

# Sarasota Christian School



2020-2021  
Athletic Handbook



# 2020-2021 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 equip students with a love for Christ, a passion to learn, the courage to lead, and a commitment to serve.**

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, the 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 the 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 student-athletes, 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 student-athletes, 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-athlete will become aware of the principles of responsibility, eventually realizing we are all responsible for our own actions.

## Blazer Athletic Department Vision

- To honor God and model Christ-like behaviors through athletics
- To foster each student-athlete's 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, both at home and away
- To model humility in winning and grace in losing
- To graduate student-athletes committed to servant leadership

## **Athletic Teams**

### **Boys**

Fall: Swimming, HS Golf, Cross Country

Winter: Basketball, Soccer

Spring: Baseball, Tennis

### **Girls**

Fall: Swimming, HS Golf, Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheerleading (MS)

Winter: Basketball, Soccer, Competitive Cheer

Spring: Softball, Tennis

## **Structure of the Athletic Department**

**Athletic Director:** The athletic director (AD) serves under the direction of and has a direct reporting relationship to the Head of School. The athletic director 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 athletic director should be the first level of contact for any athletic related item before approaching the Head of School 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 athletic director in carrying out specific responsibilities of the department.

**Varsity Head Coaches:** Varsity head coaches will have a direct reporting relationship with the athletic director 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 athletic director 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.

## **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)

## **Student-Athlete Managers**

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

## **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. Student-athletes 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 and may involve practices during school vacations or holidays. We realize circumstances may not always permit 100% attendance and we are committed to making the best decisions for exceptional circumstances.

## 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-athlete moves through middle school and high school, the requirements for “making the team” become more stringent with each new level. Each year, a student-athlete 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-athlete is not guaranteed a place on the team because he/she was on the team the year before, or because his/her 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. Coaches will give every student-athlete 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-athlete 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 athletic director before it arrives. Coaches will inform parents and student-athletes early when they feel the student-athlete's chances are slim, based upon returning student-athlete 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
- Flexibility
- Vertical leap
- Sports specific skills
- Muscular endurance
- Cardiovascular fitness
- Agility, ability to move and change directions

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

**Middle School** teams are available 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 (*possibly* younger athletes based on team *need* and ability level of student-athletes). These student-athletes 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 (*possibly* 8th grade athletes based on team *needs*). Skills and ability are at a high level. These student-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 student-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 (6th, 7th or 8th graders to J.V. or Varsity).***

## Non-School Competition

Participation by a student-athlete 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-athlete to that school, shall be considered *prima facie* evidence that the student-athlete was recruited by the school to which he/she transferred. Unless *prima facie* evidence of recruiting is disproved, by the school and the student-athlete, to the satisfaction of the commissioner, the student-athlete 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.

## Multi-Sport Athletes

- Student-athletes 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 student-athletes wish to play multiple sports, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to declare, in writing to the athletic director, which will be considered the major sport. Both coaches must sign the letter, as well.
- Coaches at SCS will encourage student-athletes to participate in multiple sports throughout the year. The athletic director 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.
- Student-athletes 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 regard to practices and games.
- If a student-athlete decides to quit a team, the coach will arrange a meeting with the student-athlete and his/her parents to discuss the matter. The athletic director will sit in on these meetings. See the policy on “Quitting a Team” later in this handbook for additional details.

## Schedule Conflicts

- 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 of the student. Overseers are to insure full communication occurs among all impacted parties.
  - Ultimate determination is to be made by the parent in consultation with son/daughter and in consideration of the counsel we provide.

## Quitting a Team

- Once an athlete has been placed on a team roster they will have until the completion of the second full week of practice or until the completion of the first contest to elect to withdraw from the roster. There is no penalty for withdrawing within this time frame.
- If the initial time period has passed and an athlete elects to quit then they will not be allowed to join a different SCS team that occurs within that same season. Additionally, a high school student-athlete will not be eligible to join an SCS team in the next athletic season. If a student-athlete quits a sport during the spring season they are ineligible for the following fall season.
- A student-athlete can be administratively removed from a team via a request to the athletic director to withdraw from the sport. This can occur due to academic concerns or physical health of the athlete. If this request to withdraw is approved by the athletic director, then a penalty does not apply.

