

SCPS Athletic Handbook

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Athletic Affiliation

SCPS is a member of the Savannah Parochial Athletic League (SPAL) for most middle school athletics and the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA) for all upper school athletics. In some cases, where neither SPAL nor GHSAA offer opportunities, SCPS collaborates with independent associations.

Savannah Parochial Athletic League (SPAL)

The objective of SPAL is to promote, develop, direct, protect and regulate middle school interscholastic competitions and to encourage integrity, fair play, good sportsmanship, and friendly competition among contestants and member schools.

Georgia High School Association (GHSAA)

SCPS competes in the Georgia High School Association, Region 3-A. The GHSAA consists of over 460 schools from Georgia in seven classifications. The Class A division has eight regions with approximately 120 schools that SCPS will be competing against for regional and state titles.

All athletic contests are operated under the rules and regulations governing that sport by the National Federation of High School Athletics and the Georgia High School Association.

All officials used in home games for SCPS are currently certified under the National Federation of High School Athletics in that sport.

All of the following criteria must be satisfied prior to any student-athletes participation in any athletic practices, games, or team function:

- 1) a student's eligibility status must be filed and verified by the Georgia High School Association;
- 2) a completed physical examination stating that the student-athlete is cleared to participate without restrictions or with specific restrictions noted must be filed with the school's Athletic Director. The physical form can be obtained from the SCPS website at savcps.com/athletics;
- 3) academic requirements must be met.

Additional GHSAA rules apply to all students entering or exiting a GHSAA sanctioned high school:

- 1) Transfer of student's enrollment must correspond with a parental move into the new school service area.
- 2) Attended school last semester/quarter.
- 3) Must pass five (5) subjects, or the equivalent.
- 4) Is "On Track" (Has earned Carnegie units equivalent to years he/she has been in high school).
- 5) Has been in high school no more than four consecutive years after his/her first entry into ninth grade.
- 6) Has not attended his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding the year of participation.
- 7) Has completed a physical examination during the past 12 months.
- 8) Is not ineligible at the previous school for academic or behavioral reasons.
- 9) Is not a professional athlete in the sport he/she wishes to participate.

If all requirements are not met, a student's new school may apply for a waiver of the eligibility rule not met in the case of a true hardship situation. See the Athletic Director or the GHSAA Constitution and By-Laws for the procedure.

Athletic Department Chain of Command

The Athletic Director oversees the entire athletic program. The AD works with the Headmaster and Principals to provide a quality program. Each Assistant Coach, MS, or JV Coach reports to the Head Coach (Program Director) of their sport, and all Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director.

Questions or concerns about a specific team will be first addressed to the student-athletes coach. If your questions are not sufficiently addressed, feel free to make an appointment with the Head Coach or Program Director of that sport, and then the Athletic Director. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the decisions of the coach. While you may not agree with every decision of a coach, parents and fans should be mindful of their comments related to all aspects of their athlete's team.. The time immediately following a contest can be emotional, so please refrain from approaching a coach with issues at that time.

Athletic Philosophy at SCPS

Savannah Christian Preparatory School is committed to providing a diversified, participatory, and successful athletic program that is available to all students. Our school believes that such a program is a vital and integral part of the total school environment as well as playing a key role in the overall development of each student that is involved in the athletic program.

Goals of the Program

The athletic program at SCPS will provide each participating student-athlete adequate opportunities for:

- physical, mental and emotional growth and development;
- the acquisition and development of special skills in the activities of each student's choice;
- directed leadership and supervision that stresses discipline, motivation, excellence as well as the ideals of good sportsmanship exemplified through winning and losing graciously;
- being a part of a unified team composed of the student body, faculty, and community;
- spiritual growth with teammates and coaches of SCPS.

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of Athletics at SCPS is to fulfill the mission of the school, "Developing the whole person for the Glory of God" by providing opportunities for student-athletes to use their God-given talents and abilities, encourage growth in the whole person, spiritually and physically, while building character and developing community.

