2015-16

South Carolina High School League

ANNUAL *"Play-by-Play"* REPORT

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Commissioner's Message:

Welcome to our first ever SCHSL Annual *Play-By-Play* Report. The 2015-16 school year was everything we could have hoped for and more. Filled with unexpected challenges, unrivaled champions and immeasurable charitable efforts, just to list a few; we celebrate it all. I hope this summary provides insight on SCHSL events and the 2015-16 highlights we experienced as a 'team.' After 21 years working with the SCHSL, I am never met with disappointment as the school year comes to a close The annual report is a modest capsulation of sportsmanship, services offered, and the many facets of our league. I am proud of how far the SCHSL has come since its inception, over 100 years ago.

Enjoy a review of our last year and join us as we venture into an even bigger year of South Carolina's middle and high school athletics. My heart is filled with anticipation for what's to come!

"The South Carolina High School League is here to serve you, our member schools and our public. We aspire to be not just the governing body of South Carolina middle and high school sanctioned athletics, but also the authority of Good Sports!"

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

It Starts at the Top

The premiere authority of good sportsmanship, athleticism and academic prowess, South Carolina is a hot bed of athletic talent spanning across age ranges to include the much celebrated middle school and high school student athletes. SCHSL commits to celebrating the academic and athletic success of our athletes as well as working with the parents, coaches, athletic directors, 'gate keepers' such as umpires and referees, medical professionals and supporters. Highlighting the accomplishments of the individuals who make up the sporting arena for tweens and teens is key to promoting the purpose of the SCHSL. In addition to this responsibility is building a partnership with statewide and national media outlets on issues important to the future of sports in South Carolina. School-aged athletes are students first and academic success is the first step in exceeding expectations outside of the classroom. Healthy lifestyles and good sportsmanship are promoted at the school level as well as the state level. South Carolina is home to winners both on and off the field/court/course/in or out of the pool!

The 2015-16 League membership included 213 high schools and 210 junior high and middle schools. The League's activities are now offered to over 98,320 students.

SCHSL is…

The **mission** of the South Carolina High School League is to provide governance and leadership for interscholastic athletic programs that promote, support, and enrich the educational experience of students.

The **purpose** of the League is to formulate and maintain policies in accordance with its mission and beliefs that will:

· safeguard the educational values of interscholastic athletic competition;

· advance high ideals of sportsmanship;

· develop and direct a program which will promote, protect and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants; and

· promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic athletic competition

Mickey Pringle, President
Dan Matthews, Vice President
Dee Christopher, Past President
Ozzie Ahl (Term expires 2017) AAAAA
Dr. Charles Burry (Term expires 2018) AAAA
Robby Roach (Term expires 2019) AAA
Sam Tuten (Term expires 2020) AA
Shawn Johnson (Term expires 2020) A
Ryan Brown (Ongoing Term) State Department of Education
Dr. Steve Wilson (Term expires 2020) Superintendents Association
Maureen Tiller (Term expires 2020) Principals Association
Kathy Coleman (Term expires 2019) School Boards Association
Bob Hayes (Term expires 2018) Coaches Association
Penny Atkinson (Term expires 2019) Associate Member
Sam Jones (Term expires 2020) Officials Association
Joe Quigley (Term expires 2020) Athletic Administrators Association
Dr. Akil Ross (Term expires 2018) Member At Large
Edmond Burnes (Term expires 2017) Member At Large
Patrick Finneran (Term expires 2017) Member At Large
Dr. Tiniece Javis (Term expires 2018) Member At Large

Executive Committee

Appellate Panel

The Appellate Panel was established and began during the 2014-15 school year and serves as a final authority in all appeals involving member schools. Member schools must have the ability to appeal a ruling of the subdivisions, conferences, or regions of the League. The Appellate Panel must provide the final ruling in any appeal brought against a decision on appeal from the Executive Committee of the League. Decisions of the Appellate Panel are the final administrative appeal.

