

*Southside Christian School
Athletic Handbook 2024-25*



Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I Timothy 6:12 (ESV)

Compete Like a Warrior, Serve Christ.

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Welcome to Warrior Athletics!

Athletics are at the heart of Southside Christian School's (SCS) mission, integral to our commitment to honor God and nurture well-rounded individuals. We strive to cultivate a winning environment and culture where students excel in sports and life, achieving their full potential both on and off the field. Participating in athletics at SCS is a privilege, offering challenging opportunities to develop physical vigor and compete successfully.

We aim to provide a first-class athletic program that consistently competes at a high level, producing winning teams and individuals while promoting holistic growth. Our athletes are ambassadors of God, family, school, and community, demonstrating our **LEADERSHIP** core values (listed below) in all aspects of their lives and honoring our Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, we create an inclusive environment where every athlete feels valued and empowered to contribute meaningfully.

Our athletic program is a visible component of our school and an outreach sports ministry. Our teams demonstrate service and minister to others in our community. Grounded in biblical truth and athletic excellence, we teach, train, and mentor individuals for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service. SCS continues to build upon its tradition with pride, engaging and serving the community while providing opportunities through the athletic program to develop healthy school morale.

We aim to be the best athletic program in the county. Our commitment to excellence and continuous investment and innovation extends to every aspect of our program, as we focus on improvement and growth in all endeavors. We value honesty, trust, respect, and transparency, intentionally building relationships with teammates and coaches.

Our dedicated coaches prioritize the well-being and development of their players, serving as positive role models and providing guidance and support. They teach valuable life lessons through the experiences of success and failure encountered during the athletic journey, using biblical integration to motivate humility in victory and opportunity in loss. Coaches intentionally make disciples and invest in every student athlete and their family.

Health and safety are paramount, with best practices in training, nutrition, and injury prevention. Coaches help student athletes develop a passion for becoming better teammates and students of the game. During competitions, our teams demonstrate effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship, continually striving to improve by working hard and developing skills.

This handbook serves as a guide to the policies and procedures of SCS's Athletic Department, helping coaches, athletes, and parents collaborate effectively. While comprehensive, it may not cover every situation; in such cases, prayer and good judgment are encouraged. Coaches, athletes, and parents must sign an agreement confirming they've read and understand this handbook before participating in sports. Please refer to it throughout the year, as all individuals are expected to be knowledgeable and supportive of its contents.

Proud to be a Warrior!

John Larry

John Larry
Athletic Director

SCS Mission Statement

Partnering with Christian families to prepare students spiritually, academically, and socially to make a positive impact for Christ, serving as leaders wherever God calls them

Vision

Transforming lives through Christ-centered discipleship and excellence in education

Athletic Guiding Scripture

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

SCS Sports Athletic Mission Statement

Pursue Athletic Excellence, Build Christian Character, and Develop Leaders who Impact Others for Jesus.

SCS Sports Athletic Vision Statement

Building Champions for Christ by empowering athletes and coaches to lead, excel, and impact our community

The vision of SCS Warrior Athletics is to be a leading example of a Christ-centered, premier athletic program that empowers student athletes and coaches, inspiring and achieving excellence and success in competition, academics, and personal development while nurturing Godly leadership, encouraging personal growth, and impacting our community by creating a competitive environment that consistently glorifies God and transforms lives.

We will partner and collaborate with families and communities to build a supportive environment, providing the resources needed for both athletes and coaches to thrive, grow, lead, and serve effectively. Together, we will cultivate a legacy of integrity, teamwork, and sportsmanship, exemplifying community engagement and spiritual leadership, enabling all to become Champions of Christ

Warrior Athletics Core Values - LEADERSHIP

<i>Legacy</i>	<i>Psalm 78:4</i>
<i>Excellence</i>	<i>Colossians 3:23 - 24</i>
<i>Accountability</i>	<i>Romans 14:12</i>
<i>Dedication</i>	<i>Romans 12:1-2</i>
<i>Effort</i>	<i>I Corinthians 15:58</i>
<i>Respect</i>	<i>I Peter 2:17</i>
<i>Self-discipline</i>	<i>2 Timothy 1:7</i>
<i>Humility</i>	<i>Philippians 2:3-4</i>
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Psalm 84:11</i>
<i>Perseverance</i>	<i>Galatians 6:9</i>

At SCS, winning is a core value. While the pursuit of victory is highly valued, we believe that winning in life and becoming Champions of Christ are even more important. We embrace victory with integrity and face defeat with dignity. Winning is not just an outcome; it's a habit that enriches all areas of life.

Warrior Athletics Motto:

Compete Like a Warrior, Serve Christ

Philosophy

The philosophy of Southside Christian School's athletic department is to provide a Christian environment for student athletes as they participate in competitive athletics. Careful instruction and guidance in sports techniques, strategies, and safety provide opportunities for student athletes to develop their skills while building Christian character and sportsmanship. The Athletic Director seeks to hire highly qualified coaches who will fulfill the mission of the school and the athletic department. Coaches will draw from their experiences as they lead a broad scope of athletic programs for our athletes. The coaches serve as strong Christian role models, encouraging Christian principles and self-discipline in all facets of competition and practices. SCS expects student athletes to place God first, family second, and academics before athletics. Student athletes are expected to abide by the eligibility rules and be leaders.

We Believe Statements

-The athletic department staff firmly believes...

1. Emphasizing the priority of biblical teachings and the development of a Christian worldview in every aspect of learning demonstrate a commitment to spiritual growth and discipleship.
2. Equipping students to impact the world for Christ, making disciples, and fulfilling the Great Commission outlined in Matthew 28 remain our core objectives.
3. Prioritizing Christian education and athletics facilitates students' spiritual development, strengthens their relationship with Jesus, and helps them identify and explore the talents granted by Him, empowering them to serve Him faithfully.

