

**SPARTANBURG
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**



2026-27

**Student-Athlete
Handbook**

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VISION STATEMENT

The vision of SCA Athletics is to consistently develop athletes and teams that compete and perform at the highest levels successfully. The entire athletic program will continually provide positive support and service to our school, community, and ultimately our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of SCA Athletics is to fulfill the ultimate mission of Spartanburg Christian Academy by promoting academic success, pursuing athletic excellence, and by demonstrating Christ-like character both on and off the field, court, and course.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OF SCA

The Athletic Department of Spartanburg Christian Academy is in place to augment the educational experience of the students at SCA by providing alternative means of instruction and interaction from the classroom. The Athletic Administration strongly believes that the rigors of team sports prepare our athletes for the successes and trials they will face in life. Most importantly, the Athletic Administration understands that the same disciplines needed for athletic success are also vital to the Christian Walk – and we aim to instill those disciplines in our athletes. Our hope is that through their experience in Warrior Athletics the students will be better equipped to serve God by understanding what it means to serve those around them.

“For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you.” John 13:15

A Word of Caution from the South Carolina Independent School Association and Spartanburg Christian Athletics:

WARNING OF INHERENT RISK/DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury.

Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow guidelines for safe play and inspect his/her own equipment and report any problems.

We take many steps in order to keep your child safe, but there is always risk of serious injury or death in athletics regardless of the precautions taken. Thank you for lending us your children for this short amount of time and trusting us with their well-being. We hope we can work with you to keep them safe and to reinforce the many Christian principles woven into athletics.

Responsibilities of Student-Athletes

The interscholastic athletic program is conducted for *the benefit of the students, school, families of SCA, and the community*. It provides an individual with countless opportunities for Christian witness in the community. Participation in interscholastic sports at SCA is voluntary. If, for any reason the disciplinary guidelines established through this handbook and the school's discipline code of conduct is too strict for the prospective athlete, SCA encourages the athlete to consider not participating in this particular activity, or athletics in general.

Guidelines for Athletes:

1. Athletes are responsible FIRST to the classroom and the related academic expectations of teachers and the school.
2. Athletes should always perform at their **very best** academically.
3. Athletes must be in attendance for a portion of the school day in order to participate that day (see eligibility guidelines).
4. Athletes who are suspended from school may not participate in practice or competition on the day(s) during suspension, and are subject to further suspension by the coach.
5. Athletes are expected to **disassociate themselves** from actions that would damage their Christian witness and should make responsible choices that would prevent their being in groups and locations **where such actions are taking place**.
6. Athletes should do nothing that might embarrass or be detrimental to his/her parents, the team, him/herself, teammates, coaches, SCA, or the community at any time (including but not limited to speech, behavior, and social media posts).
7. Athletes should be prompt and regular in attendance, and should notify the coach if they are going to be tardy or absent **before the scheduled event**. Athletes should strive to be **proactive** in this matter.
8. Athletes are expected to show loyalty to teammates, coaches, and SCA by living up to the training rules and **placing the welfare of the team before personal wishes** and by **respecting the judgment of the coach**.

Parental Involvement

As a student at SCA begins his/her athletic adventure, we all must understand the three-part circle to a successful experience. The three roles are the player, the coach, and the parent. With full recognition of and respect for parental responsibility under God, it must be kept in mind that, for athletic participation, ***parents have delegated the responsibility and authority for the young person to the coach***. However, the effectiveness of this role will be jeopardized if the following actions occur:

- **Parental coaching from the sideline/stands.** A coach needs the full attention and concentration of his/her players. As good as the intentions are, parental intervention at practice or games is a serious distraction and is detrimental to the success of the player.
- **Parents negatively approaching the coach or their child on the bench during the game, at half time, or immediately after the game prior to the post-game meeting.** If a parent wants to talk to the coach, he should contact the coach ***the next day*** for a private conference. If the situation necessitates, the Athletic Director can be asked to facilitate this conference.
- **Parents attending practice sessions.** SCA Athletic Administration encourages closed practice sessions to anyone except coaches and players. Parental observation creates a potential hindrance to coaches and players.
- **Parents openly questioning the decisions and judgment of the coaches.** Parents who have problems with coaches should discuss those problems with the coach and only the coach. Searching out other parents to discuss similar concerns they may have only further undermines the authority of the coach. Just because another parent agrees with you, doesn't mean you're both right.
- **Parents undermining the authority of the coach at home.** A coach's authority will either be reinforced or broken down at home – rarely does neither happen.

