

# SALEM COUNTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

*Athletic Participation and Guidelines*



2015-2016

HOME OF THE DEFENDERS

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This handbook is designed to enable student athletes, parents, and coaches to function under the guidelines of the athletic department and school to ensure a positive experience for all involved. Coaches, parents, student athletes and administrators are also responsible for the information in the ***Student/Parent Handbook***.

Coaches, parents, and student athletes are expected to become familiar with and adhere to the guidelines, rules, and regulations set forth within this handbook.

# Introduction and Philosophy

*I Corinthians 9: 24-25 “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”*

The major goal of an interscholastic athletic program is the same as for any other educational program: To provide students with the opportunity to develop to their maximum potential and to teach life skills. At the same we understand that honoring God is the main focus of all we do at Salem County Christian Academy. With this in mind I would like to include an excerpt from an article by Dr. Pauls A. Kienel entitled, “It’s Only a Game”.

*“Athletics are certainly not worth doing anything which might damage the testimony of the school. Players, coaches, and spectators must remember that when our opponents and their fans are Christians, they are our brothers and sisters in the Lord and they should be treated as such. When our opponents and their fans are not Christians, they need to know our Savior, and our testimony for the Lord becomes all the more important.”*

The athletic philosophy of our school flows naturally out of our educational philosophy. Therefore, the primary goal of our athletic program is to bring glory to God through encouraging our teams to perform to the best of the ability the Lord has given them. There are a number of goals based on Biblical principles which flow naturally out of this primary goal.

First of all, we want to teach respect for authority. Players need to respect coaches, while coaches, players, and fans need to respect officials.

Second, we want to teach the principle of putting aside individual desires and goals for the good of the team.

Third, we want to teach players to realize that often their true character will come out in the heat of competition, and that there are valuable lessons to be learned and adjustments to be made. If winning comes about as a result of aiming at these goals, that is great. If we lose, it is not the end of the world, and there is likely a valuable lesson to learn through it. Winning must never be allowed to become our primary goal.

In the interest of good sportsmanship and positive Christian testimony, we ask each of our fans to observe the following:

1. Show proper respect to the players on both teams. Remember that each one of them is someone’s son and daughter.
2. Show proper respect for the visiting crowd. Treat them just as you would like to be treated in their gym or at their field.
3. Show proper respect for officials and to their legitimate position of authority over the game.
4. Remember that the other team’s players, coaches, and fans are not our enemies. They are merely our opponents in a game.
5. Please do not “BOO” or otherwise show a negative reaction to an official’s decision or to a player’s performance. We all need to remember that the Lord sees our actions and knows our thoughts and the intents of our hearts.

In his book, ***Basketball Basics: Drills, Techniques, and Strategies for Coaches***, Howard Marcus made some interesting observations concerning the relationship of basketball coaches to referees which can be applied in every sport, not only to coaches, but fans as well. He says, in part:

*“At the beginning levels of basketball you get some beginning referees, and you get plenty of bad calls. One way to handle it is to whine and complain. I’ve tried that many times, and it feels pretty good, at least for a while. You can stomp around; you can yell at a grown person who won’t yell back. In the end, though, it sets a terrible example for your players. How can a coach expect his immature players to conduct themselves like adults on the court while the coach himself acts like a two-year-old throwing a temper tantrum?”*

*Another way is to explain to your players that referees are people who really enjoy sports and are out there doing their best, and a lot of them aren’t that experienced. Sure they blow calls, but I blow calls as a coach, too. The refs don’t scream that I’ve messed up.”*

Many times we need to step back and think about what we are actually doing: kicking a ball, hitting a ball over a net, or throwing a ball in a basket! We, as parents always want what is fair for our children, but one wise woman told me once that “fair does not always mean equal.” We must be able to allow our children to fail without making excuses so they can learn from these experiences. The Salem County Christian Academy family must create an environment to help our student athletes grow in Christ through the various experiences they will encounter in competition.

# Basic Eligibility for Participation in Athletics

Student participation in interscholastic activities plays a significant role in personal and educational development. Students and parents must understand that athletic participation is a privilege and not a right. Competition is intense for positions on varsity teams at Salem County Christian Academy. Because of limitations of space and coaches, team size may require that student athletes be eliminated from the program. It is the responsibility of each student athlete to prepare themselves for the opening day of their seasons.