SCPS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, biological gender, ethnic origin or age in its employment or admissions.

Athletic Policies

All written policies and areas of concern either specifically or non-specifically covered in the Athletic Handbook are subject to clarification and/or change by the school administration.

Athletic Awards

Athletic awards are given at the conclusion of the sports season.

Lettering Policy

A student-athlete may be awarded a letter by completing the season in a varsity sport only and should be earned through dedication and commitment to that sport and making a significant contribution to the total team effort throughout the entire season. A sport-specific pin will be awarded for a first-time letter winner. All proceeding letters will be awarded in the form of a "bar" for the student-athletes jacket.

Student-athletes will also be awarded patches for their letter jackets for being a member of a team that is a region champion, state runner-up, or state champion. Also, if a student is a region champion, state runner-up or state champion in an individual event or competition they will be awarded a patch for their letter jacket.

A student-athlete at SCPS that completes their team's season in good standing will be awarded a letter if the student-athlete competed in at least 50% of the regular season varsity games.

Headmaster's Award

The Headmaster's Award is presented to the individual student that has the highest GPA during their respective sports season.

Team Awards

Each team will present awards based on the sport. Generally, the awards might include:

- Most Valuable Player (MVP): Awarded to the student who has the highest stats /performance for the season played.
- Coach's Award: Awarded based on Coach's discretion.
- Most Improved Player (MIP): Awarded to the student who has improved their stats / performance the greatest amount during the season played.
- Position Recognition: Awarded for outstanding achievement in a position. Examples include, but are not limited to, Defensive Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, etc.

Signing Letters of Intent

SCPS student-athletes that are offered letters of intent from colleges and universities are the result of hard work and dedication by not only the signing student, but also their parents, teammates, and coaches. SCPS will organize signing ceremonies for all SCPS student-athletes to celebrate their accomplishments. Exact dates and times are scheduled by the Athletic Department in cooperation with the parents and with consideration of NCAA rules. Occasionally more private ceremonies are scheduled in the media center.

While SCPS recognizes that any student-athlete that is offered the opportunity to sign a letter or intent has obviously shown a great deal of individual success, only SCPS student-athletes participating on an SCPS team will be given the opportunity to have a public signing at SCPS. A student-athlete signing a letter of intent to sign in a sport that is not offered at SCPS may be allowed to have a public signing if approved by the Athletic Department.

The desire for SCPS student-athlete signings is to not only recognize the accomplishments of the individual, but also the team and school.

Commitment

Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they can manage while remaining academically successful. Student-athletes are expected to be loyal and committed to that team for the entire season. In case of multi-sport athletes or coinciding co-curricular activities, coaches will grant flexibility where possible. However, in case of a dilemma, the ongoing or first joined sport must have the player's first loyalty.

Student-athletes playing on the varsity level may not participate in outside or non-school teams that coincide with the existing school sport's season without permission of the coach. If this situation were to arise, the student-athlete would be asked to decide with which team he/she wants to participate. In all cases, clear and open communication is critical.

Conflicts Among Extracurricular Activities

SCPS encourages students to become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities according to their individual interests and skills. The faculty and staff at SCPS are committed to working together to allow maximum student involvement. We recognize that this philosophy will result in conflicts between the many extracurricular activities from time to time. Head Coaches and/or Sponsors, the school Athletic Director and/or Dean of Student Affairs, along with the student and parent(s), will meet together to work out a satisfactory solution based on the following considerations:

- a. best interests of the school;
- b. best interests of the student;
- c. best interests of the team/activity as a whole.

Facilities/Equipment/Field Care

When participating in athletic events, physical education classes, or general playtime, athletic shoes with non-marking soles must be worn. When wearing non-athletic shoes, please avoid walking on the playing surface of the gym.

