

# *South Aiken Baptist Christian School*

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## **Athletic Handbook**

The Athletic Department and Administration have the authority to make any appropriate exceptions to the policies contained below.

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## **ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

South Aiken Baptist Christian School's main purpose is to prepare each child for God's calling on their life, the mission of South Aiken Baptist Christian School (hereinafter referred to as SABCS) is to provide biblically-sound, Christian education. SABCS Athletics mission is to use athletics as a tool to glorify God is all that we do. Participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are eligible according to the rules and policies of SABCS.) SABCS is a member of the South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (SCISAA) and Aiken Augusta Middle School League (AAMSL), SABCS is committed to the values of a well-rounded athletic program. We operate on a three-season schedule at the middle school and high school levels. All rules set forth by SCISA and/or AAMSL must be followed and are enforced by the athletic department to ensure compliance with the league standards. Any questions regarding rules and regulations concerning the athletic program can be directed to the athletic director and he/she will be able to refer to the SCISA Blue Book or the AAMSL handbook for any clarifications.

We believe:

- Participation in sports activities is an integral part of a student's educational experience
- Physical development is important to students spiritual growth
- We are called to glorify God with the talents and abilities He has given to each of us individually(1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:6)
- We are called to build relationships in our community and with other schools(1 Corinthians 12:25-27, Ephesians 4:2-6)
- Our students will learn the value of teamwork, test and determine the limits of their own physical abilities, learn self control, and learn to handle success and failure(Proverbs 16)
- That student athletes are viewed as role models, and we expect our athletes to adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior and sportsmanship
- That student athletes are representatives of SABCS but, more importantly, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the student athletes will strive to conduct themselves in a manner that pleases all those they represent.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

1. SABCS competes in athletics through SCISAA and AAMSL, and many of our athletic policies reflect SCISA requirements from the Blue Book. Some SABCS standards are more stringent than SCISA requires
2. All rules set forth below apply to student athletes and to team managers.
3. To participate in an athletic event, a student must attend four (4) periods of the school day, unless he/she has received prior permission from the Athletic Director/Head Coach.

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4. Funds are raised through various fundraisers, entry fees to sporting events, and concessions. Parents of athletes are required to participate in these fundraising efforts.
5. No parents or spectators are allowed on team benches (except in case of injury).
6. No parents or spectators are allowed in locker rooms at pre-game, half-time, or post-game talks (except in case of injury).
7. We have limited Wednesday practices for cheerleading, archery, and occasional athletic events are held on Wednesdays for special times (playoffs, tournaments, etc.).

### **Coaches' Authority**

1. Coaches have the responsibility to model Christ-like attitudes and behaviors for our student athletes while under pressure themselves.
2. Coaches should use teachable moments that a team or individual faces to impart Biblical principles.
3. The makeup of a team is at the discretion of the Athletic Director/Head Coach. **Athletes must sign up for a sport by the first practice date of the sport**, as designated by the Head Coach, to participate. Exceptions to this will be approved by the Athletic Director.
4. The maximum number of players, per team level, will be determined by the Athletic Director/Head Coach. Should a student not be able to participate, the Athletic Director will personally contact the student to explain why he/she may not be able to play.
5. Playing time earned is at the discretion of the Head Coach. Differences of opinion in coaching will be discussed by a coach and an individual in private. Students may request a meeting with their coach no sooner than 24 hours after a game or practice. Suggestions are welcomed but will be used only at the coach's discretion.
6. No team meetings or practices are to be held without the coach's knowledge.

### **Sportsmanship and Commitment**

1. Before trying out for an SABCS athletic team, a student must be prepared to make a commitment to the team for the entire season. Any student athlete who begins a sport and quits will be required to sit out the next season; any sport. The athlete may practice with the team but may not play in the game or dress out. There will be a required pre-season meeting between athletes, parents, and coaches at the beginning of each athletic season. At least one parent and the athlete must attend this meeting for the athlete to be eligible to play.
2. It is the responsibility of the individual athlete to ensure that he/she has all parts of his/her uniform before a game begins and that all parts of the uniform will be worn by the athlete during the entire athletic event. Failure to comply will result in the athlete sitting the bench during the athletic event.

