

Athletic Department Handbook



South Pointe Christian School

Revised 7/24/24

The Purpose of Athletics at South Pointe Christian School

Athletics at South Pointe Christian School exists to utilize the blessings God has given us to bring Him glory in the realm of sports by providing students with opportunities to develop their spiritual, physical, and mental growth through a biblical perspective in the realm of sports—which is becoming increasingly self-glorifying in nature. South Pointe Christian School has been blessed by God to provide students with an athletic program, and we will use this blessing to bring Him glory because everything given to us by Him should be dedicated back to Him (Rom. 11:36).

The SPCS athletic program strives to provide student athletes in 6th through 12th grade with a means by which they can develop their athletic ability, and most importantly, their walk with Christ. The vision of our athletic program is to teach student athletes how to work heartily unto the Lord and bring Him glory in all they do (Col. 3:23-24 & 1 Cor. 10:31). Therefore, SPCS athletics will provide student athletes an opportunity to honor and glorify God with their skill sets/abilities as well as practice self-discipline, selflessness, teamwork, outstanding sportsmanship, and leadership.

The commitment of student athletes includes the willingness to improve through practice and participation, listening to leadership as they strive to help you grow spiritually through the means of athletics, submitting yourself to the teachings of Christ (e.g., glorification of God the Father, humility, and selflessness) and applying them in athletics. This commitment must be before the Lord and is essential to ensuring a Christ-like attitude is cultivated and established within the realm of athletics.

We encourage our student body to be involved in our athletic program through both active participation and support the endeavors of their classmates as we strive to bring God glory in all we do (1 Cor. 10:31)

Student athletes should never use participation in a sport as an excuse to be given preferential treatment in the classroom. All athletes should be aware of this before they decide to play any sport.

Colossians 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God..”

The spiritual goals of the South Pointe Christian School athletic program are as follows:

- To conform each athlete to the character of Christ.
- To teach the value of winning and losing in a Christ-like manner. Some of life’s greatest lessons can be taught through winning and especially through defeat.
- To teach submission to authority on and off the court.
- To apply the lesson learned from athletics to the spiritual growth of the athlete.
- To teach honesty, selflessness, and self-control.
- To learn the value of teamwork in relation to service.
- To learn and apply the essentiality of humility amidst a culture of pride and self-glorification.

Athletic Program Profile

South Pointe Christian School competes in the 1A coastal division of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS).

Commitment to Compete

It is essential that a school keep its commitment to participate once games are scheduled with other SCACS athletics schools. Dates available to schedule games are a premium, and when a game is canceled the other school loses an opportunity to compete on that date. Consequently, cut-off dates have been established for each season, whereby a school must commit to compete in that particular sport. If a school cancels the season after these dates, a fine of \$250 will be imposed.

Sport Offerings

South Pointe Christian School offers a full sports program to students in grades 6-12. We encourage participation by all students.

While all students in grades 6-12 can sign up to play in each sport offered at SPCS, only students in grades 6-10 may participate in junior varsity competition and only students in grades 7-12 may participate in varsity competition. Following these eligibility requirements for junior varsity and varsity play, players will be chosen to participate on a team's junior varsity and/or varsity squad at the discretion of that team's coach(es).

NOTE: Students below 7th grade cannot play in SCACS Conference games; however, they can participate in non conference games.

Listed below are the sports and teams offered.

Season	Sport	Junior Varsity (6 th – 10 th)	Varsity (7 th & Up)
Fall	Boy's Soccer		X
Fall	Girl's Volleyball	X	X
Winter	Boy's Basketball	X	X
Winter	Girl's Basketball	X	X
Spring	Softball		X
Spring	Baseball		X

Awards

The athletic department will sponsor an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the Spring athletic season in which athletic awards will be presented. Each coach will present awards based on Christian character and outstanding performance. These awards are intended to recognize those students who excel athletically, academically, and demonstrate outstanding Christian character.

The Patriot Award is the highest award given. The recipient of this award will be a senior and must compete full time in at least 3 sports, excel athletically and demonstrate citizenship, leadership, and Christian character. This award is distributed at the discretion of the player's coach(es), athletic director, and/or administrator.

"The Scholar Athlete Award will be presented on Awards Day to all students who have competed full time in at least three (3) sports and have maintained a 93 average each quarter in each subject throughout the academic year."

