



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027

8031 Salem Bible Church Road | Macungie, PA 18062

www.salemchristian.org

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OVERVIEW

The mission of Salem Christian School is *to develop students who love God with all their mind, body, and soul*. As such, the Athletic Program serves to help achieve this mission by providing adequate opportunities for Salem's students to grow in their love for God through athletic participation and competition in all avenues of life. Athletics are by nature growth-centered activities. Practice, the most common athletic activity, is focused solely on development. In this development mindset, athletics foster greater love for God with the mind by training focus, with the body by training fitness, and with the soul by training faithfulness. Each of these characteristics serves Christian growth.

Additionally, the vision of SCS includes developing a God-centered worldview. The Athletic Program at SCS is explicitly Christian, as it is conducted from a theological basis rooted in the gospel. A God-centered perspective of athletics begins with understanding that athletics are more than a morally-neutral endeavor with a platform for gospel ministry. It is not less than that, but it is more. Athletics are at their very heart a good gift from God, meant to provide opportunity to enjoy God and to enjoy the people he has created as people live out the image of God inherent within them. From a worldly perspective, men idolize athletics and elevate their place above God. This distorts, but does not destroy, the goodness within athletics. Christ's death on the cross and his subsequent resurrection has made it possible for redeemed people to keep athletics in their proper perspective: a good gift from our good God, by which we are freed to grow in our joy and love for him, and from which we are able to share Christ with others. A distinctive feature at Salem is that "the gospel changes everything," and this absolutely includes athletics.

The Athletic Program, then, at SCS serves a multifaceted purpose. It teaches students the value of teamwork and being a part of something larger than themselves. It helps students to understand their identity in Christ, that they are free to play not to find their identity in their sports, but to reflect their identity in Christ as they play for his glory. It allows students to exercise the God-given gifts of physical talent in a spiritually-enriching environment, and it ultimately serves to fulfill the mission and vision of Salem Christian School.

Every parent, coach, and student-athlete has a part to play in the excellence of our Athletic Program. We are grateful for your involvement and commitment to this important task.

OFFERINGS

The following athletic teams are offered at Salem Christian School:

Fall:

Middle School Boys Soccer*

Middle School Girls Volleyball*

Varsity Boys Soccer*^` - SCS hosted

JV Girls Volleyball

Varsity Girls Volleyball*^

Winter:

Middle School Boys Basketball*

Middle School Girls Basketball*

Varsity Boys Basketball*^

Varsity Girls Basketball*^

Middle School Girls Cheerleading

Spring:

Middle School Boys Volleyball

Middle School Girls Soccer*

Varsity Boys Volleyball*

High School Interscholastic Girls Soccer Club*` - SCS hosted

Middle School teams are open to all students in grades 5-8. High School and Varsity teams are open to all students in grades 9-12.

All athletic teams compete pending adequate student interest and ability to staff quality and mission-fit coaches. SCS has a cooperative athletics agreement with Lehigh Christian Academy, hosting LCA students on SCS teams.

*Denotes ACCAC affiliation ^ Denotes PIAA affiliation `Denotes LCA co-op

AFFILIATIONS

ACCAC: SCS is a member of the Atlantic Coast Christian Athletic Conference (ACCAC). SCS plays against all ACCAC teams as a part of the regular season for all member sports. Additionally, SCS competes in the ACCAC postseason tournaments when it qualifies.

PIAA: SCS (high school) is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). SCS's varsity teams compete in the Association's District XI. Additionally, the varsity teams compete in the PIAA postseason tournaments when they qualify.

Note: The High School Interscholastic Girls Soccer Club is not a member of PIAA, and, due to PIAA regulations, is not considered a varsity team. It does compete in the Varsity Girls' Soccer League of the ACCAC. Also due to PIAA regulations, the team's schedule or information may not be available online to the same degree which other high school teams are. The team is competitive and plays a full regular season interscholastic schedule.