The Appellate Panel consists of seven members who serve four year terms. Members are appointed in the following manner: One person appointed by the legislative delegations of each congressional district. Members of the Appellate Panel may not concurrently serve as officers of any League subdivisions, conferences or regions and may not have served as a member of the Executive Committee within the last three years.

Appellate Members :

Bill McCall, III	First Congressional District
Otis Rawl, Chairman	Second Congressional District
Andy Tweito	Third Congressional District
Bob Davis	Fourth Congressional District
Jackie Queen	Fifth Congressional District
Raleigh King	Sixth Congressional District
Jimmy White	Seventh Congressional District

Appellate Panel

The SCHSL provides athletic programs to students enrolled in South Carolina middle and high schools. Our membership includes public and private school educational institutions.

South Carolina Department of Education

SCHSL Brackets

Over 98,322 Boys *(61,383)* and Girls *(36,939)* participate in the 14 SCHSL sanctioned sports. Approximately 1750 medals to include Gold, Silver and Bronze were presented to student athletes and coaches.

Who's Playing?

Fans!

FAMILY!

Friends!

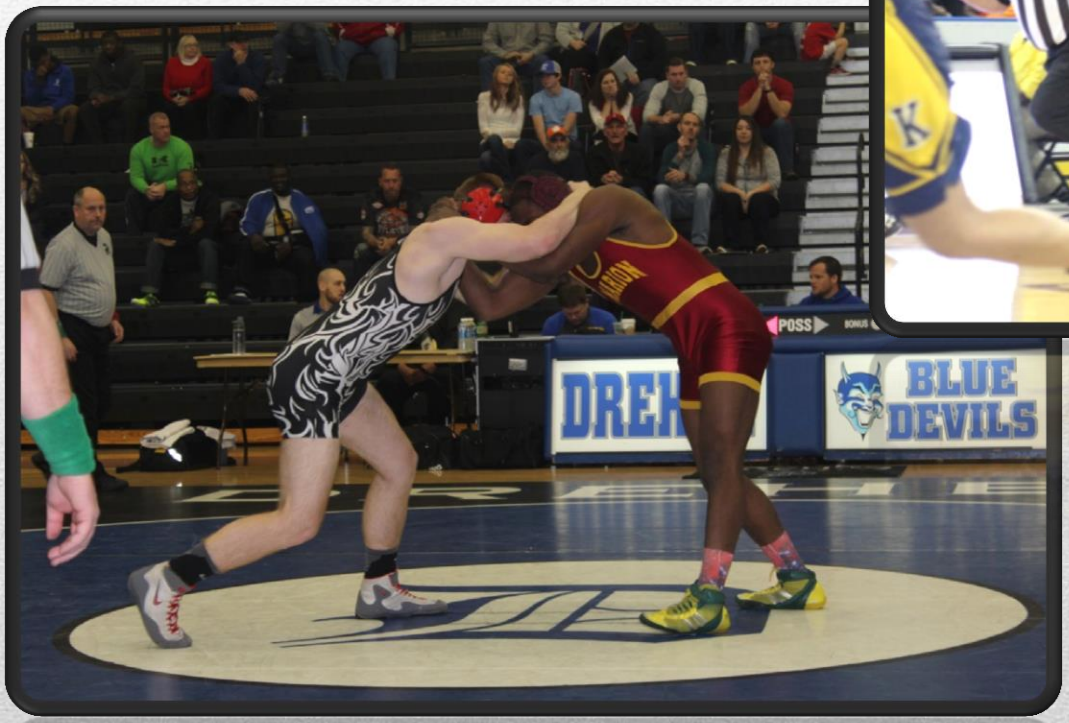
Fun!

Swimming
Cross Country
Volleyball
Girls Tennis
Girls Golf
Football
Competitive Cheer

FALL into Sports

Fall Sports cont...

