

Seven Rivers
Christian School



2023-2024
Athletic Handbook

Core Values and Athletic Philosophy Seven Rivers Christian School

In that the core values of SRCS are stated to reflect the foundational structure of the school, both in its belief and practice, the school's athletic philosophy is designed to be an extension and reflection of these values. Within the text of our core values stated below, there are specific presuppositions that will guide the development of the best practices for administrating an athletic department.

In that Seven Rivers Christian School exists as a ministry element of Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church, the core values pursuant to school ministry are firmly couched in the corporate values of the church. Thus, the articulation of specific statements framing the school is made in that corporate context. These beliefs shape our presuppositions in establishing a distinctly Biblical philosophy and defining a commitment to a mission community.

Recognizing that we tend to embrace the world and ourselves, rather than God and the Scriptures, we consciously embark on a journey to construct a school reflective of a Biblical model of education. While much could be said in describing such a model, we believe that essential elements include a growing understanding of our Sonship with God, a relational approach to issues and people, and a commitment to discipleship. The following core values further illustrate Seven Rivers Christian School's particular context in conducting education.

The Athletic Program . . . assumes a biblical view of the physical world. In other words, all that God created is good, especially the crown of his creation --- us. From the entry developmental levels to the intensely competitive levels, athletics are an expression of God's image, His glory in us. We are fallen, though, and because our hearts are polluted with sin, we pervert athletic endeavors with the pursuit of vain glory and the praise of man. Yet the scope of God's redemption in Christ is intended to reach the court, the field, and the locker room. Through the special revelation of the gospel revealed in the Word, we pursue a new way of living by grace rather than shame, fear, or performance. Our minds are being renewed to pursue the glory of God rather than our own. Finally, through the insights in general revelation, the program seeks to employ established and emerging principles and knowledge of coaching, training, and administration. In so doing, not only have we come under the reign and rule of Christ, but we are also extending his reign and rule in the world.

Church and School Community

As part of the visible church, we strive to live in partnership and harmony with each other, understanding the relationship among the church, family, and school. We acknowledge that God alone is great and that the truth of the Gospel is the fabric of that community, urging us to rely on God rather than ourselves. Thus, our motivation flows from God's grace in our lives, causing us to pursue accountability, sacrifice, service, and love. We acknowledge that the community takes precedence over the individual.

The Athletic Department . . . understands that it lives in community with the church and the school. Therefore, our goals, policies, schedules, facility usage, personnel and all other aspects will complement the ongoing vision and mission of the church and school.

The Athletic Department . . . evaluates the effectiveness of its individual sports programs and staff. Staffing considerations and individual sports programs are chosen and administrated to benefit the whole program rather than a few select individuals or interest.

The Athletic Department . . . seeks to preserve the integrity of the Seven Rivers Christian School community in each team and their relationship with the school and church. Violations of team rules, school policy, FHSAA policy, church policy, or coaches' agreements are serious matters and receive due consideration and response as specified in this manual.

Culture Impact

The primary end of Seven Rivers Christian School is to equip students to transform culture. We recognize that in accordance with the Dominion Mandate (Genesis 1:26-28), God's people are to serve as agents of Kingdom transformation. With that in view, SRCS serves as a preparatory environment to train the next generation of the church.

The Athletic Department . . . aims to mentor student-athletes to think and live Christianly during competition, practice and all things athletic. Our coaches often wield the greatest influence in this endeavor, especially as they repent openly of their sins, walk in the grace of Christ, and lovingly and winsomely engage student-athletes in gospel-centered discussion and activities. These occur in common venues such as practices, during and after games, on service projects in the community, or sports mission trips in the summer.

The Athletic Department . . . realizes that interscholastic contests are the most visible aspect of our program to the broader culture. Consequently, at these events we aim to joyfully serve visiting schools and officials in any way we can. Whether a coach, a player, a fan or parent, we hope to reflect God's given grace to the watching world through our words and actions.