## Practice Times

Times of athletic practices will be set by the coach and discussed prior to the season. There are no formal Sunday team activities. However, “open gyms” or team social activities may occur with the approval of the athletic director. 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 athletic director. Coaches are informed that vacations are for family time and are to be respectful of such. Parents of high school level student-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 and are subject to change.

## 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 student-athlete's development so all student-athletes at the middle school level will have significant playing time during games. Coaches do have primary discretion over determining student-athletes' playing time. Student-athlete 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 student-athletes' playing time. Student-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-athlete's 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.

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

## Parent and Player Meetings

Each team will have a mandatory parent/student-athlete 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
- 16) FHSAA compliance for participation

## Team Expectation and 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 student-athletes and all sports and will be followed.

## 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.

# 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 student-athletes. As parents, when your student-athlete becomes involved in our programs, you have an obligation to understand what expectations are placed on your student-athlete. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

## Communication Parents Should Expect from the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach and statement of commitment to Jesus Christ, the student-athlete, and his/her family
- Expectations the coach has for the student-athlete, 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 a student-athlete is injured during practice/game
- Discipline that may result in the denial of student-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 your student-athlete

## Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of your student-athlete: spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and athletically
- Ways to help your student-athlete improve
- Concerns about your student-athlete'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 athletic director, 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 needs 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 athletic director 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.

## Student-Athlete Conduct

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

- Fighting, destruction of property
- Profanity/Obscene gestures
- 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
- Derogatory or degrading comments, taunting opponents or officials
- Repeated truancy from school or class
- Lying, cheating, stealing
- Accumulation and continuation of minor offenses

Student-athletes 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.

## Hazing, Bullying, and Peer Harassment Policy

Hazing or peer harassment that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student-athlete for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with any team, will not be tolerated. All student-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 student-athletes. Student-athletes 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.

## Drug Testing

A random drug testing procedure may be requested by the FHSAA on any of its member schools and require student-athletes 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.

## Use of Profanity

### Athletic Practices

- 1) If profanity is used during a practice, the player is to be immediately corrected by the coach and is to be assigned a discipline as may be appropriate at the discretion of the coach. The parent should be contacted and informed of this policy infraction. Additionally, the athletic director should be informed in writing (this includes email).
- 2) If profanity is used a second time in the season during a practice, the student-athlete is to be immediately corrected and is to be assigned a discipline as may be appropriate at the discretion of the coach. Additionally, the student-athlete is dismissed from the next practice and has his/her playing time reduced in the next game.
- 3) If profanity is used a third time, the student-athlete is dismissed from the team. The student-athlete may appear before an administrative review committee and request re-admittance to team.

**Note:** The school administration may assign other disciplinary measures up to and including suspension or expulsion, at any point in time as may be deemed appropriate.

### Athletic Games

- 1) If profanity is used during a game, the student-athlete is benched for the remainder of the game.
  - Parent is contacted and informed of the incident by the coach the same day
  - Athletic director is informed by the coach the same day (may be by email)
- 2) If profanity is used a second time in the season during a game, the student-athlete is benched for the remainder of the game, and for the following game.
  - Parent is contacted and informed of the incident by the coach the same day

- Athletic director is informed by the coach the same day (may be by email)
- 3) If profanity is used a third time, the student-athlete is dismissed from the team.
- Parent is contacted and informed of the incident by the coach the same day
  - Athletic director is informed by the coach the same day (may be by email)

**Note:** The school administration may assign other disciplinary measures, including suspension or expulsion.

### **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-athlete will be removed from the contest by the head coach.
- A student-athlete 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-athlete 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-athlete will miss the next two games in any other sport, and must pay the fine, if assessed, by the FHSAA.
- All student-athletes 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-athlete in violation. The athletic director 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-athlete'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 athletic director, high school principal and the coach.

### **Spectator Conduct**

Everyone associated with an athletic event plays an important role in ensuring 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 is a related medical issue. All noisemakers are prohibited at any athletic event as per FHSAA guidelines. The rules of sportsmanship apply to all players, non-players, coaches, and spectators. The field is an extension of the classroom, behavior on the field/court should model the same behavior that is acceptable or unacceptable in the classroom.

### **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 does not begin and end with student-athletes. 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 regard 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.

## **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, the National Anthem and starting line-ups will be voiced prior to the beginning of that home event.

