

# Sarasota Christian School



## Parent-Athlete Athletic Handbook

# SCS Athletic Parent/Athlete Handbook

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# SCS Athletic Parent/Athlete Handbook

*Note: Information in this athletic handbook is supplemental to that found in the Florida High School Athletic Association Handbook and the Sarasota Christian Parent/Student Handbook.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY**

**The mission of Sarasota Christian School is to honor God by developing academic abilities and broadening educational experiences while deepening Christian faith through partnership with the home, the church, and the community.**

The interscholastic athletic program at Sarasota Christian is a Christ-centered, educational program that contributes to the development of social, spiritual, emotional, and mental aspects of both the participants and the school community. Sports provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn many important life lessons on sacrifice, self-discipline, determination, dedication, perseverance and community. We use athletics to prepare young people for life as Christian leaders. The interscholastic athletic program is intended to provide opportunities for students capable of participation at a high level of performance and competition. Spiritual values are developed through participation on a team under the direction of qualified Christian coaches. The interscholastic experience goes beyond participants and affects spectators, student body, parents, and the community. The interscholastic athletic program is another vehicle used to encourage students to develop a faith that will enable them to face the future with confidence and purpose.

## **Interscholastic Athletics Basic Beliefs**

- Athletics are a microcosm of life; life-long learning occurs through the rigors of competition.
- Christians should do their best in every endeavor, so we expect to field quality teams that strive to win each contest.
- Christian values and principles should never be compromised for the sake of winning a contest.
- Athletics, academics, family, and church activities are balanced through careful scheduling; adhering to established academic standards for athletes; and providing assistance to students in making wise choices from parents, church, and school community.
- We will operate a quality athletic program, complying with all FHSAA rules and regulations.
- Athletic events present an opportunity to share our faith to the world as we demonstrate and conduct ourselves in a Christ-like manner as players, coaches, and spectators.
- Athletics provide an opportunity for personal growth through cooperative teamwork achieving a common goal, not for the glory and prestige of individual players, coaches, or the school, but to honor God.
- Each sport is a part of the whole athletic program and is enhanced by the community working together for the good of the total education and athletic program.
- Through athletic participation, each student will become aware of the principles of responsibility, eventually realizing we are all responsible for our own actions.

## OUR ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT VISION

To honor God and model Christ-like behaviors through athletics  
To foster each athletes personal relationship with Jesus Christ  
To produce disciplined, Christ honoring teams that strive for excellence at all levels  
To be ambassadors for Christ and Sarasota Christian School at home and away  
To model humility in winning and grace in losing  
To graduate student-athletes committed to servant leadership

## ATHLETIC STAFF

Athletic Director: Kevin Landrum [klandrum@sarasotachristian.org](mailto:klandrum@sarasotachristian.org) 651-245-9037  
Assistant to the AD: BJ Miller, [bjmiller@sarasotachristian.org](mailto:bjmiller@sarasotachristian.org) 863-370-9070

## FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Ryan Lehman (Superintendent) @SCSLehman  
Kevin Landrum (Athletic Director) @CoachKevinSCS  
Blazer Athletics @BlazersSCS



Blazers Athletics  
@blazersathletics

## ATHLETIC TEAMS

### BOYS

Fall: Swimming, HS Golf, Cross Country  
Winter: Basketball, Soccer  
Spring: Baseball, Track & Field, MS Golf, Tennis

### GIRLS

Fall: Swimming, HS Golf, Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheerleading (MS)  
Winter: Basketball, Soccer, Competitive Cheer  
Spring: Softball, Track & Field, MS Golf, Tennis

## ATTENDANCE

To be eligible to participate in co-curricular school activities, high school and middle school students playing on high school teams or participating in high school plays and musicals must have no unexcused absences the entire school day. Student athletes are required to be in school at 7:45 a.m. on school days following games. A student absent on Friday may participate on Saturday. A student on any kind of suspension may not participate in that sport or activity for the day(s) of suspension. See principal for extenuating circumstances. Athletes who miss school for a school-sponsored athletic contest will have an excused absence that day. Students are expected to be at all practices and games. It is very hard for our coaches and teams to prepare if they are not at full strength. This will require some sacrifice during the season. We understand that this will sometimes cut short breaks from school. Coaches will give you plenty of advance notice in order to help you plan. Just because there is no school does not mean a team will not be practicing or playing. We realize circumstances may not always permit 100% attendance and we are committed to making the best decisions for exceptional circumstances.