All SCS athletics operate within the guidelines of PIAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for guidelines concerning equipment, uniforms, and play. ACCAC guidelines supersede PIAA and NFHS guidelines in non-varsity sports only.

SCS athletic policies are developed in consideration of and in coordination with the guidelines produced by these governing bodies.

STUDENT-ATHLETES' PROCEDURES

Participation: All currently-enrolled SCS students are welcome and encouraged to participate in any sport which he or she desires. He or she must sign up to participate on the team prior to the start of preseason practices to be guaranteed a position on a team. Students who express interest following the first preseason practice may or may not be admitted to the team at the discretion of the Head Coach, subject to approval by the Athletic Director and/or Head of School. No students will be able to join a team after one-half of the regular season contests have been completed. A student may participate in one school-sponsored sport per season (Track & Field excepted). Any student who signs up for a sport is required to participate in all required team activities.

Required team activities include all preseason, regular season, and postseason practices and competitions. No required team activities will take place outside of PIAA guidelines for the start and end of any season, on Sundays, on Wednesday evenings (during school year), on school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or other emergencies, or on the following holidays: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday. In extenuating circumstances that these guidelines need to be amended for any reason, the Athletic Director and/or Head of School will communicate with parents/guardians and receive adequate agreement from families prior to scheduling an activity.

Required team activities may occur on Saturdays and other scheduled school off days. Unexcused absences from required team activities may result in loss of playing time or other disciplinary measures at the Head Coach's discretion and subject to the Athletic Director's approval. The following guidelines regarding attendance establish care and respect on both an individual and team level. If a student-athlete accrues two (2) unexcused absences from a required team activity, he or she will be suspended for one quarter of the next competition immediately following the second unexcused absence. If a student-athlete accrues three (3) unexcused absences from a required team activity, he or she will be suspended for one half of the next competition immediately following the third unexcused absence. If a student-athlete accrues four (4) unexcused absences from a required team activity, he or she will be suspended for the entirety of the next competition immediately following the fourth unexcused absence, and he or she will be required to meet with the Athletic Director, the Head Coach, and at least one of his or her parents/guardians. If a student-athlete accrues five (5) unexcused absences from a required team activity, he or she will be dismissed from the team, with the right to appeal to the Athletic Director and the Head of School. An appeal must first be submitted in writing to the Athletic Director. Unexcused absences accrue from the first preseason practice to the final postseason competition and may not be expunged from the student-athlete's record during the course of any one season. Unexcused absences are defined in the SCS parent-student handbook. The guidelines

for school attendance also apply to athletic attendance. Generally, those absences which would be considered excused from school are excused from athletics, and those absences which would be considered unexcused from school are considered unexcused from athletics. Additionally, absences due to academic ineligibility are considered excused. Due to the nature of athletics, consistent attendance at team activities is required for the team and the individual student-athlete to perform at their best. Therefore, natural consequences, such as reduced playing time, may occur for absences (whether excused or unexcused). The coaching staff will clearly communicate to the student-athlete and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) if discipline for absences apply. Coaches may also accommodate reasonable requests for excusing absences at their discretion.

Non-required team activities include: any team activity outside of the PIAA-defined season, such as open gyms, summer sessions, clinics, or workouts. Non-required in-season team activities may be conducted at the coaches' discretion, examples of which may include: open gyms, team service projects, Bible studies, off-campus get-togethers, etc. No student will be penalized by a coach for absence from a non-required team activity, and no student will be rewarded by a coach for attendance at a non-required team activity. All out-of-season non-required team activities are open for attendance by all SCS students who qualify according to grade-level and gender, regardless of whether or not the student actually participates in the sport. A student is considered eligible to participate in any non-required team activity for any team which he or she will be eligible to join in the season immediately following the non-required team activity (example: a Grade 8 student is eligible to participate in varsity basketball open gyms following the conclusion of the winter season during his/her Grade 8 Year). All non-required team activities are attended at the sole and voluntary discretion of the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s). SCS will not be responsible in any way for any injuries or incidents that may occur during non-required team activities.

