

Mission and Vision

The purpose of the Athletic Department of Spanish River Christian School is to advance God's Kingdom through the use of athletics. We educate the whole person, focusing on spiritual, emotional, academic, and physical training. This department is built on a love for God, His word, and His people. Excellence as defined by Scripture is the standard for leadership, coaching, and competition. The Athletic Department's dominant attitude is service to the Lord through thought, word, and deed.

Registration Requirements

Each athlete is required to complete a Student Athletic Health Examination form, which requires a physical examination. This form must be filled out completely, signed by a physician, and notarized. (Mrs. Cecil & Mrs. Ryser are notaries). If any portion of this form is left blank; it will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted. Every athlete is required to pay an athletic fee for each sport. Athletic fees are non-refundable, even if a student becomes ineligible due to grades or conduct, or is dismissed from a team. The Athletic Handbook must be read and Athletic Handbook Agreement Form signed by every athlete and a parent. Athletes must dress in proper practice or game attire. This includes; SRCS PE shorts and any SRCS spirit or athletic T-shirt for practices, and a full team uniform for games. Additional equipment may be necessary and will be determined by each coach.

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 \$85.00 per sport is paid.
4. All athletes must have all appropriate attire and equipment before they can try-out or practice.

All registrations must be complete and received by the stated deadline, **NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM**. No late registrations will be accepted unless the athlete has received written permission from the Administration and the Athletic Director. If a sport is in season and lacks the ability to field a team, a second try-out will be offered to fill those spots.

Athletes and their parent(s) should think seriously about the importance of making a commitment to a team. Teams and schedules are formed based on the number of registered athletes. Any athlete who quits a team creates problems for everyone involved. Any athlete who quits a Varsity or Junior Varsity team without permission from the Athletic Director will be placed on the Junior 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 tardy. 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 will 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 4:45 pm. Games times will vary according to sport and location. Please call the Daily Athletic Recording (994-5006 ext. 303) for approximate game ending times.

All game and practice schedules can be obtained through Ren Web. There will be no paper schedules distributed as events may quickly change or be rescheduled for reasons such as school conflicts or weather. The Daily Athletic Recording should be called daily to stay up-to-date on any such changes. Ren Web will also be updated as soon as a change occurs. It is the responsibility of the parents to check for changes on Ren Web or through the recording.

In the morning, Middle school students participating in after school sports are required to drop off their equipment in the locker rooms by entering the gym via the north side gym doors, no earlier than 8:10. Students are required to be in their homerooms by 8:30. Sports equipment that is dropped off in the morning will not be accessible for students in PE during the school day.

Dismissal from Practices and Games

Practices end at 4:45pm. Any athlete not picked up by 5:00 pm will be escorted to Aftercare, for which a fee is assessed.

Games end at varied times. Athletes are asked to call their parents immediately after a game to inform them of pick-up time. Parents should pick up their children from campus within fifteen minutes of students' arrival on campus or end of a home game. The Athletic Director will contact a parent who is consistently late to pick up their child. If the situation is not resolved, and the parent continues to be late, a fee may be assessed or the athlete may forfeit his/her participation in the athletic program.

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. Any student who receives a suspension will also be prohibited from participating in any capacity in 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.

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 their team, to recognize the outstanding performance of opponents, and always to 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.

Transportation

SRCS staff and/or parent drivers will provide transportation to away games. Parents who wish to drive to any away game are required to have a Level 2 background check. The fingerprint card and information can be obtained in the school main office. A copy of the current driver's license and current insurance card must also be on file in the main office. Athletes may only travel to and from games with school-approved drivers or with their own parent/guardian. Athletes may leave from a game with their parent, but must inform their coach face-to-face before they leave. If parents are a designated team driver, they are responsible for returning any student who has not been picked up from the game back to SRCS.

Parent drivers must obey the following rules:

1. Refrain from eating, drinking, or any other activity that might distract you while driving.
2. NO smoking
3. Cell phones are prohibited from be used while driving students.
4. Try to stay together as a group if traffic permits.
5. Please arrive at the playground for departure on time.
6. You may NOT make any stops while transporting team members. This includes stops for gas, food, etc. The team needs to arrive together before the game to begin

- warm-ups, and after the game parents are waiting back at SRCS to pick up their child.
7. Make sure you have filled out a volunteer form and that it is on file in the main office.
 8. The front office must have a copy of your Driver's License and Insurance card on file BEFORE you drive!
 9. Please obey all traffic laws.
 10. Directions may be obtained from the main or athletic offices.

Team Assignments

Due to the high number of students trying out for each sport, there are times when we divide the students into more than one team. The varsity level teams compete against other Gold Coast League schools, as well as other local teams. Junior Varsity teams compete against other schools and have the opportunity to develop their skills by learning from game situations. In order to accommodate all students that tryout, we offer JVB team, which gives less experienced players a chance to be coached in a pressure-free environment. We ask all athletes and their parents to understand that everyone does not get equal or guaranteed playing time. 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 entire team.

Student Athletes will start the season on the Varsity, Junior Varsity, or JVB team. 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).

Proper Lines of Communication

Student athletes should speak to their coach if the student has a concern. If the problem is not resolved and needs further discussion the student and coach should go to the Athletic Director. If the issue needs further attention, both the student and Athletic Director will meet with the Middle School Principal.

When a parent has a concern they need to first meet with their child's coach. If the issue needs further discussion the parent will meet with the Athletic Director. When further attention is necessary the parent can meet with the Middle School Principal. If the concern needs further attention after those meetings, the parent may go to the Headmaster.

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. Athletes will be assessed a fee if the uniform has been damaged due to improper laundering or abuse. Players will receive a written assignment or detention for uniforms that are turned in after the deadline.

Daily Athletic Recording

The Athletic Office makes a daily recording of the athletic activities for the day. This includes game times, practices, directions to away games, estimated arrival back on campus, cancellations, etc. This recording is updated at 2:45 pm each afternoon to report any changes or cancellations. It is the parent's responsibility to call daily to check 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 the athletic recording, students who are sent to Aftercare will incur the normal charge.

Ren Web is also available with up-to-date information and schedules. It will be updated at the same time as the recording.

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.

Athletic Awards

The awards given at the Athletic Award ceremony at the end of the year are based on a combination of Christian character, athletic ability, and service to the team. The main goal of our athletic awards program is to reward Christian values and behavior and not to focus on individual ability. We see sports as a vehicle to help a child grow in his/her walk with the Lord.

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.