## **AWARD RECOGNITION**

Awards given are based on Christian character, athletic ability, and academic achievement. The main goal of our athletic awards program is to recognize athletes who have demonstrated Christian values and behavior and not just focus on individual athletic ability. However, we do desire to recognize the special gifts and talents that God has given to our student-athletes. Therefore, the SCS athletic department will distribute varsity letters, pins, certificates, Blazer awards, Most Valuable Player awards and other awards determined by the coach of each team. These awards will be given at the end of year Middle School awards and High School sports awards night.

## **CHAPERONES**

All trips requiring overnight stays must be cleared with the athletic director and high school principal. Appropriate school approved chaperones will be assigned.

## **COACH, PARENT, AND PLAYER RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our programs, you have an obligation to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **Communication Parents Should Expect from Their Child's Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach and statement of commitment to Jesus Christ, the child, and his/her family
- Expectations the coach has for the child, as well as other players on the team
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements will be announced during the pre-season parent/player meeting held by the coach of each team (i.e. special equipment, off-season conditioning, tournaments, etc.)
- Procedures if an athlete is injured during practice/game
- Discipline that may result in the denial of an athlete's participation
- Refer to Parent/Student Handbook for additional details

### **Communication Coaches Should Expect From Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Parents' commitment not to be an agent of division, or gossip in the community (Part of the problem vs Part of the Solution)
- Notification, well in advance, of any schedule conflicts
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Medical or physical limitations of the child

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

- The treatment of the child: spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and athletically
- Ways to help the child improve
- Concerns about the child's behavior

### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches In a Public Setting**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

### **Procedures to Follow When a Parent has a Concern to Address with the Coach**

- Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the AD, who will set up the meeting.
- Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. However, after 24 hours have passed, and the issue is still something you feel need to be discussed, then request to meet the coach.

### **What can a Parent do if the Meeting with the Coach does not Provide Satisfactory Resolution?**

- Call and set up an appointment with the AD to discuss the situation.
- If the issue is not resolved at this meeting, the appropriate next step would be to set an appointment to meet with the high school principal.

## **CONDUCT**

### **Student Conduct**

As members of athletic teams, athletes are high-profile representatives of SCS. Students are expected to act in an appropriate manner. The following behaviors are inappropriate and will not be tolerated:

- Fighting
- Profanity
- Use of/being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Rude or disrespectful behavior on and off the field/court
- Taunting opponents or officials
- Destruction of property
- Obscene gestures
- Derogatory or degrading comments
- Repeated truancy from school or class
- Lying, cheating, stealing
- Accumulation and continuation of minor offenses

Students who exhibit any of the above behaviors or any other inappropriate behavior (see K-12 Parent/Student Handbook > Suspension and Expulsion) are subject to suspension from athletic competition pending further investigation. The athletic director, the coach, and the high school principal will determine the length of suspension.

### **Unsportsmanlike or Inappropriate Conduct**

- Any act of unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct will be dealt with swiftly. If the act occurs during an athletic contest, the student will be removed from the contest by the head coach.
- A student who strikes, curses, or threatens an official or coach during a game, or at any other time, because of resentment over occurrences or decisions, or who fails to maintain a standard of conduct satisfactory to the FHSAA and/or the coaches and administration, will be ineligible for a period of up to six weeks and must pay the fine, if assessed, by the FHSAA to the school.
- A student who is ejected from a game for a flagrant foul or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible to participate in any contest for one week. If no games are scheduled during that week, the student will miss the next two games in any other sport, and must pay the fine, if assessed, by the FHSAA.
- All students who act in an unsportsmanlike manner, resulting in a penalty letter from the FHSAA, will be required to meet with the athletic director before resuming athletic participation.

### **Dismissal Offenses**

The following is an overview of the philosophy of the SCS Athletic Department on dismissal from a team. For the coach to decide to dismiss a student/athlete, the coach should feel that keeping the athlete would destroy the team or his/her ability to make progress with the team.

- Behaviors in the range of “dismissal offenses” for the student/athlete:
  - Lying, cheating, stealing or aiding another to do so
  - Drinking alcohol, smoking anything
  - Any involvement in illicit drugs
  - Behavior that causes the coach to consider the athlete an undermining influence because of repeated examples of poor attitude, attendance, or work habits.

