



South Baldwin

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Scholar-Athlete Handbook

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Table of Contents



I. Introduction	
1. Letter from the Athletic Director	3
2. Athletic Program Philosophy	4
3. Athletic Accreditation	4
4. Sportsmanship	4
II. Academics	
1. Eligibility	5
2. Curriculum Requirements	6
3. Attendance	6
III. Scholar-Athlete Standards of Conduct	
1. Dress Code	7
2. Standards and Expectations	7
IV. Parent/Guardian Standards of Conduct	
1. Parents'/Guardians' Statement of Support	8
V. Communication	
1. Coach to Parent Expectations	8
2. Parent to Coach Expectations	8
VI. General Policies	
1. Transportation	8
2. Dues and Fees	9
3. Equipment and Uniforms	9
4. Injuries	9
5. Social Media Guidance	9
6. Support Personnel for Athletic Teams	9
7. Awards Program and Banquets	10
8. Prep Rallies/Special Ceremonies	10
9. Contact Information	11

DISCLAIMER

The intent of this handbook is to supplement the SBCA Student Handbook and pronounce the expectations of standards for every Scholar-Athlete participating in an Athletic Sport that represents SBCA, their community, family, and self. Although the information found in this handbook may appear broad on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all-encompassing. This handbook does not create a “contract” but rather a document that provides guidance for the Scholar-Athlete and their parent(s) to follow. The SBCA administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the Athletic program and to assure the well-being of all Scholar-Athletes. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this Athletic Handbook, the SBCA administration will decide based upon all applicable school policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations. Go Knights!

-South Baldwin Christian Academy Administration

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Letter from the Athletic Director...

As the Athletic Director, it is my direct responsibility to oversee the entire Athletic program, personnel, and facilities. I work directly for the Principal, Head of School, and with the best coaches in Baldwin County to provide a winning program through the discipline of Christ. I have a passion for sports at all levels, from elementary to high school and above. I believe that healthy competition creates adversity and struggles, which will result in character development and overall leadership for our children. These are traits that can be identified and refined as a parent along with the assistance of SBCA faculty. Our Scholar-Athletes will face setbacks, going through the reality of winning and losing. Now is the time to assist and guide them in this revolving process before they must do it on their own. The trials and tribulations that each Scholar-Athletes will face, will not be alone. The SBCA Athletic Department will strive to encourage our Scholar-Athletes on and off the fields or courts. We will all embrace both the loss and the win together.

My ambition for the SBCA Athletic program to become the most prominent and respected within the Panhandle Christian Conference and beyond is just the start. We can quickly establish ourselves through all-around dedication and commitment from SBCA, Scholar-Athletes, and you, the Parents. I want to foster an environment that would make any current or potential family proud to be a part of SBCA. The life lessons related to athletics will provide a solid foundation of experience and confidence for your Scholar-Athlete. I encourage all questions or concerns about a specific team to be addressed to the coach, first, through proper coordination. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any sports-related questions or concerns that you may have. It takes a village. Go Knights!

Sincerely,
Jason Norris
Athletic Director
jasonnorris@southbaldwinca.net

2. Philosophy

a. The Athletic Department of SBCA is responsible for the total development of all Scholar-Athletes in its care through a wide range of interscholastic athletic programs. The interscholastic athletic program includes 5th through 12th-grade students, including eligible students through accredited Home-School programs. The coaches and faculty will provide a safe but demanding environment that will promote their mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. SBCA's commitment to Christian values must be reflected in every aspect of the Athletic program. The SBCA Athletic Department will be a constant example of outstanding sportsmanship, behavior, and demeanor on and off the field or court. There will be a high standard of excellence with reasonable expectations that can be achieved through proper supervision, mentorship, and passion, coinciding with support from the parents and surrounding communities. Most importantly, SBCA expects all Scholar-Athletes, parents, and faculty to exemplify the characters of Christ at all levels of competitiveness through self and team accountability.

b. Three Pillars of the SBCA Athletic Program:

1. Be committed to Jesus first, then the team. {Psalms 37:5}
2. Give maximum effort. {Colossians 3:23}
3. Be disciplined, self-controlled, and on time! {1 Corinthians 9:25}

3. Athletic Accreditation

SBCA competes in the Western Division of the Panhandle Christian Conference (<https://www.panhandlechristianconference.com>). There will be times SBCA will play other sports programs from outside of the PCC. There may be occasions that SBCA will play against non-Christian programs, but this will not deter or allow for deviation from our own Standards of Conduct and policies of discipline. We will be the example as a school through our actions as well-disciplined followers of Christ.

