

# SCHSL E-BULLETIN

South Carolina High School League ~ Quarterly Electronic Newsletter

**Special Edition: Back to School 2019-20**



## **NFHS Student Leadership '19:**

Representing SCHSL: Catherine Shoffner (*Christ Church*), Na'ala Littlejohn (*Ashley Ridge High*), NFHS Exec. Director Dr. Karissa Niehoff, *Retired Assoc. Comm.* Nessie Harris, and Aaron Parker (*Hemingway High*) **Pg. 4**

## **Leadership and Sportsmanship**

The South Carolina High School League has even higher expectations for a riveting, competitive and sportsmanship filled school year. Our student-athletes, under the tutelage of our dedicated AD's and coaches, are riddled with talent, potential for greatness and a genuine desire to succeed. Our membership as well as our state leaders, game officials, fans and communities share a common goal: *to see South Carolina's children exceed beyond expectations in all things education related!* Athletics go hand in hand with academics; our sports programs would not exist without the support of teachers and school administration. Their support of middle and high school athletics have enhanced the SCHSL mission and provided needed environments that nurture growth, both mentally and physically.

Be a leader this school year. Be a good sport. Keep a team mentality and show your support for whole student. We encourage parents and fans to support all student-athletes, all year long. This includes Fall, Winter and Spring sports... the athletes, coaches, and officials. We can create a historic year for South Carolina, academically as well as athletically. Let's get to work. Hooray for 2019-20!

## **INSIDE-**

**Commissioner's Welcome**  
**P.2**

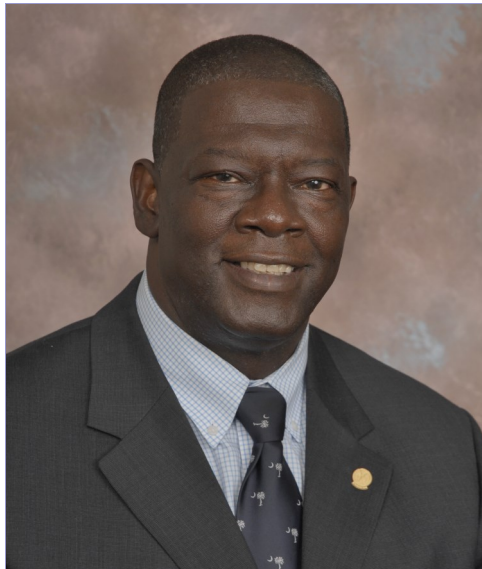
**Student Leadership Recap**  
**P.4**

**Sportsmanship Info**  
**P.6**

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**P.8**

**New Members**  
**P.11 ... and so much more!**





The "Back to School" phenomena rivals that of some major national holidays– the excitement, the preparations, the anticipation, and most importantly– the HOPE. We have hope that this will be the best year yet. Everyone puts forth their best effort by setting far reaching yet attainable goals, creating a clean slate and ridding themselves of any negativity or remnants from years past. We, as educators, coaches and administrators, get to reboot our programs and charge forward with well planned initiatives and limitless energy. It is my hope that our student-athletes, teachers, coaches, administrators as well as parents and fans kick start 2019-20 with a positive mindset and productive agenda focused solely on the betterment of our academic and athletic programs across our great state of South Carolina. We are the ultimate TEAM. We are all the winners who control the process as well as the outcome of the entire school year. Let's do our very best to make 2019-20 THE BEST!

*Jerome Singleton*

# Welcome to the 2019-20 School Year!

*Ask your SCHSL Commissioner ...*

## What are you most looking forward to this school year?

*Each year I look forward to great opportunities to interact with the member schools personnel (i.e. superintendents, principals, athletics directors, and coaches) about their upcoming school year; to watching student athletes represent their sports teams and themselves with great athleticism, pride and sportsmanship; and, all the new celebrations and challenges that the year brings.*

## What are three key factors when selecting State Finals venues?

- Great experience for the participating athletes/teams.*
- Accommodations for the fan experience.*
- Cost*

## Having such a diverse background in education and athletics, what do you feel is mandatory for students to succeed at both?

