



**SANTA CLARITA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

**HANDBOOK AND PROGRAM**

**REVISED 2025**



## **SCCS Athletics Department Philosophy**

The SCCS Athletics Department applies the school's mission in the athletics context, seeing athletics as a critical educational piece. The SCCS Athletics Department builds champions of character and competition. SCCS Athletics produces young men and women who are equipped to be successful disciples of Christ in the world and accomplish tremendous things in athletics.

## **SCCS Athletics Department Overview**

### **California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section**

Santa Clarita Christian High School sports operate under the oversight of the California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section (CIF-SS), which administers high school athletic programs throughout the state of California, promulgating and enforcing rules relating to students' involvement in athletics.<sup>1</sup>

### **League Involvement**

#### ***Heritage***

Santa Clarita Christian High School sports operate within the Heritage League, which features the following schools:

Faith Baptist High School	Valley Torah High School	Palmdale Aerospace Academy
Trinity Classical Academy	Vasquez High School	Santa Clarita Christian School
Desert Christian High School	St. Monica Academy	Lancaster Baptist High School
Palmdale Academy Charter	Legacy Christian Academy*	Gorman Learning Center AV*

*\*Partial/Cross-league member*

### ***Santa Clarita Athletic Independent League***

Santa Clarita Christian elementary and junior high sports participate within the Santa Clarita Athletic Independent League (SCAIL), which features the following schools:

Legacy Christian Academy	Trinity Classical Academy	Gorman Learning Center
Santa Clarita Valley International	Our Lady of Perpetual Hope	Concordia Christian

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see [cifss.org/blue-book](http://cifss.org/blue-book)

Santa Clarita Christian School	Delphi Academy of LA	iLead Agua Dulce
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## Programs Offered

### ***Clinic (K-4)***

Clinic sports are intramural, meaning that anyone who plays clinic sports will compete with and against classmates. Clinics are available to kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth-grade students. Clinics are intentionally developmental to build character and competitive foundations for our students. Clinics are once or twice a week on campus at SCCS.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Football, Cheer	Soccer	Basketball

### ***Elementary (5-6)***

Elementary sports are interscholastic. Each of our elementary programs competes with other schools from the SCAIL league. Elementary sports are available to fifth and sixth-grade students. Elementary sports practices and games will typically take place two days per week for one hour per day.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Girls Basketball	Girls Soccer	Girls Volleyball
Boys Soccer	Boys Basketball	Boys Flag Football

### ***Junior High (7-8)***

Junior high sports are also interscholastic and compete against other schools in the SCAIL. Junior high sports are primarily available to seventh and eighth-grade students. Junior High sports practices and games take place two days per week for one and a half hours per day.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Girls Softball	Girls Volleyball	Girls Soccer

Boys Basketball	Boys Flag Football	Girls Basketball
Boys Baseball		Boys Soccer

### **High School (9-12)**

High school sports operate under the purview of CIF-SS and the Heritage League. High school sports are available to ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders between the ages of 14-19.<sup>2</sup>

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
Cheer	Cheer	Softball
Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Football	Girls Basketball	Swim
Girls Volleyball		

## **SCCS Athletics Department Policies**

### **Registration Policy**

#### ***Clinic, Elementary, Junior High Sports***

Registration is a first-come, first-served process that occurs briefly before each season. Registration is secondarily determined by roster size and coach availability. Specific programs occasionally have a roster limit determined by coaching or facility constraints. If a roster limit is reached, all subsequent registrations will be applied to a waitlist in the order of registration. Waitlisted families will only be billed if their child is added to the active roster. Waitlisted families that did pay will be refunded if they are not added to the active roster. Registrations that occur after the registration period are automatically placed on the waitlist unless an active roster spot is open.

*Disclaimer:* By registering, you agree that you will be billed following the registration period for a sport if you are placed on an active roster. Your registration is a commitment to participate, knowing that coaches are being hired, equipment is being purchased, fields are being rented, and games with other schools are being scheduled.

<sup>2</sup> There is never a guarantee that offered programs will be fielded. Programs are contingent upon roster size and coaching availability.