All facilities/equipment are limited to the use for which it was intended, handled with proper respect, and returned to the proper storage area after each use. Any damage to facilities/equipment should be reported to the Athletic Director as soon as possible. SCPS Athletes and fans are always expected to follow the adage of leaving a place better than they found it.

Gender Equity

SCPS is committed to providing equal opportunities and treatment for both sexes. Any concerns regarding such issues should be brought to the attention of and discussed with the school Athletic Director, Principal and Head Coach of the sport in which the concerns exist. SCPS reserves the right to make decisions for the best interest of the school and school community.

Heat and Lightning Policies

SCPS follows the GHSA heat policy found in the GHSA bylaws 2.67. Practice Policy for Heat and Humidity:

- (a) Schools must follow the statewide policy for conducting practices and voluntary conditioning workouts (this policy is year-round, including during the summer) in all sports during times of extremely high heat and/or humidity that will be signed by each head coach at the beginning of

each season and distributed to all players and their parents or guardians. The policy shall follow modified guidelines of the American College of Sports Medicine in regard to:

- (1) The scheduling of practices at various heat/humidity levels.
 - (2) The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various heat/humidity levels.
 - (3) The heat/humidity levels that will result in practice being terminated.
- (b) A scientifically-approved instrument that measures the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature must be utilized at each practice to ensure that the written policy is being followed properly. WBGT readings should be taken every hour, beginning 30 minutes before the beginning of practice.

SCPS follows the GHSA lightning policy found in the GHSA bylaws 2.93. The GHSA requires lightning detectors at all outdoor athletic activities.

- (1) When a lightning detector indicates a dangerous situation, the game manager will notify the head official. At that point, the official will suspend play and all participants and fans will go to a place of safety (NOTE: If officials spot lightning before being notified, they may suspend play).
- (2) The contest may resume in accordance with procedures published in the NFHS Rules Book.

Injury

Players will be excused from practice and games if they are injured. If a player misses three or more consecutive practices because of injury, he or she must be cleared by a doctor to return.

If a player becomes unconscious for any reason, he or she may not continue to participate that day and must have a signed doctor's note before returning to practice or a game.

Insurance

SCPS requires each family to demonstrate proof of insurance coverage in the event of an injury during a school-sponsored practice or game.

Managers

Student managers can be kept on a team at the coach's discretion. Student managers may be responsible for handling equipment, keeping statistics, running the scoreboard, and/or setting up practices or games.

Student managers may participate in practices if the coach sees it as beneficial to the manager and to the team.

Student managers must follow the same academic policies student-athletes are required to follow.

New Students

Students who arrive in the middle of a sports season will be given the opportunity to join a team if any positions are open. These students must practice with the team for at least five days before participating in their first game.

NCAA Clearinghouse

The NCAA Clearinghouse is a service provided to potential college-bound athletes to ease their transition to college athletes. It is mandatory that students seeking to play college athletics go through the clearinghouse. The Athletic Director at SCPS has many helpful publications concerning the NCAA Clearinghouse and will be willing to assist any student and the parent(s) in obtaining information and registering with the clearinghouse. Information is also available online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Physical Exams

Student-athletes are to undergo a physical exam by a physician prior to participating in a sport. Each student-athlete will need to submit a GHSAA approved pre-participation physical form certifying the student's fitness for participation which is available through the school's website. Physicals given before April 1st of the current school year may not be used for the upcoming school year. For example, a physical completed on or after April 1, 2018 is valid through end of the school year 2019.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and coaches must have an understanding of the expectations of the team in which the student-athlete participates. Clear communication is important.

Communication you will expect from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for the team members.
3. Locations and times of all games and practices.
4. Approximate return times for all away games.
5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
6. Procedure to follow for injuries.
7. A discipline that would affect playing time.
8. Information on roster limits and playing time philosophy.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
2. The specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach (please refrain from detailed conversation with a coach immediately following a competition):

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

Practice and Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. The only acceptable reasons for missing practice are because of a(n):

- Injury/illness
- Doctor’s appointment
- Family emergency
- School Conflict

If a player is going to miss a practice, he or she should make every effort to notify the coach at least one day prior to the day of the practice. Repeated absences and/or unexcused absences can result in decreased playing time, suspensions, and/or removal from the team.