Warrior Athletics Goals

Spiritual and Character Development

1. Share the Gospel so student-athletes have the opportunity to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
2. Provide avenues for spiritual growth and instill Biblical character traits that endure beyond athletic careers.
3. Use athletics as a platform for students to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and grow spiritually by using Biblical integration.
4. Honor and glorify Christ in all we do (Col. 3:23-24) and teach each student-athlete the importance of being a testimony of His love in all interactions.
5. Maintain the highest level of Christian conduct on the athletic field or court.
6. Teach each student-athlete to respect the authority present in their life.
7. Engage the parents of athletes spiritually and involve them in SCS's ministry.
8. Provide opportunities for those outside the community to witness gospel actions and Biblical principles.

Program and Community Impact

1. Provide the school and community with an honorable, exciting, and enjoyable program that demonstrates Biblical ideals of leadership and excellence.
2. Minister to the community through exemplary actions, Christ-like attitudes, and a high level of individual and team athletic skill.
3. Foster holistic student development by integrating faith and athletics, empowering students to live out their faith and achieve success in all aspects of their lives.

Student Athlete Development

1. Complement the academic program with athletics by providing ample participation opportunities.
2. Add additional sports teams based on students' interests, increasing participation.
3. Provide an opportunity for all student-athletes to actively participate in a viable sports program, supported by qualified coaches and administrators.
4. Enhance student-athlete experiences and provide exceptional student services, including athletic performance, injury prevention and care, college recruitment, association and league memberships, athletic facility oversight, and youth programs.
5. Develop a competitive edge and character through rigorous practices and competition.
6. Teach and coach students to improve sport-specific skills to be competitive and emphasize the importance and value of teamwork.

Character and Leadership

1. Partner with parents to guide students towards excellence and integrity in Jesus Christ, while pursuing excellence beyond the playing field.
2. Equip and encourage student-athletes to develop their God-given athletic abilities to their maximum potential.
3. Provide a Christian environment for student-athletes as they participate in competitive athletics.
4. Offer a God-honoring, Christ-centered athletic program that nurtures students' integrity, service, and character development.
5. Dedicate yourself to upholding rigorous athletic and academic standards while leading, motivating, and inspiring student-athletes.
6. Implement the department's LEADERSHIP core values, teaching commitment, hard work, teamwork, self-discipline, sacrifice, humility, and sportsmanship.

Community and School Engagement

1. Elevate the visibility and credibility of the school and athletic program.
2. Create campus and community support.
3. Promote a positive, competitive athletic atmosphere rooted in Christian values, committed to enriching family experiences and fostering cohesive team dynamics.
4. Develop school spirit and pride within the school body.
5. Provide student-athletes with experiences that not only develop a healthy body but also enhance their self-image and confidence.

Values and Attitudes

1. Emphasize glorifying God through effort and attitude both on and off the court.
2. Encourage athletes to work hard, enjoy the sport, respect opponents, and uphold Christ in all endeavors.
3. Teach that cooperation and competition are integral to society, emphasizing good sportsmanship in both victory and defeat.
4. Use athletics as a tool to aid and foster students' total development.

Compliance and Accountability

1. Ensure competitive success, monitor rules compliance, and create fiscal accountability.
2. Raise funds and resources to provide a quality athletic program.

Affiliations

Southside Christian School (SCS) is a member of the North Carolina Christian State Association (NCCSA) which governs member schools throughout the state. SCS adheres to all NCCSA Athletics.

Warrior Athletics Offerings

1. Fall Sports
 - a. Soccer – Boys Middle School (6-8th)
 - b. Soccer – Boys Varsity (9-12th)
 - c. Volleyball – Girls Middle School (6-8th)
 - d. Volleyball – Girls Junior Varsity (9th-10th)
 - e. Volleyball – Girls Varsity (9-12th)
 - f. Cross Country – Coed (6th-12th)
2. Winter Sports
 - a. Basketball – Boys Middle School (6-8th)
 - b. Basketball - Boys JV(9th-10th) (Potentially)
 - c. Basketball – Boys Varsity (9-12th)
 - d. Basketball – Girls Middle School (6-8th)
 - e. Basketball – Girls Varsity (9-12th)
 - f. Swimming – Coed Varsity (6-12th)
3. Spring Sports
 - a. Soccer – Girls Middle School (6-8th)
 - b. Soccer – Girls Varsity (9-12th)
 - c. Baseball – Boys Varsity (9-12th)
 - d. Baseball – Boys Middle School (6-8th)
 - e. Golf – Coed Varsity (6-12th)

Students are not allowed to participate in two SCS sports in the same season.

Administrative Organization

Southside Christian School believes that following the chain of command is not only imperative for a successful program, but that it is a principle taught throughout the scriptures (Matthew 18). Should no resolution occur then the involved parties should take the conflict to the next level.

1. Head Coach or Assistant Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Upper School Principal
4. Head of School
5. School Board

Many concerns are often the result of miscommunication and/or misunderstanding. The best practice to address concerns is a scheduled phone call or email with the coach. Do not communicate and share concerns using social media to others.

General Athletic Information

Supervision

Athletes using any athletic facility must be under the direct supervision of a SCS coach. Under no circumstances should any workout be unsupervised. The NCCSA does not regulate individual workouts. All workouts must be approved by the Athletic Director and supervised by that athlete's coach or coach in that program. When SCS gets its own gym and athletic fields, SCS personnel will supervise the gym. Athletes wanting to use those facilities must check in with the supervisor.

Criteria for Adding Interscholastic Sports

The following criteria will be considered in depth prior to the addition of any interscholastic sports:

1. Funding – Funding must be made available through the SCS operational budget. Current sports or the level of current sports will not be cut in order to add additional sports or levels of sports.
2. The sport, by its nature, must be a competitive athletic activity, which requires a high level of physical conditioning, training, and skill.
3. Athletic Framework – Organized competition, adequate facilities, competent coaches, and opportunities for growth are all factors that will be considered.
4. Equal Opportunity – Priority will be given to those sports that best equalize the opportunities for girls and boys.