Dynamic Scholasticism

Our community embraces lifelong learning among its constituents recognizing the responsibility of every believer to develop a Christian mind (Mark 12:30 and Romans 12:2). Thus, our academic program will focus on sharpening our students' literacy, ability to critically think, and to communicate in our world. The faculty also engages in activity designed to both press their minds toward a Biblical world and life view and expand their professional competence.

The Athletic Department . . . realizes that athletic participation, coaching, and administration requires continual learning about their calling. For example, coaches are expected to improve their skills through informal mentoring or attending coach's clinics, while players are encouraged to attend off-season camps.

The Athletic Department . . . is a place where administrators, coaches, and players discuss and study the life of a Christian athlete and coach. This happens on a more informal individual level through self-study, or more formal venues like coaches meetings.

Integrated Program

Recognizing our propensity to create false dichotomies in educational practice, we strive to build a program that embraces the whole man. Thus, academics, the arts, and athletics serve as key elements of our school. We are committed to seeking the linkage between hearts and minds, developing a program that nurtures the discipleship of mission children. We understand the importance of both vertical and horizontal integration in constructing such a system, committing to establishing an effective balance of these elements.

The Athletic Department . . . understands it is one of three integral elements (the other two being academics and the arts) in the SRCS program. Consequently, the athletic department supports, encourages, and makes allowances for a student-athlete's involvement in academic and art-related pursuits. When a student-athlete doesn't fulfill other non-athletic commitments or does not maintain specific academic standards, consequences affecting his or her athletic participation may be applied.

Leadership and Governance

Believing that God gives gifts and that He wants them effectively employed, we are committed to an orientation of entrusting leadership and holding it accountable. While we understand that parents hold primary responsibility for the education of their children, we are also committed to the provision of a Christian school to partner with parents in bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Thus,

school leadership is responsible for the execution of the school program, in full view of, but not subservient to, this partnership.

In the Athletic Department . . . leadership is entrusted to the Athletic Director who reports directly to the Principal and the Headmaster. Thus, he or she elects head coaching positions with final approval of the Headmaster. The Head Coach, with final approval of the Athletic Director, chooses assistant coaches. Also, the Athletic Director authorizes the purchase of equipment and uniforms and supervises each sport's schedule.

The Athletic Department . . . realizes coaching is a unique area of service that requires both freedom and constraint. For example,

- Coaches are free to schedule and conduct their own practices and or workouts, in such fashion that embrace the values of the school, the policies of the FHSAA, and the final approval and evaluation of the Athletic Director.
- They are also free to set their own team rules as long as these rules don't omit or contradict the spirit of this document or specific policies.
- Coaches have the freedom to select team members, have tryouts if necessary, and make cuts or remove a player from the team for disciplinary reasons if necessary and with approval of the Athletic Director.

The Athletic Department . . . strives to communicate its expectations, policies, developments, and events with parents and guardians in a timely fashion.

The Athletic Department . . . depends heavily on the involvement of each student-athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s). Participation in our athletic program is a privilege and not a right and comes with many responsibilities. It is expected that both athlete and parent/guardian fulfill the responsibilities as specified by the Athletic Department and each team.

The Athletic Department . . . benefits from the efforts of the Warrior Booster Club, which provides volunteer assistance on various projects, but nonetheless do not provide leadership or governance to the Athletic Department.

Congratulations on your choice of Seven Rivers Christian School and your decision to participate in our athletic program. Seven Rivers Christian School believes athletics is an integral part of your education and overall development into the person God would have you be for His service in the church and the world. Because of this belief, we have attempted to develop guidelines and policies that help all of us reach this goal.

Athletic participation of all 5th through 12th grade students is governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). Seven Rivers Christian School is a member in good standing of the FHSAA and complies with all membership requirements, policies, and by-laws of the FHSAA. Most Varsity teams compete in the Sunshine State

Athletic Conference (SSAC). Students in 5th-8th grades also compete in the Kingdom of the Son Conference

Non-Discrimination Policy:

Seven Rivers Christian School does not discriminate against students or employees on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin regarding any of its policies, programs, and procedures.

