



2023 - 2024

ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

*The mission of Scottsdale Christian Academy is to maximize
the God-given potential of each student, preparing them to
live lives of distinction, by impacting the world for Jesus Christ.*

Our vision is to develop a culture where student-athletes and Coaches pursue maximum potential while competing and leading in a Christ honoring way.



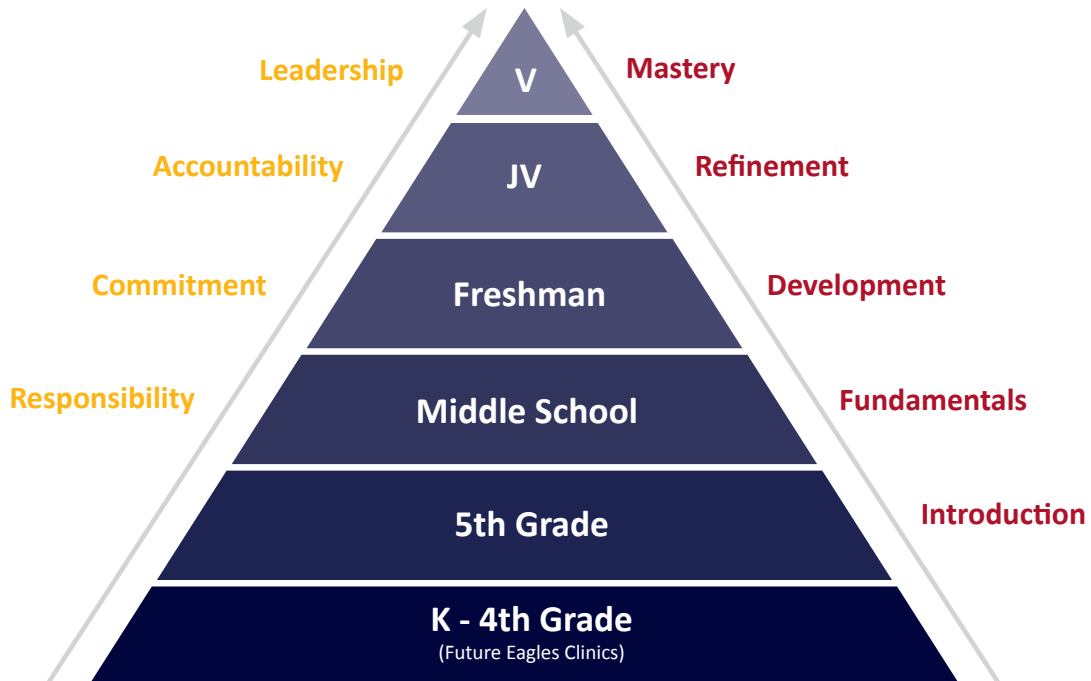
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PHILOSOPHY OF SCA ATHLETICS

LEADERSHIP VALUES

COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY



SPORTS PROGRAMS OFFERED

HIGH SCHOOL

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Girls Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Co-Ed Golf
Boys Football	Boys Soccer	Softball
Girls Spiritline	Girls Soccer	Boys Tennis
Boys Swim	Girls Spiritline	Girls Tennis
Girls Swim		Boys Track
Girls Volleyball		Girls Track

Athletic Director

Eric Dall – 602.992.5100 ext. 10150 | edall@scamail.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Boys Football	Boys Baseball	Boys Basketball*
Co-Ed Golf	Co-Ed Cross Country*	Girls Basketball*
Girls Spiritline	Girls Softball	Co-Ed Track*
Girls Volleyball*	Girls Spiritline	Co-Ed Golf
Co-Ed Soccer		Co-Ed Swim*
5th Grade Flag Football		

MS Athletic Director

Matt Bottoms – 602.992.5100 ext. 10800 | mbottoms@scamail.org

*5th Graders Included



➤ MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

All of the mentioned middle schools sports are available to students in middle school grades 6-8. Currently, we have a number of offerings each season for 5th graders.