*There are many things that come to mind as student athletes write their story from their educational experiences, but two that I think are worthy of special attention are:*

- 1). Give yourself PERMISSION TO FAIL, IT ENCOURAGES CREATIVITY*
- 2). Give yourself PERMISSION TO SUCCEED, IT SUPPRESSES GUILT*

## What is your favorite aspect of the "Back to School" excitement? Least favorite aspect?

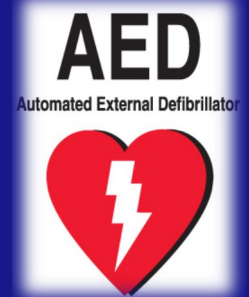
*The anticipation of a great sport season to start the school year.  
The fear of heat related issues due the extreme weather conditions.*

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Do you have a question for the next SCHSL E-Bulletin? Send to [tnewman@schsl.org](mailto:tnewman@schsl.org) for consideration in the next edition. All questions will receive a response; a select few will be published in the E-Bulletin.



ANYONE CAN SAVE A LIFE



## SAFETY IN SCHSL SPORTS

All member schools must adhere to the rules and policy's voted on by the membership. These guidelines include the following NFHS Learn Center (NFHSLearn.com) courses we require all coaches take prior to the sports season:

Heat Illness Prevention

Concussion in Sports

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Protecting Students from Abuse –New for 2019-20

In addition to the above mentioned NFHS Learn Center courses, we also provide and strongly encourage the following:

Emergency Action Plans / "Anyone Can Save A Life"

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training

Remain alert as SC temperatures continue to rise and pose a threat to student-athletes and staff.

\*Refer to the SCHSL website for heat advisory information or visit <http://schsl.org/index.php/heat-stress/>

Contact Skip Lax, Associate Commissioner, for all health and safety related issues. [skip@schsl.org](mailto:skip@schsl.org)  
803.896.9267

You can also contact Charlie Wentzky, Assistant Commissioner, 803.896.5251 or [charlie@schsl.org](mailto:charlie@schsl.org)  
Amy Boozer, Assistant Commissioner, 803.896.4009 or [amy@schsl.org](mailto:amy@schsl.org)





*"Last month, through the **SCHSL Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC)**, I was given the opportunity to travel to Indianapolis and participate in the **National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) Student Leadership Summit**. Fellow council members Na'ala Littlejohn and Aaron Parker were also SCHSL SAAC representatives in attendance. We focused on improving our leadership skills and how to apply those improved skills to our sports, our team and our communities. One afternoon, we had the honor of partnering with Special Olympic athletes and working collaboratively with them on different activities and challenges. The conference was a perfect blend of learning, service, and getting to meet new people from all over America (and a little bit of Canada!). Special thanks and happy retirement to Ms. Nessie Harris who chaperoned us during the summit and lead the Student Athlete Advisory Council this year. Sincere thanks to the SCHSL and our schools for supporting our journey to such a productive adventure this summer. I can't wait to share my experience and new skills with my teammates!"*

***Courtesy of Catherine Shoffner, SAAC member***

# **SCHSL Executive Committee Hardship Request Timeline**

Last day to submit "Application of Hardship Exceptions" for opportunity to appeal Commissioner's decision to League's Executive Committee:

November 7, 2019

Last day to request appeal to Commissioner's decision and appear before the League's Executive Committee:

November 14, 2019

Last date to supply each Executive Committee member with a copy of hardship request along with all necessary information:

November 17, 2019

League's Executive Committee meets to hear appeals to Commissioner's decision:

November 20, 2019

Contact [Cindi Drakeford](#) ( 803.896.4377) for information on SCHSL Executive Committee appeals.



***Mark Your Calendar:***

## **Fall 2019-20 Classification Meetings**

Class A	September 5	9:00 a.m.
Class AA	September 4	9:00 a.m.
Class AAA	September 18	9:00 a.m.
Class AAAA	September 17	9:00 a.m.
Class AAAAA	September 16	9:00 a.m.



# SPORTSMANSHIP...

## *a positive connection*

Being a positive influence and teammate is what it's all about. Good sportsmanship is pivotal to creating and maintaining a supportive environment for not only our student-athletes, but for the fans as well. It is our hope the initiatives listed below will continue to enhance your school's sportsmanship efforts throughout 2019-20. Check out the new links to find lots of information to help your athletic program soar while your community succeeds.

Sportsmanship tips are just a click away!