The coach will not summarily dismiss a student in violation. The AD and high school principal will be given detailed information regarding an incident that includes the possibility of dismissal from the team. It could be that the offense, on the surface, does not seem to rise to the level of dismissal, but the coach has cumulative information regarding the student-athlete that puts the athlete in the category of incorrigible. It could be that the student’s cumulative attitude and behavior damage the chemistry of the team and the coach’s ability to succeed. The decision to dismiss a student athlete will be determined jointly by the AD, high school principal and the coach.

### **Spectator Conduct**

Everyone associated with an athletic event plays an important role in seeing that standards of sportsmanship are upheld. Fans are reminded that their sportsmanship and behavior reflect upon the reputation of SCS. Fans are not permitted on the playing surface at any time unless authorized. Bringing animals to athletic events is not permissible unless it’s a related medical issue.

### **Sportsmanship matters at Sarasota Christian School**

Sarasota Christian School is a member of the FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) and strives to promote sportsmanship throughout all of our Athletic Programs, whether home or away. Sportsmanship doesn’t begin and end with students. It is necessary to have parents and other adult spectators set the tone for our students by displaying exemplary behavior at all athletic events. Good sportsmanship is a measure of the understanding and commitment to Christ, fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. Therefore, outlined below are some acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in regards to sportsmanship and fair play. We passionately cheer for our team and do not cheer against our opponent.

#### **Acceptable Behavior:**

- Accept all decisions of contest officials.
- Applause during player introductions.
- Students leading fans in positive cheers.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest, regardless of the outcome.
- Treat the competition as a game, because that is all it is at the end of the day.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.

#### **Unacceptable Behavior**

- Disrespectful or derogatory, chants, yells, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official’s decision.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake Hands
- Blaming the loss of a game on an official, coach or participant.
- Hand-held signs containing derogatory language.
- Use of profanity.
- Taunting or name calling to distract an opponent
- Use of social media to undermine the coach or create division within a team and/or parents

## **DRESS CODE**

Athletes may wear a game uniform top/warm-up and/or a team t-shirt on regional tournament game days with the approval of school administration. This helps promote the sport and fosters a sense of enthusiasm for the upcoming contest. T-shirts should be worn under sleeveless, tank top type shirts. Students must travel to and from games in team uniforms, team warm-ups, team shirts, shirts and ties, or attire conforming to the school dress code, as designated by the coach. Athletes are not permitted to wear jewelry, including body piercing, during practices or games.

New in 2017-2018, outerwear with current school logo or athletic logo, in school colors, may be worn any day of the week. (i.e. sweatshirts, hoodies, and jackets). These items must be approved and ordered by the communications and athletic departments.

## **DRUG TESTING**

A random drug testing procedure may be requested by the FHSAA on any of its member schools and require students and parents to agree to a testing as a prerequisite for participation. Should one occur at SCS, we will fully support the guidelines set forth by the FHSAA.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Students are responsible for all work missed due to early dismissals for athletic contests. When a student-athlete knows he/she will miss a class for competition, it is strongly recommended that class and homework be obtained in advance. Early dismissal times are determined by the AD in collaboration with department heads and principal. Coaches are to communicate any time change request to the AD and principal for approval. It is the heart of the athletic department to minimize the academic disruption caused by early dismissals and to leave students in class as late as possible, without distracting them from athletic preparation. Early dismissals times are determined based upon travel distance and the time needed to adequately warm-up in order to prevent possible injury during the game.

## **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

- Athletic uniforms are the property of SCS and must be returned at the end of the season.
- School colors are Royal Blue and Gold. White may also be a dominant color on a uniform.
- Students must pay for any lost or damaged equipment or uniforms.
- All uniforms must be collected, inventoried and stored for future use.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The AD must approve all fundraising projects working through the Director of Development. Once a project is approved, it must be re-approved each school year. A very popular fundraiser is a carwash, therefore, dress for carwashes must be modest and in keeping with the spirit of SCS. Collecting money on the streets or at gas pumps etc. is not permitted.

