



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals & Athletics Directors

FROM: Jerome Singleton

DATE: December 4, 2020

RE: Conclusion of Fall Sports

Greetings:

We can check off another win for Fall Sports. After five months of competition, we will conclude the last of our outdoor sports for the Fall Sports Season this weekend.

Note: Competitive Cheer is a fall sport but held indoors. That sport is scheduled to conclude on December 19th as our last fall sport for the 2020-2021 school year.

You are to be commended and deserving of a round of applause. Your commitment to teamwork helped to ensure the opportunity for our student-athletes to have a regular season and for some, playoff opportunities. **Let's not minimize the value of what has been accomplished!** A trip down memory lane will remind us that over the summer, we were not sure that we would be able to have a season of athletic competition. There were many uncertainties about the COVID-19 virus that forced us to re-evaluate our mission as to the purpose of educational athletics in our school system.

While many were bombarded with opinions about what needed to happen, you maintained your focus on what was considered best for the student-athletes. Many sacrifices were made. There were loud outcries to have a season even if spectators were not allowed to be in attendance. "Just give the students a chance to play!" You took on the challenge and created not only an opportunity for the students to play but to also allow spectators (although limited) to be in attendance. Congratulations on a job well done!

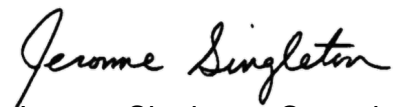
"Just give students a chance to play even if spectators are not allowed to be in attendance!" Operating with that focus yielded tremendous benefits for our student-athletes. The Swim State Championships were held without spectators. Over 80 of our member schools participated in the swim championships. The Tennis and Volleyball State Championship competitions were held with limited spectators in attendance. All of these state championship competition events were broadcasted on the internet (NFHS Network) for those unable to be in attendance.

"Just give students a chance to play even if spectators are not allowed to be in attendance!"

As we move into the conclusion of our football season with State Championship competitions this weekend, we are poised to have the maximum allowed spectator attendance at each contest. Unfortunately, interest in spectator attendance was much higher than the venue capacity allowance. Admission tickets were scarce and some were not able to get tickets. I recognize the frustration this has created for many who wanted to be in attendance and I applaud your desire to be in attendance and support your team. Fortunately, while it's not the same as being at the contest physically, each contest will have a live video broadcast for all to see.

All decisions were made with health and safety being a major focus. Your efforts are being rewarded by **giving the students a chance to play!** This great feat could not have been accomplished without the teamwork of all stakeholders involved: the member schools and its administrators, coaches, students, and staff; the communities and the parents, fans, and boosters; the governmental agencies and health & safety organizations; the contest officials; the media and the general public. You are all to be commended and deserving of recognition. We are rounding the corner and approaching the finish line with great momentum. Let's not get distracted now because we need to finish this race and carry that momentum into our next challenge. I am confident that with focused teamwork we **give our students a chance to play** even if spectators are allowed to be in attendance.

Thank you for all you do to keep our stakeholders safe, healthy, and involved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
SC High School League