



## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: High and Middle School Principals  
High School & Middle School Athletic Directors

FROM: Dr. Sean Alford  
Chief Instructional Services Officer

Date: September 16, 2011

### **ACTION: CHANGE IN PROCEDURE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PLAYING ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS**

Athletic Directors met on September 13<sup>th</sup> at BLHS and developed consensus agreement around the following procedure for athletic participation. All schools have agreed to implement and communicate expectations as outlined below.

For the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, seventh graders are not allowed to participate in winter or spring sports at the high school level unless the middle school does not have that particular sport. By SCHSL regulation, seventh or eighth grader cannot participate in contact sports at the Varsity level (examples: Wrestling, Soccer, and Lacrosse).

1. Beginning in 2012-13, seventh and eighth graders from the middle schools will be allowed to try out for the high school teams even in cases where the same sport is offered at the middle school level. This complies with the SCHSL regulation.
  - a. High school teams will run tryouts for no more than 4-days and make their selections.
  - b. Middle school teams may start tryouts whenever they choose as allowed by SCHSL rules but will continue tryouts for at least 4-days past the end of high school tryouts; this will allow seventh and eighth graders who do not make a high school team to return and tryout for the middle school team.
2. We must convey to seventh and eighth graders clearly that if chosen for a high school team, they will not be able to return to the middle school to compete in that particular

sport that year. However, they can compete in other sports at the middle school level during a different sport season.

3. High school Head Coaches will take the lead in setting the tone and philosophy for their sport for seventh-twelfth grade; a positive and active effort will be made to include middle school staff in pre-season and tryout activities. High school coaches will also make an active effort to meet with middle school coaches and to observe practices and games at the middle schools during the year. It is recommended that middle school and high school coaches work together during tryouts to insure athletes are placed on the appropriate teams.
4. Parental concerns or questions with this change in policy should be addressed to the District Director of Athletics, Dr. Sean Alford at 322-5931 or [sean.alford@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:sean.alford@beaufort.k12.sc.us)
5. High and Middle School Athletic Directors will make an active effort to consolidate their purchases whenever possible, using the RFP bid list to make the best use of athletic budgets. This should include areas such as football re-conditioning to help lower cost by increasing volume and having a single vendor work with as many schools as possible to both streamline the process and reduce cost.