



South Carolina High School League

To:	Superintendents, Principals and, Athletics Directors
From:	Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
Subject:	Best Practices
Date:	July 21, 2021

Greetings:

We hope you all were able to enjoy rest and relaxation after completing what was probably the most challenging school year in our careers as educators. We share with you again, on behalf of the League staff and Executive Committee, our gratitude for your diligence in managing activities during the pandemic.

With the upcoming 2021-22 school year approaching, we must continue to keep a focus on safety in athletic programs. As much as everyone is ready to return to normalcy for school and athletics, COVID-19 is still affecting our state.

As we prepare to enter the school year, we are compelled to provide some caution along with the excitement of “getting back to normal” in our state. We are all pleased that vaccines have allowed us to gather in large numbers, to put away the masks, and to enjoy activities as we did before Covid-19.

The fact of the matter is that many people (about 55%) have not been fully vaccinated and pose a threat to “business as usual” in regards to classroom instruction as well as in extra-curricular activities. So, as you plan for the opening of school and activities, we want to encourage all school leaders to be mindful of the following recommended best practices that have been vetted with DHEC, SCHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, and League Staff.

- The good hygiene practices and sanitizing protocols for your facilities you had in place at the end of the school year should remain in place as we start the new year.
- Continuous monitoring of students’ health will be important in identifying those who might be infected with the virus. Encourage students to speak up when they feel sick or notice that someone else might be.
- Encourage the use of masks for those students who feel compelled to do so.

- Concerning spectator attendance at events, continue to practice social distancing as feasibly possible.
- Many of you implemented the use of online tickets for your events. We encourage you to continue to use an online platform for your regular-season contests as we plan to sell all of our playoff tickets online.

Your local county and school district may implement restrictions that you will have to adhere to which may lead to challenges for competition play during the year. If so, please communicate with our office if there is a conflict for competition.

We will also continue to keep in place many of the mitigation efforts used during the last school year. For instance, we will host Fall Sports Rules Clinics and our Mandatory Administrators meetings via Zoom. Not only will this help with the spread of the virus, but it will also save on time and cost of travel.

Our message is one of excitement for the new school year. We know you're ready to work side by side with your friends and colleagues again and to enter packed stadiums and scream loudly for your school teams! We want the same. But we know that the battle with Covid-19 is not over, and we caution our school leaders to remain diligent in stopping the spread of this horrible virus.

We must all continue to keep doing our part again this year, to give our teams the best opportunity to have another successful season.

As always, we are here to help you in any way we can. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Beat wishes for a great 2021-22 school year!

Sincerely,



Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
SC High School League