Awards to be given out in each sport are:

- MVP Award
- Most Improved Award
- Coaches Award
- Best Offensive Player/ Best Defensive Player Award (coaches may determine which award to offer).

NOTE: Coaches may opt to give awards that are not listed above {Ex: Hustle Award instead of MVP or Best Offense and Defense instead of the Coaches Award}; however, only four awards will be given per sport per season."

Policies & Procedures

Attendance

Participation on a South Pointe team involves a four day a week commitment. All games and practices are required for participation. Disciplinary action for missing a practice will be the responsibility of the coach. Players missing practice the day before a game without an excuse should not expect to start the next game.

If a player is sick or has to leave school early, he/she should personally notify the coach prior to the absence. The coach will decide on a case-by-case basis when the student may participate. Players will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activities on the day of an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Doctor visits and other appointments should be scheduled on Wednesdays. There are no practices or games on Wednesday thus providing the opportunity to meet other obligations without infringing upon athletics.

All athletes are responsible for any class work or homework they miss while participating in any athletic function. Extra time will not be given for athletes to complete homework.

Athletes choosing to dually participate on an outside team (travel team, club teams, and/or competition squads) and a SPCS sports team, must notify their coach or the athletic director at the time of signing up for SPCS sports. **Participation on both teams will only be allowed with the understanding that the SPCS team has priority in case of conflicts.**

No practices or games will be scheduled on Sundays or Wednesdays in order to allow families to worship the Lord together.

Practice or game cancellations

We strive not to cancel games or practices, but sometimes due to weather, sickness, or other circumstances we have no choice. In the event a game or practice is canceled, we will notify the student athletes and/or families of student athletes as soon as possible. We will then allow the student athletes to notify their parents so they can make arrangements to be picked up after school.

Communication

All game schedules can be found by visiting www.southpointechristianschool.org and clicking on the "Athletics" tab. Driving directions for all away events can be found at the bottom of each game schedule. To access the addresses, visit our website, click Athletics, select the season's schedule, and scroll to the bottom."

In case of inclement weather, please contact the school office or athletic director after 1:00 PM. Typically we are unable to provide information regarding field and weather conditions before this time.

The email address for our athletic director is listed on the school website. To find this email, scroll to the "About SPCS" tab, click faculty and staff, scroll down to find the athletic director's information, and click the email icon on his profile.

Eligibility Requirements & Behavioral Expectations

Eligibility Requirements

A student has only four consecutive years of athletic eligibility once he first enters the 9th grade. A student who fails a grade in high school will only be able to participate four consecutive years and will be ineligible for a fifth year of competition. Hardship cases may be presented to the Athletic Commissioner, who may make a presentation to the Athletic Commission for ruling.

- A. Transfer Students are eligible to play at another conference school if the transfer takes place no less than 14 days before the first official game in that sport. Students enrolling during the school year may not participate in any game until 14 days after the official date of enrollment in the SCACS school.
- B. NO student may participate in SCACS athletics while under suspension from school.
- C. If a student is expelled or withdrawn by force, he/she is ineligible for participation in SCACS athletics for the remainder of the school year.
- D. Home-educated students must meet the definition of "legitimate" students adopted by the SCACS Board of Directors in order to gain eligibility for any athletic activities.
- E. Students who are pregnant, married, or who have parented children may not participate as a player or cheerleader in SCACS athletic events.
- F. Students that participate in athletics must be regularly enrolled (not receive scholarship) in a member school. Any student participating in athletics should not be recruited or receive scholarship based on athletic ability or participation; no representative from any member school should make "first contact" with a prospective student for athletic purposes. Students participating in athletics are entitled to no more financial assistance than any other similar student attending a member school.

Age Requirements

A student may not compete on a Junior High team if he or she is sixteen years of age prior to July 1 of the present school year. A student may not compete on a Junior Varsity team if he or she is seventeen years of age prior to July 1 of the present school year. A student may not compete on a Varsity team if he or she is nineteen years of age prior to July 1 of the present school year.