Eligibility: A student shall be eligible to participate in practices and competitions provided that he or she meets the following requirements:

- Documentation: submission of all required documentation prior to participation in any required team activity, including (but not limited to):
 - PIAA Physical Examination Form (one per academic year)
 - PIAA Physical Examination Recertification Form (one per subsequent season per academic year)
 - Handbook Review Form (including parent/guardian signature, one per academic year)
 - HIPAA Privacy Authorization Form
 - Consent to Treat Form

- Academic and Curricular Requirements (adapted from PIAA): students must be passing all full-credit core courses and the majority of non-core courses at any one time to be academically eligible to participate in athletics. Full-credit, core courses are defined as: Bible, math, science, world studies, English/Language Arts, and world languages. All partial-credit courses are considered non-core courses according to the eligibility guidelines. A report will be run every Friday of the academic year to determine eligibility for each student-athlete. On school weeks in which Friday is a non-school day, the report will be run on the last school day of the week, including extended breaks. Any student-athlete who has a cumulative failing grade (for the marking period) for any one (1) core course or any two (2) non-core courses per the weekly eligibility report will be deemed academically ineligible to participate in all team activities for the week immediately following the eligibility report. Families will also be notified if a student-athlete is deemed in danger of academic ineligibility for any cumulative “D” grade and/or one cumulative “F” grade in any non-core course. A student-athlete will also be deemed academically ineligible for the following week if he or she has been in danger of academic ineligibility (as defined above) for three consecutive weeks. The following week is defined as: Saturday (immediately following the eligibility report) - the following Sunday. Additionally, any student who has one failing grade in a core course and/or two failing grades in non-core courses on a report card is deemed academically ineligible to participate in athletics for 15 school days from the date of report card reception, also subject to the weekly report for the current marking period.
- School Attendance: any student-athlete must report to school by no later than 11:30 am to be eligible to participate in team activities that school day. Any student who is tardy following 11:30 am with an unexcused absence may not participate in any team activities that day, and his or her absence from a required team activity will also be considered unexcused. Students who miss any part of the school day with excused absences (e.g. college visits, educational trips, exam exemptions, etc.) are eligible to participate in activities on that day. In general, excused school absences are considered excused athletic absences, and vice-versa. Coaches may also accommodate reasonable requests for excusing absences at their discretion. Exceptions may be considered by request to the Athletic Director and/or Head of School, subject to approval.
- School Discipline: any student who is on school discipline, either detention or in-school or out-of-school suspension, is ineligible to participate in any team activities on the day(s) of his or her discipline, and those absences are considered unexcused.
- All athletes on varsity teams are also subject to [PIAA Eligibility Rules](#).

Conduct: In the spirit of SCS's four pillars (love, respect, serve, care), all student-athletes are expected to compete and participate with the highest degree of sportsmanship both on and off the court. This applies to interactions with all teammates, opponents, coaches, spectators, officials, and anyone else who may attend an athletic event. While each coach may set individual team rules regarding student-athletes' conduct, all will reflect the highest standards for student-athlete conduct. Any player who receives a penalty in a contest due to unsportsmanlike behavior will be removed from play by the head coach, who will determine when it is appropriate to reenter the contest. Additionally, the head coach will determine an appropriate length of time for the student-athlete to sit out from the next contest. If a player is ejected from a game by an official, coach, or SCS administration, due to unsportsmanlike behavior, he or she will be suspended for the entirety of the next contest and will not be permitted to be in uniform or be with the team for the contest. If it is an away game, he or she may not travel with the team. Any full-game suspension due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be considered an unexcused absence from a required team activity. Any player who accrues two (2) unsportsmanlike penalties that do not result in ejection throughout the course of the season will be suspended for the next contest immediately following his or her second penalty, subject to the rules listed above for an ejection. Any player who faces a suspension due to unsportsmanlike behavior will be required to meet with the Athletic Director to discuss his or her behavior. Multiple ejections over the course of any one season may result in dismissal from the team. Conduct on and off the court should reflect Christian character in love for God and others that evidences itself in holy living. Any conduct which is unbecoming of this principle will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: disrespect to any person involved in or attending any practice or contest, foul language, and lack of effort. Unsportsmanlike behavior is defined at the discretion of the coaching staff and/or school administration.