Playing Time

Playing time is a coaching decision and will not be equal for everyone. Coaches determine playing time based on what is best for that specific game and the program. Factors considered include, but are not limited to, teamwork, skills, positions, rotations, knowledge of sport and game-specific situations, effort, attitude, attendance, participation etc. Coaches have the authority and flexibility to make all coaching decisions, including those related to playing time, during the games. The purpose of Varsity competition is to field competitive teams to be the best in our conference, region and state. Junior Varsity (JV) and Middle School (MS) teams are to develop student-athletes and prepare them for varsity competition by building their skills and knowledge.

Team Selection

A. Philosophy – In line with our philosophy of athletics and our goal to see as many students succeed as possible, we encourage coaches to include as many team members as they can without compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously time, space, facilities, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, coaches should strive to maximize the opportunities for students without diluting the quality of the program.

B. Roster Decision Policies

1. Responsibility
 - a. Choosing the members of the team is the sole responsibility of the coaches.
 - b. Prior to trying out, the coach will provide the following information to all team candidates and their parent(s) and guardian(s):
 1. Extent of a try-out period
 2. Criteria used to select the team
 3. Practice, in-season and off-season commitment if they make the team
 4. Game commitments
2. Procedure
 - a. The Athletic Director must sign off on every final roster before it is posted.
 - b. Coaches will discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport or other areas of the athletic program.
 - c. If a coach foresees difficulties arising as a result of team cuts, he or she should discuss the situation with the Athletic Director.

C. Junior Varsity Guidelines

1. When talent and need warrant, any 7th or 8th grade student athlete may be placed on the Junior Varsity and/or Varsity roster for competition; however, they are not allowed to participate in a middle school and high school game on the same day.
 - a. Student athletes cannot play more than 36 minutes total per day in basketball.
 - b. Soccer players cannot play more than 80 minutes of soccer per day (equivalent to two halves). This time restriction does not apply to any overtime play.
 - c. If a student athlete plays both junior varsity and varsity volleyball, they cannot start on varsity. The student athlete can play junior varsity unlimited; however, this player may play in only three of the six rotations at the varsity level.
 - d. Overtime does not count toward the total time allowed.

Multi-Sports Participation

It is the philosophy of the Athletic Department that all athletes in good academic standing are encouraged to participate in multiple sports at Southside Christian School and enjoy as many sports seasons as the student athlete and his or her parents wish without influence from any coach to specialize in one sport. All coaches should encourage participation in other sports.

There is a myth that athletes must concentrate on one sport in high school in order to play at the next level. Statistics would show that very few professional and collegiate athletes participated in just one sport during their high school years.

Participating in multiple sports is not for everyone, particularly those with a true gift in a single sport. But generally speaking, a good athlete will be good in whatever sport he or she plays. The more sports our quality athletes participate in will make us a stronger overall athletic program.

Missing Practices

Missing practices and games for any reason other than sickness or family emergencies or playing on another team will be a coaches decision and may result in missed playing time. All absences excused or otherwise should be communicated to the coach ahead of time.

Quitting

Quitting a team is never a good option unless it is for health, family, or sometimes academic reasons. and possibly the athlete's parents. An athlete who quits a sport is not allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the original sport is over.

Additionally, an athlete who quits a team for academic or other reasons, except health and family reasons, will not be permitted to rejoin a current team or join a subsequent team for a minimum of six weeks within the same school year. The coach of the subsequent team is not required to allow an athlete to join a season in progress

If a player is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons or quits a team during the season, he or she will need to have a conversation with the AD before being allowed to try out for the following season. Any reason for leaving a team will require a conference between the AD, the athlete, the athlete's coach

Home School

Home School students at all levels that desire to participate in SCS athletics will be able to participate in certain situations. Home School student athletes must follow the NCCSA home School policy. Coaches are required to report all home school students to the Athletic Director.

Sunday Meetings

Any practice, meeting, film session, or organized activity involving any player or players on Sunday is prohibited unless permission is received from the Upper School Principal.

Preseason Parent Meetings

Head coaches are required to conduct a pre-season meeting for all students who are on the team and their parents. Athletic handbooks will be made available and discussed at this meeting. Attendance is required for a parent of each player. Coaches should communicate the following:

1. Philosophy of the coach, both generally and specific to their sport.
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Expectations of the players and the team
4. Team rules and repercussions for violations.
5. Injury and emergency medical procedures
6. Role of the parent in terms of volunteer help, team meals, game day help, etc.

Scheduling Guidelines

- A. The Athletic Director will schedule all athletic contests and practices.
- B. No coach will schedule one-on-one workouts without prior permission from the AD and students' parents. Workouts must be in visible, public locations.

- C. No coach will change the date, time, or site of a scheduled athletic practice or contest unless it is due to weather related issues or concerns such as the heat index or inclement weather that would cause potential safety issues to the athletes and coaches without prior approval from the AD.
- D. Wednesday Practices: Will be allowed if a team qualifies for the state tournament in a particular sport. However, these practices are to be finished by 5:30 p.m. The Upper School Principal may grant permission for early practice times if warranted by having multiple teams in tournament play.

Facility Coordination

- A. The scheduling and coordinating of practice schedules for teams to use the gym limit the needed use of court time. Each coach must value his/her time on the court to best prepare his/her team for competition.
- B. Coaches must also realize that off-court preparation (team meetings, devotionals, and game plan meetings) is also an intricate part of the success of any team.
- C. Flexibility is possible in scheduling practices if teams are traveling or when teams may need only half the gym for practice.