Boys and Girls **Basketball** Finals are held at the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia, SC, one week after Lower and Upper State Finals conclude in Florence and Greenville.

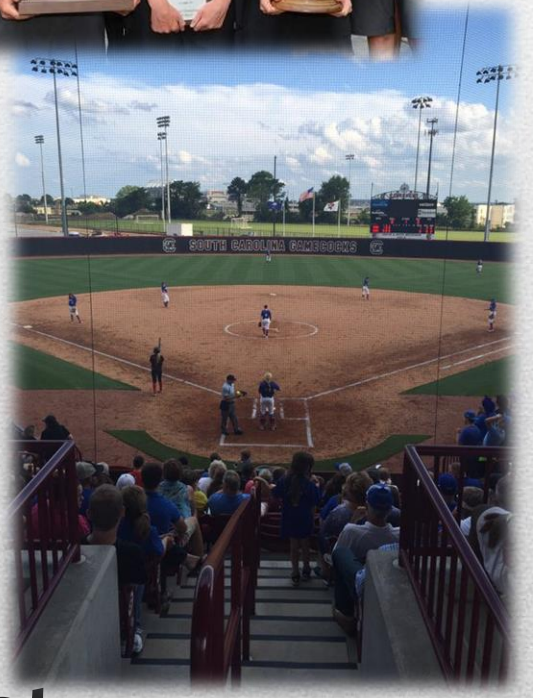


Wrestling is becoming one of the fastest growing sports across SC as well as the nation. We host the individual (Anderson Civic Center) as well as team finals (Dreher High).

Winter is Coming

Boys Tennis
Track and Field
Baseball
Boys Golf
Softball
Soccer
Lacrosse

Spring into Sports



Spring Sports cont…

The SCHSL contracts approximately 3393 male and female officials/referees to cover the fall, winter and spring seasons of 14 sports. **Some officials/referees are certified at more than one sport.*

Officially Speaking

PRESS CONFERENCES

During the 2015-16 school year, the SCHSL State Final press conference experience was amplified for our honored guests and media by inviting successful professionals from the next level. We were privileged to have the following guest speakers; an experienced and entertaining lot:

- ***Heather Vahjen,*** *Erskine College Volleyball Coach*
- ***Todd Knight,*** *Newberry College Head Football Coach*
- ***Oliver "Buddy" Pough,*** *SC State University Head Football Coach*
- ***Shannon Johnson,*** *Coker College Head Basketball Coach*

Our press conferences are live streamed online by PlanetHS www.planeths.com and NFHS Network www.nfhsnetwork.com

Can We Talk?!

2015-16 PRESS CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

SCHSL: Academics, Athletics and Much More!

- High School League Passes
- Middle School Task Force
- Rules Clinics
- Coaches Education
- Officials Workshops
- New Principals and Athletic Directors Meetings
- Transfers and Eligibility
- Disciplinary Issues and Policy Enforcement
- Palmetto's Finest State Records

Serving the Membership

NFHS Learn

The SCHSL is a leader in National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) online course downloads. We strongly encourage habitual studying and research of rules and safety concerns offered in each sport. Over 4 million courses have been downloaded by coaches across the nation and SC takes pride in leading the cause. Mandatory courses for every SCHSL coach prior to the start of the school year include:

- **Concussion Course**
- **Heat Illness Prevention Course**
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

"Anyone Can Save A Life" is an emergency action plan program for after-school practices and events. Our coaches are provided materials along with the online course in order to better prepare for potential emergencies that may require first aide or CPR assistance from first responders.

Lifelong Learners

SCHSL OFFICE

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Skip Lax, Associate Commissioner

Nessie Harris, Associate Commissioner

Charlie Wentzky, Assistant Commissioner

Amy Boozer, Assistant Commissioner

Dru Nix, Finance and Benefits Officer

Jan Hogan, Director of Technology and Media

Tammie Newman, Director of Communications/Public Relations

Wynne Dee Cockfield, Arbiter Administrator

LaVonda Toatley, Administrative Assistant

Blair Warren, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

SCHSL Team Members

At Your Service

SCHSL student athletes and their coaches spend a tremendous amount of time each year volunteering in their communities as well as assisting in communities across the state. From litter pick-up projects, water and food donations to reading to elementary-aged children, SCHSL athletes value the opportunity to be a positive influence on others. Character building is part of the growth process within our athletic programs.