3. Athletes are expected to attend all practices on time and remain at practice until the coach has released them unless previous arrangements have been made with the coach. Should an athlete have to miss practice, it is his/her responsibility to contact the coach.
4. If an athlete is going to miss a practice or game, the parent or athlete must contact the Head Coach/Athletic Director and advise them of such. Should no contact be made the athlete will be required to sit out the next game. In the event an athlete misses 2 practices, without a proper excuse, he/she will be required to sit out at the next athletic event. If more than 2 unexcused absences occur, it will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director as to whether the athlete may continue to participate in the sport.
5. It is the discretion of the Athletic Director/Head Coach to determine if an absence from practice or a game will be an excused absence. Excused absences include personal illness, death in the family or matters of which the athlete has no control. Excessive unexcused absences may result in the athlete being released from the team.
6. Any athlete that is injured may not return to practice or active play without a written release from the doctor.
7. An athlete may lose eligibility if he/she consistently defies authority or commits a serious breach of conduct. This loss may be for a specified period of time or may be permanent, depending on the circumstances, for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be informed of any such ineligibility by a phone call, email, in person, or in writing.
8. A student athlete must display good sportsmanship at all times in actions and words, must be respectful to all officials, must be courteous to visiting teams and spectators, respect the facilities of the host school, and, at the end of each game, shake hands with every member of the other team.
9. A student athlete must respect and be loyal to all coaches, teachers, staff, and chaperones as God has placed them in authority.
10. Athletes are to sit with their respective team mates before, during and after their respective athletic events, unless otherwise approved by the Athletic Director/Coach. Athletes must remain inside the athletic facility.
11. A student athlete must conduct him/herself in a God-honoring manner, win or lose.

### Appearance Code

Athletes are representatives of our school when they are attending a sporting event. Unless specified by the Athletic Director; dress code for Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, and Softball is as follows; for away games athletes must wear chapel attire, collared shirts and pants for boys and blouses/dresses for girls, for home games athletes must wear home jerseys or team T-shirts with pants. Dress code for Golf and Archery athletes must wear khakis and red shirt, for Cheerleading, Cross Country, and Track and Field athletes must wear team T-shirts and pants.

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Athletes will be required to adhere to all standards of the school dress code during practice times, as they relate to attire, hair length, facial hair and fad coloring. Female athletes are encouraged to wear compression shorts under their uniform or practice attire. If a student athlete is not in harmony with the dress code, they may be required to sit out from a game until such time they are in compliance.

Athletic uniforms are to be worn only with permission from the Head Coach. Uniforms must be returned in good condition at the end of each season. The athlete will be responsible for paying for any uniform damaged or not returned. Report cards and permanent records will be withheld until all uniforms are returned or the uniform has been paid for.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Residence Requirements**

A student must reside with his/her parent(s) or a legal guardian to be eligible for athletic participation.

### **Eight Semester Rule**

A student has Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters of varsity eligibility from the time he/she first enters the ninth (9th) grade.

### **Academic Requirements**

1. Academic achievement is a prerequisite to participation. A student must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Keep and maintain a “65” or higher average per class grade for core classes (Bible, Math, Science, Social Studies, and English).
  - b. Take and pass all core courses (as defined in #8 below) each report card period to be eligible.
2. A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4), one-credit courses each report card period.
3. A student must have earned 4 core units or any 5 units of credits in the previous school year to be declared eligible at the start of the new school year.
4. A student in grades **6-12** must have passed the previous school year to be eligible for participation in the first grading period.

5. A Maximum of Two Credits earned during the summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school.
6. A student may use college credit courses for eligibility purposes provided the student has met or is meeting requirements for graduation. A maximum of One (1) Correspondence Course per school year may be used for eligibility purposes.
7. A One- Credit Course is a course taken for 36 weeks, one period each day for a minimum of 45 minutes or the equivalent. A course taken each day as above for 18 weeks would be a half credit which, when combined with another half-credit course, would be the equivalent of a one- credit course. A course taken for 36 weeks but only three, 45 minute periods each week would not be a one- credit course. Note: A One- Credit Course taken for 18 weeks shall meet for one period each day for a minimum of 90 minutes or the equivalent.
8. Core Courses are those courses in Bible, English, mathematics, science and social studies that are required by SCISA and recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools.
9. An ENROLLED Student, taking a minimum of 4 classes, is eligible to participate in the sports/athletic program.
10. For a student to be eligible to play in any given sport, grades will be routinely checked to ensure that the student is doing well in his or her classes. A student athlete can be placed on probation from any sport for grade (s) that fall below a “65” average in that class. A student must take and pass all courses (as defined in #8 above). Under this policy, grades will be checked every 4.5 weeks on Thursday. The Athletic Director will check grades in Renweb. Any core class grades below a 65% will then be checked by the teacher for accuracy. Once the teacher confirms the below “65” average grade, that student will be placed on athletic probation. The student and parent will be notified with a written notice that must be signed and handed back to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will inform the coach. If a student does lose eligibility during this routine check, that student is ineligible to play, practice, travel with the team, or suit up with the team at games or events the following week. The grades of that student will be monitored each week until that student is eligible to play again. Once eligible, he or she can participate fully in his or her sport.
11. Any student that has a grade between 65% and 70% will be given an athletic warning that they may be at risk of being put on athletic probation. During this warning period, they are still eligible to practice, play and travel with the team.
12. If a student has a failing grade at the end of the quarter, they will be ineligible to play, practice or travel with the team until the next quarter (9 weeks).
13. The Athletic Director and Administration have the authority to remove any student that does not follow these requirements, from any sport played, until academic requirements are met accordingly.