Cancellation of Contests

- A. The Athletic Director will handle all cancellations of games.
- B. The Athletic Director will contact the athletic director/coach of the opposing team, officials, and facilities.
- C. The Coaches will communicate with SCS families.

Music

The NCCSA strongly recommends that schools not play music such as familiar rock, pop, hip-hop, country, or other secular songs. Music that contains objectionable lyrics is strictly prohibited at SCS, even if the song played during the game does not include objectionable lyrics. Music is an area that can be divisive among schools. Coaches will use discretion when playing music that may be considered offensive to the visiting school. Any music that is categorized as rock, pop, hip-hop, or country, or that could be divisive should be shared with the visiting school's Athletic Director at least 24 hours before the scheduled contest(s).

Recreation, Club and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Sports Teams

Club sports are growing rapidly in popularity. Although club and AAU sports are avenues for athletes to further their skills in a particular sport outside the normal season, they can have a negative effect on an overall athletic program if athletes devote their time outside their season solely to them.

It is possible to compete simultaneously in both Warrior Athletics and other sports programs. However, in situations of conflict, SCS sports must take priority. While we do not discourage participation in other leagues, missing practices or games due to participation in those leagues will result in reduced playing time

Sportsmanship

Although we will compete hard, we will compete fairly and respectfully of our opponents. All parents, coaches, and student athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship at all SCS athletic events. There is a correlation between sportsmanship and positive Christian testimony. As the saying goes, "We may be the only Bible others read." This should always be considered in athletic competitions. We should strive to be Christ-like parents, coaches, and student athletes who show great sportsmanship at all times, give 100% at all times, and show a positive Christian testimony at all times on the athletic field or gymnasium. SCS will invite the other team to pray at the end of every home match.

During home contests we serve as hosts to the visiting team, its students, and spectators. They are our guests and they should be treated accordingly. As visitors, we are expected to act as invited guests. We will treat the home school's facilities with care and respect.

Officials

Qualified, NCCSA approved officials are assigned to all contests. They are the proper authorities to make decisions regarding the rules and their interpretations. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials. Officials are to be treated with respect at all times on and off the court or playing field. The officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who are expected to do it to the best of their ability.

Sportsmanship Guidelines

1. Show respect for the opponent at all times. When opponents visit our school, they should be treated as guests, greeted cordially on arrival, given good accommodations. When visiting another school, we should be cordial and appreciative of our host.
2. Know, understand, and uphold the rules of the contest. Familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest is essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
3. Maintain self-control at all times. A prerequisite of good sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Good sportsmanship means proper behavior by all involved in the game.
4. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill. The ability to recognize quality in performance and the willingness to acknowledge it without regard to team membership is one of the most commendable gestures of good sportsmanship.

Technical Fouls, Red Cards, and Ejections

A student athlete, who receives a technical foul, will be required to attend a coaches' meeting with the athletic director to explain his/her actions. The coaching staff will use this opportunity to instruct the student athlete in the area of self-control and in personal and team testimony.

In the case of repeated offenses, a strategy will be developed by the staff to assist the student athlete in the development of self-control. This may result in suspension from a team or suspension for a limited number of games

A student athlete that is ejected from a game will be required to sit out the following game, if they were ejected due to fighting they will miss the next four contests. Two ejections will suspend a student from all contests for the remainder of that sports season and three ejections during a school year will result in a 365 day athletic ban. Any coach ejected from an athletic contest will be fined \$250 and suspended two games immediately after the ejection. Both the student athlete and coach will be required to meet with the Athletic Director to discuss the ejection before returning to play.

Athletic Eligibility, Qualifications, and Guidelines

Academic Eligibility Requirements

One of the primary purposes of SCS is to provide an excellent education for our student athletes. Academics should be a priority for all student athletes. However, student athletes will be expected to fulfill their

commitment on the athletic field as well as maintain a satisfactory academic standing. If a student athlete should have to leave school early on a game day, they should inform the teacher and arrange to make up an assignment.

Academic Probation and Ineligibility

The following criteria will be used to determine academic eligibility:

1. A student athlete will **NOT** be eligible to participate in co-curricular athletic activities if they have one F or two Ds in core subjects; Math, Science, English, History, Bible, PE/Health, and Foreign Language classes are included in core subjects at SCS.
 - a. All student athletes are considered eligible at the beginning of every school year. Once a student athlete has been selected for a team, their grades will be checked at every progress report (4 ½ weeks) and report card (9 weeks).
 - b. Students are encouraged to be in good academic standing and to prioritize their academics. Good communication with parents and teachers often can prevent students from being ineligible.
2. Student athletes, who are **NOT** maintaining the minimum grade requirements at the time of the check, will become ineligible.
 - a. When a student athlete becomes ineligible, they will not be able to play the next two games or any games occurring seven days after becoming ineligible, whichever is longer.
 - b. After the initial period of ineligibility and upon talking to their teachers, the student may request from their teachers verification of eligibility and take it to the AD. If the student no longer has one F or two Ds in core subjects, they will be deemed eligible.
 - c. If a student athlete has not brought their grades up enough to become academically eligible by the next grade check, they will be required to meet with the AD to discuss eligibility for the rest of the season.
3. Ineligible student athletes must support the team by being present at all practices and home games. Ineligible student athletes cannot get out of school early to travel with the team. The NCCSA dress code must be worn when sitting on the sideline during games.
4. The Athletic Director and Upper School Principal must approve student athletes who show a pattern of being ineligible during the season before being added to the next season's roster.

Attendance Requirements

1. All student athletes are expected to be at all scheduled practices and contests. Any absence must be pre-arranged with the coach. It will be at the coach's discretion to determine acceptable reasons for missing practices and games. Absenteeism may affect the student athletes' standing/position with the team. Continued unjustified or unexcused absenteeism will result in a suspension from the team.
2. Any student athlete who is not in school by **10:00 am** is ineligible to play or practice sports for that day. Exceptions to the school attendance policy include: funerals, doctors' appointments, and administrations' permission.