CORE VALUES FOR THE SRCS STUDENT

Because God first loved us, our lives begin to produce fruit in response to that love. As we grow, love, and minister to our community, there are values that we respect and long to share with a broken world:

Extend grace. In response to His love, go and love others.

Pursue knowledge your whole life. Ask God to show you truth and wisdom.

Live, follow, and lead with humility. Be aware of your own brokenness.

Serve others first. Always consider how you can help.

Do hard things. Your character is formed in the midst of challenges.

Persevere and develop grit. Failure is inevitable, so get back up, brush yourself off, and finish what you start.

Guard yourself. Your body and soul have infinite value, so never compromise either.

Invest in relationships. Commit to family, marriage, community, the Church.

Seek always to encourage. When in doubt, hold your tongue.

Defend the weak. Justice is worth fighting for.

Women... Encourage, honor, aid, and challenge the men in your life.

Men... Value, honor, serve, and protect the women in your life.

Live the significant life for which God designed you. Work with passion, learn with curiosity, share with abundance, and love extravagantly.

Formal Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletic Program

Athletic Policies

I. Eligibility

In order to be eligible as a Warrior Athlete, a student-athlete must meet certain standards in character, academics, physical condition, and athletic ability. All coaches will take each area into account when selecting athletes for their team and managing their season.

A. Character Eligibility

1. One of the great benefits of athletics is the development of character qualities within an athlete. The characteristics of justice, courage, perseverance, responsibility, integrity, discipline and encouragements are instilled in players on athletic teams. These are the seven pillars of Seven Rivers' athletics. Of course, there is also the opportunity for negative traits such as laziness, self-centeredness, excessive pride, and dishonesty to come to the surface. Because the SRCS athletic program is dedicated to preparing our children to transform culture, character transformation is important. The kingdom of God is within and without, but before it can become more "without" it must become more "within". Behavior expectations for our athletes are a function of the law, which when gently but boldly applied can drive us to Christ and by the Spirit's power produce transformation.
2. All student athletes are expected to:
 - a. **Be Responsible!** The athlete, not the parent, is responsible for getting to practice and games on time, for bringing his or her gear, etc. If a player is unable to make a practice or game, it is their responsibility, not their parent's or friend's, to directly communicate that to their coach.
 - b. **Be Respectful!** Show respect for your coaches, teammates, competitors, officials, facilities and equipment. There is no excuse for failing to treat others and the property of others with courtesy and respect.

The seven pillars of SRCS athletics are justice, courage, perseverance, responsibility, integrity, discipline, and encouragement. As a member of our athletic program, you are expected to uphold these ideals, especially in the course of a game or practice. You will experience difficult situations that tempt you to act in a manner contrary to these ideals; however, SRCS

expects its coaches, players, and fans to have the courage to resist the urge to respond negatively to any situation that arises. As Christians, in Romans 12 we are called to be different than the world. Consider your response to each situation as an opportunity to minister to other people by the result of your actions.

- c. **Behave Appropriately!** Coaches and the Athletic Director reserve the right to discipline any player for misbehavior. The school need not discipline a player before someone in the Athletic Department takes action. When a student-athlete receives a detention, the coach has the freedom to discipline the athlete as well. If a student-athlete is given three detentions during a grading period (the quarter), they may be suspended from playing in at least one game. A suspended player is not permitted to travel with or dress out for that game. Nor are they permitted to be on the sidelines with their team during the game. Any in school or out of school suspension will result in some form of discipline decided by the Head Coach or Athletic Director and may result in the athlete being suspended from at least one game. A longer suspension may be imposed at the discretion of the Head Coach or Athletic Director.

At times, a **“Workday”** will be given in place of an after-school detention. A workday carries the same weight and meaning as a detention. Occasionally an incident will result in more than one workday. Only one detention will be credited to the individual, not the number of workdays.