SCPS policy prohibits participation in any extracurricular activity if a student is not present at school for at least one-half of the school day unless there is a clear and justifiable reason for the absence. Any student who is absent for more than one-half of a school day and wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity on that day must receive approval to do so by the headmaster.

Programs Offered

Middle School (includes grades 5* – 8)

SPAL Athletics

Girls	Boys
Basketball*	Basketball*
Soccer	Football*
Track*	Soccer
Volleyball	Track*

Independent Athletics

Girls	Boys
Cheerleading (Football/Basketball)*	Baseball
Competitive Cheerleading	Cross Country*
Cross Country*	Flag Football (3 rd and 4 th Grade)
Golf	Golf
Softball	Wrestling* (K-8)
Tennis	Lacrosse (Club Team)
	Tennis

Junior Varsity and Varsity (includes grades 9 – 12)

Girls	Boys
Basketball	Basketball
Cheerleading (Football/basketball)	Baseball
Competitive Cheerleading	Cross Country
Cross Country	Football
Golf	Golf
Soccer	Soccer
Softball	Tennis
Tennis	Track
Track	Wrestling
Volleyball	Lacrosse
Lacrosse (Club Team)	

Responsibilities of the Student-Athlete

Each student-athlete is a representative of SCPS, the community, their family, and themselves. The actions and appearance of the student-athlete will be viewed by others as a direct reflection of each of these entities. It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to bring honor to any and all of these entities. Any actions that violate this principle will not be tolerated and severe or continuous behavior to that effect may result in suspension of playing privileges or permanent removal from the team or activity. In reference to this responsibility:

- 1. Conduct of a Student-Athlete in the classroom and in the total school environment:** It is our expectation that a good student-athlete will portray himself or herself as a positive role model. A lack of dedication and commitment to uphold this standard throughout the total school environment will translate into a similar lack of dedication and commitment in athletics. We expect each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to exemplify the positive qualities of giving maximum effort to attain success in the classroom and in all other school activities. We also expect each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself as a positive role model by adhering to accepted standards of conduct and behavior in the classroom and throughout the school.
- 2. Conduct of the student-athlete in athletic participation:** It is our belief and expectation that each student-athlete should conduct himself or herself as a winner no matter whether they or their team has won or lost an athletic contest. All opponents have worked equally hard in order to attain success and should be treated with the utmost respect in all situations. Each and every student-athlete should also conduct himself or herself in practices and games in such a manner as to not be detrimental to the specific athletic team, the entire athletic program of the school, the school as a whole and the community.

Requirements for Participation

SCPS maintains that academics and athletics are collaborative partners in the overall development of the student-athlete. Based on this principle, the athletic department requires each student-athlete to meet the following academic requirements:

Grades will be checked every 3 weeks for student-athletes in season. If a student is failing 2 or more classes, the athlete will be ineligible for one week (probationary week) until the student-athlete has met the following requirements:

- 1) All required homework/assignments are completed and progress is reviewed by the principal.
- 2) The student-athlete has a passing average for the failed class at the end of the probationary week.

At the discretion of the principal, athletic director, and headmaster, probationary status may be waived due to exceptional circumstances.

Inappropriate Conduct

Any inappropriate actions taken by a student-athlete while participating in athletic practices and/or games that are violations of the SCPS Code of Conduct **shall** be reported by the Head Coach of that sport to the school administration.

Any student-athlete ejected from a GHSA contest will be subject to penalties as outlined in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws. Any student ejected from an athletic contest will be subject to suspension or removal from the team after a conference involving the school's Athletic Director and/or Principal, the Head Coach, the student-athlete and their parent(s).