Transfers

The NCCSA Athletic Handbook states that a student who transfers from one NCCSA athletic-participating school to another NCCSA athletic-participating a school within a 50 mile-radius shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year at the school they are transferring to unless:

- a. The student's parents had a job-related move that required a change of residence.
- b. The school in which the student is currently enrolled adjusted its academic program after the school year began, whereby the school no longer met the legitimate academic needs of the family (dropped courses, loss of a qualified teacher, etc.)
- c. The parent is employed by a member school and the member school terminates or significantly modifies the parent's jobs during the school year.

Athletic Participation Fee

SCS's Athletic Department requires each student athlete to pay a Participation Fee. This fee helps provide the monies needed to have a quality athletic program. Each family will be billed after the team rosters have been set. Fees are non-refundable after the first game regardless of eligibility or desire to continue. The exception to this policy is when a player sustains a major injury. Upon visiting the fees from years past, via the athletic handbook and financial statements, we have decided to implement a consistent fee for all student athletes.

Athletic Participation Fee 2024/25 - \$150.00

**All participation fees will be billed through your SCS FACTS account.*

Assumed Risk

Providing a safe environment for practice and competition is a priority of everyone involved in the athletic program. Every step is taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. However, student athletes and their parents/guardians must be aware that the risk of injury is inherent in athletic participation. Accidents ranging from minor to severe may occur. It is mandatory that the parents/ guardians of all athletes sign the following forms prior to participation.

Accidents and Injuries

Coaches need to notify the Athletic Director and parents immediately of any potentially serious injuries. Any time an athlete is injured there must be an [accident form](#) filled out and on file with the Athletic Director by the start of the next school day. The accident form is necessary, even if the injured person does not go to the doctor or hospital. It is the responsibility of the Athletic office to have a supply of Accident Forms.

Emergency Procedures

For health related emergencies, parents will be notified as soon as possible. The Coach will inform parents as to the type of injury, the extent of the injury, what has been done to treat the injury, and whether further medical attention is necessary. It is important to err on the side of caution.

If a student has been taken to a doctor or hospital, parents will be informed of the exact location and phone number. The purpose of the emergency medical form is so that emergency treatment can begin, if necessary, until parents arrive. The Athletic Director should be informed of any emergency situation.

Should a team vehicle break down, the team parent and parents should be called immediately. Coaches must stay with the students. If the students and coach leave the vehicle, they must do so in a group.

Participation Requirements and Required Medical Forms

All student athletes must have the approved NCCSA forms on file with the SCS Athletic Director. All forms can be found on the [SCS website](#) under athletics. Physical forms are required before tryouts.

1. Liability Waiver Form,
2. NCCSA-Physical (Preparticipation Examination) Form.
 - a. Students may use the [North Carolina High School Athletic Association Physical Form](#) .
Physicals are current for 12 months. Please be proactive and do not allow forms to expire.
3. Concussion Form
4. SCS Athlete and Parent Agreement

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, the AD, in collaboration with coaches, will provide and update by **12:30 p.m.** regarding the status of practices or games for that day to ensure timely notification to parents and students. The Athletic Director, in consultation with Head Coaches and Upper School Administration, will determine any cancellations or postponements. The athletic department office will then inform the SCS front office to make an announcement to students. The Athletic Director will also communicate with the visiting school to discuss the possibility of rescheduling.

Statistics

All statistics and schedules are recorded on MaxPreps which is the NCCSA's home for high school sports information. Coaches are required to update rosters and schedules before the season. During the season, coaches are required to input the game results and scores no later than two business days.

Gender Exclusive Teams

Student athletes are allowed to participate only in sports that match their sex assigned at birth. The NCCSA does not have provisions for athletes to compete in sports not associated with their gender (e.g., female athletes playing baseball, male athletes playing softball, etc.).

Drugs

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

Not only does the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco by athletes violate team training rules, it is illegal. Athletes are not to use alcohol, drugs or tobacco. Athletes determined to have used alcohol, drugs or tobacco will be subject not only to SCS administration suspension, but may be suspended from their teams as well. Athletes could be removed from a team for the remainder of the season.

Enhancing Drugs and Supplements

SCS supports and endorses the stance of the NFHS in terms of performance-enhancing substances: - In order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

We believe that it is hard work and commitment that allows the student athlete to achieve his/her physical goals. We teach that the use of any performance enhancing drug in the short term or in the long run, may cause long term health problems or death.

Transportation Guidelines

SCS currently has one van that is shared with the school. All teams will be assigned days to use the van depending on the location of games, times, schedule etc. For the 2024-25 school year, SCS plays all home and away games at rental facilities due to not having a gym. Pay close attention to the schedule and locations as sports teams play games at several different locations.

Transportation to & from Games

- A. Student athletes are expected to ride in the SCS van when available.
- B. Returning from away games, each player must return from the game on the school-arranged transportation, with their parents or communicate to the coach that they are riding home with someone else.

- C. Student athletes may ride with parents, or fellow students, with parent knowledge and permission, or SCS arrange transportation if needed, to home games.

Coaches' Responsibilities for Away Games

Coaches are responsible for overseeing and supervising students during away games or competitions. The coach should abide by the following guidelines.

1. Prepare a checklist for all equipment needed
2. Have players double-check their equipment before departure
3. Take all emergency medical forms.
4. Re-emphasize that we are guests when playing on the road.
5. Enforce proper discipline
6. Clean the van upon arrival
7. Stay with students upon return to SCS until all have been picked up.