3. Specific rules related to character eligibility are listed below.¹
 - a. Use of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-like substances, narcotics, or performance enhancement drugs at a contest or in the vicinity of the playing field or court will result in immediate ejection from the contest and immediate suspension from subsequent contests for a period up to six weeks. If it is learned that a student has used the above substances at any time during the school year, the Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and or Headmaster will determine an appropriate course of discipline. Most certainly an athlete’s involvement on a team will be in jeopardy by such activity and they may find themselves subject to additional school sanctions.
 - b. A student-athlete guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after any contest will be disciplined according to the best judgment of school administration and established FHSAA guidelines listed below.

¹ The policies of the FHSAA, as stated in their handbook, form a baseline for our eligibility standards. A copy of the FHSAA Handbook Administrative Policies is available at www.fhsaa.org/rules.

30.2 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Student-Athlete

30.2.1 Penalties Assessed the Student-Athlete. Student-athletes who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the designee of the Executive Director:

30.2.1.1 Level 1 Suspension. A student-athlete who commits an unsportsmanlike act or a flagrant foul for which he/she is ejected from the contest will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the student will be ineligible for a minimum of the next football game, at the same level of participation, and any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport during the period of suspension. If the unsportsmanlike act or flagrant foul occurs in the last contest of a season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates; or

30.2.1.2 Level 2 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to compete, at a minimum, in the next interscholastic athletic contest, at any level, for a period of up to a maximum of the following:

- (a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball - 12 contests
- (b) Tennis - 9 contests
- (c) Cross Country, Track & Field, Flag Football - 6 contests
- (d) Football - 5 contests
- (e) Golf - 8 contests or

30.2.1.3 Level 3 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to compete in the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year; or

30.2.1.4 Level 4 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives three (3) or more Level 2 Suspensions or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for the duration of the student-athlete's high school career.

- If Seven Rivers Christian School is levied a fine by the FHSAA because a student-athlete has been disqualified from a contest for any act of gross unsportsmanlike conduct, or a second flagrant foul or a second act of general unsportsmanlike conduct, that student-

athlete and their parents/guardians are responsible for restitution of the fine to FHSAA.

- The student-athlete is responsible for maintaining and promptly returning all school uniforms and equipment that may be issued to them. Uniforms are never to be worn outside of a game unless the Athletic Director gives permission. If you lose a uniform or piece of athletic equipment, SRCS will replace the item at your expense with a **minimum** charge of \$150.00 per item. Progress reports and/or grade reports can be withheld until all uniforms or equipment is returned to the school. Failure to return a uniform or equipment will result in the student athlete losing the opportunity to participate on any other athletic team (game or practice) until the uniform is received by the Coach or the Athletic Director.
- On the day of a game, student-athletes may wear game day shirts with school uniform pants during the school day, however, team sweat suits are not permitted. When traveling to an away contest, a team may travel in school uniforms, team uniforms, or in their team sweat suits and should be neatly dressed. If the team stops after a game to eat, student-athletes should be dressed neatly in team sweats, uniforms, or game day shirts as they are representative of their Lord, school and family. Student-athletes must remain with their team and coaches at all times unless given permission by their coach.
- Coaches will provide instructions regarding appropriate clothing for practices. Only proper gym shoes may be worn on the gym floor.

B. Academic Eligibility

1. Although sports activities are an important aspect of the education at SRCS, academic achievement is even more significant. For that reason, we require that student-athletes and student-managers, maintain a 2.0 (“C”) cumulative grade point average. Since GPA’s are figured at the end of every semester, a student-athlete and/or student-manager whose GPA falls below a 2.0 (“C”) cumulative grade point average will be ineligible for interscholastic sports during the entire next semester. To regain eligibility, the student-athlete must raise his or her GPA to 2.0 (“C”) cumulative grade point average or better to participate in athletic events occurring the following semester. Any student deemed ineligible during a season will have his/her name removed from the team roster for the remainder of that season.

