

SOUTHLAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**SOUTHLAKE
CHRISTIAN**

2024-2025 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT THEME VERSES

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."
Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians
4:13 (ESV)

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of
the gospel of Christ." Philippians 1:27 (NIV)

PURPOSE OF ATHLETICS AT SOUTHLAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1. The primary purpose of the athletic program at Southlake Christian Academy is to do our best for the Lord. This is accomplished in two parts: our action and our motivation. The result will bring honor to Jesus Christ by providing direction while exercising to honor God through sports.
2. Applying the principle of the "well-rounded" person illustrated in Luke 2:52 (mental, physical, social, and spiritual) through the integration of academics, athletics, and social activities.
3. Promoting the biblical definition of winning.
 - Doing our best for God's glory. (Col. 3:23)
 - Physically winning. (I Cor. 9:24)
 - Acknowledging God in all areas, win or lose. (I Thess. 5:18)
 - Praying for His guidance in striving to be a true winner. (Phil. 4:13)
 - Defining athletic success as the confidence that comes from knowing that one did his very best to the glory of God. (Ivan Schuler)
 - Involving the student body, parents, faculty, and staff in developing school unity and spirit.
 - Maintaining a clear Christian testimony to opposing schools, officials, and others we make contact with words and actions.

EFFECTIVE PARENT/COACH/PLAYER RELATIONS AT SLCA

1. Love one another
 - *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)*
 - Respect each other
 - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)*
2. Pray for each other
 - *On Him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in*

answer to the prayers of many. (II Cor. 1:10b-11)

3. 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. "Hands-on" delegation is not acceptable. The following examples must be avoided:
 - Parental coaching "from the stands." A coach needs the full attention and concentration of his players. During a practice or game, the player "belongs" to the coach. Uninvited parental intervention during these times is a serious distraction and is detrimental to the program.
 - Parents negatively approaching the coach or their child on the bench during a game, at halftime, or immediately after a game prior to the post-game team meeting. A coach expects the full support from both the player and parent(s). If a parent wants to talk to the coach, he/she should call the next day.
4. How do parents get their questions answered or give input?
 - Parents wishing to give input should use the proper communication channels and procedures. If their concern/input is not heard or sufficiently responded to by the coach initially, they may proceed through proper channels by talking with the Director of Athletics, Principal, and Head of School, in that order, until the matter has been closed. Proper deference should be given to the coach by scheduling an appointment with him/her to discuss concerns in private.
5. Support is expected
 - It is reasonable to expect that any parent, who has permitted his/her young person to try out for a team, be supportive of the coach. Well-laced criticism given privately to a coach is welcomed; simply airing negative opinions to others, including one's own children, should be avoided.
 - Each coach will have the full responsibility and authority to determine which players are entered into games, when, and for how long. His/her determination in this area will be made on the basis of what will best benefit the team. This does not mean that there will be no consideration given to the individual needs of a player. However, the team will always be of primary significance.

SOUTHLAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

POLICY

This policy provides guidance for authorized coach/staff (staff) use of social networking sites that permit users to share information with others in a contemporaneous manner.

PROCEDURES

The following principles apply to professional use of social media on behalf of Southlake Christian Academy (SLCA) as well as personal use of social media when referencing Southlake Christian Academy.

- Staff should be aware of the effect their actions may have on their images, as well as SLCA's image. The information that staff members post or publish may be public information for a long time.
- Staff should be aware that SLCA may observe content and information made available by staff through social media. Staff should use their best judgment in posting material that is neither inappropriate nor harmful to SLCA, its employees, or constituents.
- Social media networks, blogs and other types of online content sometimes generate press and media attention or legal questions. Staff should refer these inquiries to authorized SLCA spokespersons.
- Staff should get appropriate permission before posting images of current or former employees, students, or coaches. Additionally, staff should get appropriate permission to use a third party's copyrights, copyrighted material, trademarks, service marks or other intellectual property.
- Staff members should keep SLCA related social media accounts separate from personal accounts. Staff members will submit to SLCA and only use approved social media account's e-mail, name, and passwords.
- When a staff member no longer coaches a specific SLCA team or is no longer employed at/associated with SLCA, the social media account's email, name, and passwords must be returned to SLCA.
- Students or parents/family associates of SLCA students may not duplicate SLCA social media sites or portray representing official SLCA social media sites. Student-athletes may be suspended from a team if they or their parents/family associates do not abide by this policy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SLCA ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. Spiritual