Academic Eligibility

SCACS Athletics has set minimal academic standards for schools to follow. According to SCACS, schools may choose to enforce stricter standards at their own discretion. We at SPCS have decided to follow SCACS Athletics' academic standards for student athletes which are stated below:

- Student athletes must have no more than one "F" per grading period
- Student athletes must have a 70 average overall
- Student athletes cannot be failing Bible
- There must be a minimum two-week time period for re-check

The purpose of SPCS adhering to the guidelines set by SCACS is to teach our student athletes the importance of diligence as well as the practice of accountability.

Behavioral Eligibility and Player Expectations

A student athlete's conduct and attitude are major components in determining their eligibility to participate in SPCS athletics. Failure to adhere to the following behavioral eligibility requirements and player expectations will result in the student athlete facing repercussions as stated in each point below:

- Student athletes are to practice self discipline on the field/court as well as in the classroom. Therefore, those who have continuing conduct and attitude problems in the classroom and/or on the court/field may be dismissed from a team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administrator.
- As Christians, we are called to live in a manner that honors God and that is respectable by all who observe our actions as proclaiming Christ followers (1 Thes. 4:1-4; Matt. 5:14-16). Because a student represents both Christ and SPCS, any action which would harm the testimony of either will not be tolerated. Demonstrations of behavior contrary to Christ-like behavior (e.g., inappropriate gestures and/or vocabulary, poor sportsmanship, vulgarity, etc.) will result in the athlete being denied the privilege of participation on or dismissal from the team at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and/or administrator.
- Any student athlete who receives an ISS (In School Suspension) or OSS (Out of School Suspension) will not be allowed to participate in any athletic functions on the days of their suspension.
- Accumulation of 10 demerits will result in a one game suspension.
 - Each time a student athlete accumulates 10 demerits, he/she will serve a one game suspension.
 - Demerits counted in the accumulation will include demerits from each quarter.
 - Ex: If a student athlete is participating in Winter sports (typically begins in Quarter 2), and the demerits he/she accumulated from Quarters 1 and 2 reach 10, he/she will be suspended from the sport for one game.
- Accumulation of 60 demerits will result in dismissal from the team the student athlete is currently on or the team he/she has planned to sign up for in the upcoming season.
 - Deciding which team the student athlete will be dismissed from will depend on the amount of games remaining the season for which he/she is participating.
 - If there are 3 games or less left in the season (not including playoffs) the student athlete is participating in, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next sport he/she signs up for.

- If there are more than 3 games left in the season (not including playoffs), the student athlete will be dismissed from the team he/she is currently on until the conclusion of the season. If this occurs, no refund for the sports fee will be given.
- Players must adhere to the Academic Eligibility requirements (listed above). If a student athlete is in violation of the Academic Eligibility requirements, he/she will receive a suspension from the team (no participation in practices or games) until the student athlete is no longer in violation of the Academic Eligibility requirements.
- Student Athletes must adhere to the SCACS Dress and Hair Requirements (listed below). If a student athlete is in violation of the SCACS Dress and Hair Requirements, he/she will receive a suspension from the team (no participation in practices or games) until the student athlete is no longer in violation of the SCACS Dress and Hair Requirements.

Dress and Hair Requirements

- Student Athletes may wear uniforms (for games and practice) with a minimum 7-inch inseam or long uniform pants (loose fitting). If spandex shorts are worn, they should be worn under the uniform shorts and not visible for others to see.
 - *NOTE:* Student Athletes are not permitted to roll shorts to a length that is less than the 7 inch inseam requirement.
- Boys' hair should be cut above the ears, eyebrows, and collar. Faddish hairstyles are not acceptable (mohawks, shaved sections, large afros, etc.).
- Boys' and girls' hair must be a natural color.
- No body piercing jewelry may be worn by athletes while participating in any SCACS athletic event (including before, during, or after a game).
- SCACS athletes are not permitted to have visible tattoos while participating in a SCACS athletic event (before, during, or after a game).

All members of the school's entourage (players, coaches, statisticians, etc.) are under the same dress and hair code requirements.

These standards will be enforced at all SCACS games, not just at the tournaments.

Parent Expectations

- Pray for your child's coach. They need your prayers more than anything.
- Be willing to get involved. We are always in need of scorekeepers, linesmen, concession workers, etc.
- Be involved! Make an effort to attend as many games as possible.
- Be prompt to pick up your child from practice and games. Our coaches are already making great sacrifices to coach your child. Show them you appreciate them by being on time!