If a student is suspended for one day, the following consequences will occur: The student shall not participate in any athletic events on the day suspended and may not attend an activity without the headmaster's permission. The final decision on when and how long the suspension from athletic activities will last will be determined by the school administration.

A suspension of two or more days or a second one-day suspension results in automatic suspension from participation in sports for a probationary period to be determined by the administration.

Probationary Eligibility

Student-Athletes who fail two or fewer classes with respective grades of 66 or higher will be allowed to remain eligible if they meet and maintain the following requirements:

If the student-athlete does not meet the above requirements in the first four weeks, they will be considered ineligible for the remainder of the semester.

Transportation

The student-athletes at SCPS will often have a bus provided by SCPS and a trained driver to drive this bus. This is the safest way for our student-athletes to get to and from events. Student-athletes at SCPS will not be released to any individual to ride private transportation following contests except the student-athlete's parent(s), siblings, or legal guardian. In this case, which is discouraged except in cases of emergency, the parent(s) or legal guardian will have to provide a written request to the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is participating 24 hours in advance. ***It is NEVER appropriate for a student to transport another student to/from an athletic practice or event.***

Try-outs and Player Selections

Try-outs will be held in the first 3-4 days of allowable play according to the sport's governing body (GHSA, SPAL or club). The number of players on a team varies from sport to sport and depends on the number of students who try-out.

At SCPS, we believe that it is most beneficial to cut players and let them pursue other interests rather than keeping every student who tries out for a particular sport. If a player is cut, he or she may approach the coach about becoming a student manager. Team selections will be discussed with the coach and program director before any cuts are made. Coaches will work together to seek other opportunities for interested athletes.

Quitting or Dismissal from a team

Participation in athletics is highly encouraged at SCPS. Student-athletes are expected to complete the season of the sport in which they are participating in its entirety.

Students will be given a one-week grace period at the beginning of the season where if they decide that a certain sport is not for them, they may leave the team. If a student is considering quitting a team, he or she should set up a meeting with his coach or athletic director to discuss the situation. If a student quits a team after the grace period is over, he or she will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that sport's season and potentially the following season for any team. We want to teach students the value of persistence and perseverance to overcome any obstacles that come their way.

Uniforms

Student-athletes are responsible for the cleaning and care of all practice and game uniforms. Care will be taken when laundering the uniforms. Wash in cold water and hang to dry. Do not put uniforms in the dryer. Uniforms that are lost, stolen, damaged, or have unusual wear need to be replaced by the student-athlete. The cost will be determined by the age of the article and will be billed to the family.. Student-athletes will wear only those practice and game uniforms designated by their coach. Uniforms are to be turned in to the head coach at the end of each season.

