



Middle School Athletic Handbook

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SCCS Mission Statement:

The mission of Sioux Center Christian School is to disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play.

Athletic Program Deep Hope:

The deep hope of the athletic program at SCCS is to provide students an appreciation for the talents and gifts of themselves and others while further developing the SCCS throughlines.

SCCS Throughlines:

- God worshiper
- Word applier
- Image reflector
- Truth finder
- Earth keeper
- Beauty maker
- Justice seeker
- Creation enjoyer
- Servant worker
- Community builder
- Order discoverer

Objectives:

1. To provide all seventh and eighth grade students who attend SCCS the opportunity to participate in and enjoy team sports.
 2. To provide all seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to develop personal skills through their participation in the school's interscholastic sports program.
 3. Membership on teams will be open to and inclusive of all students who commit to all scheduled practices, team meetings, and games.
 4. All students who commit to scheduled practices, team meetings, and games will be given opportunity to play.
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The Trailblazer Way

At Sioux Center Christian School, we strive to continue moving forward in connecting the mission of SCCS to our athletic programs. The Trailblazer Way is a keystone that will continue to shape the purpose and direction of athletics at Sioux Center Christian School. The Scripture that supports the target areas of The Trailblazer Way is Corinthians 12:4-5:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

- We are committed to the fulfillment of the SCCS mission through athletics.
- We are committed to the academic development of all student-athletes
- We are committed to the pursuit of growth – spiritually and physically – for each athlete.

Fulfilling Mission Statement:

The mission of Sioux Center Christian School is to disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play. All academic and athletic programs are an extension of the mission of SCCS and must be intentional about fulfilling the expectations established within it. Coaches will demonstrate and establish a culture within the teams that focuses on equipping students with knowledge and understanding of how they can reflect the image of Christ as a teammate and a competitor.

Academic Development:

As we strive to be distinct in our approach to athletics, we must acknowledge a holistic approach toward being student-athletes. Student-athletes are first called to fulfill their expectations as a student. At SCCS, we are committed to creating a Christ-centered academic experience through a partnership with families that will nurture the mind, heart, and hands of every student. This is our primary calling and commitment to the students at SCCS.

Growth in Athletics:

We are a peculiar people. At SCCS, we strive to be distinct in everything that we do, including athletics. Coaches will strive to be peculiar through creating an environment that is conducive to faith development and skill in the sport. Each coach will establish a deep hope for the season that will drive their preparation. This deep hope will drive how the coaches lead in practices and games, along with how they intend to integrate a faith deepening experience for the student-athletes involved. Athletes will strive to be peculiar in how they approach practices and games. Their focus on developing the gifts and talents that God has blessed them with should lead them to a culmination of praise on the court and field.

Team Structure and Organization:

- The number of students opting to participate in a particular sport will determine the number of teams needed to provide optimal playing time for each child. The decision to add another team will be made by the athletic director and head of school.
- Team membership may change from game to game, with students moving between the teams.
- Every effort will be made to provide adequate playing time for all the students. If a student dresses for a competition, they play.
- Every effort will be made to provide appropriate competition when scheduling games.

The interscholastic program is completely voluntary, and any eligible student is invited to participate. Involvement does, however, require extra effort and extra time in addition to the regular school day. Those choosing to participate in the program represent Jesus Christ, their families, their church, and their school in all activities. Therefore, high standards of citizenship, sportsmanship, conduct, and attitude must be maintained. The standards of SCCS are also reflected by those participating on and with the athletic teams, including athletes, parents, and coaches.

The interscholastic contests are competitive. The level of competition increases with the grade levels. In addition to teaching skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, the goal of each game, match, or meet is more than simply winning on the scoreboard. At SCCS, “winning” can look different than what the world may tell you is considered winning. For us, a win might be achieving a personal goal, improving on a specific skill, playing better as a team than the previous contest, etc. The athletic program is committed to training athletes to compete at the highest level of their ability. While we do not operate on a “win at all costs” mentality, there is also not a guarantee that all athletes will have equal playing time once participating at the 8th grade level.

Description of Programs:

Seventh Grade

Emphasis in seventh grade is on participation and skill building.

- Student understanding of the relationship between a coach and players is developed during seventh grade.
 - If the seventh grade needs to field more than one team, the teams will be divided as evenly as possible in regard to skill level.
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- Every effort will be made for all seventh grade teams and team members to be able to have an equal amount of playing opportunities.
- As the season progresses, a coach might, for the sake of balance or because of illness, rotate players from one team to the other.
- The length of season and amount of games will be determined by the number of students on the team and the availability of competitive teams to play against.

Eighth Grade

Emphasis in eighth grade continues to be on participation and skill building, as well as good team play.