2. Grades will be checked each semester to determine academic eligibility. If a student's academic eligibility changes at the end of a semester, the student will become eligible or ineligible on the sixth school day of the next semester as published on the school's official calendar for that school year. (FHSAA policy).
3. If a middle school student-athlete (5th-8th grade) has a failing grade in a class, they be prevented from participating in any games or practices until their grade has been raised above the failing mark.

C. Physical Eligibility

1. At SRCS, we want to make our athletic program available to as many of our students as possible. We recognize, though, that some sports may not be physically safe or appropriate for all students because of physical limitations.
2. Before a student is permitted to participate in conditioning, practice, tryout, or a game, they must:
 - Be officially enrolled in SRCS as a full-time, part-time, or as a provisional student.
 - Meet all FHSAA eligibility requirements.
 - Provide a medical history questionnaire and a doctor's certificate of their physical fitness and condition based on an examination. The physical examination is good for 365 days. The physician, parent, and student must sign the physical evaluation form and medical history questionnaire. The medical history questionnaire and physical examination must be recorded on FHSAA approved forms (EL2), which are available on the SRCS athletic website (www.sevenriverscs.org), under “Athletics” and “Eligibility” or from the FHSAA website (www.fhsaa.org).
 - Complete and sign a “Consent and Release from Liability” FHSAA approved form (EL3) which are available on the SRCS athletic website (www.sevenriverscs.org), under “Athletics” and “Eligibility” or from the FHSAA website (www.fhsaa.org).
 - Complete the required NFHS courses designed by the FHSAA as mandatory for athletic participation. Each course (Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, Sudden Cardiac Arrest) can be found on the NFHS website (<http://nfhslearn.com/courses>) and is free of charge.

D. Athletic Eligibility

The 6th-12th grade interscholastic sports program at SRCS blends two priorities: development *and* competition. At the lower grades, development is emphasized more than competition, although competition is still a component in the young student-athlete's development. In the higher grades, competitiveness is stressed more than development. This perspective affects the roster, playing time, and the overall participation for student-athletes at the respective levels. 5th grade students may be eligible for athletic participation on particular middle school teams after receiving the approval of the Elementary Principal and Athletic Director.

1. Coaches complete their rosters by selecting athletes trying out for the team (if in fact a try out is necessary). The coach and Athletic Director determine team sizes.
2. The coach determines the amount of playing time for each player. Equal playing time is not allotted to all at any playing level. If a player has difficulty understanding why he or she is not playing more, the first course of action is for the player to discuss the concern with the coach before or after practice.
3. Once a student-athlete has dressed out for a preseason or regular season contest, he or she is committed to the team for the entire season. If the athlete fails to complete the season after dressing out for the first preseason or regular season contest or is removed from the team by their parents, guardians, coach or Athletic Director/School Administration for whatever reason or simply quits, there are consequences:
 - a. Failure to complete the season will make the athlete ineligible for the season immediately following the incomplete season. (For example; failure to complete the season of a winter sport would disqualify the student from participating in a spring sport.) (See Sports by Season list below)
 - b. Failure to complete the season will result in the forfeiture of any awards for which the student-athlete was eligible.
 - c. Season-ending illnesses or injuries with a physicians note are exceptions to this policy.
 - d. Depending on the reasons warranting an athlete's dismissal or removal from a team, he or she may still be eligible for participation in the season immediately following the incomplete season. The Athletic Director makes this decision.

Sports by Season

Fall- Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Girls Volleyball

Winter- Basketball, Soccer

Spring- Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball, Spring Football