[Two Levels of Sportsmanship Award](#)

[Student & Coaches Pledge](#)

[Community Service/ Living Clean Forms](#)

[PA Announcer Guidelines](#)

*Contact [Amy Boozer](#), [Jan Hogan](#) or [Tammie Newman](#) if you have questions. 803.798.0120.*



### **What's Yours?**

You've seen and heard what others have to say, now share what YOU like most about participating in high school sports and activities! Would you recommend participating in middle and high school sports? If so, why? Tell us your reason for loving SCHSL athletics!

Check out the NFHS and SCHSL social media pages to see and hear why so many of America's student-athletes, coaches, officials, fans and beyond support athletics in our schools. Better yet, take a moment to record YOUR reasons and share it with the world by submitting online and tagging us.

Contact [Tammie Newman](#) at 803.896.0417 for more information on #MyReasonWhy.



# SCHSL LIVING CLEAN WEEK

## OCTOBER 14-19, 2019

A SPORTSMANSHIP AND LITTER-FREE INITIATIVE

### Clean Up Your Community Through:

Litter Free Games

Litter Clean-Ups

Adopt-A-Highway

Clean Teams

Please be sure to make us aware of your community clean-up initiatives with your student athletes.

Remind all of your sports teams that our goal is an ejection free week in all sports.

Complete the on-line Living Clean report form on the Monday after the Living Clean Week.

### Clean Up Sportsmanship Through:

Coaches

Teams

Student Body

Community

Fans

Pep Rallies

### Goals:

**NO Ejections** during these weeks

**NO Sportsmanship issues** during these weeks

**All Schools** participate in litter clean-up during these weeks.

CLICK the graphic above to submit your schools Living Clean project details and photos. Contact Tammie Newman for LCW information, ideas and social media links to celebrate your school's Living Clean Week initiatives. (tnewman@schsl.org / 803.896.0417)

#SCHSLCleanWeek

#LivingClean

#EjectionFree

#LitterFree

*\*Future Living Clean dates: January 20-25, 2020 and March 23-27, 2020*





## **SCHSL Calendar of 2019-20 State Championship Events**

<b>Swim</b>	<b>October 12/14, 2019</b>	<b>USC Natatorium, Columbia</b>
<b>Girls Golf</b>	<b>October 28/29, 2019</b>	<b><i>Various sites (www.schsl.org)</i></b>
<b>*Press Conference, November 6, 2019 (Live on Facebook and Instagram)</b>		
<b>*Volleyball</b>	<b>November 9, 2019</b>	<b>River Bluff High</b>
<b>*Girls Tennis</b>	<b>November 9, 2019</b>	<b>Cayce Tennis Center</b>
<b>Girls Tennis– Singles</b>	<b>November 11/12, 2019</b>	<b>Cayce Tennis Center</b>
<b>Cross Country</b>	<b>November 16, 2019</b>	<b>Carolina Cup Fields, Camden</b>
<b>Competitive Cheer</b>	<b>November 23, 2019</b>	<b>Colonial Life Arena, Columbia</b>
<b>*Press Conference, December 2, 2019 (Live on Facebook and Instagram)</b>		
<b>*Football</b>	<b>December 6/7, 2019</b>	<b>Benedict College/USC</b>
<b>Wrestling– Duals</b>	<b>February 15, 2020</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Wrestling– Individuals</b>	<b>February 28/29, 2020</b>	<b>Anderson Civic Center</b>
<b>Basketball– Upper</b>	<b>February 28/29, 2020</b>	<b>Bon Secours Arena, Greenville</b>
<b>Basketball– Lower</b>	<b>February 28/29, 2020</b>	<b>Florence Civic Center</b>
<b>*Press Conference, March 2, 2020 (Live on Facebook and Instagram)</b>		
<b>*Basketball</b>	<b>March 6/7, 2020</b>	<b>Colonial Life Arena</b>
<b>*Press Conference, April 29, 2020 (Live on Facebook and Instagram)</b>		
<b>*Lacrosse</b>	<b>May 2, 2020</b>	<b>Irmo High</b>
<b>*Press Conference, May 13, 2020 (Live on Facebook and Instagram)</b>		
<b>*Soccer</b>	<b>May 15/16, 2020</b>	<b>Irmo High</b>
<b>Track</b>	<b>May 15/16, 2020</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>*Boys Tennis</b>	<b>May 16, 2020</b>	<b>Cayce Tennis Center</b>
<b>Boys Tennis– Singles</b>	<b>May 18/19, 2020</b>	<b>Cayce Tennis Center</b>
<b>Boys Golf</b>	<b>May 18/19, 2020</b>	<b><i>Various sites (www.schsl.org)</i></b>
<b>Softball</b>	<b>May 16-23, 2020</b>	<b><i>Various sites (www.schsl.org)</i></b>
<b>Baseball</b>	<b>May 16-23, 2020</b>	<b><i>Various sites (www.schsl.org)</i></b>