## **SCISA Grade Level Requirements/Restrictions**

- A. Varsity Teams: Eligible students in grades 8-12 may participate on varsity teams in baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball. Eligible students in grades 6-12 may participate on varsity teams in tennis, golf, swimming, cross country, track, cheerleading, and volleyball. Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any varsity team.
- B. Middle School Teams: (AAMSL) Eligible students in grades 5 – 8 may participate on middle school teams in all sports.

## **Age Requirements/Restrictions**

- A. A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in athletics if their 19th birthday is before July 1 of that graduating year. Note: There are no exceptions to the age standards.
- B. A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in Middle School athletics if their 15th birthday is before May 1st of the preceding school year.

## **ATHLETIC FEES**

The yearly Athletic Fee is \$150 and must be paid before an athlete may participate in any sport and before the first practice day for the sport in which the student is participating. There is a \$50.00 fee for each sport played. (i.e. if you play volleyball, it will be \$150 for your athletic fee and \$50 for volleyball for a total of \$200, and then if you choose to play basketball it will be another \$50.) Yearly athletic fees do not cover costs incurred for summer camps.

## **SCISA TRANSFER / RECRUITING RULES**

- A. A student who transfers after having: a) attended one class at another school or b) filed the Agreement for Participation at another school during the defined sports season or practices with the other school's team on or after the first official practice date must wait sixty (60) days to become eligible to play for SABCS. This may be waived for a bona-fide change in residence.
- B. A transfer must have attended classes for thirty (30) days prior to the start of the play-offs to be eligible to participate in the play-offs.
- C. An academically eligible transfer student (school year transfer as defined above) must have been eligible to represent his/her former school under any school, student, or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred, or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to become eligible.

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- D. A student who transfers before the start of the school year (has not attended one class and has not practiced with another school's team on or after the first official practice date) and has met all eligibility standards is eligible for athletic participation.
- E. A student must not have transferred as a result of recruiting or undue influence.

## **TRAVEL**

We are committed to transporting our athletes to and from sporting events safely and easily. When we travel to an "away" game, athletes must ride with a parent/guardian. Athletes may ride with a coach or with another parent with WRITTEN PERMISSION prior to the game. Student athletes may drive to away games with written permission. All athletes will conform to the dress code established for our traveling teams when attending any away games or competitions.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Insurance and Physicals**

1. *Adequate health insurance coverage for an athlete is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.*
2. A licensed physician must perform a physical exam and complete and sign the Medical Examination Form. This form is good for one year (twelve months from the date it is signed) and covers all sports offered at SABCS. This form will be filed in the student's permanent file, and a copy will be filed in the Athletic Director's office.
3. Four additional forms must be signed for the student athlete to participate:
  - The Agreement for Participation
  - Pre-Participation History & Health Assessment (completed by the parents)
  - Warning of Inherent Risk: Minor Waiver/Release
  - Athletic Handbook

### **Warning of Inherent Risk / Dangers of Athletic Participation**

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow guidelines for safe play, and inspect their own equipment and report any problems. Parents and the student athletes accept risks by signing the Warning of Inherent Risk: Minor Waiver/Release forms.

## **Medication**

All student athletes who have health conditions that require medication (e.g., asthma, diabetes, allergies) must have medication with them at all practices and games in order to participate. If a student does not have their EpiPen, he/she should notify the Athletic Director to make sure one is available.