*Cancellations:* If you register for a sport, you can cancel your registration at any point during the registration period without being billed for the sport. However, if you register, are placed on an active roster, and cancel after the registration period, you will only be refunded 50% of the sports fee. Cancellations that occur after the first practice will not receive a refund.

### ***High School Sports***

High school sports registration occurs up to three months before each season. High school sports registration gives us concrete numbers for ordering, scheduling, and onboarding adequate coaching.

*Disclaimer 1:* By registering for a program, you commit to participating in the practices, games, and meetings set by the program's coach. Therefore, your registration comes with the responsibility to pay at least the first installment of the fee for the program.

*Disclaimer 2:* No refunds on any fees paid for programs forced to cancel after the season's first contest.

### **Eligibility Policies**

#### ***Athletic Clearance***

“As a condition of membership, schools will require that a student receive an annual physical examination conducted by a medical practitioner certifying that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics. The report of the examination will be on a school board-approved form that includes a health history. The physical examination must be completed before a student may try out, practice or participate in interscholastic athletic competition. A student will be excused from this physical examination provided there is compliance with the Education Code provisions concerning Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Caregiver’s Refusal to Consent. The CIF Health and Safety Committee strongly recommends schools use the Pre-Participation Physical Examination form that is endorsed by five major medical societies: the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, the American Orthopedic Sports Medicine and the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. All CIF schools must have school board-approved forms.”<sup>3</sup>

Athletic clearance is complete when the following are provided: valid physical, medical information, emergency contact information, and CIF signatures.<sup>4</sup> Athletic clearance is needed for

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<sup>3</sup> CIFSS Blue Book 2022-23, page 100.

<sup>4</sup> Physicals are only required for junior high and high school athletes.

5th-12th grade sports participation; however, sports physicals are only required for high school sports.

### ***Behavioral Eligibility***

By participating in a program, student-athletes agree to abide by the principles of SCCS, the SCCS Athletics Department, and the principles of the coach who oversees that respective program. Suppose there is evidence of non-compliance with the behavior standards of any of these principles. In that case, a student-athlete is liable to disciplinary measures determined by the school, Athletics Department, and/or the program's coach. Students undergoing detention or suspension are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Further, each coach sets his/her standard above and beyond the school's academic requirements; the program coach determines game eligibility according to attendance, attitude, or performance.

### ***Attendance Eligibility***

Athletic eligibility is contingent upon class participation during the school day. Students can participate in practices and games only after completing at least four class periods. To participate in Saturday practices or games, students must complete at least four class periods on the Friday before or get a doctor's note clearing the student to participate in the practice or game. Students are ineligible for practices and games if they cannot participate in PE during the school day due to illness or injury.

### ***Academic Eligibility***

Students are eligible for participation in athletics as long as they maintain a 2.0 GPA and/or do not have an F in any class. Grades are checked every two weeks. If a student has below a 2.0 and/or has an F in any class, he/she will be placed on probation for two weeks until the next grade check. If the student improves to 2.0 or above and/or the F grade, he/she will be off probation and fully eligible for athletics. If the student does not improve, he/she will be fully ineligible for two weeks until grades are rechecked. While ineligible, students may not attend organized athletic program meetings – team hangouts, film sessions, dinners, practices, or games.

### ***Financial Eligibility***

Your sports fee affords your participation in SCCS Athletics Department programs. These fees are the primary income for the athletics department. They are used to cover the cost of the following: facility rentals, coach stipends, equipment, referees, league and CIF dues, spirit wear, etc.

High school sports fees are unbilled/refundable only when a student has not participated in a program. Once a student participates in a team event (practice, game, scrimmage, etc.), that student is considered part of the team, and that family is responsible for 100% of the sports fee.

### ***Out-of-Season Eligibility***

Due to the overwhelming evidence for the benefit of multisport athletes and the nature of the SCCS community, all students are encouraged to participate in more than one sport per school year. One of the ways SCCS Athletics encourages multisport participation is by prohibiting out-of-season practices and games for students participating in in-season sports. For example, basketball coaches may not organize mandatory practices or games during the Fall season. While the Summer is wide open for students and coaches, preference is given to Fall sports.