Following these guidelines will ensure an environment that helps the athletes of SCA develop and grow in the area of team sports. *If a parent has concerns about the athletic development of his child, he should first discuss this with the coach. If no response is rendered, then the parent should contact the Athletic Director or the SCA Headmaster.*

Communication

Most problems can usually be prevented through communication. The SCA Athletic Department is constantly working to keep lines of communication open, and is always looking for ways to get information to parents and athletes concerning athletic practices and events. Please keep the athletic department up-to-date with current contact information.

Game Schedules

Game schedules for each sport and season are available on the SportsYou app, online at scawarriors.org and hard copies are also available upon request. Changes do occur during each season, so consistent checks of these schedules are encouraged. The Weekly Schedule will contain the most up-to-date information.

Practice Schedules

Practice schedules are generally distributed by each individual coach, and usually cover a longer period of time than what is covered on the Weekly Schedule. They are useful when planning vacations, etc. down the line.

Changes

Changes in times and venues for practices and games are a part of athletics. Email is the primary means of communication used and is usually effective when changes occur. As soon as changes are made, the Athletic Department will announce changes via email and the intercom, and students are given the opportunity to contact parents as soon as possible.

Travel

The bus departure for away games will be listed on the weekly schedules. The times listed are the times the bus will leave from the gym. Students are usually dismissed to the gym 15 minutes prior to departure time. All students are encouraged to ride the bus to and from games as a team. If it is necessary for a student to ride home with a parent, a Travel Release Form (**see school website**) must be completed online and submitted to the athletic office **by noon one day prior to the event**.

Warrior Athletic Club

Parents are strongly encouraged to join the SCA Warrior Athletic Club. This group has provided on average over \$25,000 a year of support the past several years to our athletic department. Much of our success would be impossible without the support of this organization.

Directions

Directions to all away games are available on the app.

Academic Eligibility at SCA

Academic Eligibility standards at SCA are more rigorous than those set out by our governing body, the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA). Coaches also reserve the right to deny practice opportunity, playing time, and team membership for students who fail to meet expectations in the classroom. For a student to be eligible for athletics at SCA at the beginning of the year, they must meet the SCISA requirements, along with the following:

1. Their cumulative final year average for the previous school year must have been at least a 75.
2. They must have had no F's for any subject's final yearly average on their final report card or -
3. They must have replaced any F with an approved summer school credit, with a score that would allow their cumulative final average from the previous semester to make them eligible.

Any student not eligible at the beginning of the year because of these factors may regain their eligibility at the end of the first interim period if their grades meet the two mentioned standards – a cumulative average of 75 with no failing grades. In this case, they must also meet SCISA's eligibility requirements.

Losing Eligibility

Once deemed eligible at the start of a school year, a student can lose their eligibility to participate in practice or competition at three times during the school calendar:

1. At the end of the first 9 weeks, if a student's cumulative average drops below a 75, or they earn an F in any course on their nine weeks report card, they are ineligible for participation the day the report cards are issued and remain ineligible until the following grading period.
2. At the end of the first semester, if a student's cumulative average on their ***semester marks*** drops below a 75, or they earn an F in any course on their ***semester marks***, they are ineligible for participation the day reports cards are issued.
3. At the end of the third nine weeks, if a student's cumulative average drops below a 75 on their ***3rd nine weeks report card***, or they earn an F in any course on their ***3rd nine weeks report card***, they are ineligible for participation the day the report cards are issued and remain ineligible until the following grading period.