***TBA sites will be listed at www.schsl.org closer to the date of event.***





## 2019 Statewide Volleyball Officials Clinic

Once again, the SCHSL hosted a summertime day clinic for volleyball officials from across the state. We had over 200 attendees this year, a record number! Gilbert High School hosted the event which was a hands-on tutorial workshop for veteran officials as well as our newcomers. Several volleyball teams participated in the training aspects while experts were on hand to answer questions and show techniques.





## Inaugural NCAA/NFHS Boys Scholastic Basketball Event, Summer '19

The SCHSL partnered with the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association to host this summer's big event. There were over 65 high schools represented during the weekend and an enormous amount of interest from NCAA coaches and college representatives. We look forward to the opportunity to host this event during Summer 2020.





## How Can We Help You?

The July retirement of Nessie Harris brought about many changes within the SCHSLS Office. Please be sure to review our [ABOUT US](#) link on our website for contact information for topics and areas you may need assistance with.

## PLANETHS

Your PlanethS representative, Ryan Bethea, is located in our office as well and is here to serve you. Varsity head coaches have through August 21 to complete the fall clinics . More information: <http://schsl.org/index.php/rulesclinics/>

Fall Sports Online Rules Clinics on PlanethS: SWIM, FOOTBALL, COMPETITIVE CHEER, CROSS COUNTRY, VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS GOLF, GIRLS TENNIS  
July 26, 2019 – August 21, 2019

*Winter Sports Online Rules Clinics on PlanethS: October 1st - October 31st*

*Spring Sports Online Rules Clinic on PlanethS: TBA*

*Questions? Contact Ryan at [ryanbethea@planeths.com](mailto:ryanbethea@planeths.com) / 803-896-6955*

## Welcome to the Team!

### 2019-20 New Member Schools:

Polaris Tech Charter  
Catawba Ridge High  
Riverwalk Academy  
Legion Collegiate Academy

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### 2019-20 New Executive Committee Members:

Dr. Marty Conner

Mrs. Andrea Pridgen

Mr. Tony Folk

Dr. Kandace Bethea

Mr. Keith Kiser

Dr. Baron Davis



***\*New in 2019-20***

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE**

As a student-athlete whose school is a member of the South Carolina High School League, I know that I am held to a higher standard as I participate in athletics. Therefore,

- I will resolve to conduct myself with dignity as an athlete and compete understanding the spirit of fair play, while at the same time playing hard.
- I will exercise self-control and refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking and unnecessary physical contact.
- I will respect my opponents and try to be a true team player.
- I will show respect to authority and accept their decisions.
- I will remember that winning isn't everything and will only be short lived, but the character I develop and the way I handle adversity will be a lifelong lesson.

I know the expectations of my school, my region and the South Carolina High School League and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school, community and state as a student athlete.

## **COACHES' SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE**

As a coach whose school is a member of the South Carolina High School League, I know that I am a role model for my school and community and that I have been entrusted to develop the game skills for my student-athletes, but more importantly their character. Therefore,

- I will exemplify professional behavior and leadership with strong ethical standards.
- I will respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- I will teach my student-athletes the principles of good sportsmanship: integrity, fairness and respect.
- I will describe and define respectful and disrespectful behavior. Stressing that disrespectful behavior, such as taunting, trash talking, and intimidation will not be tolerated.
- I will respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will minimize coaching behaviors that could incite my players and crowd.
- I will teach student-athletes how to win and lose graciously.

I hereby accept and understand the seriousness of my responsibilities and the privilege of representing my school, my community, my region and the South Carolina High School League.