- Playing time is strictly a coach’s decision. The coach is always in the best position to judge who is on the court or playing field. Please refrain from unfair assessment of a coach’s intentions in these situations.
- Handle all conflicts according to the Matthew 18 principle. All concerns should be addressed at the lowest level **first**. Parents should first contact the coach and work to resolve any issue(s).
 - If the issue(s) are not resolved at the lowest level (parent to coach), then please reach out to the athletic director, followed by the administrator regarding the issue(s) at hand.
- One parent from each family must attend the athletic compliance meeting which takes place before the start of the school year.
- Set an example of exemplary sportsmanship. All cheering should be positive and for our teams, not against another player, team, and/or coaches. All spectators should refrain from making derogatory/negative comments towards the officials.

PLEASE NOTE:

Any parent(s)/guardian(s) who are ejected from athletic events as a result of poor sportsmanship, inappropriate language and/or gestures, vulgar language, or any other behavior that does not display a Christ-like attitude will be served a 5 game suspension (including playoff games). This suspension will carry over from one season to the next if the full term of the suspension is not fulfilled in the season in which the parent(s)/guardian(s) was ejected. This is in place to ensure our student athletes witness and learn from those in authority how to have good sportsmanship, self-discipline, humility, and other Christ-like behaviors (1 Tim. 4:12b; Titus 2:7; Eph. 5:1; 1 Pet. 2:21). We cannot expect our student athletes to conduct themselves in a manner that is God-honoring if we do not do so ourselves. Furthermore, we are to set the standard and show our student athletes a good, Christ-like example not just in athletics, but in life itself.

SPCS Athletics Fees & Forms

Fees

Each student athlete will be assigned an **athletic fee of \$80** per sport played. **This fee is due before the first practice and—if paid via check—should be made payable to South Pointe Christian School and given to the athletic director.** Student athletes will not be permitted to play (practices or games) until the athletic fee is paid.

Teams/Coaches may choose to offer items for the team to purchase. (shoes, practice gear, warm-ups, hats, socks, etc.) These items are not included in the athletic fee and must be paid for separately.

Documentation Requirements

Each student athlete must have a **completed current Sports Physical**; a signed **SPCS Accident Waiver and Release from Liability form (also called SPCS Liability Waiver Form)**, signed **Athletic Handbook Cooperation Form, Permission to Treat Form**, a **SCACS Liability Waiver Form**, and a **copy of parent’s insurance card** in order to participate in SPCS sports. These completed documents are to be provided prior to the first practice of the season the student athlete will participate in. Documentation can be submitted to the athletic director or the front desk on the Main Campus.

Each of these documents can be found on the school's website under the "Athletics" tab. Once on the "Athletics" tab, scroll down to "Handbook and Forms" to find the documentation mentioned above and click on the link to access each required document. After downloading each required document, please print and complete the document accordingly for submission.

NOTE: Physicals are considered current if they are no more than 12 months old. If a physical expires during the season, a new physical must be obtained prior to the one year anniversary.

SPCS carries accident insurance on our students. This is secondary coverage after the parent's primary insurance.

Player Conduct for Home & Away Games

Sportsmanship

South Pointe received the Sportsmanship Award among 2A SCACS schools in 2013-2014 and again in 2015-2016. We hope to build upon this accolade and continue in the tradition of integrity, fair play, and respect. To this end...

- All spectators should display sportsmanship at all times.
- ALWAYS cheer in a positive manner. Positive cheering leads to positive results.
- Avoid making comments or performing gestures/actions directed towards the opposing team, fans or players.
- Avoid making derogatory comments towards the officials. The officials are the authority during an athletic event. As the respect towards authority in our society weakens, let's set a great example as spectators as to how God commands us to respond to authority.
- Avoid coaching from the stands. Please allow your child to focus on the game and the instructions of the coaching staff.

Technical Fouls, Cautions, Ejections

Technical and conduct fouls will be handled according to the National Federation Handbook. All conduct technical fouls in basketball, yellow and red cards in soccer, and an ejection in any sport, must be reported by both schools involved to the Commissioner within three school days of the incident. This report should include all violations by any student athlete/coach during the current year and all disciplinary action taken by the school concerning the matter. The Commissioner will keep a file and submit a report to the SCACS Executive Director listing schools with multiple offenses. If one or both schools do not submit a report, a fine may be levied on one or both schools involved.