4. As a member of an SRCS team, you will be required to attend all practices, games, tournaments, pep rallies, end of season functions and any other team activities.
 - a. Excused absences may be granted for a school or church related function, a dental or doctor appointment, or family event that cannot be rescheduled. The coach must be given advance notice of these kinds of absences before he or she chooses to excuse them.
 - b. If a student-athlete elects to play on a non-Seven Rivers Christian School sports team concurrently with a Seven Rivers sports team, absences from Seven Rivers' practices, or games, due to this involvement will be unexcused.
 - c. If a student-athlete wishes to play on two Seven Rivers Christian School sports teams at the same time, he or she needs permission from the coaches of both teams and the Athletic Director. In addition, the student-athlete, coaches, and Athletic Director will complete a "Dual Sport Athlete" form which contains the agreed upon practice/event schedule.
 - d. If a student-athlete accumulates a total of 3 unexcused absences, he or she may be removed from the team. The first unexcused absence may limit his/her playing time in the next game or contest. The second unexcused absence may prohibit his/her playing in the next game. The head coach is responsible for compliance.
5. Student-athletes and student-managers must travel to and from all away contests with their team on the team bus or transportation arranged by the school. In the event of a lack of transportation provided by SRCS, the student-athlete can then, with the coaches' permission, travel to the event with their parent. The coach may allow an athlete or manager to return home with his/her parents. To leave with someone other than their parent/guardian, the player or manager must deliver to the coach a **written note** from their parent/guardian granting them permission prior to departure for the contest. Either a single game or an entire season note is acceptable.

II. General Athletic Policies

- A. A student athlete may participate on two school teams concurrently if permission is obtained from both coaches and the Athletic Director.

- B. Practice times and duration vary with the sport and are determined by the coach and Athletic Director. No practices or team meetings shall be held on Sundays. No practices, games, or team meetings shall be held on school holidays without the approval of the Athletic Director.
- C. Any “in-season” student-athlete missing more than 35 minutes of any class period may be declared ineligible to practice that day and may be ineligible to compete in the next game, with the exception of medical appointments, health related issues, or situations that may be classified as “emergencies” by the Athletic Director. This policy applies to a day after a mid-week game and a day following when no game was scheduled.
- D. If at any time an athlete has a problem or wishes to discuss any of the above rules and regulations, he or she should first see the coach. Then if they still wish to discuss the situation, he or she should see the Athletic Director. Only after exhausting these avenues should the parent(s) of the student-athlete approach the Principal or Headmaster.
- E. SRCS does not recruit or use undue influence or special inducement to encourage prospective students to attend or remain at school for the express purpose of participating in interscholastic sports.
- F. SRCS Senior Missions Trip: SRCS students that do not attend the senior mission trip cannot participate in SRCS sponsored athletic games or practices for the duration of the trip.
- G. Intramural sports are offered during the school year and may be a viable option for many students who wish not to compete in our interscholastic program. A student is eligible if they are an active full-time, part-time, or provisional student of SRCS.
 - a. If discipline problems arise in the class or on the field, the Athletic Director and/or administration may restrict the student’s involvement in intramurals.
- H. Families with a student-athlete who participates on the teams listed below are required to work at least 2 games in the concession stand for that sport. If you are unable or choose not to work, there is a \$50.00 per game fee, which is used to compensate replacement student workers. (Cheerleading, Football, Girls Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Boys Volleyball)
- I. By joining an athletic team, the student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians automatically become a member of the Warrior Booster Club and the student-

athletes financial account will be billed the athletic participation fee of \$150.00. A family will only be billed for one participation fee per school year regardless of how many student-athletes are in their family or sports they participate in.

- J. SRCS accepts Athletic Provisional students who are studying through an alternative education method if roster space is not exhausted by full-time SRCS students. Athletic Provisional athletes are extended all the same rights and privileges as SRCS students for the team for which they are participating; however, they are not considered members of the SRCS student body and therefore are not automatically extended invitation to SRCS Student Life events. To be considered for Athletic Provisional status, students must be either full-time home school curriculum students or FLVS Flex for Homeschool students. Additionally, they must be interviewed by the Athletic Director for acceptance.
- K. A student who leaves SRCS as a full-time or Academic Provisional student to study in an alternative method (homeschool, Florida Virtual, etc.) may be ineligible to participate on an SRCS team for one calendar year, after which time the student may apply to be considered for a reinstatement interview. This situation will be measured on a case-by-case basis by the Athletic Director and school administration.
- L. A full-time, Academic Provisional, or Athletic Provisional student who is expelled from or asked to leave SRCS or is removed from an SRCS team for any reason, will be ineligible to participate on an SRCS team for one calendar year after which time the student may apply to be considered for a reinstatement interview. SRCS will honor any discipline given to a student from another school.