# NFHS HAS 2019-20 NEWS FOR YOU!



*New year, New look ...*

*What do you give an organization for their 100th Birthday?*

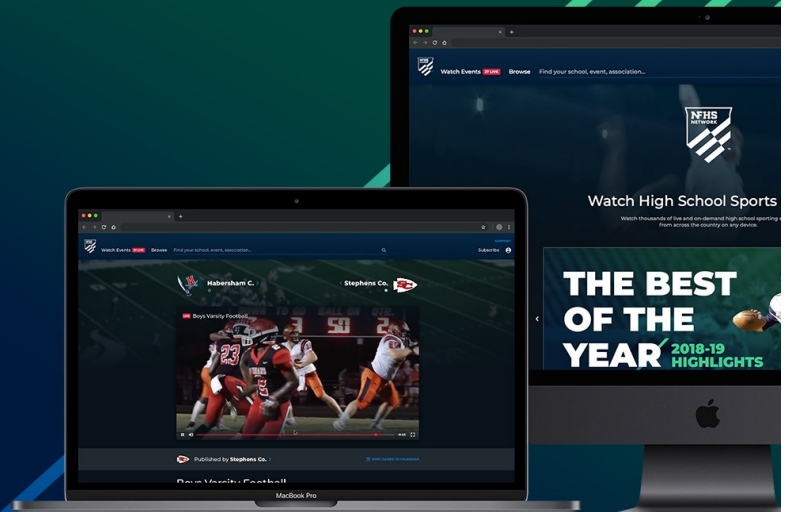
*A new logo for starters! The NFHS celebrated the milestone anniversary this summer and capped it off by unveiling a new sleek NFHS logo.*

*Great Job!*

**NFHS Network** had a website reboot this summer...  
Be sure to visit their new and improved website at  
**[www.nfhsnetwork.com](http://www.nfhsnetwork.com)** by clicking the graphic below:

## THE NEW NFHSNETWORK.COM IS HERE

- / Enhanced Search Functionality
- / Improved Mobile Experience
- / Stream-lined Navigation
- / Personalized Content



**2019-20 is your year! Join our winning team of officials.  
South Carolina's students are counting on it.**



### **#BeAnOfficial**

There's a shortage of high school officials in almost every sport across the USA. Becoming a high school official is the easiest call you'll ever make. High school officials protect the integrity of the games our kids love to play by demonstrating qualities such as honesty, objectivity, consistency, courage and common sense. Officials have an opportunity to help teenagers learn life lessons that will benefit them for a lifetime. As veteran officials continue to retire, new officials have an opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of young people every year. Help spread the word- SCHSL needs officials for all sports.

Contact [Charlie Wentzky](mailto:charlie@schsl.org) at [charlie@schsl.org](mailto:charlie@schsl.org) or 803.798.0120 for more information or apply online by clicking below:

**ArbiterSports®**





## ***If Thunder Rolls and Lightning Strikes – Take precautions; Not chances!***

When Mother Nature is at work, everyone is at her mercy. There are simple steps to take when lightning is in the area at outdoor athletic contests. The appendix of the NFHS Rules- *NFHS Guidelines for Handling Practices and Contests During Lightning or Thunder Disturbances*. You can also find them by clicking on the above graphic.

Along with reviewing these guidelines, we would recommend that each school have a game administrator or athletic trainer who is responsible for assisting the officials in making weather related decisions. For those schools who have technology that can indicate the distance of lightning strikes, we recommend that you use this information with assisting officials in lightening related decisions. Obviously we would encourage both the schools and officials to err on the side of caution (whether that be with the information provided through technology or with what can be visibly seen) when addressing severe weather. In an effort to make these difficult decisions easier to navigate, we are also encouraging you to have your athletic trainer or game administrator meet with the officials prior to the game to discuss your evacuation plan, and any local school or district based requirements for dealing with severe weather.

It's always best to be safe than sorry. Thank you in advance for supporting SCHSL safety measures and practices.

### **SAFETY FIRST**

"As a league, we consistently search for opportunities to enhance safety measures and precautions for not only our athletes but the coaching staff as well. The safety and well-being of our student athletes is paramount to the mission as well as success of our athletic programs. There is no such thing as being over prepared or too careful. I am confident when I say there isn't a SCHSL employee, coach or school administrator that doesn't put student safety first with every school athletic program related decision,"

Jerome Singleton,  
Commissioner



### **SCHSL E-Bulletin *Back to School, Fall 2019***

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