

# SPANISH RIVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

### Purpose

The primary purpose of the Athletic Department at Spanish River Christian School is to advance God's Kingdom and bring Him glory through the use of athletics. Secondly, we are a high school preparatory sports program that provides athletes with highly qualified coaches, extremely competitive schedules, and skill building opportunities through practices and clinics in order to prepare players for high school athletics.

### Registration Requirements

Each athlete is required to complete a Student Athletic Health Examination form. A physical examination is necessary for the form to be fully completed. After completion, the form must be notarized. Mrs. Cecil in the Athletic Office or Mrs. Ryser in the front office are both notaries and will be happy to notarize the form. If any portion of this form is left blank, it will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted. Every athlete is also required to pay an athletic fee for each sport they participate in. Athletic fees are non-refundable even if a student becomes ineligible due to grades or conduct, or is dismissed from a team for any reason. The only exception to this rule is if a player decides to quit during tryouts before practices begin. The Athletic Handbook must be read and the Athletic Handbook Agreement Form signed by every athlete and one parent or guardian.

Again, students will not be allowed to participate in a sport in any capacity until:

1. The Student Athletic Health Examination Form is completed, notarized, and turned into the Athletic Office.
2. The Athletic Handbook Agreement Form is signed by both athlete and parent, and turned in to the Athletic Office.
3. The Athletic fee of \$150.00 per sport is paid.

All registrations must be complete and received by the stated deadline. No late registrations will be accepted unless the athlete has received permission from the Athletic Director.

Before registering for a sport, athletes and their parent(s) should think seriously about the importance of committing to a team. Any athlete who quits a team creates problems for everyone involved. **Any athlete who quits a Varsity or Junior Varsity team after tryouts have ended and teams have been picked without permission from the Athletic Director will not be eligible for the Varsity team during the next sport that he/she plays.**

## Practices and Games

Attendance at all games and practices is required. Coaches have the authority to discipline an athlete for any unexcused absence or tardiness. All absences, other than illness, must be approved in advance. The appropriate way to obtain an excused absence is for the athlete or parent to contact the coach at least one day prior to the absence. A message sent by a friend is not an acceptable means of communication. Disciplinary action will take place with the first unexcused absence. Continued unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team. An athlete must attend at least a half-day of school (in class no later than 12:00 pm) in order to be eligible to participate in practice or a game that day.

Practices and games are scheduled Monday through Thursday. Practices are from 3:15 pm to 4:45pm. Dismissal from practice will be in front of the gym. Any athlete not picked up by 5:00 pm will be escorted to Aftercare, for which a fee is assessed.

Game times will vary according to sport and location.

## Transportation

**Transportation to and from away games will be the responsibility of each athlete's family.**

Carpooling is a great option for those parents who work or cannot drive their child. Please make sure all carpool arrangements are made in advance and your child knows with whom they are riding and to which dismissal area they should go. All athletes will be picked up from their assigned dismissal area or will go to the area where their carpool is picking up. Any student not picked up by 3:15 will be sent to Aftercare where the normal fee will be assessed.

## Sports Equipment Drop-off

Middle school students participating in after school sports are required to store their equipment in or above their lockers. Exceptions are lacrosse, baseball and softball due to the size of the equipment. **NO sports equipment will be stored in the Middle School hallway or Room 200 due to fire regulations.**

## Schedule Changes

Scheduling changes happen from time to time during a season. The most up-to-date information can be found on RenWeb. Many changes are due to weather and that decision is usually not made until the end of the day. RenWeb will be updated as soon as the change goes into effect. The Athletic Director may send an email or text notification when possible. It is the parent's responsibility to check RenWeb daily for any changes to the schedule. Due to the large number of athletes, it is not possible for each student to call home every time there is a change to the schedule. If a schedule change is due to weather, and the

information was available on RenWeb, students who are sent to Aftercare will incur the normal charge.

### **Grades and Conduct**

Student eligibility is determined by our school policy as stated in the Student Handbook. All students and parents are required to abide by the provisions of the *SRCS Student and Parent Handbook*.

A student receiving an Administrative Referral (see DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE in the *Student Parent Handbook*) will be suspended by the Athletic Director for the next scheduled game. A student who receives a suspension will be prohibited from participating in all SRCS athletic events during the suspension period and for the 5 consecutive school days immediately following the completion of the suspension period. Any further game suspensions will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director. The student may also face removal from a team.