III. Awards

An SRCS athlete sacrifices a great deal to participate in our program. We believe it is important to recognize the commitment they make. Each year, the school will host a Varsity/JV Sports Awards Banquet and Middle School Athletic Awards Night honoring this commitment. The awards available are as follows:

A. Letters

1. Varsity letters (6") and a sport pin will be awarded to all first-year members of a varsity team. A Chevron stripe will be awarded for successive years of competition on the same team. Students who letter in more than one sport in their first season will be given a letter for the first sport and pins for the other sports that season. To be eligible for the letter, you must have been a member of the team for at least 75% of the season and have met all minimum attendance, character, and academic requirements.

2. Seniors who have lettered in a particular varsity sport for four or more years will receive a plaque recognizing that accomplishment.
3. Any student-athlete who does not complete the school year or their specific sport season at SRCS forfeits all end of the year awards eligibility and recognition. If the student-athlete leaves SRCS or is removed from the squad before his/her sport season is concluded, the individual's name will be removed from the team roster negating any eligibility for end-of-season awards and recognition. Any student-athlete leaving SRCS in good standing before the end of the school year may be eligible to receive their varsity letter, chevron stripe and /or four-year plaque in a sport which was officially concluded before their departure from SRCS. This situation will be measured on a case-by-case basis by the Athletic Director and school administration.

B. Individual Awards

Awards will be made to individual players based on criteria established by the Athletic Department for each award. To be eligible for team awards, a student-athlete must have been eligible to participate for at least 75% of the season and have met all minimum attendance, character, and academic requirements.

1. **Most Valuable Player Award** criteria include:
 - a. Player who consistently made the greatest contribution to the team through leadership, Christian example, work ethic, attitude, dependability, and performance.
 - b. The award will consist of a trophy/plaque.
2. **Most Improved Player Award** criteria include:
 - a. Player who, through work ethic and discipline, showed the greatest improvement during the season.
 - b. The award will consist of a trophy/plaque.
3. **Coach's Award** criteria include:
 - a. Player who provides the greatest level of leadership and example to his or her teammates. Cooperation, deference, encouragement, and Christian example will be used to determine the recipient of this award. The coaches alone will determine the winner of this award.
 - b. The award will consist of a trophy/plaque.
4. The **Warrior Award** is annually given to 4 high school and 2 middle school players. The criteria include:

- a. Awarded to student-athletes who best demonstrate a balance of Christian character, academic, and athletic excellence through:
 - 1.) Demonstration of great faithfulness to school, team, peers and coaches in practices and competitions.
 - 2.) Consistent demonstration of good sportsmanship in practice and competition.
 - 3.) Demonstration of an attitude of cooperation and courteous respect.
 - 4.) Has an accumulative weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher for the first three quarters of the current school year.
- a. The awards will be determined by the Middle School & High School Faculty, Middle School & High School Coaching Staff & the Athletic Director.
- c. The award consists of a plaque.

5. Senior Athlete of the Year - Male & Female criteria includes:

- a. One male and one female athlete may be selected.
- b. The senior must have completed four semesters as an SRCS student.
- c. The senior must have exhibited exemplary standards of conduct in both the classroom and on the field of competition.
- d. The senior must have maintained a quality academic record (a "C" or better average).
- e. The senior must have demonstrated leadership in contributing to the SRCS athletic program as evidenced by:
 - Team spirit and respect for teammates.
 - Regular attendance at practice.
 - Proper attitude in accepting coaching instruction and willingness to take and follow directions involving team and school policies.
 - Christian character on and off the playing field.
 - Christ-like model for younger athletes.
- f. The award will be determined by the Athletic Director, High School Principal, and Varsity Head Coaches with input from upper-school faculty.
- g. The award consists of a trophy.