- To glorify God in all our athletic activities.
- To teach dependence upon God, prayer, and Bible study.
- To teach thankfulness to God for health, safety, and the opportunity to serve Him through the realm of athletes.
- To teach how to win with the humble attitude of Christ.
- To teach how to lose as Christians, praising God for the opportunities to learn lessons through athletics.
- To teach how to control pride.
- To teach how to love athletic opponents, as they are also created in the image of God.
- To teach that God created our bodies, and we are to care for them as the temple of the Spirit.
- To provide athletes with the opportunity to praise God for works He is accomplishing in their lives.
- To teach submission to authority.

2. General

To teach:

- The skills and techniques of various athletic activities.
- Team play and unity.
- Concentration.
- Importance of obeying rules.
- Regard for the rights of others.
- The acceptance of majority decisions yet respect the rights of the minority.
- To develop effective methods of thinking.
- To develop sound judgment.
- To promote health and well-being.
- To promote social growth.
- To win games.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SLCA ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. Affiliation

- SLCA is a member of the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (NCISAA) for JV/Varsity competition. We are members of the Metrolina Athletic Conference (MAC) for most MS School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity competition.

Teams sponsored by the Athletic Department (subject to student support)

Men's Varsity

1. Baseball
2. Basketball
3. Cross Country
4. Football
5. Golf
6. Lacrosse
7. Soccer
8. Swimming
9. Tennis
10. Track & Field
11. Wrestling

Women's Varsity

1. Basketball
2. Cheerleading
3. Cross Country
4. Soccer
5. Softball
6. Swimming
7. Tennis
8. Track & Field
9. Volleyball
10. Lacrosse

Men's Junior Varsity

1. Basketball

Women's Junior Varsity

1. Volleyball

Men's Middle School

1. Baseball
2. Basketball
3. Cross Country
4. Football
5. Lacrosse
6. Soccer
7. Swimming
8. Wrestling

Women's Middle School

1. Basketball
2. Cheerleading
3. Cross Country
4. Soccer
5. Swimming
6. Volleyball

FACILITIES, FIELD, AND EQUIPMENT CARE

All damage to facilities or equipment should be reported to your coach or the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

1. Athletes are not permitted in the Athletic Office or in the equipment storage areas without the consent of your coach or the Athletic Director.
2. All facilities and equipment should be handled with respect. No one should hang on basketball rims, backboard braces, nets, or soccer goals.
3. No street shoes or black-soled shoes should be on the gym floor.
4. Use of equipment is limited to the sport for which it is intended.
5. All equipment should be returned to the proper storage area after use.
6. Uniforms are to be treated with care. Any damage to or loss of uniform pieces will be the responsibility of the athlete to whom it was issued.

LOCKER ROOM CONDUCT

1. Locker rooms are to be left clean after each practice or game session.
2. There should be no horseplay in the locker rooms at any time. This can lead to injury or damage to property.
3. All personal items are the responsibility of the individual athlete. Valuables should be kept locked in a locker. The school is not responsible for valuables left in the locker room.
4. No glass containers of any kind should be taken into the locker rooms.
5. Any athlete involved in damaging our locker room or the locker room at an opposing school will be responsible for paying for the repairs and will receive at least a one-game suspension.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Athletic participation is open to all students in grades 7-12. Sixth grade participation is allowed in some, but not all sports. This determination is based on conference rules and regulations as well as the needs of the individual team. Students desiring to participate in extra-curricular activities are required to maintain a cumulative average of 75% in all coursework in which they are enrolled and have no failures in any course. Students not meeting these expectations throughout the semester at the 6, 12, and 18-week checkpoints will be placed on an extra-curricular probation. Students will remain on probation until the next checkpoint. Students on probation who have successfully earned the cumulative average of 75% and have no failures in a course will not be eligible to participate until the next checkpoint.
2. Students on probation can practice but not play, participate in outside events, or travel with the team or group. Extra-curricular probation for activities applies to all SLCA-sponsored sports events.
3. If an athlete is ineligible during a tryout period for any sport, it is the coach's decision as to whether that student will be allowed to tryout.
4. Any student using alcohol or tobacco will be suspended from the athletic program. The suspension begins on the first day of the school suspension. Any student using illegal drugs will forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of the school year.
5. If a coach determines that a student-athlete is not demonstrating a positive attitude, or if that coach receives input from a teacher/administrator that a lack of effort is being demonstrated in the classroom, that student may be suspended, placed on probation, or lose their eligibility. A parent conference would be conducted in order to facilitate due process.
6. If a parent has a higher expectation for his/her own child, he/she should inform the coach of that expectation. This also allows the coach to fully support that parent's efforts.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

