

Southcrest
Christian School



SOUTHCREST

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Athletic Handbook

Dear Parents/Guardians and Student-athletes,

Welcome to Southcrest Christian Athletics!

The National Federation of High School Associations refers to co-curricular activities as the "other half of education". Competitive athletics is one of the most visible and important of the co-curricular activities a school offers. Participation in athletics can and should be a significant contributor to the physical, psychological, and emotional development of our young people. It is expected that the district will provide our student athletes with a well-organized, well-administered program in order that they are able to grow, mature and develop while engaging in wholesome, competitive athletic programs. A student should be able to achieve individually while working as part of and for the good of the team.

Christian Athletics is and should be a ministry. Our perspective of winning has a broader definition and our athletes a greater purpose. We want our athletes to be used by God to witness to others.

"Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" ... (Mathew 20: 26, 28)

Participation in competitive athletics is a privilege. Therefore, while the School has the responsibility to provide a program of excellence; our student-athletes have the responsibility to represent themselves, their families, school, and community in a manner reflective of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and meet the expectations of the School Board, the administration, and the coaching staff. This Handbook is designed to spell out the expectations of all members of our Athletic Community.

The Southcrest Christian School athletic program is governed by the rules and regulations of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). This Handbook is a reflection of the rules of the TAPPS constitution and by-laws, as well as the Southcrest Christian philosophy of athletic competition.

Please review the Athletic Handbook very carefully. All student-athletes will be held under the code of conduct during their entire season/and off-season. Please keep the Handbook as a reference for future use. If you have any questions or comments on this Handbook or on any aspect of our athletic program, please feel free to call Jeff Kidder, Athletic Director at 797-7400.

Yours Truly,

Jeff Kidder
Athletic Director

Southcrest Christian School

Athletic Mission and Purpose

Athletic Mission

Southcrest Christian School believes that many valuable lessons and principles learned in the classroom, at home, and at church can be implemented in a competitive athletics program. Athletics provide an opportunity to exercise the body and mind and to develop and use God-given talents in a daily commitment to excellence. We believe that Christians are expected to give their best efforts in everything they do and we are committed to providing an environment that allows them to excel both as individuals and as members of a team.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man.”

Colossians 3:23

It is our belief that athletics provides students with a model of life itself: opportunities exist for lessons in responsibility, fair play, cooperation, concerns for others, leadership, respect for authority, good citizenship, loyalty, continuous learning experiences, health and wellness, and acceptance of the differences among individuals. While we believe that the desire to win is admirable, and that winning is an integral part of the development of each student, winning is not itself the sole measure of success. Of considerably greater importance is the development of each person who participates in athletics; the opportunities for individuals to reach their potential and experience the lessons previously mentioned should be the focal point of our athletic program. Sacrificing individual goals for team goals is indeed paramount to this concept. Thus, the athletic program should be focused on the welfare of the student and the potential for growth as a result of participation on a team.

Coaching Philosophy

At SCS, coaches have the responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes for their student athletes. They play a crucial role in the development of each student athlete's character and attitude. Coaches must be knowledgeable in the sports they teach, dedicated in their preparation, and able to motivate student athletes to always do their best. They have the great responsibility and opportunity to mold young lives for Christ. SCS coaches are expected to provide and maintain structure and to ensure that the SCS philosophy regarding athletics is implemented into their coaching at all times. SCS athletic programs should be integrated with other school programs so that our goal of educating students with a biblical worldview remains foremost in our efforts.

Conflict Resolution

Parenting, teaching, and coaching are difficult vocations. By keeping the lines of communication open between student-athletes, parents, and coaches, many potential problems can be avoided.

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

Matthew 18:15-16

An important goal in athletics is to instill in our student-athletes a sense of ownership and responsibility for their actions. Therefore, it is important that student-athletes learn necessary communication skills and learn how to resolve conflicts in a God-honoring manner. A constant effort should be made by

student-athletes to address coaches respectfully, and coaches will make every effort to handle athletes in a respectful manner. Please review the order of conflict resolution in athletics:

First Step → Player and Coach

Second Step → Parent, Player, and Coach

Third Step → Parent, Player, Coach, and Athletic Director

Final Step → Parent, Player, Coach, Athletic Director, and Administrator

Sportsmanship

- ▶ Learn and understand the rules of your sport. Play hard; play to win, but play fairly within the rules.
- ▶ Maintain self-control. Do not allow your temper to distract you from the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- ▶ Respect your opponent. Never taunt. Congratulate him/her at the games end.
- ▶ Acknowledge good play.
- ▶ Respect the integrity and judgment of officials. Do not question the decision of an official.
- ▶ Be a Christ-like example for your school, teammates, and opponents.

