



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Superintendents, Principals & Athletics Directors**

**FROM: Jerome Singleton**

**DATE: October 6, 2020**

**RE: Fall Sports Season Update**

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Greetings:

As we continue to deal with the ever-changing “New Normal”, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued efforts. After seven weeks of in-season practices and five weeks of regular-season competition, the Fall Sports Season has progressed well for our member schools. While there have been some setbacks for some of our member schools, they have made conscientious, cautious adjustments to address the setbacks.

Schools are to be commended for jobs well done. We must continue to be vigilant and committed to practicing the safety and health precautions that have served us well. As we progress through the fall sports season, I share the following information/updates:

### **Close Contact and Contact Tracing**

The League Office staff has received multiple calls with inquiries referencing close contact clarifications as it relates to contact tracing and quarantining individuals and/or teams. Documents developed and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have defined “close contact” as being within six feet for fifteen minutes or more. This definition lent itself to some confusion as to whether the fifteen minutes must be consecutive or cumulative.

To help address this matter, I contacted representatives from DHEC for more clarification. This was their response:

“When the fifteen minutes is consecutive, there is no debate. It CAN be cumulative IF the contact occurs within the same event or day. The fifteen minutes will likely be cumulative if it occurs within the same practice or game. If there is doubt, guidance is available from our regional public health offices (contacts are shown below).”

<b>Lowcountry</b>	<b>Midlands</b>	<b>Pee Dee</b>	<b>Upstate</b>
<b>Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg</b>	<b>Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York</b>	<b>Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg</b>	<b>Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union</b>
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405	2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204	1931 Industrial Park Rd Conway, SC 29526	200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602
Office: (843) 441-1091 Fax: (843) 953-0051	Office: (888) 801-1046 Fax: (803) 576-2993	Office: (843) 915-8886 Fax: (843) 915-6502	Office: (864) 372-3133 Fax: (864) 282-4373

I hope that this information helps to address any confusion that exists.

### **Regular Season versus Playoffs Format**

Our Fall Sports Season contests are well underway and some of our focus has been shifted to preparing for playoffs in these sports.

While the regular season affords the member school flexibility to adjust scheduled contests without affecting other schools, the playoff schedules are not as flexible. With that in mind, currently, there are no plans to adjust the playoff bracket dates, beyond normal adjustments for postponed contests due to weather-related issues. If a team is unable to play because of being quarantined for an extended period of time, that team will have to forfeit the contest and the bracket will progress as normal.

While this format makes things challenging, I am confident that the member schools will continue to practice health and safety measures and not compromise the health and safety of any member school athlete, coach, and staff for the sake of competing in a playoff contest.

Health and safety first! Wins and Losses later!

### **Ticketing, League Passes, and Spectators**

With limitations on spectator seating, many member schools have developed some creative ways to allow spectators at their events while practicing mandated social distancing. Many have exercised presale ticketing and acceptance of a limited amount of League passes for admission. The feedback that I have received has been mostly positive.

As we explore a process for the playoffs and spectators, the League office will provide some directions for the member schools as it relates to ticket, sales, League passes, and spectators.

Again, your efforts are greatly appreciated. We are off to a great start and we must continue to be cooperative with our fellow member schools as we address this ever-changing “new normal.”

Wishing you the best. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner  
SC High School League