- Developing a good understanding of the relationship between a coach and players continues to be a goal in eighth grade.
- Eighth grade teams will be formed according to the interest and skill level of all participating students.
- Participating students may be divided into an "A" team and a "B" team.
- Team membership may change from game to game, with students moving between the "A" and "B" teams.
- Whether on the "A" team or the "B" team, every effort will be made for the students to have adequate playing time (as even as possible).
- The length of season and amount of games will be determined by the number of students on the team and the availability of competitive teams to play against.

Tournament Participation:

- SCCS sports teams will only participate in tournaments sponsored by the Christian coaches club, local Christian high schools, and local Christian colleges.
- SCCS will not enter an "elite" team in other tournaments.
- SCCS will enter double elimination and round robin tournaments only. Single elimination tournaments, which emphasize winning at all costs, are developmentally not appropriate for the middle school adolescent.

Student Eligibility:

- Participation in all extracurricular activities at SCCS is a privilege, not a right. Students, as representative of the Christian school community, must demonstrate the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.
- Students who commit to participation on SCCS teams will be expected to put their participation on the school team ahead of their participation on AAU teams. A team cannot practice and play with team members absent.
- Students may lose the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities for the following reasons:
 1. Lack of respect for fellow students
 2. Lack of respect for authority
 3. Demonstrating poor attitudes
 4. Doing academic work below their level of ability
 5. Becoming involved in behaviors that diminish Christ's Name
 6. Being absent because of participation in AAU or other activities
- Students will be notified by their teacher, coach, or the head of school when any of the above occur.
- A suspension from participation in any extracurricular activity will be a minimum of one week in duration; permission to participate again will not be granted until improvement is obvious.

Coaches:

- All those who coach at SCCS will need to be able to work within the framework and guidelines of this athletic policy document of SCCS. All applicants will be given a copy of this athletic policy document.
 - Those who will coach will be interviewed by the athletic director, who will address Christian commitment, past experience, and personal goals as they relate to the coaching position and the applicant's ability to work within the guidelines of the SCCS athletic policy.
 - Coaches who are not personally known by the athletic director or who may not be familiar with the stated athletic policy may be assigned a mentor. The mentor will be a member of the SCCS professional staff and will be in regular communication with his/her assigned coach.
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- The coach and/or athletic director will review the goals and objectives of seventh and eighth grade interscholastic athletics with team members throughout each sport season.
- The coaches will be expected to plan adequately so that, as much as possible, students can expect playing time in both practice and games.
- Coaches will at all times maintain a high level of self-discipline.
- Coaches will at all times be supportive of the athletic policy of SCCS.
- Coaches are responsible for working with the athletic director and other appropriate school personnel to accomplish the goals and objectives of the SCCS interscholastic sports program, as well as the goals for SCCS.
- Coaches will be supportive of student discipline matters requiring long- or short-term suspension. Teachers need to be in communication with the athletic director or/and the head of school, who will inform the coach if a suspension from participation is needed.
- The coach's first concern must be the wellbeing of the children with whom they have been entrusted. This implies a holistic approach to coaching. Team members need to be seen as spiritual, emotional, social, and intellectual beings, as well as athletic beings. They are in the process of growing and maturing and developing their relationships and understandings of themselves as well as their friends, parents, and society. They, in all their being, are image bearers of God. The children are God's disciples today, in all things, including interscholastic sports. Practice and team meeting times are the best places to evaluate, discuss, and establish team and personal goals. Being a disciple of Christ in interscholastic athletics cannot be reduced to a "good luck" prayer before a game but should be seen in the interactions, actions, and participation of both the coach and team in their participation in practice and games in the interscholastic sports program.
- There must be 2 adults present in the locker room when occupied by athletes. If locker room behavior becomes a concern, locker room privileges will be removed from groups in order to improve that behavior. All pre- and post-game team discussions will take place in an available classroom.

Code of Conduct:

1. The **athlete** is:
 - a. To always remember that he/she represents the Lord, self, family, team, and school.
 - b. To respect the officials and their decisions.

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- c. To act in accordance with all the rules of eligibility and standards in this handbook.
2. The **coach** is:
- a. Responsible for a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - b. To live on and off the court/field with godly character, serving as a role model for athletes.
 - c. To inspire in the athletes a love for Jesus Christ, a love for the game, and a desire to do his/her best.
 - d. To teach the team Christian characteristics such as fair play, honesty, respect, integrity, good sportsmanship, and loyalty.
3. The **parents** are:
- a. To encourage their child to try his/her best.
 - b. To help their child stay on top of assignments and get help if/when needed.
 - c. To set examples of sportsmanship, conduct, respect, and godly character.
 - d. To accept the decisions of coaches and officials.
 - e. To support the school and its standards.
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