Overnight Contests

All teams must have permission from the Athletic Director for staying overnight. When members of the coaching staff are of the opposite sex of team members, the head coach must provide a sponsor or chaperone for overnight trips. The head coach must notify the school administration with the name of the designated sponsor or chaperone. It is also encouraged that the head coach provides a sponsor or chaperone on all trips. **All sponsors/chaperones must complete background screening prior to chaperoning a trip.** Therefore, a minimum of a 1-week notice must be given to allow time to process and approve. For tournaments that require an overnight stay, SCS will reserve and pay for hotel accommodations that will need to be reimbursed by the parents. Parents wishing to make alternative arrangements need to talk to the coach of the team.

Return From Away Games and Tournament Play

Teams playing in tournaments will be expected to return to SCS the day of the contest, if eliminated, or immediately after the conclusion of a championship event. The Athletic Director may consult with the Upper School Principal to make an exception to this rule pending mode of transportation or other special circumstances.

Late Returns

Coaches will communicate with students and parents what time students will arrive at SCS after away games. Students are expected to attend school the following day. Participating in athletics is a privilege and takes discipline to be a student athlete.

Communication with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Parenting and coaching are both challenging tasks. Understanding each other's roles and using proper communication channels will help parents and coaches work together to provide a positive and meaningful experience for student athletes participating in SCS sports.

At the core of any good relationship is trust. It's important to recognize that there may be times when things don't go as athletes, parents, and coaches wish. Parents may find it difficult to understand decisions about playing time, player positions, strategy, and more. It's crucial for parents and athletes to trust that our coaches are making decisions in the best interest of the team and all individuals involved. Coaches, who work with the team daily, make decisions based on practice results and their judgment of what's best for the team. Playing time, player positions, rotations, and strategy are all at the coach's discretion. However, if you have concerns to discuss with a coach, there is a process in place for that.

All SCS teams are required to use [TeamSnap](#) which is the primary communication platform for Coaches, Parents, and Students. Coaches will instruct and train their team on how to use this.

Social Media Policy - Coaches, Students and Parents

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 ESV

All coaches, students and parents are encouraged to use social media to promote SCS and athletic events, and celebrate student athletes for their academic and athletic achievements. Social media provides opportunities for connecting, networking and collaboration. Social media also gives people access to information, facilitates community building, and provides a platform for creative expression.

However, as with most things, it has also been at times abused to bring hurt and pain to others. If necessary, an individual will be asked to delete information from a social networking site. In order to protect everyone at SCS, all student athletes, coaches and parents are expected to do the following:

1. Concerns should be communicated directly to the coach and not posted on social media. Examples include but are not limited to the following. Complaints about coaches, officials, other schools, or students from other schools etc. If there is a concern, follow the Matthew 18 principles and administrative organization procedures listed above.
2. Reflect a positive Christian testimony and serve as Christian role models, in and out of school.
3. Never communicate confidential student, parent, or school information, except to the owner of that material.
4. Not make any disparaging comments/posts about the school, its teachers, employees, directors, coaches, administration, staff, or board members.
5. Ensure that all personal media accounts uphold the employee and school's Christian testimony and do not violate any of the school's policies.
6. Use the school provided email as the primary means of online communication with students and parents.
7. Refrain from speaking or posting favorably about alcohol, smoking, vaping, secular music, popular tv shows/movies that involve cursing, nudity, or adult themes, etc.
8. Wait until a student has graduated before becoming "friends" or allowing them to "follow" you on social media.
9. Never post student pictures online without parental consent.
10. Be respectful and responsible in all of your online communications.

All communication should be kept as "public" as possible. Creating groups or private pages which include two or more non-related adults and multiple students is one way to increase visibility online. Any group or private page used is an extension of the athletic program, Remembering your role as coach, student athlete, parent, mentor and teacher is essential in all school relationships.

The school shall hold employees personally responsible for all material they post or that is posted by a third party on an employee's blog or social-networking page.

Failure to follow the above may result in requests to remove the communications and employee discipline up to and including termination. Students may be disciplined for inappropriate use of social media.

24 Hour Rule and Matthew 18 Principle/Procedure

Coaching Concerns

A. Parent Involvement

1. Communication with the coach
 - a. Express concerns directly to the head coach
 1. It is important **NOT** to confront a coach before or after a practice or game.
Please wait 24 hours before addressing a coach with any concerns. This allows for emotions to calm for more productive and efficient communication from both parties. Parents who disregard the above wait time and location policy may be asked by the AD to not attend practices and games.
 - b. Notify the coach of pending or anticipated problems or concerns.
 - c. Discuss specific concerns in regard to the coach's expectations.
2. Issues to discuss with a coach
 - a. The treatment of a student athlete, mentally or physically.
 - b. Ways to help a student athlete improve.
 - c. Concerns about a student athlete's behavior.
 - d. Coach's philosophy and expectations for your child and the team.
 - e. Team rules and requirements
 - f. Sanctions incurred by your child
 - g. Scheduling
 - h. College Scouts
3. Issues **NOT** to discuss with a coach
 - a. Team selection
 - b. Playing time
 - c. Sport strategy
 - d. Play calling
 - e. Matters concerning other team members
4. Steps to follow if a perceived problem exists and a resolution between the parent(s) and coach cannot be reached:
 - a. Set up a meeting with the head coach and the Athletic Director
 - b. Set up an appointment with the Upper School Principal
 - c. Set up a meeting with the Head of School

B. Expectations of Parents

1. Understand and support the philosophy and objectives of the team.
2. Understand and support the expectations the coach has of the athletes and support the coach in achieving these expectations.
3. Volunteer to help with concessions and collect money at home games.
4. Attend all parent meetings.
5. Volunteer to help and support the athletics in fundraising activities.
6. Support the coach through winning and losing seasons.
7. When complaints or concerns arise, allow the coach and Athletic Director time to resolve the problem and find solutions.

Investigative Procedure – Complaints Against a Coach

When a concern, complaint, or allegation is received against a coach, the SCS Athletic Director will immediately address the issue.