## **HAZING/BULLYING/PEER HARASSMENT POLICY**

Hazing or peer harassment that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with any team will not be tolerated. All athletes must be given the opportunity to compete without threat of any type of abuse. Coaches have a responsibility to maintain a safe and positive environment for all athletes. Students are encouraged to notify coaches or other school personnel of instances of hazing or harassment. Anyone engaging in these behaviors may be dismissed from the team.

# HOUSING/HOTELS AT TOURNAMENTS

Hotel expenses for regular season tournaments or meets are the responsibility of the athletes. For safety and team reasons, all rooms will be booked for no more than four athletes per room. Parents may not purchase individual rooms for their athletes. Parents are responsible for making their own lodging reservations. The Athletic Department will not make provisions for parents.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

The following policy of FHSAA is in effect at SCS. Please note carefully how coaches at SCS will deal with inclement weather for outdoor contests.

### FHSAA Inclement Weather Policy for Outdoor Contests

The FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following policy in the event of inclement weather which threatens an outdoor contest:

1. If a thunderstorm or electrical storm occurs in the area prior to the start of or during any outdoor contest, the officials must immediately contact the AD or his/her designee of each school involved in the contest to determine if the contest should be played as scheduled, delayed, suspended or postponed. If the AD, Principal or his/her designee of only one of the competing schools is available, his/her request must be honored.
2. The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case may an official deny a request by an AD, Principal or his/her designee to delay, suspend or postpone an outdoor contest due to inclement weather or imply that the contest will be forfeited as a result of such a request.
3. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption. Otherwise, National Federation Rules, regarding the resumption of suspended contests, will apply.

### SCS Policy

When information regarding inclement weather is available, the athletic director will make a decision by 2:00 p.m. concerning cancellation of practices or home contests. Coaches will be notified of cancellations via text, voice or email from the AD. If inclement weather occurs once a practice or game has begun, SCS will be following the "30-30" rule, as well as radio/TV warnings, and the lightning detector, if available. All SCS coaches are to be familiar with the safety tips listed below.

#### Tips for Lightning Safety

1. No place is safe near thunderstorms.
2. Use the 30-30 rule
  - If there are 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder, go inside.
  - Even if lightning can't be seen, just hearing thunder means you must go inside.
  - Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before going outside.
3. The safest place from lightning is a house or a large, fully enclosed building with plumbing and wiring.
4. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides offers some protection. Common myth: Rubber tires protect you by insulating you from the ground. Wrong – lightning laughs at two inches of rubber. (It is the metal shell that protects you.)

5. Top locations and activities for lightning casualties in Florida are :

- Open areas (sports fields, golf courses, beaches)
- Water-related activities
- Under trees
- Open farm equipment
- Telephone (top sources of indoor casualties)
- Radios and radio equipment

*When thunderstorms threaten, avoid these locations like your life depends on it – it does!*

6. Outdoor sports have the fastest rising lightning casualty rate. Coaches, referees, parents, and children – know your lightning safety plan!

## MAKING THE TEAM

Athletics exist at different levels at Sarasota Christian which include middle and high school junior varsity and varsity teams. SCS is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association and, at the varsity level, competes for district, regional and state championships. As a student moves through the middle school and the high school, the requirements for “making the team” become more stringent with each new level. Each year, a student must try out and meet a standard of competitive skill level in order to be selected for the team. All try-outs should include both objective and subjective criteria. A student is not guaranteed a place on the team because he/she was on the team the year before, or because his friends are all on the team, or because it is his/her senior year.

SCS desires to be as competitive as possible at the varsity level, so only the athletes with the highest skill level and the strongest work ethic are selected for varsity teams. Additionally, coaches must maintain a balance of (depending on the sport) 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders on varsity teams in order to perpetuate an on-going strong competitive program. Coaches will give every student trying out for a team every opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability and skill level. At the conclusion of this process, the coach might have to make final cuts that may be hard for a student to accept. This is one of the hardest tasks that a coach has to do, and it must be done in fairness and in kindness. Remember, if you see an interpersonal conflict coming; enlist the counsel of the AD before it arrives. Coaches will inform parents and student-athletes early when they feel the student’s chances are slim, based upon returning athletes and space on the team. This will enable the athlete to seek a sport or a team that will give him/her a better chance for success. Student-athletes will be evaluated during tryouts. Skill drills, dependability, effort, and team leadership are also part of a coach’s evaluation. In addition, there are other attributes that coaches look for:

- Muscular strength
- Muscular endurance
- Flexibility
- Cardiovascular fitness
- Sports specific skills
- Vertical leap and agility (ability to move and change directions)

### **Special Note: Bringing up younger athletes to participate on older teams:**

**Middle School** teams are available primarily for 6<sup>th</sup>- 8th graders based upon need and skill level. The focus is on the development of individual and team skills, sportsmanship and having fun.