4. Sportsmanship

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore you eat or drink, or as you do, do all to the glory of God." Athletics can be used to develop many positive qualities in Scholar-Athletes, parents, and spectators. We must maintain a Christ-like testimony during competition. The following traits are some examples to help us maintain a Godly walk and testimony as a Scholar-Athlete and parent.

a. For the Scholar-Athlete.

- Exemplify Godly character, behavior, and leadership always.
- Respect the integrity, judgment, and authority of the officials.
- Treat opponents and teammates with self-control and respect.
- Be gracious in victory and defeat.

b. For the Parent.

- The sporting event involves your child and others.
- Uphold individual judgment and the authority of the officials.
- Display respect for the opposing teams, spectators, and others.
- Show appreciation for play towards players of all teams. **Be the example.**

II. ACADEMICS

NOTE: The ability for a student to become a Scholar-Athlete in any club or sports is a vital part of the student's educational journey. However, when any sport interferes with their academic performance, it is in the best interest of the Scholar-Athlete to set aside that activity to concentrate on their academic studies. To participate in extracurricular activities, they must meet or surpass SBCA academic standards.

1. Eligibility

- A. A student must be enrolled at SBCA or an accredited home-school program.
- B. Students are eligible to try out for sports teams in the fifth grade for some sports. For all sports, JV may consist of students in grades 6 through 9, who are not 16 years of age before August 1. Varsity may consist of students in grades 7 through 12.
- C. Attendance at South Baldwin Christian Academy is a great privilege.
- D. SBCA allows homeschooled children to participate in sports programs. The Panhandle Christian Conference (PCC) allows a certain number of home-schooled children to be on a team. If there are more willing to join a team, a tryout will be held specifically for them to meet the authorized number. Homeschooled Scholar-Athletes will adhere to and follow all policies within the PCC, SBCA, and this handbook including physical examination, fees, and paperwork.
- E. **NCAA Eligibility:** Beginning freshman year, it is imperative that the Scholar-Athlete collaborates with the coach, Athletic Director, school administration, and parents to select coursework that will not only prepare the Scholar-Athlete for college or a career but also keep them on track for participation in collegiate athletics. The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association), established in 1906, serves as the athletics governing body for more than 1,300 colleges, universities, conferences, and organizations. Schools in the NCAA are divided into three divisions. Division I and II colleges and universities offer athletic scholarships to qualifying high school seniors. Division III colleges and universities do not offer scholarships to athletics. Many smaller colleges and universities belong to the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics). NAIA schools also offer scholarship opportunities to Scholar-Athletes.

To ensure student eligibility should such an offer be possible their senior year, the Scholar-Athlete must be knowledgeable of eligibility requirements, core courses, ACT/SAT requirements, etc. Each year the NCAA Eligibility Center publishes a guide for the College-Bound Scholar-Athlete relating to NCAA eligibility at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Information about NAIA eligibility can be located at <https://play.mynaia.org/>. Scholar- Athletes are strongly encouraged to meet with their coach as early as possible to ensure their coursework is on track for college eligibility.

Every Scholar-Athlete is required to have a valid physical on file with the Alabama High School Athletics Association.

2. Curriculum Requirements

- A. Scholar-Athletes must show continued participation in classes while maintaining passing grades in all assigned subjects.
- B. Scholar-Athletes must maintain a C or better in every class. The overall goal is to maintain a 3.0 GPA for SBCA. GPA is a benchmark selection for Athletic Scholarships at the collegiate level. The minimum GPA to remain eligible within the PCC is 2.0.
- C. The following steps will allow the coaches to successfully monitor their player's academic progress in addition to the support of the Athletic Director. The intent is to identify potential academic problems at the onset of the season with the ability to develop an academic course of action that will benefit the Scholar-Athlete.

On the fourth week of the season, the Athletic Director can request an academic review of all Scholar-Athletes. If the Scholar-Athlete is not in compliance with the C or better requirement, that Scholar-Athlete will be placed on probation for the following week (week five) and will not be allowed to participate in games. The Scholar-Athlete will dress and remain a part of all team activities but will not receive official playing time for that week. Week six, the process will start over, and the Scholar-Athlete will be removed from academic probation with the ability to play in all Week six games. If the Scholar-Athlete at any time becomes non-compliant with the academic requirements, he/she will be placed on academic probation once again. The amount of official playing time affects a Scholar-Athletes overall ability to receive potential sports awards and accolades if the required playing time and academic standards are not achieved.

- D. Any decision involving academic probation or suspension (removal from the sports team) will be jointly made by the Athletic Director, coach, school administration, and parents of the Scholar-Athlete.
- E. When necessary, the Athletic Director will coordinate with school administration and classroom teacher(s) to ensure Scholar-Athletes are completing required course work in a timely manner and are making efforts to improve their grades. Scholar-Athletes will not receive favoritism based on their athletic ability.