Regaining Eligibility

A student can regain their eligibility at the end of each nine weeks , as well as at the end of each interim period if their cumulative average is at least a 75 and they are passing all classes during the grading term reflected on that report (ex. Nine weeks report – 9 weeks average, 4.5 week interim – 4.5 week average). Again, they must also meet SCISA's eligibility requirements to be able to practice and compete.

Summer Activities

Any student who loses their eligibility at the end of a school year (due to cumulative average or failing a course for the previous year) is also ineligible for any summer activities, including practices, camps, or scrimmages. Upon completion of an approved summer course that would allow the student's eligibility at the start of the next school year, that student is eligible to participate.

Administrative Appeals

Any deviation from the eligibility requirements set forth here must come from the administration at SCA and will not be handled by the Athletic Department.

School Attendance

For students to be eligible for practice or contests, they are required to attend at least half of their scheduled classes on that date. Exceptions may be granted that may include: a doctor's appointment, school approved field trips, or other excused absence as granted by the Headmaster or Athletic Director. Students are encouraged to be proactive in their communication with the proper authorities if they anticipate a future absence.

If a student is forced to miss a class due to an athletic event, it is their responsibility to proactively plan, in cooperation with the teacher, ways to make up any missed assignments as soon as possible. Students must understand that athletics – and missing class due to them – is a privilege that requires great responsibility on their part to make sure their academics are not being neglected. Failure to meet this responsibility may result in a loss of this privilege.

Team Selection

Teams are selected by the coaching staff for each sport at the beginning of each season. After a set try-out period, a selection of players is made, and the team is formed.

Before an athlete is cut, the decision is thoroughly discussed by the judges and/or coaches involved. They will strive to make the best choices they can with the wisdom God has granted them. Not every student may make our teams. Students who are cut are encouraged to find other instruction and/or leagues to improve themselves for the following year's tryouts.

While realizing there are opportunities for participation in other organizations, we expect any athlete who is on an SCA team, to make that team a priority. This commitment includes practices as well as games. The athlete and parents should consider this before trying out for a team. The effectiveness of our program on the field of competition requires 100% commitment to the coach, team, and sport.

Playing Time

Once teams are established, playing time for each athlete is at the discretion of the coach. Coaches should be able to plan and strategize for contests without concerning themselves with outside influences. It is the policy of the SCA Athletic Department that playing time issues are not up for discussion with parents or fans.

Quitting

Once on an athletic roster, athletes are not allowed to quit a team at SCA without meeting with the coach to discuss the situation. Coaches reserve the right to ask parents to attend this meeting. Once an athlete has quit a team, they are not eligible for another athletic team during that season. If an athlete fails to follow this procedure they may not be allowed to try out for another team at SCA.

Lettering Policy

Each varsity team has a written sport specific lettering policy that will be communicated to players prior to the season beginning.

Athletic Fees

There are fees associated with participating in athletics at SCA. Parents will be provided with a list of associated fees required for participation at the beginning of each season by each coach, and will be billed once

the roster for each team has been named. If an athlete is participating in two concurrent sports at SCA (a rare occurrence that requires athletic administration approval) a discount will be taken on the second sport. Parents are responsible for these fees and should plan to have them covered by the end of the athletic season they are associated with. ***Anyone with outstanding athletic fees from a previous sports season will not be allowed to try out for another team.***

Study Hall

Students waiting for practices to begin or bus departures after school hours must report to After School Study Hall. Athletes will not be charged for these times. This is mandatory if the athlete remains on campus. This is a great opportunity for students to catch up on their homework or studying.

Sports Medicine

All sports medicine forms – physical form, emergency information form, parent’s permission form (See Appendix) - should be on file in the training room. Athletes are not allowed to participate without all these forms completed. In May of each year, we coordinate on-site physicals with area doctors. These physicals are good for the following calendar year.