**HS Junior Varsity** teams are an advanced developmental program available primarily for students in grades 9-11 and *possibly* younger grades based upon *need* and *skill* level and will participate in the majority of the games/matches. This level is to prepare skills and ability for the varsity level.

**HS Varsity** teams are advanced programs primarily for 9-12 graders (possible younger athletes based on need and skill). Skills and ability are at a high level. These athletes are the leaders of each program in and out of the athletic arena. Exemplary sportsmanship and commitment to excellence is a high priority.

*Policy: It is the desire of SCS athletics to develop each athlete and program with a long-term view in mind. This will be best served as we provide opportunity for our athletes to compete together as a group and develop as a team. Therefore, coaches must seek the approval of the athletic director when considering bringing up younger athletes to a higher level program.*

## **MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES**

- Students may participate in two sports simultaneously if both coaches agree and all conflicts pertaining to participation have been resolved. One sport must be declared as the major sport. In cases where students wish to play multiple sports it is the responsibility of the athlete to declare, in writing to the AD, which will be considered the major sport. Both coaches must sign the letter, as well.
- Coaches at SCS will encourage athletes to participate in multiple sports throughout the year. The AD will not permit coaches to suggest to players that they specialize in one sport to the exclusion of others. Middle school and high school is a time when trying different sports should be encouraged.
- Students who are a member of a SCS athletic team may participate on another “out of school” team or club not affiliated with SCS athletics, however, the SCS team must take priority in regards to practices and games.
- If an athlete decides to quit a team, the coach will arrange a meeting with the player and his/her parents to discuss the matter. If it is a varsity player, the AD will sit in the meeting with the head coach. If it is a sub-varsity athlete, the varsity coach will sit in the meeting with the coach in charge of that level.
- An athlete who quits a team generally is not allowed to practice, play, or participate with any other SCS team until the original team’s regular and post-season play is completed.
- In the event an irresolvable conflict arises in performance dates relative to scheduled participation in both Performing Arts and Athletics, please adhere to the following:
  - It is our desire to maximize the participation of our students so that they may grow in their gifts. Therefore, these sensitive situations require individual attention from overseers (athletic director and performing arts coordinator).
  - Anticipate potential conflicts and resolve before they present themselves.
  - Our role is to provide godly counsel to parents and the student involved; it generally should be aligned with the greater gifting in the student. Overseers are to insure full communication occurs among all impacted parties.
  - Ultimate determination is to be made by parent in consultation with son/daughter and in consideration of the counsel we provide.

## **MUSIC**

All music played at any SCS athletic event must be approved by the athletic director. Failure to comply with these standards will result in the loss of privileges of playing music at any athletic events for that team. When there is access to a public address system at a SCS home game, a public prayer and starting line-ups will be voiced prior to the beginning of that home event.

## **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE**

If you are a prospective student-athlete at a Division I or II college or university, you have certain responsibilities to complete before you may participate. Information concerning who needs to register with the Clearinghouse : <http://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> and what documents need to be submitted can be found in The Guide for College Bound Student Athletes on the NCAA website; [www.ncaa.org/library/generalcbsa](http://www.ncaa.org/library/generalcbsa). It is the students’ responsibility to begin this process and request items from the school as needed.

## **NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

Participation by a student in non-school competition (e.g. AAU, USVBA, American Legion, club settings, etc.), as a member of a team that is affiliated with any school other than the school which the student attends, followed by a transfer by that student to that school, shall be considered *prima facie* evidence that the student was recruited by the school to which he/she transferred. Unless *prima facie* evidence of recruiting is disproved, by the school and the student, to the satisfaction of the commissioner, the student shall be ineligible to represent that school in interscholastic athletic competition for a period of 365 days from the date of his/her enrollment in that school. A team affiliated with a school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person affiliated with, that school; and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (participants in practice and/or competitions) are students who attend that school.