## **FHSAA Student-Athlete 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

- Student-athletes have four consecutive years of eligibility, beginning when they first enter the 9th grade.
  - Four years after a student-athlete enters the 9th grade, that student shall become ineligible for interscholastic athletics.
  - Middle School student-athletes may participate in interscholastic athletics one year as eighth graders, one year as seventh graders, and one year as sixth graders. If a student-athlete is held back for any reason, they may not repeat the athletic season for that year.
  - A student-athlete may participate at the high school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months if the student-athlete has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility. The student-athlete becomes permanently ineligible at the high school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months.

### 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 athletic director 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 student-athletes 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-athlete and parent are required to sign this form in order for the student-athlete 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. This includes any summer activities or leagues.

## School Student-Athlete Academic Policies

Co-curricular activities enrich students' lives by providing opportunities to pursue or develop new interests, skills, and friends. In many cases, these activities supplement the academic program. 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 a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher from the previous semester. Any high school or middle school student who has one or more failing grades or two or more "D's" will be placed on a one-week probation and will not be allowed to play in games during that week probation or suspension according to the following schedule:

- Athletes will be given a grace period for the first two weeks of any new grading period. On the third week grades will be checked every subsequent Monday morning, and the one-week probation/suspension period will begin immediately for any student who has not met the academic requirements.
- The first week an athlete is below the academic eligibility requirements on Monday he/she will be on a week of probation with no suspension from athletic events but will need to get his/her grades back up to standard.
- The second consecutive week an athlete's grades still make him/her ineligible, he/she will be on a suspension from participating in any games or meets but can still practice. This will be enforced even if the ineligible grades are in different classes from the previous week.
- The third consecutive week an athlete's grades make him/her ineligible, the suspension will continue but will also include being suspended from practices. This will be enforced even if the ineligible grades are in different classes from the previous week.
- Suspensions will not be lifted until the following Monday even if the athlete's grades improve to an eligible status before that time.

## Dress Code

### Game Day

Teams may wear a school approved "Game Day" shirt on the day of a scheduled contest. This should be coordinated by the coach and all student-athletes should participate. This helps promote the sport and fosters a sense of enthusiasm for the upcoming contest. Athletic uniforms should not be worn during the school day without prior approval from the school administration. Student-athletes 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. Student-athletes are not permitted to wear jewelry, including body piercing, during practices or games. Outerwear that is team issued and which includes the current school logo or athletic logo, and is 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 SCS Athletics Department.

### Athletic Events/Activities

Students attending school-sponsored functions, including home and away activities, are to wear clothing that are appropriate for the setting and activity, and that promotes biblical standards of dignity and modesty. The wearing of inappropriate clothing could result in removal from team competition on the

specific day the violation occurs. We take pride in our appearance as we represent the school. The following guidelines, for non-uniform attire, are to be followed:

- Girl's shirts/tops must cover midriff when sitting or raising arms. Clothing should not be sheer, overly tight or have a low neckline. Skirt/dress length must be no shorter than fingertip length when arms are at the side. Rompers must comply with guidelines for shirts and length guidelines for dresses.
- Yoga pants/spandex may only be worn with a shirt that has a length all the way around that is approximately fingertip length when arms are at the side.
- Shorts should be no shorter than athletic shorts issued by the school, which means generally of a length that is at the fingertips when arms are at the side. Shorts should not be overly tight and the hem of the shorts should be visible below the shirt or jacket.
- Unless a coach or faculty member gives permission for particular games or activity, boys are not permitted to wear see-through/mesh clothing and are expected to wear a shirt.
- Undergarments should not be visible at any time.
- No clothing may be worn that promotes activities/values contrary to school policies and Christian principles.
- The administration may allow or require special clothing to be worn as may be needed or appropriate for a particular field trip or special event.
- For athletic ceremonies and other special events, students must be in compliance with the dress code guidelines. Failure to do so may result in the student being sent home to change and return in appropriate attire.

## **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, etc. Spirit items are non-budgeted items paid for and kept by the student-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.

## **Spirit Packs**

These are items purchased by the student-athletes/parents that become the property of the student-athlete. These items may include t-shirts, hats, practice uniforms, or warm-ups with the intention of creating school/team spirit while also being necessary items for use in the sport. These items do not have to be turned back into SCS. Student-athletes/parents may order spirit items before the start of each season.

## **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. The use of any other color must receive approval from the school administration.
- Student-athletes must pay for any lost or damaged equipment or uniforms.
- All uniforms must be collected by the coach, inventoried, and stored for future use.
- An inventory of equipment that will need to be purchased for the next should be submitted at the end of the present season.