## **CONCUSSION POLICY**

All student athletes who experience a head injury will be removed from play immediately. Athletes will be required to see a medical professional to be checked out if a concussion is possible. Athletes will need to provide a written notice, from a doctor, that they are able to return to play. If a student has had a concussion in the past, it is important that they notify their coaches. Repeat concussions are often more severe and need to be monitored more closely.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

In order to be eligible to receive any athletic award, a student athlete must meet the following guidelines:

1. Must have no more than two (2) unexcused absences from practice (The Athletic Director or Head Coach requires a written note from a parent or doctor to excuse an absence);
2. Remain academically eligible for the entire season; and
3. Attend all games unless special circumstances are approved by the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach.

In order to earn a varsity letter, a student athlete must not only meet the above-mentioned criteria but must also be a student in grades 6-12 **and** play on a varsity team.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All fans, spectators, coaches, and student-athletes are encouraged to enthusiastically support their school and team. We all must realize that the athletic arena is an extension of the classroom. Valuable lessons other than winning and losing are taught. The safety and well-being of students, coaches, and officials is of utmost importance to us all. Athletic events shall be conducted in accordance with the policies, rules, and regulations of SCISA. Participants, coaches, and spectators shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike

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manner. A participant, coach, or fan will be in violation of the Code of Conduct upon any one or more of the following actions:

- By making any degrading remark about any official, coach, or athlete during or after a game, either on or off the field/floor of play.
- By arguing with an official or going through motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
- By using any foul, abusive, or profane language at any time.
- By entering the playing area or field to protest, question, or object to a call or play.
- By hitting, shoving or striking any official, coach, athlete or fan at any time (or attempting to do so).
- By being ejected/removed from any contest.
- By detaining an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation. By following/chasing after the official after a game to express your displeasure or opinion with a call or result of a play or game.
- By the use or display of alcohol, tobacco or an unauthorized drug.

Violations of the Code of Conduct could result in a school, player, or fan being fined, suspended, or placed on probation. The school shall be notified of the action taken by SCISA and will be responsible for the enforcement of the action.

### **Parent's Code of Ethics**

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every SABCS sporting event.
2. I will remember that the game is for the students, not the adults. I will place the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of my child and the other student athletes ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a Christ-like manner and treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
4. I will provide an environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from using these products at all SABCS sporting events.
5. I will help my child enjoy the SABCS athletic experience by doing whatever I can such as providing transportation, participating in fundraisers, and being a Christ-like fan.

### **Athlete's Code of Honor and Statement of Commitment**

1. I will remember that I am first and foremost a Christian and that it is an honor and privilege to represent my school.

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2. Remember that any talents I have are from God. If I have developed these talents, I will rely upon His strength to use them and will be sure to give God the glory.
3. I will demonstrate high ideals, maintain good habits of courtesy, and demand the same from my fellow teammates.
4. I will encourage my teammates to excel to their potential and ability level and speak highly of them to others.
5. I will pray for my coaches, my team members, and each of my opponents.
6. I will be courteous to visiting teams, coaches, officials, and fans.
7. I will refrain from any inappropriate language and understand that if I violate this I may forfeit my participation in the current game or next game.
8. I will follow my Christian principles in my behavior and my attitude. I will put my team first and ensure that any comments I make are positive and encouraging.
9. I will maintain self-control at all times.
10. I will do my best to attend every practice and game unless otherwise approved by my coach. I will inform my coach if illness or emergency keeps me from attending practice or a game.
11. I will maintain my athletic eligibility and advise my coach of any academic problems I may be having.
12. I will not be allowed to play any other sport for one (1) sport's season if I do not honor my commitment to the team.
13. I will take care of my uniform and equipment and will return it at the end of the season. I agree to repair or replace my uniform or equipment if any damage (beyond normal wear and tear) occurs.

**Please read, sign and date both portions and return to the Athletic Director.**

**PARTICIPANT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN AGREEMENT AND PERMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) has my permission to participate in athletics. We have read and understand the philosophy of SCISA and AAMSL, the athletic Code of Conduct, and the Summary of Eligibility Rule. We understand that there are inherent risks in all athletics and that injuries do occur. SCISA may examine school records of the student whose name appears above in order to verify eligibility. We understand that this form is considered to be a binding contract. The student whose name appears above may only participate in athletics for SABCS. Transfer to another school after this form has been filed will subject the student to the Ninety Day Rule. We also agree not to hold SCISA or any of its agents, members, employees or affiliate organizations responsible in the event of an accident or injury. We further authorize any and all emergency medical treatment for the student named and will be responsible for any and all such costs.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the SABCS Athletic Handbook, the Parent's Code of Ethics, the Athlete's Code of Honor and Statement of Commitment, and the SABCS Student Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines stated therein.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_