Students who are deemed ineligible will be removed from the team when the probation period commences. Ineligible athletes are required to return their uniform and are not permitted to attend practices, sit with the team during games, travel with the team to games, etc.

The Athletic Director has the right to determine if an athlete's conduct is in violation of the Athletic Department's regulations. Continued non-compliance by an athlete may result in disciplinary action.

### **Spectator Sportsmanship**

SRCS believes good sportsmanship is an integral component of athletic competition. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, coaches, athletes and fans must display respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility before, during, and after all athletic events. We encourage fans to enthusiastically support the team, to recognize the outstanding performance of opponents, and always exhibit good sportsmanship in their words and actions. Profanity, racial or ethnic comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, or other fans will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition.

### **Team Assignments**

Due to the high number of students trying out for each sport, it is necessary to divide the students into more than one team. Student Athletes will start the season on the Varsity team, Junior Varsity team, or JVB level. Athletes may earn the privilege to advance to a

higher team and may also lose that privilege resulting in a change of team assignment (See Grades and Conduct).

### **Varsity Team**

Varsity level teams compete against other Gold Coast League schools as well as other local teams in the area. They are competing as part of a league and are actively pursuing the league championship. Playing time will not be equal or guaranteed, and will be at the discretion of the coach based on what is best for the entire team. However, coaches are instructed to use discernment and play individuals who might not play as much as others when the score is heavily against or in favor of SRCS.

### **Junior Varsity Team**

Like Varsity teams, Junior Varsity teams compete against schools in the Gold Coast League and other schools outside of the league. The JV team exists so players can build their skill, compete in games situations, and prepare for potential varsity positions in future years. Playing time will not always be equal or guaranteed. As with varsity teams, JV teams play to win, and coaches will play the players they believe give the team the best opportunity to accomplish this goal. We want to give every athlete a significant opportunity to play, but the amount of playing time is set at the discretion of the coach and is determined by what is best for the team.

### **JVB Level**

In order to accommodate all students who tryout, each season SRCS provides less experienced players a chance to learn the game and develop their skills. The JVB team will not compete with other schools and will have reduced practice time compared to Varsity and JV teams. However, they will get the opportunity practice alongside the JV team in certain drills and skill building activities. Players placed at the JVB level after tryouts have the choice not to participate and will be refunded their registration fee if they choose not to continue. They will also not be penalized as to which team they can make in future seasons.

## **Proper Lines of Communication**

It is important that our athletes are taught the proper method of addressing their concerns while playing on a sports team. Negative parent interaction during a game can be distracting and detrimental to the entire team and will not be tolerated. *A parent may never address a coach before, during, or directly after a game to discuss matters relating to their student. The coach is responsible for each member of the team, and cannot engage in private conversations while students and/or parents are present.*

Student athletes must first speak to their coach if they have a concern regarding playing time, player interactions, or any situation they have that affects their athletic experience. If the problem is not resolved and needs further discussion the student and coach will meet with the Athletic Director

When a parent has a concern, they must first contact their child's coach to discuss the situation. If the issue is not resolved, the parent may contact the Athletic Director for further discussion.

### **Uniforms and Equipment**

Athletes will be issued a uniform prior to the first game. It is their responsibility to take care of their uniform throughout the season and to return it to the coach after the last game. A deadline for uniform returns will be set by the coach. Athletes will be assessed a fee of \$75.00 if the uniform is not returned or has been damaged due to improper laundering or abuse. **A Student will NOT be able to participate in any further sports until the uniform is returned and/or the fee has been paid.**

### **Team Captains**

The coaches and Athletic Director choose team captains based on their servant-leadership qualities. Teammates are expected to show respect and listen to their captains during practices, games, and other team activities. Captains may lose their position if they do not display positive leadership qualities both on and off the field. Team captains are responsible for modeling proper treatment of teammates at every level and informing the coach of student concerns.

### **Administrative Prerogative**

The intent of this handbook is to inform student-athletes and parents of the general rules and policies of the Athletic Department. Sometimes new situations or circumstances not specifically covered by this Handbook will occur. The Athletic Director, coaches, and School Administration reserve the right to exercise its administrative prerogative in responding to such situations. The Athletic Department reserves the right to add to, modify, or eliminate any policies and procedures in this handbook.