Quitting a Team: Should a student-athlete choose to quit a team for any reason other than an unforeseen emergency (e.g. death in the family) after the beginning of required team activities, all records and statistics will be expunged from his or her involvement that season. Additionally, he or she will be required to sit out of all contests for the first 20 calendar days following and including the first required practice for the next season in which he or she chooses to participate in a sport. During the 20-day probationary period, he or she is expected to attend all required team activities.

Dress Code: Student-athletes are expected to abide by the Salem look for appropriate attire for all required and non-required team activities. Any shorts worn for team activities must be of appropriate length. The Salem look applies to all travel for away contests and watching other contests while representing the team, whether home or away. Coaches and team captains may decide to require a certain higher dress code for travel, by which student-athletes are expected to abide. Additionally, student-athletes must be entirely clothed outside of the locker room setting.

Shirts with sleeves cut off are not appropriate for any team activity. Shirts designed to be sleeveless must cover the majority of the student's shoulders with appropriate and modest sleeve opening. Any student-athlete who is not dressed appropriately for any team activity may be asked to change or refrain from participation at the coach's discretion. Should a player be deemed unable to participate in a required team activity due to inappropriate dress, it will be considered an unexcused absence.

Uniforms: All team-issued uniforms, including warm-up attire not purchased directly by the student-athlete, are the property of SCS. Student-athletes are responsible for proper care of uniforms in-season. Uniforms will be issued during preseason practices, and they must be laundered and returned on the final team meeting date, which will occur within two (2) weeks from the final contest of the season. If a student-athlete is unable to attend the final team meeting, he or she must return the uniform to the head coach or Athletic Director no later than two (2) school days after the final team meeting. Any student-athlete who does not submit his or her uniform to the Athletic Director by the end of school two (2) school days following the final team meeting will be charged a \$20 late fee, which will increase by \$10 every subsequent week that it is not submitted. If a student-athlete fails to return the uniform by the end of the school year, he or she will be charged the entirety of the cost to replace the uniform, in addition to the late fees he or she has already accrued. All fees will be charged to the student-athlete's school account. Any damage to a uniform that is not a result of regular game use may incur additional fees for repair or replacement, at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Team-issued uniforms may be used for in-season contests only. Additionally, PIAA and NFHS guidelines apply to any undergarments or accessories that students may choose to wear along with their uniforms. Student-athletes are expected to exhibit modesty and humility regarding the use of undergarments and accessories. The coach may also designate team rules for the use of accessories, subject to approval of the Athletic Director.

Equipment: Appropriate and necessary athletic equipment is provided for student-athletes by SCS. Provided equipment is property of SCS, and student-athletes are expected to use such equipment responsibly. Damage of SCS equipment due to improper use (as determined by a coach and/or the Athletic Director) will be the financial responsibility of the student-athlete (and his or her family) for repair or replacement via charge to their account. Any personal (non school-issued) equipment that a student-athlete uses in SCS sports is used solely at his or her personal discretion. SCS assumes no financial responsibility for any damage or loss of any athletic equipment that is not school property.

Rostered Reserve: In the realm of small-school athletics, it may be difficult at times to field full teams for every game. At the discretion of the Athletic Director, SCS may designate a "rostered reserve" for certain teams. Rostered reserve students are not required to attend all required team

activities, but they will never participate in a contest ahead of fully-participating student-athletes. Rostered reserve students will participate in contests *only* if there is an insufficient amount of fully-participating student-athletes to field a full team (including reasonable substitute players). Should a rostered reserve student seek to become a fully-participating student-athlete on a team, his or her eligibility will be considered as a non-participating student seeking to join a team subsequent to the beginning of required team activities.