6. Male and Female Athlete of the Year

- a. The student-athlete competes on multiple teams at the varsity level.
- b. He/she is a major contributor to each of those teams at the varsity level.
- c. He/she has been extraordinarily gifted with athletic ability and uses those gifts for the betterment of the SRCS athletic program.

- d. The award will be determined by the Athletic Director and Varsity Head Coaches.

7. **Letterman Award**

Awarded to senior athletes who have lettered in the same sport for four or more years.

IV. Parent Behavior

Most of this manual helps student-athletes know what Seven Rivers Christian School expects of them when they participate in our sports programs. The administration has expectations of its parents and fans, too. This is reflective of the fact that we live in a community where our relationships and goals affect everything we do. Personal behavior can be either to the detriment of our mission or a great aid to it. For this reason, we ask our parents to prayerfully consider and sign the Parent Conduct Covenant. (See Parent Conduct Covenant)

V. Conclusion

Athletic activity should never be considered an end in itself, but rather the means to the end of giving glory to God and becoming more like Jesus. You should thoroughly enjoy your years of participation with the Seven Rivers athletic program. We're proud of you and pray God's best for you as you compete for His honor and glory.

Seven Rivers Christian School Athletic Department
Parent Conduct Covenant 2023-2024

Practice Behavior

- ✓ I will not instruct, coach, or speak to players during a practice unless given permission by the coach.
- ✓ While observing practice, I will not stand on the field or court unless given permission by the coach.
- ✓ If I need to speak to the coach, I will wait until an appropriate time that does not conflict with practices or game times.

Contest Behavior

- ✓ I will not directly instruct, coach, or speak to our players or visiting players at any time during the course of a contest.
- ✓ I will not directly address or make comments toward an official during or after a contest.
- ✓ I will not directly address or make comments toward any member of any coaching staff during or after the contest.
- ✓ I will not directly address or make comments toward any other fan that are derogatory, inflammatory, or unsportsmanlike.

Conflict Behavior

If you have an issue regarding your child's team, following the protocol below is the appropriate and most effective manner to address it.

- ✓ Speak with the Head Coach at an appropriate time, not during practice or games.
- ✓ If you are not satisfied with the results of your meeting with the Head Coach, address the issue with the Athletic Director.
- ✓ If you are not satisfied after your meeting with the Head Coach and Athletic Director, bring your concerns to the Principal or Headmaster.

Consequences

I understand that if I am found in violation of this Covenant, school administration may take action to address my behavior depending on the degree and persistence of it. This may include, but certainly not limited to:

- ✓ Being asked to leave the practice or contest. If I refuse, authorities will escort me from the premises.
- ✓ Being prohibited from attending any or all future practices or contests.
- ✓ Forfeiting my child's opportunity to participate in a sports program
- ✓ Forfeiting my child's opportunity to attend Seven Rivers Christian School.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

(“Parent Conduct Covenant” & “Affirmation of Reading the Athletic Policy Handbook” forms are required to be on file in the Athletic Office before the student-athlete is permitted to attend or participate in a team practice.)

<> Please sign and date this form. <>

Seven Rivers Christian School

AFFIRMATION OF READING THE 2023-2024 ATHLETIC POLICY HANDBOOK

Each parent needs to be of one mind with the coaches and Administration in understanding the purpose and policies of Seven Rivers Christian School.

Please read this handbook completely, sign this page and return the Athletic Department as soon as possible.

My child (children) and I agree to read and discuss the Athletic Team Policy Handbook. We agree to support Seven Rivers Christian School and the policies outlined in this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Print Student's Name

(Additional) Student's Signature

Print Student's Name

(Additional) Student's Signature

Print Student's Name

<> Both parent and student(s) must sign this form. <>

(“Parent Conduct Covenant” & “Affirmation of Reading the Athletic Policy Handbook” forms are required to be on file in the Athletic Office before the student-athlete is permitted to attend or participate in a team practice.)

Updated 6/6/23