Penalties

- ▶ A player who is disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior by an official is prohibited from playing in the next regularly scheduled contest.
- ▶ A player who strikes or otherwise physically assaults an official will be subject to an extended suspension from athletic competition. A physical confrontation with an official is any incident in which a player either strikes, bumps, or otherwise physically intimidates an official prior to, during, or after a contest or game.
- ▶ A spectator that enters the playing field, or strikes/physically assaults an official/coach/or athlete will be subject to an extended suspension to be determined by the athletic director.

Code of Conduct for Spectators

- ▶ Spectators are an important part of the games and are encouraged to conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- ▶ Spectators should at all times respect officials, visiting coaches, players and cheerleaders as guests in the community and extend all courtesies to them.
- ▶ Enthusiastic cheering for one's own team is encouraged.
- ▶ Booing, whistling, stamping of the feet, and disrespectful remarks shall be avoided.
- ▶ There will be no ringing of bells, sounding of horns or other noisemakers at indoor contests during play. Anyone who does not abide by this rule will be asked to leave the premises.
- ▶ Pep bands or school bands, under the supervision of school personnel, may play during time outs, between periods, or half time. Bands must coordinate play as not to interfere with a cheerleading squad on the floor or field.
- ▶ The throwing of debris, confetti, or other objects from the stands is prohibited. Offending individuals will be asked to leave the premises.
- ▶ During free throws in basketball, all courtesies should be extended.
- ▶ Spectators should encourage each other to observe courteous behavior. Improper behavior should be reported to the game administrator.
- ▶ Spectators will observe the rules of the local school concerning smoking and drinking consumption, littering, and parking procedures.
- ▶ Spectators will respect and obey all school officials and supervisors at athletic contests.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

Parents or guardians are not to approach the Head or Assistant coaches prior to or after games, matches or contests when they feel the need to resolve a conflict with the coach regarding their

child. An appointment needs to be made through the coach and athletic office. Aggressive behavior, verbal or electronic (email, Facebook, twitter, etc.), WILL NOT be tolerated.

Penalty for first offense:

- Student/athlete will be suspended for 1 week of practices and competition. Parents or guardians will have a conference with the Athletic Director and coach.

Penalty for second offense:

- Athlete will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the sports season; athletic fee is forfeited.

Your child's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are. But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great TEAMMATE, mentally tough, resilient and tries their best, is a direct reflection of your parenting.

Athletic Eligibility

It is the expectation for the Student-athlete to be passing all classes with a 70% or above by the midterm of each nine weeks; however, if a student-athlete is failing **more than one class** at progress report, he or she is ineligible to play in games, matches or contests. The student-athlete will be expected to participate in practice to stay on the team.

- Class grades of those athletes failing, as well as those passing, at progress report will be monitored by the athletic office and coaches on a weekly basis (every Monday).
- Student-athletes must not have less than a 70% in more than one class in order to regain or retain their playing eligibility on a weekly basis.

Example: Student A has a 69 or below in 2 classes at progress report and is declared ineligible. The following Tuesday, Student A passes a test and pulls his/her class average in one or both classes to a 70 or above – Is Student A eligible to play in the games on Thursday and Friday?

No – Student A is not eligible for the Thursday and Friday games, because ineligible student grades are reviewed on a weekly basis – Mondays only.

*A Student-athlete that has **failed more than one class** at the end of the nine weeks will remain ineligible. The Student-athlete will have the opportunity to regain their eligibility starting with the second week of the new nine weeks. Review of grades will continue on a weekly basis. At that point, eligibility status is determined on a week by week basis; not based upon progress report grades.

Athletic Fees

Athletic Fees are in addition to tuition payments and are paid through the Athletic Office. Athletic Fees must be paid by the designated date for each sport. If payment is not received by the designated date and payment arrangements have not already been made, your child will be suspended from athletics until payment is made in full. Payment arrangements must be made through the Athletic Office, if necessary.

Attendance

SCS student-athletes must show commitment to their team and their school by attending all practices and competitions:

- ▶ Student-athletes are required to be present in school all day in order to participate in that day's practice or competition.
- ▶ To participate in a weekend or holiday competition, the student must be present in school all day, the previous day.