➤ REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

A student is not permitted to practice nor participate in competitions until the following items are on file in the Athletic Office:

Annually

- a. Consent to Treat and Parent Permission (e-signature)
- b. Athletics Fan Agreement (e-signature)
- c. Preparticipation Physical Requirement (Print, sign, and resubmit)
- d. MTBI and Concussion Awareness Form (e-signature)

One Time Only

- a. Birth Certificate (This will need to be uploaded even if it has been submitted to the Athletics office in the past.)
- b. Brainbook Completion Acknowledgment (For HS Students Only)

➤ HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY/INELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes, including spiritline members, must meet the rules and regulations set up by the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), Valley Christian School League (CCSL), Great Hearts Middle School League (GHMSL) and the state of Arizona. These rules determine the eligibility in all AIA schools in Arizona. The SCA Athletic Department will ensure all students meet the eligibility requirements of the AIA, CCSL and GHMSL.

➤ HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY/INELIGIBILITY — SCA Rules

At Scottsdale Christian Academy, we believe a student-athlete is a student first and an athlete second. Participation in athletics is a privilege for students who are in good academic and behavioral standing. Good academic standing is defined as all class averages at 70% or higher. A student is required to tell the coach during tryouts if they are, or ever have been academically ineligible, or are in danger of becoming academically ineligible during the season.

Grades will be checked at each Mid-Quarter, the end of each Quarter, and the end of each Semester.

Grade Checks

If a student earns two or more grades below 70% (two D's) or one grade below 60% (an F) at the Mid-Quarter or Quarter grade check, the student will be ineligible for athletic competition for two weeks. During that two week time period, the student:

1. Cannot participate in games/competition
2. Will be required to attend help sessions or get tutoring in the class(es) in which they are below the 70% mark, and
3. May continue to practice (without competing) in order to stay physically fit and to know the team's plays and strategy.

The ineligible student's grades will be rechecked. At this time:

- If the student no longer has two or more grades below 70% or one grade below 60%, the student will be deemed eligible and will be allowed again to participate in games/competition until the next grade check.
- If the student still has two or more grades below 70% or one grade below 60% (even if they are in different classes than the original low grades), the student will remain ineligible until the next grade check. The student may continue to practice while ineligible, unless determined otherwise by the Administration.

Administrative Discretion in Academic Eligibility

The Principal or Superintendent has the discretion to declare a student who struggles with chronically low grades or misbehavior during their time at SCA to be partially or totally ineligible to participate at all in athletics at SCA.



➤ MID-QUARTER AND END OF QUARTER GRADE CHECKS

Date	Grade Check	Ineligibility	
Monday, September 11	Mid-Q 1 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, September 25	Mid-Q 1 Re-Check	2-Week Ineligibility	<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, October 09	Q 1 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, October 23	Q 1 Re-Check	2-Week Ineligibility	
Monday, November 13	Mid- Q2 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, November 27	Mid- Q2 Re-Check	2-Week Ineligibility	
Tuesday, January 2	First Semester Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Wednesday, January 17	Semester Re-Check	Prior First Semester Ineligibility	
Monday, February 5	Mid- Q3 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Wednesday, February 21		2-Week Ineligibility	<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>



➤ MID-QUARTER AND END OF QUARTER GRADE CHECKS (continued)

Date	Grade Check	Ineligibility	
Monday, March 18	Q 3 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Tuesday, April 02		2-Week Ineligibility	<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, April 15	Mid-Q 4 Check		<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>
Monday, April 29		2-Week Ineligibility	<i>Continued Ineligibility</i>



➤ HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY RULES

At Scottsdale Christian Academy, we believe a student-athlete is a student first and an athlete second. Participation in athletics is a privilege for students who are in good academic and behavioral standing. Good behavioral standing is defined as students with no disciplinary offenses. A student is required to tell the coach during tryouts if they have ever been placed on disciplinary probation for a Level 2 or Level 3 offense.

Disciplinary probation does not affect academic probation, but will be monitored at all times throughout the year.

Level 1 (as defined by SCA Student Handbook)

If a student receives multiple Level 1 offenses, teachers will inform the Athletic Director of the problem. This will be done through RenWeb. Likewise, student athletes should inform their respective coaches of the offenses. The Athletic office and coaches will implement appropriate behavioral management to deter the problematic behavior. After three Level 1 detentions, the student may be placed on disciplinary probation.