1. All athletes are expected to have a good attendance record.
 - a) All athletes should be in class for at least half of the school day (11:30am) in order to participate in that day's practice or game. Anyone arriving after 10:30 a.m. will be considered to have not met the half day requirement

- b) If an athlete is too sick to go to school, then he/she is too sick to practice or play. An exception will be given for pre-arranged dentist or doctor appointments or other pre-arranged absences.
- c) Any athlete who misses PE class due to an injury or illness will not be allowed to participate in a practice or a game that day.

HOMESCHOOL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. Varsity Teams

- The North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) does not allow homeschool participation in sports except for Varsity football.

2. Junior Varsity and Middle School Teams

- The Metrolina Athletic Conference (MAC) does not allow homeschool participation. 6th-8th grade homeschool students may participate on MS teams that do not compete in the MAC under these conditions:
- No SLCA student can be excluded from a team due to a homeschool student's inclusion.

GUIDELINES FOR AWAY TRIPS

1. Assignments/Tests

- Athletes returning late from a game will not be excused from any tardiness or from assignments or tests given the following day unless it is approved by the Director of Athletics and Principal.

2. Conduct

- All athletes are representatives of Jesus Christ first, of their parents and family second, and of Southlake Christian Academy and the Athletic Department third. This responsibility must not be taken lightly.
- Athletes are expected to conduct themselves like ladies and gentlemen at all times, on and off the field or floor.
- There is to be no screaming or yelling on the bus. Keep hands and feet inside the windows at all times. Standing and moving around on the bus should be avoided.
- Male and female athletes are not permitted to sit together on the bus while traveling to or from an away game.
- The drivers of vehicles have the responsibility to transport our athletes safely. It is imperative that their requests and instructions be followed.

3. **Dress**

- School uniform or team athletic uniform, as determined by the coach, will be required for away games when traveling on school days.

4. **Return Trips**

- Athletes may ride home with family members. Please notify the coach if you are not traveling home on the bus.
- If an athlete needs to ride home with someone other than a family member, he/she must provide a written note from their parent/ guardian to the coach indicating such a request.

5. **Vehicles**

- The bus should be cleaned after every trip. This is the responsibility of every athlete who rides the bus.
- Always be courteous to the driver. Do not distract him/her.
- Any damage done to vehicles from horseplay or carelessness will be the responsibility of the individual(s) who caused the damage.

PLAYING TIME POLICY

1. **Middle School Teams**

- The emphasis is on participation and fundamental skill development at this level. The coach will choose a starting lineup for each game based on performance in practices and games.
- The coach will make every effort to allow each participant to play in every game. Equal playing time for all participants is not guaranteed.
- We want all members of the team to participate, but in tournament games, all may not play. Coaches will play the better and more experienced players to reward their hard work and commitment to the team.

2. **Junior Varsity Teams**

- The coach will choose a starting lineup for each game and play the best players based on ability and performance in practices and games.
- Substitutions will be made as much as possible, while still fielding as competitive team as possible.

3. **Varsity Teams**

- The coach will choose a starting lineup for each game based on ability, attitude, and performance in practices and games.
- Substitutions are made at the discretion of the head coach.

4. SUSPENSIONS

- Any athlete receiving one or more days of suspension, for any reason, will not be allowed to participate for the duration of the suspension. Any athlete receiving two suspensions (separate infractions) in a season may be removed from that team for the remainder of the season. Any athlete receiving three suspensions (separate infractions) may lose their eligibility for the remainder of that semester.