SCPS Athletic Handbook

Timeline of Sports

Georgia High School Association Beginning & Ending Dates for 2018-2019

ACTIVITY	DATE FOR FIRST PRACTICE	FIRST CONTEST	MAXIMUM GAMES/DATES	LAST PLAY DATE	AREA/REGION QUALIFIERS DETERMINED	GHSA STATE PLAYOFF DATES				
						First Round/Sectionals	Second Round	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Finals
FOOTBALL	July 25 (Conditioning) Feb. 1 or later (Spring)	Aug. 17	10 (7 JV)	Nov. 3	Nov. 3	Nov. 9-10	Nov. 16-17	Nov. 23-24	Nov. 30-Dec. 1	Dec. 7-8
CHEERLEADING	Aug. 1	Aug. 4	6 (4 JV)	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 3 (Class A & CoEd)			Nov. 9 (CoEd & A Finals)	Nov. 10 (2A – 7A)
SOFTBALL (FP) SOFTBALL (SP)	Aug. 1 Feb. 18	Aug. 3 Feb. 23	26 (18 JV) 16	Oct. 6 Mar. 30	Oct. 6 Mar. 30	Oct. 10-13 April 5-6	Oct. 17-18		Oct. 25-26	Oct. 27 April 13
VOLLEYBALL	Aug. 1	Aug. 3	18 (13 JV) Dates	Oct. 6	Oct. 6	Oct. 10-11	Oct. 16 (AA 1 st Round)	Oct. 20	Oct. 24	Oct. 27
CROSS COUNTRY	Aug. 1	Aug. 6	10 (7 JV) Dates	Oct. 27	Oct. 27					Nov. 2-3
ONE ACT PLAYS	Aug. 1	Aug. 3	-	Oct. 27	Oct. 27					Nov. 3 & Nov. 10
LITERARY	Aug. 1	Aug. 3	-	Mar. 5	Mar. 5					March 16
RIFLERY	Aug. 1	Oct. 29	-	Mar. 16	Mar. 30				April 13	April 27
SWIMMING	Oct. 15	Oct. 29	10 (7 JV)							Jan. 31 – Feb. 2
BASKETBALL	Oct. 29	Nov. 10	25 (18 JV)	Feb. 9	Feb. 9	Feb. 15-16	Feb. 20-21	Feb. 26-27	March 2	March 6-9
WRESTLING	Oct. 22	Nov. 9	20 (14 JV) Dates	Jan. 25	Du – By Jan. 5 Tr – Jan. 25-26	Tr – Feb. 1-2				Du – Jan. 10- 12 Tr – Feb. 7-9
GYMNASTICS	Jan. 7	Jan. 28	10 (7 JV)	April 11		April 13				April 20
TENNIS	Jan. 7	Jan. 28	18 (13 JV)	April 13	April 13	By April 18 (Class A Area)	By April 23 (Class A 1 st Round)	By April 27	By April 30	May 4
SOCCER	Jan. 14	Feb. 4	18 (13 JV)	April 20	April 18	April 23-26	April 30- May 1	May 3-4	May 7	May 10-11
TRACK Girls & Boys	Jan. 14	Feb. 4	10 (7 JV)	April 20	April 20	April 27				May 9-11
BASEBALL	Jan. 14	Feb. 11	30 (21 JV)	April 20	April 20	April 25-26	May 2-3	May 8-9	May 14-15	May 20-22
LACROSSE	Jan. 21	Feb. 11	18 (13 JV)	April 27	April 27	April 30-May 2	May 6-7 (6A-7A only)	May 10 (May 4 in A-5A)	May 15 (May 8 in A-5A)	May 18
GOLF	Feb. 11	Feb. 16	12 (8 JV) Dates	May 7	May 7					May 20-21

NOTE: 2019 "DEAD" WEEK: Sunday, June 30 through Saturday, July 6, 2019 – GHSA Office Closed.

MS General Dates:

Sport	Sign-up	Practice Start	Season
Baseball	Feb	Feb	March-May
Basketball	Sept	Oct	Dec -Feb
Cheerleading	March	April	Aug-Oct
Competitive Cheerleading	March	April	April-Nov
Cross Country	April / July	Aug	Sept-Nov
Football	April / July	July / Aug	Sept-Oct
Lacrosse	Feb	Feb	March-April
Soccer	Feb	Feb	March-May
Softball	Feb	Feb	March-April
Tennis	July	Aug	Aug-Oct
Track	Feb	Feb	March-April
Volleyball	April / July	Aug	Aug-Oct
Wrestling	Sept	Nov	Nov-Jan

SCPS Athletic Handbook

Athletic Handbook Compliance Form

I have read and understood the rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I agree to abide by these rules, regulations, and guidelines and I will faithfully represent and support the athletic department at Savannah Christian Preparatory School.

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT: Please read, sign and return this form to your coach or the athletic director. This, along with your GHSA physical form, liability release form, and any fees due must be received by the athletic department prior to your first practice. Until these items are complete, the student-athlete will not be permitted to practice.