- A. If an allegation potentially involves sexual harassment or physical abuse, the Athletic Director will immediately notify the Head of School and Upper School Principal. The investigation will be conducted as outlined according to SCS policy.
- B. All other concerns are addressed through the Athletic Director and Upper School Principal. The Athletic Director and Upper School Principal will initiate an inquiry into the alleged problem. The Upper School Principal will inform the Athletic department in writing as to the steps taken in the probe and the conclusion reached by the school.
 1. The Upper School Principal in consultation with the Head of School will make a determination:
 - a. Is there a violation of school policy?
 - b. Was due process followed?
 - c. Were school rules broken?
 - d. Is there a pattern of behavior developing?
 2. If it is determined that a problem does exist, the Head of School will initiate remedial action that could include:
 - a. Letter of Reprimand
 - b. Growth Plan
 - c. Probation
 - d. Suspension
 - e. Termination
 3. A follow-up letter will be sent to the parent(s) or court-appointed guardian(s) by the Upper School Principal or the Head of School at the conclusion of the investigation.

If personnel action is taken against a coach, SCS will NOT inform or make a public comment about the action – Right of Privacy of school personnel.

Uniforms, Equipment and Finances

All uniforms and equipment are the property of SCS. The head coach is responsible for managing these items, which includes collecting all uniforms and equipment at the conclusion of the season, taking inventory, storing everything safely on the Upper School campus, having the inventory verified by the Athletic Director, and submitting new equipment requests to the Athletic Director by deadlines. Each coach **MUST** maintain accurate records.

- A. School purchased equipment or uniforms cannot be given away or sold without the express permission of the Athletic Director.
- B. In-Season Care of Equipment & Uniforms
 1. At the end of a season, all equipment and uniforms must be turned in within one week. The best practice is to return the uniform at the conclusion of the last game.
 - a. If equipment and uniforms are not returned by the student within one week of the end of the season, a \$50 fine will be assessed.
 - b. Student athletes who do not return the uniform or equipment after two weeks will be charged the full replacement cost in addition to the \$50 fine.
 - c. Coaches will receive the remaining portion of their coaching stipend upon the return of all uniforms and equipment.
 2. Repair of equipment must be done at the end of each season.
- C. Equipment – end of season
 1. Equipment check-in: Within one week following the completion of the season, all equipment will be checked in, inventoried, and stored in a designated area on the school property, as approved by the Athletic Director.

2. Equipment repair: After inventory, all equipment will be checked for needed repairs. All repair requests must be submitted to the Athletic Director.

D. Inventory

1. The Head Coach will accomplish inventory. Inventory will be sent to the Athletic Director's with the equipment request for next year for proper planning.
2. The athletic department will not replace missing, non-inventoried equipment, or equipment that has been left unattended by the coach.

Coaches must submit a uniform and/or equipment form communicating needs and priorities within their program.

Financial - Game Day

A. Game Tickets – Cost

- SCS Students and Faculty – Free
- Adults - \$7.00
- Students - \$3.00
- Annual Pass per person for all sports - \$100
- Tournament play - Varies

B. Ticket Sellers

Each coach will be responsible for scheduling parents to collect money for home games.

C. Purchase of Equipment

The head coach will compile an equipment request list to include: quantity, name of the item, brand (company) name, style number, description, and all related specs. The head coach will designate a priority for each item requested. The list should be signed by the head coach and sent, along with the signed inventory, to the athletic director.

Facilities

General

The Athletic Director is ultimately responsible for the cleanliness of all storage areas, office areas, and general cleanliness of locker facilities. However, in many cases, it will be the responsibility of coaches to enforce this among the players. Each coach is to ensure that the areas they access or utilize are clean after each practice or game. The coach is to inform the Athletic Director of broken or damaged equipment or facilities. If the damage appears to be due to carelessness, neglect, or other negative factors, the Athletic Director, along with the administration, will determine if corrective measures are warranted.

Student Athlete Responsibilities

- A. Represent Christ through your actions on and off the athletic field.
- B. All student athletes at SCS are subject to the school rules at all times. In addition, stricter guidelines may also apply to student athletes. For example, any student athlete that is known to be experimenting with alcohol, drugs, steroids, tobacco (including chewing tobacco), or vaping may be suspended from athletics for one semester.
- C. Any student athlete who is suspended from school may not participate in or attend an athletic event or practice during the duration of the suspension.
- D. The coach or the school administration may deem student athletes with frequent absences, tardiness, or

discipline problems in the classroom or on the athletic field, ineligible.

- E. All student athletes are required to attend all events, practices, games, awards ceremonies, etc., during and after the season. In addition, student athletes are to arrive on time for all of the above. If a player chooses to skip a practice or a game, it will be the coach's discretion on the punishment for the student athlete.
- F. During practice and games, all student athletes are required to remain with the team at all times at all home and away events. This includes all people involved in the sport: players, statisticians, photographers, etc. A note from a parent must accompany any request to do otherwise.

Athletic Dress for Students and Coaches

SCS Athletic dress for ALL games will follow SCS and NCCSA guidelines for both home and away games. Every student-athlete and coach will be required to meet the NCCSA's dress and hair standards. Athletes and coaches must be dressed properly when representing a SCS athletic team. This includes practices, game day, and road trip attire. Coaches may have specific requirements for team members and will address this issue in team meetings. Denim is never acceptable.

Coaches should be dressed in athletic gear and athletic shoes for all practices. Athletes must have proper footwear for all practices and games. Remember that you not only represent yourself, but also your family, the school, your team, and the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to look as sharp as possible.

