



South Carolina High School League

---

Tammie Newman, Director of Communications/Public Relations

tnewman@schsl.org / 803.896.0417

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

## **SCHSL announces sports season revamp due to Covid19**

The South Carolina High School League Executive Committee met earlier today and approved the SCHSL plan to keep sports operational, with presumably a shortened season for fall sports. Two other items were heard, Lexington School District One's plan of action and Greenville County Public School District's letter requesting a temporary halt to fall sports. The SCHSL Sports Calendar was approved; however, Lexington School District One will appeal the decision to the Appellate Panel next week.

"It is the premise and promise of this league, from the membership, SCHSL staff, Executive Board and Appellate Panel, to support and encourage athletic participation among ALL of South Carolina's students," state Commissioner Jerome Singleton. "We have been overcome with grief and outright disappointment since mid-March when the nation was at a standstill with the onset of Covid-19. What has followed is months of uncertainty, confusion, and despair. That ends now! We are forging ahead with the information we have, placing as many health and safety precautions at the frontline and allowing fall sports to continue with adjustments."

Noteworthy decisions voted on by the Executive Committee include:

- Approved to push back start of practice from July 31 to August 17
- 7 game football season starting September 11
- Region games (Girls Tennis, Volleyball, Football) played first and shortened playoff schedule

The attached 2020-21 SCHSL Sports Calendar (**subject to change due to pending appeal**) has been *updated*. Although there are many opinions and variations on the correct way to proceed and prepare for the school year, we all agree and can work together to make 2020-21 a season to remember. The SCHSL is committed to doing our very best to lift our students, support our coaches, and activate our programs to start anew. Making alterations to the sports calendar was one of many steps that also incorporated the previously shared guidelines. Stressing the importance of CDC and DHEC safety guidelines is paramount to the success of our sports season.

# Proposed Fall Sports Season Calendar

Fall Sports start date moved from **July 31<sup>st</sup>** to **August 17<sup>th</sup>** for first day of practice for **all sports**.

Start date will be reviewed within 1 week prior to determine if it is possible to start on that specific date. If determined that it is not possible, then the anticipated start date will be moved/delayed to no less than one week from the original start date.

Each time the start date is moved/delayed, the length of the sports season as well as the playoffs will have to be evaluated to determine the best option for each sport.

## *Start Date Layout*

### **Football:**

First Game: September 11<sup>th</sup> (Begin with Region play)

Maximum Regular Season Games: 7

Playoffs Start: October 30<sup>th</sup>

State Finals: November 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Girls' Tennis and Volleyball:**

First Contest: August 31<sup>st</sup> (Begin with Region play)

Girls' Tennis and Volleyball Playoffs Start: October 19<sup>th</sup>

Girls' Tennis and Volleyball State Finals: October 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Swim and Girls' Golf:**

First Contest: August 31<sup>st</sup>

Swim State Finals: October 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Girls' Golf Qualifiers: October 19<sup>th</sup>

Girls' Golf State Finals: October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Cross Country:**

First Contest: August 31<sup>st</sup>

Cross Country Qualifiers: Week of November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

Cross Country State Finals: Week of November 9<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>

### **Competitive Cheer:**

First Contest: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Upper/Lower Qualifiers: Week of November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> \*Upper/Lower Qualifier\*

Cheer State Finals: Week of November 9<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>

**In the sports of Football, Volleyball, and Girls' Tennis, region play will be used to determine playoff seedings. Teams not making the playoffs in football will be allowed ONE additional game.**

**In the sports of Swim, Girls' Golf, Cross-country, and Competitive Cheer, qualifier events will determine advancement to the respective State Finals.**