## **PARENT/PLAYER MEETINGS**

- Each team will have a mandatory parent/player organizational meeting, prior to the first game, to discuss:
  1. Discipleship plan
  2. Student eligibility
  3. Practice and game schedules
  4. Team rules and expectations
  5. Philosophy and vision for the programs
  6. Team costs/fees/spirit items
  7. Team discipline policies
  8. Protocol for conflict resolution
  9. Summer calendar and expectations
  10. Booster Club involvement
  11. Coach, parent, and player relationships
  12. Playing time
  13. Physicals
  14. Parent/Athlete handbook
  15. Q and A time from the parents

## **PARKING AND STUDENT PICK-UP**

Parents are asked to assist the coaches by arranging for their students to be picked up at the designated time and places after practice. Please park in an area that will be safe from foul balls etc. SCS is not responsible for damaged vehicles during athletic contests.

## **PHYSICIAN'S NOTE**

Any student receiving physician's care for an injury or illness which results in loss of time from school or athletic competition must provide a note from a physician clearing him/her to return without restriction to athletic competition. Any student who suffers a loss of consciousness during a practice or contest may not resume athletic participation until receiving written clearance from a physician. An injury report must be filed in the athletic office by the coach within 2 days of any incident.

## PLAYING TIME

Playing time will be based primarily upon the coach's discretion depending upon the level of the team. The following guidelines have been established to give clarity to this sensitive issue.

- **MS Teams:** We value each player's development so all athletes at the middle school level will have significant playing time during games. Coaches do have primary discretion over determining athletes' playing time. Player preparation, attitude, skill level, safety and game circumstances all may impact the amount of playing time the coach may provide for each athlete. We encourage parents to communicate with coaches if they are concerned that these guidelines are not implemented in a balanced manner over the course of the season versus within a single game.

- **HS JV/Varsity Teams:** Coaches have primary discretion over determining athletes' playing time. Athletes' are not guaranteed playing time in any of the games; however, they will have the opportunity to develop their skills in practices and contribute to the team as directed by the coach. Practice serves as the student-athletes opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities. Playing time in games is earned in practice on a daily basis. At the high school level, making the team does not mean equal playing time. Playing time is earned during practice each and every day. Varsity athletics and playing time is not like Halloween, you don't get candy for dressing up.

- **Chain of Command:** After communication with the coach, in a spirit of collaboration, parents are encouraged to contact athletic director, if concerns persist.

## PRACTICE CLOTHING

Coaches may require team members to purchase spirit items- practice clothing bearing the school name and sport. This may include: practice uniforms, shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, bags. Spirit items are non-budgeted items paid for and kept by the athlete. Shoes may be purchased separately at the coach's discretion. All practice clothing should adhere to the guidelines for dress code in the parent/student handbook.

## PRACTICE TIMES

Only HS teams are permitted to practice/condition before school starts in the morning. Times of athletic practices will be set by the coach and discussed prior to the season. There are no official Sunday practices, however, some "open gym" may occur in the afternoon, but is never mandatory. Practices on Wednesdays will end by 5:30 pm so that the players may attend church or youth meetings. Practices and tournaments while school is on break must have prior approval from the AD. Coaches are informed that vacations are for family time and are to be respectful of such. Parents of HS level athletes should expect practices and tournaments over the holiday break and spring break. All practice and game times are posted on the school's athletic calendar ( <http://sarasotachristian.tandem.co> ) and are subject to change. Parents are encouraged to sign up and follow your team in order to keep up with any changes etc.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are required to sign up and help cover the gate and/or concessions for the home games of their team. The coach will set the sign up schedule for the season and if you cannot cover your appointed time slot, it is the parents' responsibility to get coverage from another parent for that assigned game.

# **THE ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

The Blazer Booster Club is an organization whose mission is to enrich the SCS athletic community by providing financial support, promoting an increased attitude of school spirit, and helping each athlete reach his/her highest potential. In addition, the Boosters desire to be a positive public relations agency to our community and to promote a spirit of cooperation and unity between parents, students, coaches, teachers, and administrators. For more information, contact [boosters@sarasotachristian.org](mailto:boosters@sarasotachristian.org)

## **SENIOR RECOGNITION**

Senior athletes will be recognized at the end of each season during scheduled games or events. This will be an opportunity for the team to express gratitude for the investment that the senior student-athlete and his/her parents have made in the team. The junior class or lower classes participating on a given team are responsible for organizing this recognition in consultation with the AD.