Level 2 (as defined by SCA Student Handbook)

If a student receives a Level 2 offense, they must notify their coach and the Athletic office immediately. Level 2 offenses are reviewed by grade level administrators and the Athletic Director to determine appropriate length of disciplinary probation. A Level 2 offense may restrict a student athlete from competing in sports during the probationary period. Student athletes who are suspended from school will not be reinstated for athletics immediately after their suspension ends. They may miss practice and competition for up to four weeks following the offense.

Level 3 (as defined by SCA Student Handbook)

If a student receives a Level 3 offense, they are immediately placed on disciplinary probation and restricted from practice or competitions until further notice. A Level 3 offense requires a minimum probation period of a minimum of two to four weeks. It may result in expulsion from a team or all athletics programs. A Level 3 offense will require administrative approval to reinstate a student athlete.

➤ ATTENDANCE

1. Students must be in attendance for a full day to be eligible for practice or competition afterschool. The only exception to this rule is an excused absence.
 - a. Excused absence is defined as medical visit accompanied with a physician note, or an exception granted by the Principal or Athletic Director.
 - b. Students with an excused absence must still be in attendance for 4 of 7 classes to be eligible.

➤ PRACTICES AND GAMES

1. Participants are expected to be punctual to practice. Coaches are allowed to begin their practices at 3:00 on school days, but they must never pressure, threaten, imply, or punish any athlete, suggesting that they are not completely free to go to Help Sessions, see a teacher, attend a Chorale rehearsal, etc. and thus arrive at practice at 3:30 PM.
2. Any athlete serving a suspension will not be permitted to take part in his/her sport program that day, including practice.
3. Any athlete serving a detention after school will complete the detention before reporting to practice or a game.
4. Whenever a schedule conflict arises involving a member of two teams, or a sports team and a required class activity, participation in "competition" will take priority over participation in practice. Dress rehearsals and performances for SCA concerts, art shows, plays, musicals, etc. are considered competitions.
5. If a student needs to attend help sessions or be in a required Fine Arts rehearsal after school, this will take priority over participating in athletic practices until 3:30 PM.



➤ PARENT, PLAYER, COACH, AND FAN DECORUM

1. Parents and fans are discouraged from coaching (yelling things instructional in nature) from the stands, as well as second-guessing coaching decisions. Such things may contribute to confusion and tension for the athletes and ultimately detract from their performances.
2. Parents and fans should take care to remember the basics of good sportsmanship:
 - a. Show respect and appreciation to opponents.
 - b. Respect and honor the decisions of game coaches.
 - c. Respect and honor the decisions of game officials.
3. Parents and fans must remain in the stands at all times. Violation of this will result in a ban from all SCA Athletic events.
4. SCA wishes to be known as a God-honoring, caring and loving athletic community. This means:
 - a. Encourage and edify all participants (players from both sides, coaches, officials and support personnel).
 - b. Be positive and avoid gossip (Philippians 2:14, 4:8). Take care to see that your comments regarding the players on either team, coaches of either team or officials are necessary, kind and truthful.
5. Respect home and away facilities by keeping them clean and following any posted or published rules.
6. The school reserves the right to restrict attendance for inappropriate behavior.
7. Coaches are required to present themselves in a professional manner through their attire, actions and behavior.

➤ FINANCIAL STANDING

Student-athletes must be in good financial standing with our accounting department to try out for a sport.

➤ LEVEL-BY-LEVEL COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY

Middle School: Philosophy of Competition and Formation of Team Rosters

1. Teams are formed by talent level unless minimal participation or extraordinary ability necessitates combining grade levels.
2. Cuts are made as needed following a tryout period.
3. An effort will be made to avoid cuts at the middle school level, but circumstances including practice space, coach availability, opponents, etc. will be the determining factor in the decision to make cuts at this level.
4. A tryout period will be conducted.
 - a. Athletes moving from one sport to the next must report to practice of the new sport on the fourth calendar day following the completion of the previous season.
 - b. An athlete who misses any tryout days is not entitled to additional days.
 - c. Athletes being cut will be informed by direct conversation with the coach of the team for which they are trying out.
 - d. Any athlete quitting a team he or she has made after the tryout period will be prohibited from all co-curricular activity for the duration of that season pending review by the Athletic Director and school principal.



