and explosive devices at League events.
4. A school permits an ineligible student to participate. **(Games will be forfeited.)**

### **FIVE-HUNDRED DOLLAR FINES**

1. A school fails to file a Certificate of Eligibility form for a student who is ineligible and who is allowed to participate. **(Games will be forfeited.)** (The individual sport may be placed on probation.)
2. Second offense during a school year of an offense calling for a \$300.00 fine.

## **TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR FINES**

1. If an ineligible student is permitted to participate and if the participation is permitted with any official (coach, athletics director, administrator, etc.) of the school knowing that the student may possibly be ineligible, the school, program or team may be disciplined by the Commissioner (depending on actions taken by school to address situation), to include fine, and/or warn, probation, or suspension. Upon proper appeal by the school, the Executive Committee may change the suspension to a fine not to exceed \$2,500.00 for each ineligible student and probation on the program or team involved. **(Games will be forfeited.)**

2. The second offense during a school year of an offense calling for a \$500.00 fine.

**NOTE:** The Executive Committee may alter any of the above if the circumstances warrant a change.

**NOTE:** For offenses below the varsity level, the fines (\$25.00 - \$500.00 categories) will be one-half of those listed. (Except for coach ejections and unsportsmanlike penalties)