## **SPIRIT ITEMS**

These are items purchased by the players/parents that become the property of the athlete. These items may include t-shirts, hats, practice uniforms, warm-ups, etc.....with the intention of creating school/team spirit while also being needed items for use in the sport. These items do not have to be turned back in to SCS. Athletes/Parents may order spirit items through the online store before the start of each season. Information regarding the online store is handed out to each athlete during the first week of the season.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

### **Athletic Director**

The athletic director (AD) serves under the direction of, and has a direct reporting relationship to the principal of the High School. The AD oversees the total operations of the Athletic Department i.e.: scheduling, officials, contracts, calendar, transportation, game administration, FHSAA compliance, budget, ordering equipment/uniforms, attending meetings, hiring/firing coaches, philosophy etc. The AD should be the first level of contact for any athletic related item before approaching the principal or other administration.

### **Assistant to the Athletic Director**

The assistant to the athletic director is an extension of the athletic director in matters pertaining to the department. It is his/her function to assist the AD in carrying out specific responsibilities of the department.

### **Varsity Head Coaches**

Varsity head coaches will have a direct reporting relationship with the AD on all functions of their positions, including program administration, operations, facilities, etc. Varsity head coaches provide leadership and instruction for all assistant coaches and lower level coaches in the program. In an effort "to build successful programs, the varsity coaches will work with the AD to recruit, hire, train, and mentor the coaching staff of each sport. Each varsity head coach is responsible for overseeing his/her total program. This oversight will include staffing, budget item requests, media relations, equipment and uniform inventory control, etc.

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Sarasota Christian School is a member of the FHSAA, (Florida High School Athletic Association), which is the governing body for Florida high school athletics. Questions pertaining to FHSAA rules and regulations should be addressed to the AD and not FHSAA. Answers can also be found in an updated FHSAA handbook, which remains in the A.D.'s office or at [www.fhsaa.org/rules/handbook](http://www.fhsaa.org/rules/handbook).

### A. Academic Eligibility

- *Students in Grades 6-12* must have been regularly promoted from the previous grade, carrying a normal class load, and maintain a 2.0 GPA. However, SCS reserves the right to impose higher academic standards than the FHSAA requires. Individual coaches may not set academic eligibility requirements.

### B. Limits of Eligibility

- Students have four consecutive years of eligibility, beginning when they first enter the 9th grade.
- Four years after a student enters the 9th grade, that student shall become ineligible for interscholastic athletics.
- Middle School students may participate in interscholastic athletics one year as eight graders, one year as seventh graders, and one year as sixth graders. If a student is held back for any reason, they may not repeat the athletic season for that year.
- A student may participate at the high school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months if the student has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility. The student becomes permanently ineligible at the high school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2014-15, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 19 on or after September 1st, and who has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility, may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year, unless clear and convincing evidence of a hardship, as defined in Bylaw 10.4.4, has been accepted by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

### C. Residence Requirements

“A student shall be eligible in the school year in which he or she first enrolls each school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in any member school. The student shall be eligible in that school so long as he or she remains enrolled at that school and meets all other eligibility requirements.

### D. Transfer Students

Issues relating to students transferring should be referred to the AD and the FHSAA policies on transfer students.

### E. Required Forms

The following forms must be turned in to the athletic office one day prior to beginning practice.

- **FHSAA Physical Form**-All students are required to have an annual physical examination by a physician. This physical must be given on or after April 1 of the previous school year. Only the FHSAA form can be accepted.
- **FHSAA Parent/Student Consent Form**-Both the student and parent are required to sign this form in order for the student to participate in athletics.
- **Birth Certificate**-A copy of a certified birth certificate must be on file with the school to establish eligibility with the FHSAA. This applies to all student/athletes, including those who are home-schooled.

### F. New Student Participation

Any student new to SCS must have submitted an application of enrollment, which indicates the intent to attend SCS, prior to participating in any off-season conditioning, practices, or games. This includes any summer activities or leagues.

## STUDENT MANAGERS

Student managers are valuable assets to our athletic teams. Students desiring to serve as managers for teams should contact the coach of that team.