3. Attendance

- A. **School:** Scholar-Athletes must be in attendance 2 days up to and on the day of the sporting event. Exceptions will be made for doctors' appointments, pre-scheduled absences, and/or emergencies.
- B. **Practice:** Scholar-Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless absent from school. Scholar-Athletes with an unexcused absence from practice or a game are subject to athletic suspension, discipline, or even removal from the team by their coach. This procedure will be closely monitored by the Athletic Department.

III. SCHOLAR-ATHLETE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1. SBCA Dress Code

The SBCA dress code should be followed daily unless otherwise noted. The Scholar-Athletes' appearance must be suitable and appropriate for school. The dress code is intended as a guideline in assisting all students in developing a Christ-centered attitude toward their outer appearance. If a Scholar-Athlete displays inadequate behavior or disregard for school policies more than once, they may be subject to removal from the current team and possibly future athletic programs. The dress code is included in the SBCA Student Handbook.

2. Standards and Expectations

- A. **Travel Games:** All Scholar-Athletes are expected to display respect for their surroundings including the opposing teams' school and their personal property. All Scholar-Athletes will remain under the supervision of the coach. The standard is to leave your temporary location better than when you arrived.
- B. **Playing Time:** Playing time is determined by the coach through the evaluation of the Scholar-Athletes' performance, attitude, personal conduct, and skill level in practices and games. This also includes academic performance. Personal stats, requested explanation for playing time, and/or execution of the game strategy **will not** be discussed outside of a closed scheduled meeting with the coach.
- C. **Game Time:** At no time will any Scholar-Athlete use electronic devices while sitting on the bench. They should be attentive not only for opportunities to play, but also for their own personal safety.
- D. **End of Game:** All Scholar-Athletes will learn to accept a loss with grace and humility. Good Sportsmanship is also characterized after the game or match. Everyone will line up and congratulate the winning team. Failure to adhere to this policy and standard will result in a disciplinary action by the coach and Athletic Director.
- E. Middle School and JV Scholar-Athletes are encouraged to remain after their games or matches to support other SBCA teams. Supporting other teams promotes team unity and school spirit. This demonstration of school pride will be on display for players, parents, and others in attendance to admire.

IV. PARENT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1. Parent/Guardian Standards of Conduct

The Athletic Department relies on the support of each Scholar-Athlete's parents and/or guardians, especially in reinforcing that academic achievement is the overall priority. The opportunity to represent SBCA and play a sport is a privilege. Each Scholar-Athlete must learn to manage their personal time in such ways as to bring much honor to God in the classroom, field, and gym.

V. COMMUNICATION

NOTE: Communication is a two-way method of sending and receiving information along with the inherent task of follow-up to ensure both parties agree and understand. Establishing strong lines of communication between the coaches, Scholar-Athletes, and parents alleviates the potential for misunderstandings. The Athletic Department is committed to building positive relationships with all SBCA families.

1. Coach to Parent Expectations:

- a. Philosophy of the coach.
- b. Expectations the coach has for the team including all rules and policies.
- c. All times, dates, and locations of games and practices.
- d. Reasonable coordination of return times for all away games.
- e. Team requirements (i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
- f. Procedure to follow for injuries.
- g. Discipline issues that would affect playing time.
- h. Actions that can result in removal from the team.

2. Parent to Coach Expectations:

- a. Desire to assist by bringing previous experience as a player or coach.
- b. Zero interference with practice or games that are deemed derogatory and not in accordance with the standards of conduct as a parent/spectator. A 24-hour rule will be used for parents to express concerns after a practice or game.
- c. Advance notification of any schedule conflicts.

VI. GENERAL POLICIES

1. Transportation

a. Scholar-Athletes are to travel on school-provided transportation to and from away games/matches (unless otherwise directed by administration). The coach is responsible for the Scholar-Athletes, and they should conduct themselves accordingly. Scholar-Athletes may leave an away game with a parent/guardian, but not until the parent/guardian has notified the coach or an SBCA representative in support of the event.

b. Scholar-Athletes that require the use of school vehicles are responsible for keeping them clean. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure team members keep the vehicle(s) clean. Food and drink in school vehicles are permissible, but this privilege can be removed if the responsibility of keeping vehicles clean is not met.

c. Boys and girls will not sit side-by-side on bus trips.

2. Dues and Fees

a. SBCA asks families of Scholar-Athletes to pay a Sports Fee per sport. That fee includes (but not limited to) practice and game apparel, team travel attire, appropriate footwear, hats, uniforms, necessary team/individual equipment, meals, team-building functions, and trophies/awards. SBCA takes pride in motivated and committed parent support, fundraisers, and sponsorship drives that provide supplemental financial support for the sports program. However, some sports require a higher fee and financial support based on their requirements.

b. Any fines that a Scholar-Athlete may be issued through bad conduct during a sporting event will be paid by the parents, not the school. Examples of such behavior may be Red Cards, technical fouls, ejections, or other forms of severe penalties.