5. TECHNICAL FOULS/CAUTIONS/EJECTIONS

- Any athlete receiving a conduct technical foul in basketball, a caution (yellow card) in soccer, a caution (yellow card) in volleyball, or a verbal caution in all other sports will be removed from that game/match and will remain out of that game for any time deemed necessary by the head coach. Any athlete receiving a caution or technical in two consecutive games will be removed from the remainder of that game and may be suspended from the following game.
- Any athlete receiving two technical fouls in one game, an ejection (red card) in soccer or volleyball, or an ejection in all other sports may be suspended from the following game.
- Any athlete who is suspended from two games for cautions or ejections may be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

SELECTION OF TEAMS/SQUADS

1. Cheerleading

- Tryouts and selection for cheerleading teams will take place during the spring, prior to the upcoming school year.
- Selections are made by a panel of judges who are selected by the varsity cheerleading coaching staff.
- Cheerleaders are selected based on their cheerleading ability, enthusiasm, and ability to work with a team after a clinic and a tryout session before the judges.
- The cheerleading coaching staff will notify those individuals who were selected to be on the cheerleading teams.
- Responsibilities of the captain may include directing practice, changing the cheers during the game, encouraging other squad members spiritually, encouraging the other squad members to use the Matthew 18 principle in cases of disagreement, leading devotions, and keeping records of cheers used.

2. Teams (all levels)

- The coach and his/her staff select teams at the beginning of each season, after a tryout period.
- The coach will notify players of their selection or non-selection to the team.
- Selection of teams and squads is not taken lightly and is one of the toughest jobs a coach has. Please understand that coaches want the best for every young person.
- The coach will select captains or determine what process will be used in selecting captains.

3. Quitting A Team/Squad

- No athlete is allowed to quit a team or squad once he/she has been selected without a parent conference with the coach. No athlete who quits will be allowed to rejoin the team.
- A player is permitted to drop off of a team if a serious injury dictates or if it is in the best interest of his/her academic success.
- If an athlete quits without the consent of the coach and Director of Athletics, he/she will not be eligible to play a sport in the following athletic season. The athlete also forfeits all awards and/ or letters for that sport. (Academic ineligibility is not considered quitting.)

4. AWARDS

a) Purpose

- Recognition of God-given ability and achievement
- Motivation

b) Letters

- A varsity athlete earns a letter when he/she meets one of the following requirements:
- Serve as team or squad manager, statistician, or bookkeeper for one full varsity season.
- Selected as a full-time member of a varsity team and participates on that team for the duration of the season. Coaches will determine letter winners.

5. WORKING ATHLETES

- Because of the demanding schedules of our athletic teams and responsibility of each athlete to maintain high academic standing, athletes are encouraged to avoid an outside job during the season. Athletes will not be excused from practices or games due to outside work responsibilities.

6. REQUIRED FORMS

- Each athlete is required to have a sports physical evaluation form, consent to treat form, concussion form, and a NCISAA-Consent-to-Participate-Release-Form-11024_1 (new) filed in the Athletic Office before he/she will be allowed to practice, participate, or travel with any athletic team. Parents can get this done at a primary care physician's office or at some major pharmacies.
- ALL forms can be obtained through the school office, the athletic office, or the athletic website at <https://www.southlakechristian.org/athletics/team-pages>
- Any athlete, who has been restricted from participation due to an illness or injury before or during a season, must secure a doctor's release prior to being allowed to participate again.

7. ATHLETIC INSURANCE

- Because the risk of injury increases for students involved in athletics, all student-athletes participating on SLCA athletic teams must be covered by health insurance. It is the responsibility of the athlete's parents to provide insurance in the event of an injury while participating in practice or in a game. Southlake Christian Academy does not assume any financial responsibility for injuries received while participating on an athletic team.

8. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE

- Students participating on an Eagles' sports team will have an athletic participation fee. This fee helps cover rising equipment costs and supplemental insurance for student-athletes having school related sports team injuries. This fee will apply only when a student is placed on a SLCA team roster and students playing multiple sports will be charged only once per school year. This billing will occur through FACTS and will show as an incidental billing.

9. Behavior at Athletic Events

- Students and parents attending SouthLake athletic events, home or away, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our values of respect, integrity, kindness, and joy. The North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (NCISAA) requires member schools to provide adequate control of spectators. Failure to do so can result in forfeiture of games, loss of state tournament privileges, fines, or suspension or expulsion from the NCISAA. As such, SouthLake will not tolerate insults from spectators, parents, or students, directed at officials or opposing teams and their fans. Spectators may cheer for their team,

but never against another team. SouthLake Christian Academy should be known for exemplary sportsmanship and Christlike behavior at all school athletic events. Consumption of alcohol at home or away game sites is prohibited and failure to adhere to this could result in removal from the athletic event.

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