▶ LEVEL-BY-LEVEL COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY

High School: Philosophy of Competition and Formation of Team Rosters

1. A tryout period will be conducted.
 - a. Athletes moving from one sport to the next must report to practice of the new sport on the fourth calendar day following the completion of the previous season.
 - b. An athlete who misses any tryout days is not entitled to additional days.
2. The head varsity coach will determine which athletes will be evaluated at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels.
3. Scottsdale Christian Academy will attempt to give all athletes the opportunity to participate.
 - a. However, if the number of athletes or other pragmatic considerations necessitates cuts, such decisions will be the ultimate responsibility of the head varsity coach.
 - b. Cutting at the freshman and junior varsity levels will be discouraged and rare. If the number of athletes or unusual pragmatic considerations necessitates a cut at these developmental levels, the freshman or junior varsity coach will seek the approval of the head varsity coach before finalizing the roster and informing the athlete involved.
 - c. Cuts at the varsity level, while infrequent, do occur.
 - d. An athlete's class in school, or length of time attending Scottsdale Christian Academy, is not generally a consideration in determining team rosters. Underclass students, as well as students new to the school, may try out for varsity teams on a fully equal basis.
 - e. All cuts are the ultimate decision of the varsity head coach.
 - f. Athletes being cut will be informed by direct conversations with the coach of the team for which they are trying out. (Exceptions approved by the Athletic Director)
 - g. The school does not consider the placement of juniors, sophomores or freshmen onto freshman and junior varsity teams as constituting a cut, i.e., moving from one team to another is not a cut.
3. Any athlete quitting a team he or she has made after the tryout period will be prohibited from all co-curricular activity for the duration of that season pending review by the Athletic Director and school principal.

▶ REASSIGNMENT OF PLAYERS DURING THE COURSE OF A SEASON

1. The varsity head coach of a sport may move players up or down within the program at his/her discretion.
2. Freshmen or junior varsity players may be reassigned to the varsity if such a move is seen by the head varsity coach to be in the athlete's best interest and to the varsity's competitive advantage.

▶ PLAYER TIME UTILIZATION AND PLAYING TIME ISSUES

1. Player utilization and playing time issues are inherently the ultimate responsibility of the head coach of any particular team.
2. The athletic department considers player development and experience of equal importance to winning at the middle school, freshman and junior varsity levels. Because of this, all players on middle school, freshman and junior varsity teams can expect to play in most games (except in tackle football). Although this view of the importance of participation at the middle school, freshman and junior varsity levels will result in players seeing action in most games, it does not mean that playing time will be evenly distributed. The amount of playing time will vary from player to player and game to game at the coach's discretion or in accordance with league rules.
3. At the varsity level, a greater emphasis is placed on qualifying teams for regional and state playoffs.
4. Our coaches are encouraged to consider long-range player and program development, as well as the obvious need to encourage and reward players for their practice contribution to the game. Varsity players should not have the expectation that each player will play in nearly every game.
5. Once teams are formed, class in school or length of time attending SCA have nothing to do with playing time. Coaches may establish rules regarding how playing time may be influenced by injury, missed practices or missed school. *(With regard to missed school a student may not participate in any given day's athletic activity if the student has not attended the last four class periods of that day. Any request for variance to this policy should be made to the Athletic Director prior to the day for which the variance is requested, not the coach.)*



➤ **PLAYER TIME UTILIZATION AND PLAYING TIME ISSUES (continued)**

6. Parents and players should be sensitive and supportive of the value and role non-starting players have on a team.
7. Parents and players should remember that playing time issues are the responsibility of the coach. We encourage players and parents to avoid questioning of playing time related issues; however, if a player or parent has a persistent concern, such concerns are brought directly and exclusively to the team's coach (Matthew 18:15-19).