Community is Unity

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is key to any and all successful athletic programs, at any level. As administrators/coaches, we feel it is essential that all athletes maintain a positive approach to handling adversity.

Our standard shall be that all coaches and players compete with humility and respect all involved in the contest. Criteria to determine a sportsmanship award winner will be based on

Community Service

Athlete & Coach Ejections

Sportsmanship/Leadership Summit Attendance

Sportsmanship Reports from other school and/or officials

NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course

Sportsmanship within your student and fan sections at events

SCHSL Leadership Summits *(one day seminars)* are held across the state for our student athletes to learn more about their role as leaders in their respective schools. Leadership, healthy food choices / fitness tips, social media facts and much more were topics discussed at the summits this year. We appreciate the host facilities, workshop facilitators and guest speakers for their continued support and generosity. Columbia College, Coastal Carolina University, Newberry College and Charleston Southern University made a positive impact on our student athletes as did their personnel and college athletes. Contact your high school's athletics director for more information.

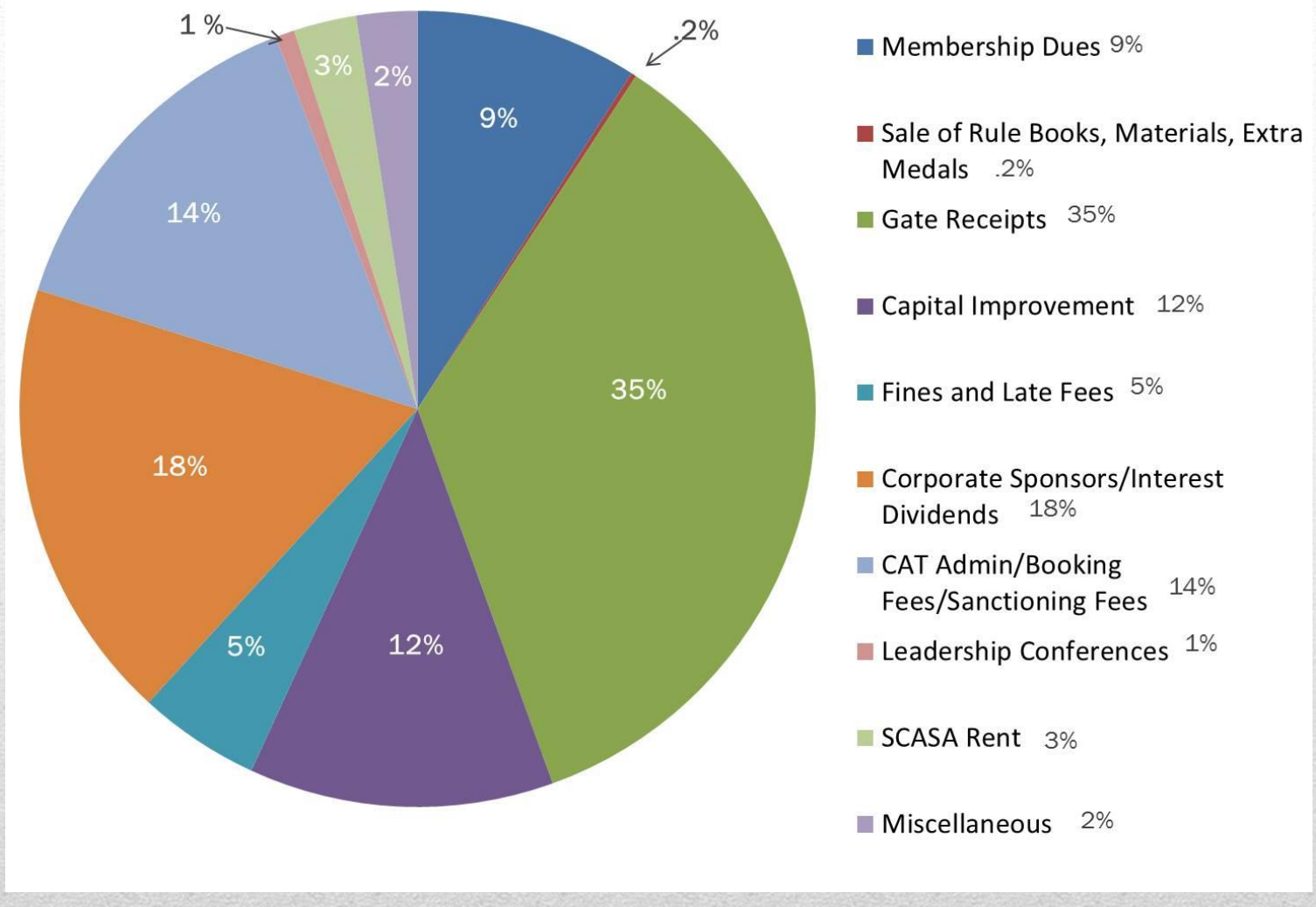
Leadership Summits

Leadership Summits 2015-16

#LeadingTheWay