Exceptions to this policy are as follows:

- ▶ Funeral
- ▶ Medical/dental appointments with absence for part of the day
- ▶ Religious observance
- ▶ Approved college visits
- ▶ Acceptable excuses which are reviewed by the Athletic Director

Transportation and Pick-up

Transportation will be available on a limited basis using Southcrest Baptist Church vans and buses. The majority of transportation will need to be provided by family and friends for practices and athletic events.

SCS student-athletes **will not** be provided with "late pickup" supervision. When the scheduled practice or competition is over the parents are expected to pick up the students or arrange for their transportation with other families. **Those students that are not picked up on time from practice or competitions will be charged a late pick up fee of \$10.00.** Please respect each individual's time and realize that all staff members and parents also have other responsibilities to attend to each day, including home, family, and church.

Team Travel and Overnight Trips

SCS athletic teams will travel to and from all sporting events as a team, either by van or parent drivers. Parents may request approval to transport their children by bringing a note to the school office and also providing a note to the coach at the time of departure.

When teams stay overnight, we will make hotel information available 2 weeks prior to the event. If you want your child to stay with you in a room, you will be asked to pay for the room. The room cost will be divided by how many athletes we have staying in each room.

Participation

SCS students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of athletic opportunities. Athletes may participate in one sport per season. If a student-athlete is involved in school and club teams, the coaching staff will expect that the school teams take priority over the club teams and any other non-school team.

Student-athletes take on the responsibility and commitment to participate when they join a school team; accountability is essential to maintain a cohesive and functional athletic program. If a student-athlete quits, withdraws, or is dismissed by the coaching staff, they will forfeit the privilege of participation for the remainder of the school year and their sports fee. The opportunity to return the following school year will be discussed with the parent, coach, athletic director, and administrator.

Athletic Letters will be awarded to those athletes completing a full TAPPS district schedule or ¼ of the varsity season in individual sports and they must finish the year in good academic and athletic standing.

Discipline System

SCS student-athletes will abide by all student handbook rules, including the school tally and detention program, as well as the following plan set forth for athletics:

- ▶ Student-athletes will follow the grading policies for SCS and athletics.
- ▶ Student-athletes will follow the attendance guidelines set forth in this program.

Uniform and Equipment Care

SCS student-athletes are responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, and protection of all uniforms and equipment issued. The student-athlete is responsible for lost or damaged uniforms and equipment and will reimburse the athletic department the cost of the lost item(s) if needed.

Risk Factors in Sports

The benefit of athletic competition far exceed the potential dangers, but parents/guardians and student-athletes should be aware of and attempt to minimize potential dangers. Parents and athletes assume certain risk with participation in sports activities and realize there is possibility of serious injury. These risks can be significantly reduced by adhering to the following guidelines:

- ▶ No horseplay
- ▶ Know your limitations
- ▶ Follow progressive skill learning
- ▶ Properly wear and use sports equipment
- ▶ Use proper technique in sports fundamentals
- ▶ Follow all instruction from the coaching staff, both written and verbal

Injuries and Insurance

A student athlete **must** report any injuries immediately, no matter how slight the injury may appear to be. Medical expenses resulting from any injury must first be submitted to the athlete's parent/guardians own insurance carrier, and any remaining balance can be submitted to the school's accident insurance carrier who will determine what, if any, further payment or reimbursement will be made. If a coach is not available, the injury should be reported to the school office, the Athletic Director, an administrator, or supervisor as soon as possible after the injury has occurred. Coaches will complete an injury report and submit it to the school office.

Middle School Policy

Student athletes on academic probation are not eligible to participate in competitions until they are in good academic standing (see Athletic Eligibility).

Quitting a Team

A student-athlete is considered to have quit a team when (1) he/she has verbally communicated to the coach or Athletic Director that he/she has quit, or (2) he/she misses three consecutive unexcused days of practices or games. Once the student-athlete has quit a team, he/she may not participate on another athletic team **for the remainder of the school year** without first receiving permission from the athletic director. Once a student-athlete quits a team, all opportunities for awards for that sport in that season are forfeited, along with your paid sports fee.

Individual Team Standards

Often a coach will develop standards for a specific team. These standards may come in the form of responsibilities, requirements, expectations, and penalties for violations. They will reflect the standards of this handbook and the coach's expectations for his/her team. They may also address such issues as attendance at practices and games, expected behavior at practices and games, and other issues not specifically covered in this handbook.

Athletic Handbook Agreement

I have read the Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein. I will prayerfully do my best to bring glory to God in every endeavor with Southcrest Christian School Athletics through diligence, commitment, and cooperation.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign and return this page to the Athletic Office. Please keep the handbook for your reference. Thank you!