If at any time during a game a coach or player is ejected for any reason, he/she will not be allowed to play in the next two scheduled SCACS games. Coaches or players who are suspended may not dress

out or sit with their team during any game from which they are suspended, nor are they allowed to participate in or coach during any practices until the two game suspension has been completed.

Conduct Foul on Coaches & Players

When any coach or player is assessed a technical foul or red card, this information should be reported to the SCACS office via the “Game Report Form.” Infractions will carry the following penalties—

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Coaches</u>	<u>Players</u>
Technical foul	5 points	4 points
Game disqualification	1 game suspension	1 game suspension

<u>Point Accrual</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
10 points	2 game suspension
15 points	Season disqualification

It should be noted that any disqualification that also causes a coach or player to exceed the point totals allowed may also result in compounded penalties.

- Any athlete receiving a conduct technical foul in basketball, a conduct caution (yellow card) in soccer, a caution (yellow card) in volleyball, or a verbal caution in baseball or softball, will be removed from the game for any time deemed necessary by the coach.
- Any athlete receiving two technical fouls in one game, or red card, or ejection will be suspended from the next two games. This athlete must also meet with the athletic director before being reinstated to the team.
- Any athlete who receives a second ejection during the school year will be ineligible to participate in the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Travel

- We believe that having the team ride together to away games builds team spirit. Therefore, all students should ride together to and from away games unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach. **Students riding home from an away game with anyone other than their parents/guardians must have written parental permission. Students who rode the bus to an away game and are riding home with parents/guardians after the game must sign the sign-out form prior to leaving.**
- All students are responsible for completing any class work missed due to an athletic event. Athletes will not be given extra time to complete assignments.
- All athletes are representatives of Jesus Christ and South Pointe Christian School. All athletes are to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes while playing, while being a spectator and while in public places.
- Proper conduct is to be demonstrated while riding on school transportation. This includes remaining seated, keeping noise to a low level, and keeping hands and feet inside the bus.
- Cell phones, iPod/iPad and other devices are not allowed to be used during games or practices. No sharing of devices will be permitted.

- Team dress standards will be determined by the coach.
- If at any point both genders share a bus, seating will be as follows: Boys will always be seated from the mid-point to the rear of the bus. Girls will be seated from the mid-point to the front of the bus. Athletic coaches, AD, and members of the entourage will be seated somewhere in the area of his/her players.
- Displays of flatulence, profanity, or other vulgarities will be dealt with immediately and will result in suspension, depending upon severity.
- Travel squads may be necessary in some sports due to the large number of prospective players. These squads will be determined by coaches strictly as the result of individual work ethic and skill levels.
- Long bus trips will be necessary this year due to conference affiliation. It is strongly suggested that students utilize the drive time to contests to complete homework assignments and projects.

Athletic trips that involve the use of our 14 passenger buses or any other loaned vehicles will need to be cleaned thoroughly at the conclusion of each event by the players and coaches. Any vehicle that is not cleaned properly will result in disciplinary actions for the athletes transported by that vehicle. (The whole team will be responsible for cleaning the bus/transport vehicle [picking up trash, sweeping it out, and scrubbing/wiping the inside clean if needed]).

Uniform Protocol

- All athletes should treat the SPCS issued uniforms with great respect. Any lost or damaged items must be reported to the coach and the player will be responsible for the cost of replacing lost items.
- Parents should ensure proper care with regards to the laundering of uniforms. All uniforms should be washed in cold water and allowed to air dry. If drying mechanically, all uniforms should be dried on the lowest setting possible.
- Careful attention should be given to the modesty of all uniforms and clothing worn during athletic events and practices.
- Uniforms should not be worn any time other than during an athletic event. This includes school and during physical education classes.
- All uniforms should be returned to the coach immediately after team pictures are made after the end of each season. Uniforms not returned in a timely manner will be billed to your account.

Student/Parent Athletic Department Handbook Agreement

South Pointe Christian School (SPCS) believes the above policies must be agreed upon and understood between the school, the student athlete, and the parents. By signing below, I am indicating my acceptance of the above stated policies. Failure to sign and agree to the above policies will result in forfeiture of participation in SPCS Athletics.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date