➤ **SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION IN TWO OR MORE SPORTS**

1. Student-athletes may participate in up to two sports or one sport and a co-curricular fine arts program per season.
2. Athletes participating in two sports must maintain grades of 70% or better in all classes.
3. Athletes participating in two sports must declare a priority sport or performing art.
4. Games, meets or matches have priority over practice.
5. Either of the two coaches can request limitation to one sport if in his/her opinion two-sport participation is proving detrimental to the team and/or the athlete. Such requests are to be brought to the Athletic Director who will, in turn, meet with the two head coaches to determine if two-sport participation should be continued. If the conflict is between a sport team and a fine arts activity, the Athletic Director will work with the fine arts department chair and the principal to find a resolution.
6. Three-sport combinations are not allowable. Nor are two sports and a fine arts activity.
7. Combination of a sport and other co-curricular activity such as the play, etc. are acceptable.

➤ **SPECIAL EVENTS & COACH REQUIREMENTS**

1. **PRESEASON MEETING** - Each team/program is required to host preseason meetings which are designed to create enthusiasm, review policy, inform parents and players about injury risk and prevention, solicit volunteer help, meet coaches and answer any questions that players or parents might have.
2. **AWARDS ASSEMBLIES** - Athletic teams will conduct an awards assembly at the conclusion of each season. Athletes will be honored. Parents and families are encouraged to attend. Published dress guidelines must be followed. This is a part of the athlete's season and all team members are expected to attend.

➤ **LETTERING (HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY)**

The varsity head coach establishes the criterion for lettering for the sport under his/her direction.

➤ **SELECTION OF CAPTAINS**

The head coach will determine the method of selecting captains for the team under his/her direction.

➤ **SELECTION OF TEAM AWARDS**

The head coach will determine the method of selecting awards for the team under his/her direction.

➤ **PROBLEM RESOLUTION: VOICING CONCERNS & MAKING SUGGESTIONS**

If a parent, player or fan feels it necessary to voice concerns, they should do so through the Matthew 18 principle. This is published in the student application packet, as well as the Parent-Student Handbook. Please take time to read it. In dealing with athletic concerns, a parent, player or fan must remember that concerns are first voiced to the coach, then to the coach and school Athletic Director and if necessary, to the coach, athletic director and school administration.

➤ **GAME DAY ATTIRE**

Standard school attire should be worn on game day and on road trips unless some type of team dress (uniform, warm-up, dress-up clothes, etc.) has been previously approved by the Principal. Athletes may be asked to dress up, possibly including dresses for girls and ties for boys. The school is not required to provide travel clothes. In all cases, student-athletes are expected to be well groomed and within school day dress code standards.



› WEIGHT ROOM POLICY

Strength development and weight training are an essential part of athletics at SCA. The SCA weight room is available for use by students. When using the weight room, student-athletes must have adult supervision. Users of the weight room must put all used equipment back and generally keep the weight room neat and orderly.

› ATHLETIC TRAVEL

The school will make every effort to provide safe team transportation to all away games.

1. When team transportation is provided, the athlete is required to ride to and from the contest with the team. Any request to do otherwise must come directly from the parent to the coach.
2. Students are not permitted to drive themselves to competitions. Exceptions maybe granted from the Athletic Director.
3. Student-athletes are to comply with all school travel – safety policies including wearing of seat belts. SCA and rented transportation should be treated with respect and kept clean.
4. When school or rental vehicles are not available, parents commonly are sought as drivers. Parent drivers form must be filled out each year.
5. Parents should arrive to pick up their student before the team vehicle arrives at the school. The coaches have been advised to remain on campus until all students are gone, or to leave students properly supervised by security officer on duty. It is not desirable for coaches to wait long periods of time for students to be picked up because of their own personal family responsibilities and long working days.

› MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Athletic lockers must be cleaned out and locks returned to the athletic office.
2. Athletic bags and equipment should not be left out unoccupied around campus for safety and security reasons. All bags and equipment need to be safely secured in the athletic locker room or in a coach's classroom.
3. If uniforms and equipment are not returned, student-athletes will not be allowed to take finals. The equipment should be returned in a condition that highly resembles the condition at the time of issuance or simply reflects normal wear. A student will be charged for all damaged or lost athletic equipment.
4. If you are transferring to SCA as a 10th, 11th or 12th grader please see athletic office for approval and proper forms to be filled out for the AIA.

› CLOSING COMMENTS

It is desired that the careful reading of this Handbook will establish purpose for SCA athletics as well as make athletics an increasingly positive experience for student-athletes, their coaches, parents and fans. To God be the glory!