Our membership includes 210 middle schools. We now have a Middle School Task Force in place to better serve our 7th- 8th grade level athletes, coaches and administrators. The task force was created in 2014 with the mission of meeting the needs of our middle school members in the development and operating their athletic programs. The committee of five principals and four athletic directors from around the state address issues affecting middle school athletics and proposing changes. They meet four times a year to improve all aspects of the middle school experience.

Middle Schools, too!



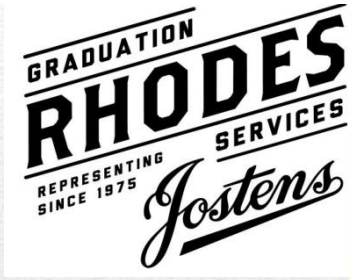
Dollars Making $ense

With a combined total in excess of 80 years involvement in middle and high school athletics, two prominent retirements occurred during the 2015-16 school year. The SCHSL bid farewell to **Bruce Hulion**, Assistant Commissioner of Officials, and **Dru Nix**, Associate Commissioner. Two tremendous assets to not only the state, but their influence at the national level is much appreciated and will be missed. *#GoneFishing*

Fond Farewells

Partnership Team

Our business leaders are recognized not only as SCHSL partners but dedicated supporters of South Carolina's student athletes, coaches and member schools. With their continuous contributions, we have been able to sustain a top-notch organization with a rich history in excess of 100 years. You have touched the lives of sports enthusiasts, both young and old, by providing financial assistance as well as products and services used at each and every SCHSL event. We are fortunate to have the support of these world class partners who uphold the belief that all student athletes are winners from the moment they participate in high school sporting events. Sincere "Thanks" to each and every one of you who help create successful programs across our glorious state.