Dress Code for Student Athletes

1. Uniform tops and bottoms must match for each sport.
2. Uniform bottoms should be modest, full-cut shorts with at least a 7-inch inseam. Shorts cannot be rolled up at the waist. Consequences will result in an attire violation. Schools can be fined for not meeting NCCSA dress code standards.
3. Uniform tops for each team must be the same type and color with modest armholes falling under the armpit (or a regular T-shirt/compression shirt must be worn underneath). Uniform tops should be good-textured fabric, and low or immodest necklines are not permitted. No body shirts or see-through shirts are permitted.
4. There may be circumstances in which wearing uniforms before or after the game is more practical. In this case, warm-ups should always be worn over the uniform.
5. No jewelry of any kind is to be worn by student athletes during competitions or warm-ups. No nose rings, earrings, tongue rings, or necklaces are permitted.

Dress Code for Coaches

Both female and male coaches should maintain a professional appearance, wearing attire that is suitable and appropriate for the specific sport they are coaching.

Male Student Athletes and Coaches

1. Hair must be a natural color and a distinctly male style.
2. Hair must be neat and professional in presentation, not giving a shaggy or unkempt appearance. It must be:
 - a. Neat and off the ears and collar
 - b. Clear of the eyebrows
 - c. Sideburns should not extend beyond the bottom of the ears
3. No beards or mustaches are permitted on male athletes.
4. Hair should not cover more than half the ears.

5. Hair should not cover more than half the collar of a traditional dress shirt or polo shirt.
6. Man buns, ponytails, mullets (covering more than half of the collar of a traditional dress shirt or polo shirt), or any other hairstyle that does not meet the above criteria are not allowed.

Male Coaches

1. Should be clean-shaven unless maintaining neatly trimmed (1" or less) facial hair.
2. A clear cheek line and neckline must be established and maintained.

Female Athletes and Coaches

1. **Hair**
 - a. Should be neat and professional in presentation
 - b. Must be a natural color
 - c. Should be styled in a distinctly feminine manner
2. **Piercings** Two earrings per lobe and one earring per upper ear cartilage are acceptable
 - a. No facial piercings are allowed
3. **Tattoos:** Any visible tattoos must be covered.

Dress Code Violations

Note: A school that does not follow the agreed-upon dress guidelines at postseason events will be subject to fines without warning. Players who are in violation of NCCSA dress guidelines will not be allowed to participate in postseason tournaments.

Dress Code Penalty Progression

1. The initial violation will result in an email to the offending school's athletic director and/or administrator.
2. Continued violations of the NCCSA guidelines by a team member will result in a \$100 fine to the offending school.
3. A third violation by the same team will result in a \$100 fine and suspension from postseason play by that team. This team is jeopardizing the status of the post-season play of any of its other teams. If this is the case, the athletic director and administrator will take action to protect the privileges of other teams.
4. Any further violations will result in the school being ineligible from NCCSA Athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Awards

The Athletic Awards Ceremony will be held at the end of the school year or at the conclusion of each season. We will recognize each team from the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. Awards (including trophies and letters) will only be given to those athletes who begin and finish the season.

Award Guidelines

For sports, with the exception of swimming, golf, and cross country, coaches will give the following five awards:

1. Best Offensive Player
2. Best Defensive Player
3. Most Valuable Player
4. Most Improved Player

5. Coach's Award

A committee formed by the athletic director will also select the following:

- A. SCS Male Student Athlete of the Year
- B. SCS Female Student Athlete of the Year
- C. Warrior Athlete Award

Parent Guide

Athletic Injuries or Sickness

Student athletes are required to inform the head coach if they are sick or will be absent. Coaches will follow up with all athletes if they are aware of a team member being sick or injured. If your athlete comes home complaining of an injury, please check if they have informed the coach. If the athlete has not communicated this to the coach, notify the coach as soon as possible.

Coaches will follow-up with all athletes when he/she knows a team member is sick or injured. If your athlete comes home complaining of an injury, ask if he/she has communicated this with the coach. If the athlete says he/she has not communicated this, please notify the coach as soon as possible.

When a student athlete gets injured, he/she needs to attend all practices unless he/she is at the doctor or rehabilitation for the injury. The coach will file an accident report with the athletic office. Please notify the coach if your son/daughter is sick at least 24 hours in advance or as soon as possible

Parent Meetings

One parent of student athletes is required to attend the athletic policy meeting for an individual sport. These meetings will be informational and cover the athletic department policies. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at the middle/high school campus. Dates and times will be announced well in advance.

Concession and Gate Responsibilities

All student athlete's parents will be encouraged to work during the games either helping with the gate or the concessions stand. Each student athlete's parent is asked to volunteer and will be assigned a time to be there. Please help the athletic department by coming at your scheduled time. If there is a conflict, please use TeamSnap or call another parent to switch with you and let us know about the change 24 hours in advance, when possible. Students will not be allowed to play in a game until a parent commits to signing up for concession and/or gate.

Sports Pictures

Individual and team sports pictures will be available online from the photographer. Picture dates will be announced in advance and will be during the school day.

Sports Picture Dates for 2024-25

Fall - Sept. 18

Winter - Nov. 13

Spring - Mar. 5

Summer Camps

The Athletic Department and Coaching Staff will work on a Summer Camp schedule and communicate this information to parents by February 1, 2025 so that parents and coaches can plan summer vacations and coordinate facilities.

Summer will be defined as the season beginning on the Monday after the last spring tournament and ending on the Monday of the week containing August 1. During the summer, coaches are permitted to work with individuals or an entire team as long as the following criteria are met:

1. This is not a requirement for participation on that team.
2. Attendance is voluntary and open.
3. Ethical Statement: Any coach who promotes the idea that participating in summer practice or games is required is out of compliance with the intent, spirit, and purpose of these policies.

Closing Statement

The Southside Christian School Athletic Handbook has been written to provide clear guidelines for our coaches, parents, and student athletes alike. We have written these policies with the intention of furthering the athletic program that is currently in place at Southside Christian School. The Southside Christian School Administrative team reserves the right to amend, remove and/or add policies within the handbook as the school year progresses and as various situations present themselves.

Questions or Concerns - jlarry@scswarriors.com