## **SUMMER CAMPS AND JR. BLAZER PROGRAMS**

SCS offers several exciting summer camps and Jr. Blazer programs for students of all ages. These camps are conducted by varsity level coaches and athletes and are designed to teach the basic fundamentals of the sport, while providing a platform to disciple young boys and girls. Character lessons from God's Word will be discussed during daily devotional times.

## **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS**

The athletic department will schedule team and player photographs at the beginning of the respective sport seasons (fall, winter, and spring) to be used for the sports program, yearbook, blazer news, and media. This must occur immediately following the try-out process, once the team has been chosen and uniforms have been issued. The AD will inform coaches, athletes, and parents on the process to purchase photo packages of the team and player pictures.

## **TEAM EXPECTATIONS/SCHOOL RULES**

Coaches will be responsible for establishing team expectations. These pre-approved rules must be communicated to the team at the beginning of the season. These rules, would include, but not limited to, practice attendance, lateness to practice or games, care of uniforms/equipment, younger teams staying to watch the older teams etc. The Parent/Student School handbook applies to all students and all sports and will be followed.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- When leaving during school hours for an athletic event, it is the coach's responsibility to arrange proper transportation for the athletes. There may be some athletic events that the parent will be responsible for transportation to and from the event. Transportation of students by student vehicles is not permitted. Coaches and parents must understand that if this is done, personal insurance is exposed and should not be done without previous written parental permission and discussion with the other parents.
- SCS coaches may not use their personal vehicles for student transport and prohibits transporting individual students. Any exceptions must have prior parental written consent.
- During transport, seat belts must be worn and all students must remain seated. Luggage and equipment must be free of the doors and not blocking the aisles. Only team personnel and players are allowed to use SCS transportation.
- While food and drink are permitted on van/buses, coaches and players are responsible for keeping bus and vans clean and free from trash and debris. Vehicles must be cleaned of all trash upon return.
- Coaches should be very judicious in the selection of any movies shown on trips to insure it is commensurate with our school's mission and all music that is played should be free from profanity, violence, or suggestive lyrics.
- Athletes traveling home after games should ride the van/bus or be with their parent or approved family member/guardian etc. Any other athlete not riding home on the van/bus must provide parental permission to the head coach prior to leaving the premise.
- Coaches may not leave athletes unsupervised, whether on campus or an away site, until all students have been picked up. Parents should arrange for pick-up of their children in a timely fashion after games and practices.
- Transportation during the off-season or summer must be arranged well in advance with the AD. Bus/Vans will be reserved on a first come first served basis. Cost of this transportation will be at the expense of the team requesting the vehicles.

## **UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

Teams, parents or businesses that wish to order uniforms or equipment that otherwise would not be provided by SCS or through the online spirit pack store must have prior AD approval.

## **UNIFORM REPLACEMENT POLICY**

Varsity uniforms may be purchased every 3-5 years. Due to the nature of some sports, once the uniforms are purchased, only fill-ins will be necessary. All uniforms must be turned into the coach upon the conclusion of the season. The athlete/ parent are responsible for the dollar replacement cost of any lost or damaged school issued equipment uniforms.

# Sarasota Christian School Coaches Evaluation

**Coaches Performance Evaluation** by Players and Parents  
 (Please keep your evaluation confidential and return it to the Athletic Director)

**Coach Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:  
**Player** \_\_\_\_\_ **or Parent** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following form to rank your coach on their effectiveness in the following areas.

	1-Poor	3-Good	5-Excellent	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Personal.</b> How was the coach's:								
1. Infuses Christ into the program. (Prayer, devotions, personal walk and testimony)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Attitude towards players.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Attitude towards parents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Promptness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Dependability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Enthusiasm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>The Sport.</b> How well did your coach:								
1. Know the sport?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Organize and prepare for practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Organize and prepare for games?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Show proper leadership on and off the field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Communication.</b> How well did your coach:								
1. Communicate with the players?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Communicate with the parents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Communicate with other volunteers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Personal/Team.</b> Did you:								
1. Have fun playing on this team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Improve as a player during the season?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Improve as a team during the season?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you return to this coach / team?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes				<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Would you recommend this coach?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes				<input type="checkbox"/> No			

**Sarasota Christian School  
Parent/Athlete Athletic Handbook  
Sign-off Sheet**

**I have read the Parent/Athlete athletic handbook and agree to abide by and carry out the procedures and policies therein.**

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**Signature of Player**

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**Signature of Parent**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please give to your coach. Thank you.**