1. **Eligibility** policies and guidelines.
  - a. ***Pre-Competition Practice***: All student athletes must have 6 practices prior to competition.
  - b. ***Semesters of Attendance***. A student athlete shall be eligible for no more than 8 semesters in grades 9-12;
  - c. ***Age***: A student becoming 19 years of age after August 31 of the current school year is eligible for the entire school year.
  - d. ***Athletic Fee***: The Athletic Fee must be paid in full prior to the start of the regular season. Athletic fees are \$100 per season for grades 5-12 and \$50 per season for grades 3-4 (or for recreational programs.)
  - e. ***Homeschool students***: In order for a homeschool student to participate in any extracurricular activities, they must enroll in at least one course at S.C.C. Academy. Homeschool students are expected to adhere to the academic and eligibility requirements outlined in this handbook as applicable.
2. **Documentation requirements**. The following forms must be on file in the Athletic Director's office before the first practice:
  - a. NJ Department of Education [ANNUAL ATHLETIC PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM](#)
  - b. Athletics Authorization form (current year)
  - c. Student Athlete contract
  - d. Athletics Transportation release (*prior to first game*)
3. **Academic requirements**:
  - a. Must have a 2.0 GPA
  - b. A student who receives an "F" on one of the quarterly report cards in any subject, but still has an overall average of 2.0 or better, is eligible to continue participation. However, the student will be on academic probation. This probation will require a student to receive a weekly progress report, which will be viewed by the coach and administration. The student must have no lower than a "C" in the class in which the "F" was received within three weeks after that marking period. If the grade is below a "C", the student will be dismissed from the team.
  - c. Any student who receives less than a 2.0 on their progress report or has an "F" in any subject will be placed on academic probation. This probation will require a student to receive a weekly progress report, which will be viewed by the coach and administration. The player will be given three weeks to bring their GPA above 2.0, or in the case of an "F", bring the grade up to a "C". In case that a student does not meet these requirements the student will be ineligible to participate in any extra- curricular activities until the next report card is issued.

- d. Any student who receives less than a 2.0 grade point average on the final report card will be deemed ineligible and will not be able to participate in any fall sports the next school year.
  - e. Academic ineligibility means a student athlete cannot play or practice, until the next report card.
4. Athletes are to live by a code of conduct that includes:
- a. Abstinence from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs
  - b. A positive role model on campus and in the community
  - c. Live a morally and Godly life reflecting SCC Academy's Mission Statement.
  - d. Must be in harmony with Salem County Christian Academy community
5. **Attendance:** A competing student must be present in school on the day he/she is to participate in an athletic activity. Of course, this does not apply if the student is away on official school business (field trip, etc.). Satisfactory overall attendance is required of all athletes. Any exceptions need to be cleared with the Athletic Director prior to event. A student must be in school a minimum of 3.5 hours to be eligible to participate in a scheduled game or match.
6. **Risk assessment.** Athletic participation does entail some inherent risks. The athlete and their parents must be willing to accept the risk of athletic participation as well as the benefits from the opportunity to participate.
7. **Transfer student athletes**
- a. A student shall be in good standing and eligible at the previous school.
  - b. If a student transfers after participation in a sport season has begun the student will be ineligible for the remainder of that particular sport specific season.

8. **Wednesday and Sunday Play**

The majority of the churches our students attend, desire to have their local body meet midweek and Sundays. Our commitment is to honor this by encouraging our students to regularly attend and to be involved in their church. Therefore, Salem County Christian Academy will strive to avoid practice or games on Wednesday evenings or Sundays. Exceptions to this policy are games that cannot be played on another date due to conflicting schedules or make-up games. Also, to honor Wednesday evenings for local church attendance, all practices are ended by 5:30 PM. These guidelines are in effect year round.

# Risk Management Policies

## Assumption and Consent of Athletic Risk

Parents and student athletes must acknowledge the risk inherent in sports. There is a potential for catastrophic athletic injury; however, the incident of such injury is rare. It is important that both the parent and student athlete understand that it is their responsibility to provide insurance and medical coverage for their student-athlete (See Athletic Authorization Form – page 9).

1. It is the athlete's responsibility to follow rules and procedures.
  - a. Athlete must wear and maintain equipment and attire.
  - b. Understand that proper technique can minimize injury but cannot completely eliminate injury.
  - c. Practice attendance is an important aspect for the development of skills necessary to participate, and provides proper technique to minimize injuries.

