



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

Spanish River Christian School

2400 Yamato Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431

Revised August 2021



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 league play, and skill-building opportunities through practices and clinics in order to prepare players for high school athletics. It is our firm belief that the lessons learned on the court and field transcend sports, and will be carried throughout the lives of our student-athletes. Therefore, as we attempt to *Pursue Excellence* in all things, our program is based around the "STRIVE" acronym:

S-ERVICE	1 Samuel 12:24 - "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."
T-EAMWORK	Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."
R-ESPECT	Romans 12:10 - "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."
I-NTEGRITY	Proverbs 3:3 - "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart."
V-ISION	Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare ^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
E-XCELLENCE	Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

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 complete. After completion, the form must be notarized. Mrs. Cecil in the Athletic Office and 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 in which they participate. 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.
4. Boys/Girls Lacrosse ONLY: Injury and Equipment Waivers are signed.

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.

League Play

At the varsity level, we compete in the Florida Gold Coast League. The Gold Coast League consists of Middle School athletic programs in Broward and Palm Beach counties, which share a similar philosophy about 6th, 7th, and 8th grade athletics.

Boys' Sports

Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Tennis

Girls' Sports

Basketball, Cheerleading, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball

Gold Coast League member schools:

A.D. Henderson University School
American Heritage School - Boca Delray Campus
Calvary Christian Academy
North Broward Preparatory School
Pine Crest School - Boca Raton Campus
Pine Crest School - Ft. Lauderdale Campus
Spanish River Christian School
St. Andrew's School
St. Joan of Arc Catholic School
St. Jude Catholic School
Westminster Academy (baseball and softball only)



Pre-Season Parent Meeting

A pre-season parent meeting will be held after tryouts and before the start of each season to discuss highlights, important notes, and questions regarding the upcoming sports season. This is a great opportunity for parents (especially those new to the program) to clarify things before we get started.

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 will be 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, your child knows with whom he/she is riding, and to which dismissal area your child 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.**



Schedules and Schedule Changes

Scheduling changes happen from time to time during a season. *The most up-to-date information can be found on FACTS Family Portal (formerly RenWeb).* Many changes are due to weather, and that decision is usually not made until the end of the day. FACTS Family Portal will be updated as soon as the change goes into effect. When possible, the Athletic Director will send an email or text notification. *It is the responsibility of parents to check their Family Portal daily for any changes to the schedule* (in their student's class schedule, parents select the sport and view the calendar for that sport). 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 FACTS, 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 *SRCS Student and Parent Handbook*. All students and parents are required to abide by the provisions of the *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.

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. If a student-athlete or student spectator is the source of the unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she will be removed from the game and proper disciplinary procedures will be followed in accordance with the behavior expectations outlined in the *Student and Parent Handbook*.

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. There may be times when assembling a JVB team is not possible; in such case, we will make every effort to accommodate all students.

Quitting a Team

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. **If an athlete quits a Varsity or Junior Varsity team after tryouts have ended and teams have been picked, without permission from the Athletic Director, he/she will not be eligible for the Varsity team during the next sport that he/she plays.**

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 his/her student. Please allow 24 hours before contacting the coach to discuss a concern.* 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.

If parents have 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

Each athlete will be issued a uniform prior to the first game (several sports include two sets of uniforms). It is a student's responsibility to take care of his/her uniform(s) throughout the season and to return it to the coach after the last game. A deadline for the return of uniforms will be set by the coach. Athletes will be assessed a fee if their uniforms are not returned, or have been damaged due to improper laundering or abuse.

Girls and Boys Lacrosse is the only sport at our school where equipment is provided, if needed, for use during the season. This may include helmet, pads, gloves, and a lacrosse stick. As with uniforms, athletes should treat this equipment as if it were their own. Due to the high cost to replace equipment, if any is lost, damaged, or stolen, the fee assessed will be based on current replacement costs.



A Student will NOT be able to participate in any further sports until the uniform/equipment is returned or the replacement 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.

Injury Policies and Procedures

Basic first aid is given to any athlete requiring it. The coach will assess the student's complaint and/or injury and provide immediate palliative care. If an injury appears minor, the coach and athlete will decide if he/she needs to sit out or is able to return to play. If an injury is deemed serious enough for immediate assessment/treatment, parents or the designated persons on their emergency form will be called. In an emergency requiring immediate assessment, the paramedics and the parents will be called (parents are responsible for any expenses incurred with transport and medical care). (See page 32 of the *Student and Parent Handbook*.)

Social Media/Cell Phone Guidelines

Students are required to abide by all rules and policies outlined on pages 18-19 and 36-37 in the *Student and Parent Handbook*. Any after school activities are part of the "school day" and all disciplinary guidelines outlined in the *Student and Parent Handbook* will be followed.

Athletic Awards

To celebrate the athletic accomplishments of our students, we hold an end-of-the-year athletic awards ceremony and issue the following awards to athletes on each Varsity and Junior Varsity team:

1. Offensive Award: based largely on statistical performance and outstanding offensive contributions to the team.
2. Defensive Award: given to the player who demonstrates the most hustle, grit, and determination on the defensive side of play.



3. Coaches Award: Coaches discretion; may be given to the player for outstanding contributions, leadership traits, or other characteristics the coach wishes to highlight.
4. Male/Female Athlete of the Year: Given to the most outstanding male and female athletes over the given school year (8th grade only).
5. Male/Female Scholar Athlete of the Year: Given to the most outstanding male and female athletes who meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.75 (8th grade only).
6. Panther Award: Given to the athlete who most embodies the “STRIVE” acronym (8th grade only).

Athlete of the Month

Given each month throughout the year, this award is reserved for Varsity Athletes only. Varsity Coaches will submit nominations by the end of the month in order for the student-athlete to be considered. Nominations will include statistics, highlights, and other pertinent sports information that occurred during that month.

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 and School Administration reserve the right to exercise their 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.