Our certified athletic trainer will be on campus at 1:00 p.m. each day. In the event of an injury, athletes are strongly encouraged to see our trainer first before being referred to an orthopedist or a family doctor. In case of an emergency, the parents, athletic director, and the trainer will be contacted and the trainer or coaches will forward the athlete on to the proper medical personnel.

Hazing

SCA Athletics does not support hazing of its athletes in any form. The athletic department has a zero-tolerance policy for such actions, and any participation in these types of activities will result in immediate suspension and possible removal from the athletic program.

Sports Offered During the School Year

All sport offerings are contingent on interest and sufficient numbers to field a team. Eligible grades are listed in parenthesis.

Fall Sports

Middle School Volleyball (5-8)
JV Volleyball (6-10)
Varsity Volleyball (8-12)
Junior Varsity Girls Cross Country (6-10)
Varsity Girls Cross Country (6-12)
Junior Varsity Boys Cross Country (6-10)
Varsity Boys Cross Country (6-12)
Football Cheerleading (5-12)
Varsity Girls Tennis (6-12)
Varsity Football (8-12)
Middle School Football (5-8)
Swim (5-12)

Winter Sports

Middle School Girls Basketball (5-8)
Middle School Boys Basketball (5-8)
JV Boys Basketball (8-10)
Varsity Girls Basketball (8-12)
Varsity Boys Basketball (9-12)
Middle School Basketball Cheerleading (5-8)
Varsity Basketball Cheerleading (8-12)
Co-ed Bowling (6-12)

Spring Sports

Middle School Girls Soccer (5-8)
Varsity Girls Soccer (8-12)
Varsity Boys Soccer (8-12)
Middle School Baseball (5-8)
Varsity Baseball (8-12)
Varsity Co-ed Golf (6-12)
Girls Softball (6-12)
Varsity Girls Track (6-12)
Varsity Boys Track (6-12)
Varsity Boys Tennis (6-12)

APPENDIX

(Sample SCA Athletic Forms)

SAMPLE GAME SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL (Varsity)						
Date				VR	Opponent	Location
Thursday	August 16			6:00p	West Oak High School (Scrimmage)	Away
Friday	August 24			7:30p	Thomas Sumter	Home
Friday	August 31			7:30p	Oakbrook Prep	Away
Friday	September 7			7:30p	Landrum High School	Home
Friday	September 14			7:30p	Dorchester Academy	Away
Friday	September 21			7:30p	Colleton Prep	Home
Friday	September 28			7:30p	Greenwood Christian (Homecoming)	Home
Friday	October 5			7:30p	Thomas Heyward	Away
Friday	October 12			7:30p	Orangeburg Prep	Away
Friday	October 19			7:30p	Bethesda Academy (Senior Night)	Home
Friday	October 26			7:30p	Northside Christian	Away
SCISA State Football Playoffs: November 3, 10; SCISA State Championship - November 17						
FOOTBALL (Middle School)						
Date		MS			Opponent	Location
Thursday	August 23	6:00p			Cambridge Academy	Away
Thursday	September 6	6:00p			Richard Winn Academy	Away
Thursday	September 13	6:00p			Providence Athletic Club (PAC)	Home
Thursday	September 27	6:00p			Newberry Academy	Away
Thursday	October 4	6:00p			Greenwood Christian	Away
Thursday	October 11	6:00p			Providence Athletic Club (PAC)	Away
TENNIS-GIRLS (Varsity)						
Date				VR	Opponent	Location
Thursday	August 23			4:30p	Broome High (Scrimmage)	Away (@Converse)
Thursday	September 6			4:30p	Broome High	Away
Thursday	September 13			4:30p	Chapman High	Away
Monday	September 17			4:30p	Chesnee High	Away (@Spartan HS)
Tuesday	September 18			4:30p	Spartanburg Day School	Away
Tuesday	October 2			4:30p	Spartanburg Day School	Away

