

Athletic Participation When Your Zoned School Does Not Offer a Sport

Charleston County School District Athletics

What Is a Combination of Schools?

A Combination of Schools allows students from a school that does not sponsor a specific sport to try out at another school that offers the sport.

- This approval applies to all students at the non-sponsoring school — not just one student.
- If approved, every student at the zoned school becomes eligible to try out at the partner school for that sport.
- Approval is granted for one school year only.
- Because combinations impact competitive balance, approval is not automatic.

How the Approval Process Works

Step 1: Region Vote

- The Athletic Director (AD) at the school offering the sport submits official paperwork requesting a combination.
- Athletic Directors within that Region vote to approve or deny the request.

Step 2: Statewide Vote

- If the Region approves the request, it moves to a statewide vote.
- All Athletic Directors in that classification vote.
- If more than 50% vote in favor, the SCHSL grants approval.

If the Combination Is Approved

- All students at the zoned school may try out for the sport at the partner school.
- Participation is permitted for that school year only.
- Students must still meet all eligibility and academic requirements.

If the Combination Is Not Approved

- Students will not be permitted to participate at the partner school for that school year.
- The decision is determined by statewide Athletic Director voting.
- Neither the SCHSL nor the school district can override the final vote.

Parent Action Steps

1. Confirm Early – Verify whether your zoned school offers the sport your child wants to play.

2. Contact Your Zoned School's Athletic Director – Ask which nearby high schools offer the sport.
3. Contact the School Offering the Sport – Request that their Athletic Director initiate the Combination of Schools process. The athletic director may decline the request to combine schools if it affects their school's classification. If this happens you may request a combination of schools with another district school.
4. Start Early – This process should begin 3–6 months before tryouts to allow time for voting and approval.

For additional information, please contact your school's Athletic Director.