Return-to-Play from Illness or Injury: The Athletic Trainer, under the direction of the team physician, will work with parents, coaches, and the athletic department to create a comprehensive plan of care and return to play in line with all Salem Christian School Athletic Trainer's policies and protocols.

All students representing Salem Christian School through athletics are subject to the regulations for student code of conduct found in the Parent-Student Handbook while participating in any athletic event at any capacity, including the attendance of athletic contests representing the team and in transit to and from away contests.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS' PROCEDURES

Parents/guardians are a key piece of all activities of SCS. Parents/guardians of student-athletes play an important role in supporting and encouraging their children and the team as a whole. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend contests and support the entire team, including the players, coaches, and staff, in such a way that reflects the love of Christ and encourages the team to perform at its best.

Eagle Booster Club: Parents/guardians of SCS student-athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in the Eagle Booster Club. Funds raised by the Eagle Booster Club support the overall SCS Athletic Program, and they help to events, projects, athletic program initiatives, etc. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to serve in the snack stand, line judging, scoreboard, admission table and to consider other ways in which they may serve the Booster Club. All parents/guardians of SCS student-athletes will be made aware of Eagle Booster Club meetings and are invited to attend.

Service Opportunities: There are multiple opportunities for parents/guardians to serve the SCS Athletic Program, including, but not limited to: keeping statistics, operating scoreboards, volunteer or paid coaching, assisting officials, etc. At times, parents/guardians may be asked by the Athletic Director or coach to serve while attending a game. There may also be opportunities to serve with transporting students to and from team activities. Any parent/guardian who would like to assist with transportation must file a copy of his or her driver's license, insurance information, and volunteer clearances (within 5 years) with the school office before driving any students. Parents/guardians should ask the Athletic Director or head coach if they would like to serve, and they will certainly find many opportunities to do so.

Travel: Parents/guardians should arrange transportation to and from practices for any students who are unable to drive. If a parent/guardian knows that he or she will be unable to pick up his or her child after a team activity at a reasonable time, he or she should let his or her child know, so that the student can communicate accordingly with a coach. SCS assumes no responsibility for any damage or accidents for parents/guardians and/or student-athletes traveling to/from athletic events outside of school transportation. Any student who travels with the team to an event via SCS transportation must return to SCS via school transportation. If a parent or guardian would like to have his or her child who traveled with the team to an away contest travel home via a means other than school transportation, he or she must either submit a handwritten and signed note to a coach or bus/van driver prior to departure from the contest, stating whom his or her child will be traveling with, or sign the coach's travel roster. Only notes and/or signatures from the student's legal parent or guardian will be accepted, though the parent may specify on the note

that the student will be traveling home with another adult. Licensed student-athletes may drive themselves to away contests with parental consent, per the Head Coach's discretion, though no other student-athletes may travel with them (except for immediate family members).

Code of Conduct: Following the spirit of SCS's mission and vision, parents and guardians are expected to exhibit an unequivocal love for God and others in their conduct whether serving, attending a contest, or participating in the Athletic Program in any other capacity. The standard of behavior for SCS parents and guardians at athletic events expects the highest degree of respect for all persons involved in the event, including: school administration, student-athletes, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators. Parents and guardians are expected to cheer for SCS and not against opponents. SCS administration reserves the right to remove any parent or guardian from a contest in which his or her behavior is deemed inappropriate and contrary to a spirit of Christian love and unity. Should a parent or guardian be ejected, either by school administration, coach, or official, from any contest that SCS is hosting and/or participating in due to unsportsmanlike behavior, he or she will be required to pass the free "[Positive Sport Parenting](#)" NFHS course and attend a meeting with the Athletic Director prior to being admitted to another contest. Should he or she be ejected a second time, he or she will be unable to attend any SCS athletic contests for the remainder of the respective sports season, and will need to meet with the Athletic Director and Head of School prior to attending an event in any subsequent season.