Instagram

schslsports

facebook

South Carolina High School League

LinkedIn

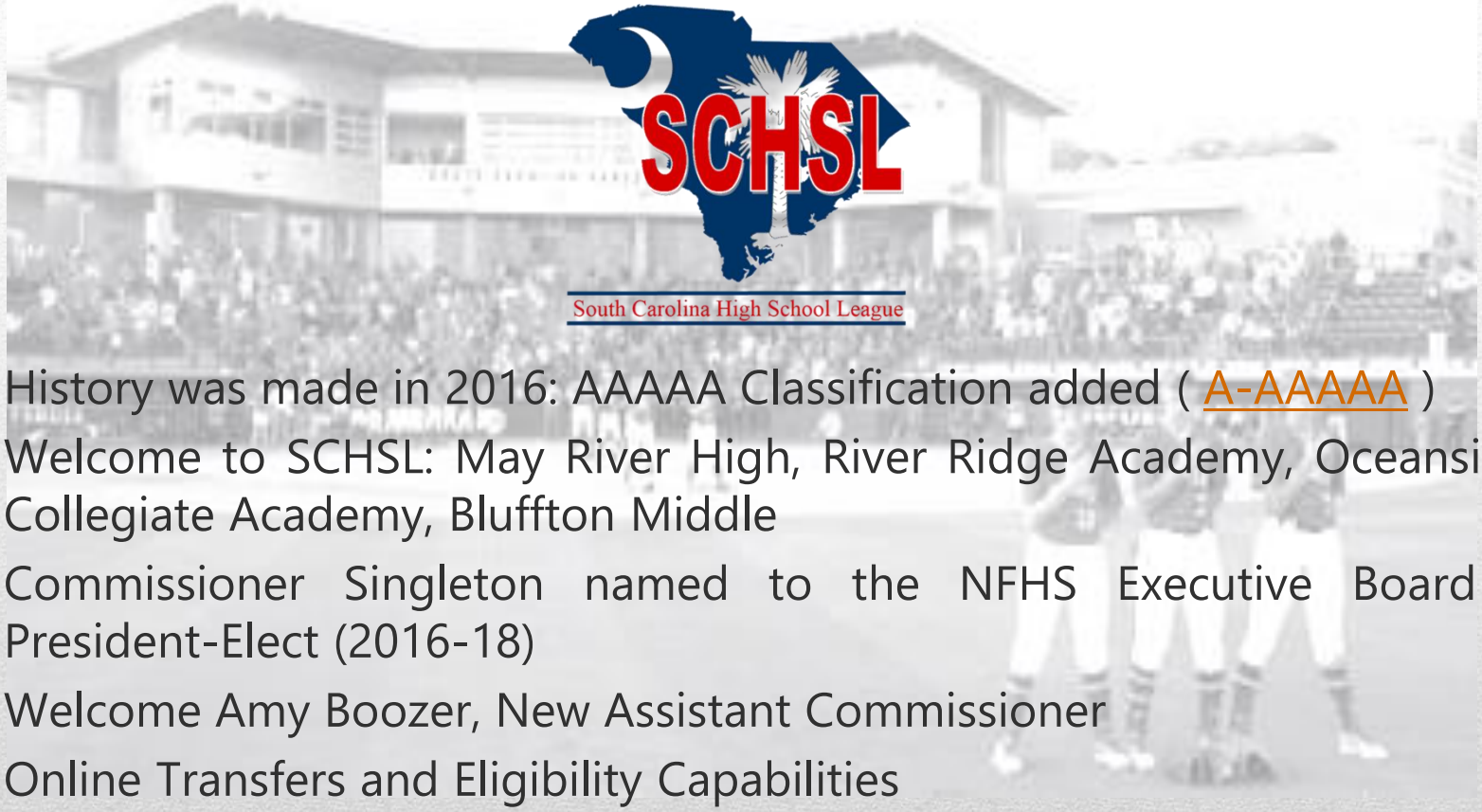
South Carolina High School League

twitter

@SCHSL

@Social#Media

~ Looking Ahead 2016-17 ~



- History was made in 2016: AAAAA Classification added (A-AAAAA)
- Welcome to SCHSL: May River High, River Ridge Academy, Oceanside Collegiate Academy, Bluffton Middle
- Commissioner Singleton named to the NFHS Executive Board - President-Elect (2016-18)
- Welcome Amy Boozer, New Assistant Commissioner
- Online Transfers and Eligibility Capabilities
- MORE business partnerships, coaches education courses, inclusion, access to SCHSL sanctioned events and interaction with the best student athletes and fans in the nation…South Carolinians!