## **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 athletic director 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 student-athlete/parent is responsible for the replacement costs of any lost or damaged school issued equipment or uniforms.

## Early Dismissal

Student-athletes 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 athletic director. Coaches are to communicate any time change request to the athletic director 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 dismissal times are determined based upon travel distance and the time needed to adequately warm-up in order to prevent possible injury during the game.

## Transportation

- When leaving during school hours for an athletic event, it is the coach's responsibility to arrange proper transportation for the student-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 student-athletes are allowed to use SCS transportation.
- While food and drink are permitted on the van/bus, coaches and student-athletes are responsible for keeping the van/bus 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.
- Student-athletes traveling home after games should ride the van/bus or be with their parent or approved family member/guardian etc. Any other student-athlete not riding home on the van/bus must provide parental permission to the head coach prior to leaving the premises.
- Coaches may not leave student-athletes unsupervised, whether on campus or at an away site, until all student-athletes have been picked up. Parents should arrange for pick-up of their student-athlete in a timely fashion after games and practices.
- Transportation during the off-season or summer must be arranged well in advance with the athletic director. Bus/Vans will be reserved on a first come first served basis.
- To drive the school van/bus, parents and coaches must be authorized drivers. To be approved, drivers must provide a copy of a valid, state driver's license to the front office. Drivers should be preapproved 24 hours before the scheduled event. Once confirmed as a driver, the information is held for the remainder of the year.

## Parking and Student-Athlete Pick-Up

Parents are asked to assist the coaches by arranging for their student-athletes 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.

## 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 athletic director 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 athletic director, 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 athletic director, 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 in thunderstorms.
- 2) Use the 30-30 rule
  - If there are 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder, go inside.
  - Even if lightning cannot 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 in a large, fully enclosed building with plumbing and wiring.
- 4) A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides offers some protection.
- 5) Top locations and activities for lightning casualties in Florida are : Open areas (sports fields, golf courses, beaches), water-related activities, under trees, telephone (top sources of indoor casualties), radios, and radio equipment
- 6) Outdoor sports have the fastest rising lightning casualty rate. Coaches, referees, parents, and student- athletes – know your lightning safety plan.

## **Physician’s Note**

Any student-athlete 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-athlete 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.

## **Team Pictures**

The athletic department will schedule team and player pictures 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 will occur immediately following the try-out process, once the team has been chosen and uniforms have been issued. The athletic director will inform coaches, athletes, and parents on the process to purchase photo packages of the team and student-athlete pictures.

## **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.

## **Senior Recognitions**

Senior student-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. Senior Night will be coordinated by the SCS Athletics Department.

## **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 student-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 and High School Sports Awards Night. Awards given at the FHSAA district, regional, or state playoffs will not necessarily reflect the same criteria as Sarasota Christian School.

- The Blazer Award recognizes the player who rises above circumstances, remains positive, is less self-focused and more team-focused, is encouraging and represents the qualities of a true Blazer athlete.
- The Most Valuable Player Award, while based heavily on statistical and athletic performance, reflects the player's positive traits, such as hard work, leadership, and commitment to his/her teammates.
- Varsity letters are awarded at the discretion of each high school coach.
- Certificates of Participation are presented to every athlete.
- Coaches may decide to hand out other specific player awards (most improved, best defense, etc.).

## **Chaperones**

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

## **Lodging at Tournaments**

Hotel expenses for regular season tournaments or meets are the responsibility of the student-athletes. For safety and team reasons, all rooms will be booked for no more than four student-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.

## **Fundraising**

The athletic director must approve all fundraising projects while working in conjunction with the Director of Advancement. This includes both on and off campus fundraisers. Once a project is approved, it must be reapproved each school year.

## **Summer Camp 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 student-athletes and are designed to teach the basic fundamentals of the sport, while providing a platform to mentor young boys and girls. Character lessons from God's Word will be discussed during daily devotional times.



**Sarasota Christian School  
2020-2021 Athletic Handbook  
Sign-off Sheet**

*I have read the Athletic handbook, as well as agree to abide by and carry out the procedures and policies therein.*

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**Signature of Student-athlete**

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**Signature of Parent**

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**Date**

**Note: Please sign and turn the sign-off sheet to your coach. Thank you!**