Grievance Procedure: Should a parent or guardian have a grievance of any sort that he or she would like to discuss with a coach, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Discuss with son or daughter first: If a student brings forth a concern to his or her parent or guardian regarding the Athletic Program, the parent or guardian should have a conversation with the student, offering counsel where necessary and determining if it is appropriate to discuss with a coach or the Athletic Director.
2. 24-hour rule: Parents or guardians should wait at least 24 hours following the discussion with his or her child before moving forward with subsequent conversations.
3. Encourage self-advocacy in students: Parents and guardians should first encourage their child to ask necessary questions to the coach prior to approaching the coach directly or requesting a meeting. This encouragement helps students mature the skill of self-advocacy. Examples of good questions to encourage a student to ask are: "What can I do to earn more playing time?" "How might I improve for next time?" "What could I have done differently that I might have stayed in the game?"
4. Request a meeting with the coach: After encouraging self-advocacy in his or her child, if the grievance remains unsettled, the parent or guardian should request a meeting with the coach, with his or her child present. The Head Coach should attend all meetings with

parents to discuss grievances. No parent or guardian should ever approach a coach to request a meeting within two hours prior to or following any contest.

5. Request a meeting with the Athletic Director: After meeting with the coach, if the grievance remains unsettled, the parent or guardian should request a meeting with the Athletic Director, with his or her child present, in which the coach will also be present. Should a parent or guardian request a meeting with the Athletic Director, he or she will be asked whether or not the grievance procedure has been appropriately followed. If it has not, he or she may be denied a meeting with the Athletic Director until the grievance procedure has been properly followed.
6. Request a meeting with the Head of School: After meeting with the Athletic Director, if the grievance remains unsettled, the parent or guardian should request a meeting with the Head of School, with his or her child present, in which the Athletic Director and the coach will also be present. Should a parent or guardian request a meeting with the Head of School, he or she will be asked whether or not the grievance procedure has been appropriately followed. If it has not, he or she may be denied a meeting with the Head of School until the grievance procedure has been properly followed.
7. Exceptions: The grievance procedure should be waived in cases of illegal, immoral, or egregious conduct by someone on the team. If a parent or guardian is made aware of illegal or immoral activity by any member of the athletic team, he or she should contact the Athletic Director and/or Head of School immediately.

Note: Coach(es) are not expected to respond to requests for conversations and/or meetings that do not follow the guidelines outlined in this grievance procedure.

COACHES' PROCEDURES

Positions: Each SCS sport will have one paid Head Coach who will obtain assistant coaches as he or she sees fit, pending Athletic Director approval. Compensation for assistant coaches will be considered according to budget availability.

Hiring: The Athletic Director will be responsible for recruiting and hiring head coaches for each athletic team. Parents and guardians are encouraged to make recommendations for individuals to serve as head coaches and/or assistant coaches. The hiring process is as follows: (1) submission of resume and letter of interest; (2) interview with Athletic Director and other personnel deemed necessary by the Athletic Director; (3) interview with Athletic Director and Head of School (if necessary); (4) submission of appropriate clearances; (5) signing of agreement, pending Head of School approval. Coaching is an at-will seasonal agreement with no obligation on either party to renew the agreement following the season.

Evaluating: The Athletic Director will complete a coach's evaluation form at the end of the season for each Head Coach, for which he or she will receive an objective recommendation of either an agreement renewal, agreement renewal with improvement plan, or termination of coaching position. The form will be discussed with the Athletic Director at the season end meeting.