National studies and research indicates that:

- Participation in athletics and activities promotes citizenship.
- The typical student involved in student activity programs has a higher GPA than non-participants.
- Students involved in activities have a better attendance record.
- Only 4% of high school dropouts were involved in activities.
- The Scholastic Aptitude Testing Service states that participation in school activities is one of the most accurate predictors of success after college.

*I Corinthians 11:1 "And you should follow my example, just as I follow Christ's."*

# Student Athlete Code of Ethics/ Athlete Contract

## Student Athlete Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_, while a participant on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ team, promise to:

1. Attend all practices and meetings faithfully.
2. Contact your coach personally **before** the practice or meeting, if I must miss it.
3. Consistently attend all competitions and practices in uniform or practice gear.
4. Contact a coach or Athletic Director personally if I am unable to attend a competition (game).
5. Maintain my eligibility and academic standing.
6. Refrain from using drugs, alcohol, tobacco products.
7. Replace any equipment or uniform issued to me, either by payment or the equivalent of the lost article.
8. Turn in all the necessary forms before the first practice issued to me by the coach or Athletic Director.
9. Report any personal injury or teammate's injury to a coach immediately.
10. Follow all reasonable requests made by the athletic director and coaches, especially those involving practice, diet, rest, and competitions.
11. Parent and Athlete have read and agree with the Consent of Athletic risk clause.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director's Signature

*(Student Athlete and Parent will read and sign contract before they begin practicing for team)*





## SALEM COUNTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

### ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

## Athletics, Intramurals & Activities Authorization

School Year: 2015-2016

Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Student Birthdate: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Email: *if applicable* \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby consent** to have my son/daughter participate in athletics and/or intramurals supervised by the teaching or coaching staff on or away from school grounds.

**I hereby authorize** the person in charge to call an emergency ambulance in case of accident or acute illness, and to arrange for any necessary emergency medical and surgical care, in case I am not immediately available. Any qualified physician called by the coach / assistance coach may treat and do whatever is necessary for the health and well-being of my son or daughter.

**It is understood** that a thorough effort will be made to notify me (parent/s) before such action will be taken. I also agree to accept responsibility for the cost of the above medical treatment.

By signing below I agree that my child is in general good health and has my permission to participate in this program. I hereby release, discharge, and/or indemnify Salem County Christian Academy and their Athletics staff from any liability for personal injury or illness that the player may sustain while participating in this athletic program and authorize immediate medical attention as needed in the case of injury or illness.

 **Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Medical Information:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Primary Family Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Physician's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

**Mother's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Policy #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insured's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any Known Allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact Information:

*Please list two people we may contact if we are unable to reach the student's parent/guardian.*

**Emergency Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Not a medical professional

**Emergency Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Not a medical professional

*Salem County Christian Academy, 104 Sparks Avenue, Pennsville, NJ 08070 P: (856) 678-9464 F: (856) 678-3696*



**SALEM COUNTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

**Athletics Transportation Release Form**  
**For 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

School Year: 2015-2016

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my child, \_\_\_\_\_, permission to travel with the team(s) checked below. I release the driver of the vehicle from any unforeseen accidents that may occur. I realize that the driver of the vehicle may or may not be an employee of Salem County Christian Academy. I recognize that anyone driving my child is performing a service for my child and the school by providing transportation for practices and games.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please check **ALL** appropriate sports for the 2014-2015 Athletic seasons:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys / Girls Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boys Basketball     | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Basketball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Track meet/practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____        |   |

***Please return this form to the Athletic Director, via the main office.***

Salem County Christian Academy, 104 Sparks Avenue, Pennsville, NJ 08070 P: (856) 678-9464 F: (856) 678-3696

# Resources

Link to NJ Department of Education

ANNUAL ATHLETIC PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/records/athleticphysicalsform.pdf>

\*UPDATED 2015\* *Please be sure you are using the 4 page form – not the 8 page form.*

Link to MaxPreps (website for HS sports schedules and stats)

[http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/salem-county-christian-academy-defenders-\(pennsville,nj\)/home.htm](http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/salem-county-christian-academy-defenders-(pennsville,nj)/home.htm)

Link to Salem County Rural League

[www.scr1basketball.com](http://www.scr1basketball.com)

Link to Garden State Association of Christian Schools (GSACS) Calendar

<http://www.gsacs.org/page/page/4350579.htm>