

High School Coaches Request Two-Week Pause in Football Season

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Coaches in South Carolina are urging the High School League to pause the football season for two weeks following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. The S.C. Athletic Coaches Association believes this break will allow affected schools to safely resume practices and prepare for future games. The request comes as numerous games have already been postponed, with lingering unsafe conditions in several regions. This appeal emphasizes the need for equitable competition conditions and safety for student athletes in the wake of the storm.

By the Numbers

- Over a dozen high school games were canceled or postponed last week due to Hurricane Helene.
- The last time the SCHSL adjusted game schedules for natural disasters was in 2018 after Hurricane Florence, postponing the season by one week.

Yes, But

Some may argue that postponing the entire season could disrupt the competitive rhythm and scheduling for other sports like volleyball, which have playoffs approaching. Additionally, the High School League has not yet made a definitive decision, signaling a cautious approach to the situation, considering the complexities of the regular season

schedule.

State of Play

- Conditions remain unsafe in several parts of the Upstate, affecting practice and game schedules.
- Decisions regarding any scheduling changes will likely come from the executive committee next week, with no immediate urgency stressed by SHL commissioner Jerome Singleton.

What's Next

If the request for a two-week pause is granted, state playoffs may be delayed, potentially affecting the schedules of all fall sports. The final decision will depend on the committee's assessment of the situation following Hurricane Helene's aftermath. Future scheduling adjustments could reflect the precedents set by previous hurricanes.

Bottom Line

The urgent plea from coaches highlights the imperative of prioritizing student athlete safety while also advocating for fair competition conditions. A temporary pause may be necessary to ensure all teams have adequate preparation time, preserving the integrity of the high school sports season amid recovery efforts.