Coaching: Each SCS coach shall coach his or her team in such a way that reflects the love of Christ with a focus on student growth in the Lord. Winning may be a team goal, but it is not the purpose of any team at SCS. While each coach will have a different personality, coaching philosophy, and coaching style, the coaches will be models of Christlike character and gospel-centered living, evidenced in a life of joy in the Lord. Additionally, coaches are to be teachers as well, teaching their respective sports with a focus on growth mindset. The coaches who work toward these ends will be successful in the SCS Athletic Program.

Code of Conduct: Along with all other members of the SCS athletic program, coaches are expected to act in all circumstances with the utmost degree of integrity, evidencing the holiness that defines the Christian life. Any conduct that is contrary to this holiness is unacceptable. The speech of coaches should be gracious, the actions of coaches should be exemplary, and the countenance of coaches should be content and joyful regardless of the circumstance. Any actions by coaches outside of this code of conduct will be subject to review of the Athletic Director, to be reviewed and addressed on a case-by-case basis, involving the Head of School, if necessary. Should a coach be removed from a contest by an official for any reason, he or she will be

suspended for the entirety of the next contest and will be required to meet with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation prior to returning to coaching. Due to the nature of the coaching positions, coaching agreements may be terminated at any time if there are documented, verifiable actions that are deemed as violating this code of conduct. All coaches (paid or volunteer) are expected to abide by the standards of all SCS employees regarding ethical, moral, and behavioral standards as defined in the SCS policy.

Commitment: Each Head Coach who signs an agreement with SCS Athletics is required to attend and participate in the following: pre-season coaches' and parents' meeting, all required team activities, and end-of-season team meeting. Coaches should also seek to implement individual and/or team off-season activities. Volunteer and assistant coaches may vary in their commitment levels, but should attend the majority of events. Requests to reschedule or miss required team activities will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Commitment to the team and regular, consistent attendance is a requirement for coaching.

Responsibilities: In addition to planning and leading required team activities, coaches shall adhere to the following responsibilities: collecting paperwork on the first day of practice and delivering to Athletic Director, maintaining record of missed paperwork and not allowing participation if paperwork is missing, maintaining record of unexcused absences from required team activities and reporting to Athletic Director on the second offense and following, distributing uniforms prior to start of season and recording distribution information, submitting rosters to Athletic Director by required date (varies), reporting issues to Athletic Director regarding behavior, conduct, etc., and collecting/returning uniforms and equipment at the end of the season. The coach should also notify the team of any necessary changes in the schedule. These obligations must be completed prior to issuance of stipend for the season. Discipleship is also a responsibility of all SCS coaches, as defined in the following sub-section.

Discipleship: It is vital for all SCS coaches to see their position primarily as one of discipleship. To that end, all coaches should include regular prayer with and for his or her team, and he or she should lead the team in discipleship-related activities throughout the season. The coach should creatively integrate the Christian worldview into his or her coaching activities.

Off-Season Activities: Coaches are encouraged to request the inclusion of off-season (non-required) team activities for his or her team. This includes participation in off-season leagues. All off-season team activities must be approved by the Athletic Director regardless of whether or not the team will use SCS facilities and may not conflict with any other usage of facilities and/or equipment by in-season teams. For those student-athletes who participate in multiple sports, they may not participate in off-season contests for one sport on a day with activities for the in-season sport. Coaches should be aware of what students are in-season for

other sports and should prohibit those students participating in off-season contests. Coaches will not be compensated by SCS for any off-season team activities.

Clearances and Licences: All SCS coaches (paid or volunteer) are required to have up-to-date (within 5 years) Pennsylvania child abuse history clearances respective to his or her status of employment. No coach may conduct any team activities (required or non-required) without appropriate clearances. All new coaches will be required to submit clearances that are less than one (1) year old. Conducting team activities without required clearances is sufficient grounds for immediate dismissal. Additionally, all coaches should have a valid driver's license on file with the school, along with his or her auto insurance and inspection information, as he or she may need to drive students at times.

