



Middle School Update

August 2010

A NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Greetings! With the summer break behind us, we can all look forward to the fall and hopefully some cool weather. I trust that your school year has gotten off to a great start.

The League website has been updated for the 2010-11 school year and contains everything needed for the day-to-day operations. It is very user friendly and I encourage you to use it when you need help or have questions.

The League office staff is here to serve you. You are encouraged to contact us if you have questions. It is much easier to get it right the first time, rather than risk fines, forfeits, etc.

As we embrace the challenges that come with each new school year, I would like to provide you with the following updates and reminders:

- **Catastrophic Insurance Coverage**
The catastrophic insurance coverage has been extended to include "school authorized" summer athletic camps, and strength training and conditioning sessions. The premium for that catastrophic insurance (for 2010-11 school year) will remain the same as last year.
- **Application for Hardship Exemptions**
The application for hardship exceptions can be found in the AD notebook section of the League website. The "note sections" found in the League's Handbook Constitution Article IV, Section 5, B6 Note, 7A Note and 7, A1 Note will assist you in your decision to pursue a hardship exemption.
- **Hydration and Heat Humidity**
The weather is always challenging during this time of year. Please be mindful of the potential for dehydration in your athletes. Also, please observe and be obedient to any heat and humidity policy that your school/district may have in place.
- Check all transfers thoroughly - they are ineligible until proven eligible.
- Please return application for membership and book order promptly.
- Note the premium for the catastrophic insurance (for 2010-11 school year) will remain the same as last year.
- Check all sports schedules for accuracy - date, time and place.
- Be sure all students are eligible in all respects before allowing them to practice or make the team. Check their grades, transfer status, age, etc.

The League staff is always willing to do a workshop for your school or district. With the many changes in coaches and administrators this year, a refresher about rules and regulations may be very helpful. Please give us a call if you would like us to do a workshop.

Your 2010-11 Executive Committee has been working hard to preserve the integrity of the League. Anyone that serves on this committee knows that very difficult decisions must be made, but all present and past committee members have always focused on being fair and consistent. Saying No, it is not easy, but when they vote and the decision is passed down, they agree all decisions are based on the "majority vote" of the board, and they move on to the next business of the SCHSL. The committee continues to be very professional.

Hopefully every associate member school feels comfortable addressing the committee and contacting the League office. This is a service organization and we are here to serve you and address your concerns.

Have a great year and call with any questions or concerns.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

From the New Assistant Commissioner

As the new Assistant Commissioner at the League I will be overseeing the middle school athletics programs for our member schools. I look forward to working with all of you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Have a great year!

Skip Lax

Middle Schools have a representative
on the SCHSL Executive Committee.

Your representative is
Dr. Nancy Turner - Principal
White Knoll Middle School



NFHS Concussion Course

The SCHSL Executive Committee has mandated that all coaches (paid and volunteer) take the NFHS Concussion course prior to the first practice for their sport(s). The only exception provides that fall sport coaches have until August 20, 2010 to complete the course. The course may be accessed through the NFHS at: www.nfhslearn.com

The Principal and AD of the school will monitor the completion of the course by their coaching staff.

This is a free, 20 minutes on-line course that gives valuable information on concussion signs, symptoms and management.

Please make sure that the coaches adhere to the mandate.

Concussions: In accordance with the playing rules for all high school sports regarding the return to play of athletes who have shown signs or symptoms of a concussion, ("they shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional") the Executive Committee has ruled that each school district or school shall determine who the "appropriate health-care professional" shall be for each contest.

Please make sure that your coaches know who the appropriate health-care professional is prior to each contest.

Eligibility

Here's a refresher on filling out an eligibility form for first semester.

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPROVED BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS	DATE OF BIRTH AS APPROVED BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS			GRADE	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER			DID NON-DIPLOMA STUDENT MEET IEP? YES/NO	TRANSFER STUDENT YES/NO *
					7th, 8th & 9th GRADE ACADEMICALLY PROMOTED YES OR NO	7th & 8th MEETING PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS AT END OF FIRST SEMESTER YES / NO	9th HALF UNIT EQUIVALENTS EARNED FIRST SEMESTER CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR	FIRST SEMESTER OVERALL PASSING AVERAGE YES / NO		
<i>List Alphabetically</i>	MONTH	DAY	YEAR							
Pierce, Steve	8	25	94	8	Y					n
Smith, Joe	10	1	95	7	Y					y

FALL SEMESTER - Fill in column 1 SPRING SEMESTER (7th & 8th Grade) - Fill in column 4.
FOR SPRING SEMESTER (9th Grade) Fill in columns 1 - 3. NOTE: If column 2 is five or more, fill in columns 2 - 3 only.

* If a YES answer is given in Transfer Column, a Special Form A must have previously been approved.

- * Eligibility must be submitted seven days before the first regular season contest.
- * **Eligibility must be typed.**
- * List alphabetically by last name.
- * For 7, 8, & 9 grades – first semester, **type Yes or Y.** Do not leave blank or put NA. If the answer is **NO**, the student is not eligible.
- * Don't forget the **transfer column** for everyone!

The **Special Form A** must be submitted and **approved before** submitting the student on the Certificate of Eligibility.

REMINDER

All eligibility is due seven days before regular season play.
 Eligibility must be sent in for all students playing sports.

Important Dates to Remember for the 2010-2011 School Year

FOOTBALL

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
 Season closes November 5

COMPETITIVE CHEER

First Practice August 9
 First Contest September 8
 Season Closes November 6

VOLLEYBALL

First Practice August 9
 First Scrimmage August 16
 First Contest September 8
 Season Closes October 23

Middle School Dues Statement

The Dues Statement for the 2010-11 school year was mailed to the principal the week of June 8. This statement includes your dues, catastrophic insurance and book order. Additionally, the High School League pass names are to be listed on this form. Dues and insurance are to be paid by September 15, 2010.

Issued Passes

Passes will be issued to Associate member schools when dues and catastrophic insurance premiums are paid.

Please return on your school's letterhead the name and pass number of each person receiving a pass.

Be certain that any coach receiving a pass is a full time coach. A full time coach is being defined as a paid coach under contract with the district to coach. It does not include volunteers.

Please return this list to Cheree.

Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

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

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

