

Athletic Department Handbook



South Pointe Christian School

Revised 8/8/23

The Role of Athletics at South Pointe Christian School

Athletics at South Pointe Christian School is an integral part of the school's educational program. We believe a strong athletic program is vital to the success of achieving our God-given purpose. Athletics is the foundation for building school pride and school spirit. We encourage our student body to be involved in our athletic program through both active participation and support the endeavors of their classmates.

Philosophy of the SPCS Athletic Program

The purpose of the Patriot athletic program is to promote physical, mental, and spiritual growth for our student athletes. We believe that athletics is one of the most significant tools in the educational process of spiritual character development, and helps to encourage students to lead by example. Athletics provides an opportunity to honor God through excellence, maximum effort, self-discipline, sacrificial teamwork, and outstanding sportsmanship.

True 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 or be a cheerleader.

The commitment of athletes includes the willingness to improve through practice and participation in camps. To develop a winning attitude, the pursuit of excellence will require dedication.

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."

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

1. To conform each athlete to the positive character of Christ.
2. To teach winning and losing. Some of life's greatest lessons can be taught through winning and especially through defeat.
3. To teach submission to authority on and off the court.
4. To apply the lesson learned from athletics to the spiritual growth of the athlete.
5. To teach honesty, dependability, and self-control.
6. To learn the value of teamwork in relation to service.

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Athletic Program Profile

South Pointe Christian School competes in the 2A coastal division of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS). We will still compete at the 2A level however, in soccer, baseball, and softball we will be involved in a combination 1A/2A configuration and playoff concept due to the low number of participating schools in these sports.

Sport Offerings

South Pointe Christian School offers a full sports program to students in grades 6-12. We encourage participation by all students. Fall tryouts will be held in early August, Winter tryouts are held in late October and Spring tryouts are held in mid-February.

Students in grades 6-10 may participate on junior varsity teams. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible for participation on varsity teams. NOTE: No student below 7th grade should play in varsity competition except in golf and cross country. 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
Fall	Cross Country		X
Winter	Boy's Basketball	X	X
Winter	Girl's Basketball	X	X
Spring	Softball		X
Spring	Baseball		X
Spring	Golf		X

Policies and 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. Player 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 competition squads) and a school team, must notify their coach at the time of tryouts. **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, or sickness we have no choice. In the event a game or practice is cancelled, we will notify the students as soon as possible. We will then allow the students to use the school phones to notify their parents so they can make arrangements to be picked up after school.

Awards

The athletic department will sponsor an awards program at the end of each 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 must compete full time in at least 3 sports, excel athletically and demonstrate citizenship, leadership, and Christian character.

The Scholar Athlete Award will be presented to any student that competes full time in at least three (3) sports and has maintained an “A” average in every subject.

Awards to be given out are: Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Most Improved, Hustle Award & Sportsmanship Award

Communication

All game and practice schedules can be obtained at www.southpointechristianschool.org.

Directions to all away events are also listed on the website.

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

Email addresses for our coaching staff are listed on the school website, under the “about us” tab, click faculty and staff.

Parent information meetings will be held at the beginning of each season.

Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements

Each school must send a list of eligible athletes, their date of birth, and their grade in school to the Athletic Commissioner prior to the beginning of the season. **This eligibility list must be sent to the Athletic Commissioner: please see Athletic Calendar for the due date.** 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.

Academic Eligibility

SCACS Athletics has set minimal academic standards for schools to follow. Schools may choose to enforce stricter standards at their own discretion. The Commissioner will not oversee schools' academic records. SCACS will simply rely on the integrity of each school to follow at least these minimal academic standards set by SCACS:

- A. No more than one "F" per grading period
- B. Cannot be failing Bible
- C. Must have a 70 average overall
- D. Minimum two-week time period for re-check

Behavioral Eligibility

A student's conduct and attitude are a major component in determining their eligibility.

1. A student who has continuing conduct and attitude problems may be dismissed from a team at the discretion of the coach, principal, or the athletic director.
2. As Christians, we must manifest a behavior that honors God and that people will respect. Because a student represents both Christ and SPCS, any action which would harm the testimony of either will not be tolerated. Demonstrations of poor sportsmanship will result in the athlete being denied the privilege of participation.
3. Any student that receives an in school or out of school suspension will not be allowed to participate in any athletic functions on the days of their suspension.
4. Accumulation of 60 demerits may result in dismissal from the team.

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.

Dress and Hair Requirements

- Players may wear uniforms 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.
- 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 should be enforced at all SCACS games, not just at the tournaments.

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 cancelled 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.

Fees

Each student will be assessed an **athletic fee of \$80** per sport played. **This fee is due before the first game and should be paid to South Pointe Christian School and given to the athletic director.**

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

Parent Expectations

1. Pray for your child's coach. They need your prayers more than anything.
2. Be involved! Make an effort to attend as many games as possible.
3. Set an example of exemplary sportsmanship. All cheering should be positive and for our teams not against another player or team. All spectators should refrain from making derogatory comments towards the officials.
4. Be prompt to pickup 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!
5. 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 issues.
6. Be willing to get involved. We are always in need of scorekeepers, linesmen, concession workers, etc. Make an effort to attend the booster club meetings.

7. One parent from each family must attend the parent information meeting at the beginning of each season.

8. 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.

Preseason/Tryouts

Each athlete must have a completed physical, athletic waiver, signed athletic handbook cooperation form, signed permission to treat form, and a copy of parent's insurance card in order to tryout for any South Pointe team. The physical must be on file in the office or brought to tryouts on the first day. No student will be allowed to try out without a current physical.

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 parent's primary insurance.

All athletic fees must be paid prior to the first game.

A required parent meeting will be held prior to the start of each school year.

The handbook cooperation form must be signed by the athlete and parent prior to the first game.

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...

1. All spectators should display sportsmanship at all times.
2. ALWAYS cheer in a positive manner. Positive cheering leads to positive results.
3. Avoid making comments directed at the opposing team, fans or players.
4. 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.
5. 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 due to behavioral problems, he/she will not be allowed to play in the next scheduled SCACS game. Coaches or players who are suspended may not dress

out or sit with their team during any game from which they are suspended.

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.

1. 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.
2. Any athlete receiving two technical fouls in one game, or red card, or ejection will be suspended from the next game. This athlete must also meet with the athletic director before being reinstated to the team.
3. 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

1. 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.**
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Cell phones, iPod/iPad and other devices are not allowed to be used during games or practices. No sharing of devices will be permitted.
6. Team dress standards will be determined by the coach.

7. 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.

8. Displays of flatulence, profanity or other vulgarities will be dealt with immediately and will result in suspension, depending upon severity.

9. 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.

10. Long bus trips will be necessary this year due to the new 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, and 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. (10 demerits for each occupant)

Uniforms

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Careful attention should be given to the modesty of all uniforms and clothing worn during athletic events and practices.

4. Uniforms should not be worn any time other than during an athletic event. This includes school and during physical education classes.

5. 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 believes the above policies must be agreed on 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 South Pointe Athletics.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date