OTHER INFORMATION

Handbook Ratification and Amendment Procedure: The Athletic Director is responsible for maintaining proper, thorough information in the SCS Athletic Handbook. Amendments to the handbook may be recommended to the Athletic Director, in writing, by any member of the SCS Athletic Program, including parents/guardians, coaches, staff, and students. All amendments and initial ratification are subject to the approval of the Head of School, with a written proposal from the Athletic Director. Official amendments may be made prior to the beginning of any new school year.

Extenuating Circumstances Clause: Should an extenuating circumstance arise (e.g. government-declared emergency, etc.), as interpreted by the Athletic Director and/or Head of School, SCS administration is at liberty to act outside of the procedures stated in this Handbook.

Deferment to Parent-Student Handbook: All contents of this Athletic Handbook are subject to the SCS Parent-Student Handbook. Additionally, all contents of the Parent-Student Handbook are binding on this handbook and the guidelines herein.

Deferment to ACCAC, PIAA, and NFHS guidelines: All contents of this Athletic Handbook are subject to the ACCAC, PIAA, and NFHS guidelines. Additional guidelines regarding pieces of this handbook set by ACCAC, PIAA, and/or NFHS are to be followed by the SCS Athletic Program.

Deferment to State and Federal Laws: All contents of this Athletic Handbook are subject to the State and Federal Laws. Any suspected breach of state or federal law should be reported directly to authorities, bypassing the guidelines of this handbook. The Athletic Director and the Head of School should be notified of any such cases immediately.

Resources:

ACCAC Website: accacsports.com

PIAA Website: piaa.org

PIAA District XI Website: districtxi.com

NFHS Website: nfhs.org

Contact:

Tyler Skaer, Athletic Director

tskaer@salemchristian.org

484-485-1740



HANDBOOK REVIEW VERIFICATION

We have reviewed and understood the entirety of the Salem Christian School Athletic Handbook. We agree to abide by its procedures for the entirety of our participation in the Athletic Program for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

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PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST

Please check the following seasons that you have participated in **any** school-sponsored sport at **any school** (including any schools attended outside of Salem).

Fall:

_____ Grade 5

_____ Grade 6

_____ Grade 7

_____ Grade 8

_____ Grade 9

_____ Grade 10

_____ Grade 11

Winter:

_____ Grade 5

_____ Grade 6

_____ Grade 7

_____ Grade 8

_____ Grade 9

_____ Grade 10

_____ Grade 11

Spring:

_____ Grade 5

_____ Grade 6

_____ Grade 7

_____ Grade 8

_____ Grade 9

_____ Grade 10

_____ Grade 11

Name

Current Grade Level



Salem Christian School Athletics

2026–2027 Athletics & Admissions Fees

Athletic Fee (per student-athlete)	First Sport	Second Sport	Third Sport
With volunteer agreement	\$75	\$50	\$25
Without volunteer agreement	\$150	\$100	\$50

Fee Explanation:

- The volunteer agreement has changed for the 2025–2026 athletic year.
- This structure provides a minimal commitment while still allowing families to serve and support Salem Athletics in a meaningful way.
- Families who fulfill their **TWO** volunteer slots during the season will receive the discounted athletic fee according to the volunteer/non-volunteer fee structure for that season.
- Donating baked goods or other items is appreciated as an additional way to serve Salem Athletics, but does not count toward fulfillment of the volunteer agreement.
- Soccer ball running volunteer slots will be removed, as they are not as significant of a need as previously thought.
- Families are encouraged to volunteer in areas of greater need, including scoreboard, line judging, and snack stand responsibilities, to help support Salem Athletics effectively.

Admission Fees (all regular season indoor athletic contests):

- **FREE:** Immediate family members (same household) of in-season SCS student-athletes; SCS students & faculty/staff.
- **Single Game:** \$5/adult, \$3/student or senior citizen (65+), \$12/family, Free/children 4 and under
- **Fall Season Pass:** \$30
- **Winter Season Pass:** \$45
- **Annual Pass:** \$60