3. Equipment and Uniforms

All uniforms and equipment are purchased by SBCA and are provided to the Scholar-Athlete. The athlete is personally responsible for the accountability, care, and overall condition of the provided uniforms and equipment throughout the period of the season. At the end of the season, uniforms and equipment returned to SBCA through the coach must be cleaned and in good condition. If the uniform or equipment is not given to the coach, then a financial reimbursement to the school will be provided by the parents of the Scholar-Athlete. For the best results, wash clothing items in cold water and hang them dry to ensure they do not shrink.

4. Injuries

A Scholar-Athlete who is injured or shows signs of any injury during practice or a game will be immediately removed and not permitted to re-enter or play for any amount of the remaining game or match. An injured Scholar-Athlete will be initially evaluated by supporting medical staff, if available. If medical attention is required, the Scholar-Athlete may be transported to receive needed medical care by medical staff or a parent/guardian, if they are present. If the parent/guardian is not present, a member of SBCA will notify the parent/guardian listed within the Emergency Contact information.

5. Social Media Guidance

SBCA encourages the use of social media to highlight the outstanding achievements of the school, especially the athletic programs throughout the year. Coaches, players, and other faculty are permitted to use social media if it does not misrepresent the school in any negative manner. Misuse of social media may lead to the potential removal of the Scholar-Athlete from the team or sport. Scholar-Athletes and parents are encouraged to "TAG" and include SBCA when capturing and posting on their personal sites in addition to "Sharing" from the SBCA social media Facebook and supporting pages.

6. Support Personnel for Athletic Teams

Any student that wishes or has a desire to assist any athletic team during the season is authorized to be a part of and travel with the team. These students can serve in the

capacity of roles such as Team Manager, Scorekeeper, or SBCA Sports Network Team (Announcers/Broadcasters/Videographers/etc.). All support personnel (i.e., students) will adhere to the same policies within the PCC, SBCA Student Handbook, and this handbook.

Individuals who are not selected as a team player can potentially serve in another capacity, such as Team Manager. These individuals may still practice with the team to improve their overall skillset and comradery with their peers. They are a part of the team and will be treated in the same manner as the players.

7. Awards Program and Banquets

A. SBCA will conduct a sports banquet at the conclusion of the entire sport season to acknowledge the accomplishments of each team or individual player. Each coach will have the following awards for their respective team (1-3).

1. **The Knight Award** (Leadership) per sport/team
2. **Most Improved Player Award** per sport/team
3. **Scholar-Athlete Award** (highest GPA) per sport/team

B. Athletic Director's Award

Each sport will nominate one Scholar-Athlete and the Athletic Director will pick the awardee. The selection process will consist of coach recommendation, a minimum of 200-word essay submission from the coach about the Scholar-Athlete, along with a one-on-one Scholar-Athlete interview with the Athletic Director.

C. Other Awards

1. **Outstanding Sponsor Recognition** (Annual)
2. **Outstanding Volunteer Recognition** (Annual)
3. **Coach of the Year** (Annual)

D. Varsity Letter/Recognition

Being a team player alone will not constitute earning a Varsity Letter and/or pin. The following are the minimum requirements for earning a Varsity letter and sport pin. Scholar-Athletes in grades 9 through 12 are eligible.

1. Scholar-Athletes will participate in 60% of the season games with a minimum of 2 minutes per game.
2. Scholar-Athletes must demonstrate a commitment, positive attitude, and selfless service towards their school and teammates.
3. Scholar-Athletes must complete the season as a member of the team roster. Circumstances will arise such as family emergencies, injuries, etc. Those will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
4. All first-time athletes will receive a Letter and pin. The following year, the athlete will receive a pin only.

8. Pep Rallies/Special Ceremonies

Every grade is encouraged to celebrate and motivate our Scholar-Athletes during their respective seasons through scheduled rallies, events, or any other special activities approved by the SBCA administration.

9. Contact Information.

SPORT	HEAD COACH	EMAIL
Cheerleading		
Cross Country		
Girls Volleyball		
Girls Basketball		
Boys Basketball		
Wrestling		
Soccer		
Archery		
Golf		

By signing this document, you are agreeing to respect and uphold all guidelines listed within the SBCA Athletic Handbook.

Student (Print first and last name): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, as a parent/guardian, accept the challenge to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6), and I do state that this training will be continued in the home. I place my trust in SBCA to extend that training more completely and effectively.

Parent/Guardian (Print first and last name): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach (Print first and last name): _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