### **Physical Education and Lettering**

Students who complete a majority of the season's games and practices can receive a physical education credit and a letter (only for varsity high school sports). The only exemption from this requirement is for a student who is injured in the course of his/her sport. The injured student is still expected to participate to the degree that the injury allows<sup>5</sup> but is not expected to compete due to the injury.

### **SCCS Athletics Fees**

Fees are the primary means of income for the SCCS Athletics Department and are calculated to cover the cost of operating each program. SCCS Athletics charges a flat rate fee for each level of sport. High school sports billing is divided into three installments.

Because SCCS views athletics as a whole and each program operates under the purview of the athletics department, fees are collected and then budgeted according to the expected needs of each program. The budget needs for each program are discussed before the season between coaches and the athletics director. Budgets are created based on the non-discretionary costs of a program: coaching stipend, multipurpose or ball field rentals, referee fees, league dues, CIF dues, etc.

<b>Clinic</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Junior High</b>	<b>Frosh/Soph</b>	<b>Junior Varsity</b>	<b>Varsity</b>
\$150	\$250	\$350	\$640	\$720	\$800

<sup>5</sup> Spectating practices and games, attending team meeting, etc.

## Billing Policy

	<b>CLINIC</b>	<b>ELEMENTARY</b>	<b>JUNIOR HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>
<b>FALL</b>	May registration	May registration	May registration	9/1, 10/1, 11/1
<b>WINTER</b>	Sept. registration	Sept. registration	Sept. registration	12/1, 1/1, 2/1
<b>SPRING</b>	Jan. registration	Jan. registration	Jan. registration	3/1, 4/1, 5/1

## Team Mom Responsibilities

- Coordinate communication between the head coach and parents.
  - Preferably, use a group chat like Telegram and ensure each parent is invited and accepted into the group chat for immediate updates.
- Organize team transportation.
  - Create carpool lists and work with the front office to create carpool packets for each driver.
- Contact the head coach about weekly game-duty plans, dismissal or transportation needs, and schedule updates.
- Delegate snack/drink sign-ups for students and coaches when needed.
- Work with the head coach about planning an adequate Senior Night.
- Organize post-season get-togethers, team parties, or banquets (optional for K-8th sports).
  - Communicate with the Athletics Department about budgeting and running a beneficial end-of-the-year event.

## Coaching Policies

### ***SCCS Coaching Philosophy***

SCCS coaches have a tremendous opportunity to do more than just teach a game to students. Coaches are representatives of the mission of SCCS, to partner with parents of like faith to teach students' minds and train their hearts for God through a distinctly biblical education. They represent this mission in the intensive context of athletics. Coaches are stewards of the gifts God has bestowed upon each student, the school's, and the parents' resources. Therefore, while active participation in the discipleship of each athlete is encouraged, the passive aspect of discipleship is just as influential – reactions and responses to success, failure, bad calls, bad plays, misfortune, etc.

Coaches must be the point person of their program and be able to answer questions related to schedules, dismissals, equipment issues, etc. The coaches should communicate any updates, changes, and information to parents and players.

### ***SCCS Coaching Responsibilities***

- Report and/or post contest results within 24 hours of the contest<sup>6</sup>
- Know the rules of the respective sport<sup>7</sup>
- Plan an effective Senior Night<sup>8</sup>
- Fill game position needs with parents or different-level players<sup>9</sup>
- Communicate clear expectations related to earning playing time
- Communicate clearly and transparently with parents
- Welcome any student willing to abide by the standards of the program, regardless of ability
- Refrain from taking vacation during the respective season
- Report and/or request purchases to the Athletics Director
- Ensure adequate inventory for respective sport<sup>10</sup>
- Be involved in scheduling decisions for the respective sport
- Know how to set up for games and maintain equipment and facilities related to a program
- Wear SCCS Athletics or SCCS program-specific gear at games
- Return keys at the end of the season (if keys are unreturned, the stipend will be withheld)
- Return uniforms at the end of the season (if uniforms are unreturned, the stipend will be withheld)

### ***SCCS Coaching Pay Schedule***

Stipends are processed according to the following schedule:

<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
NOVEMBER 30	FEBRUARY 28	LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL

### ***SCCS Coach Onboarding***

Before coaches can supervise a team, they need to complete the following:

- Application

<sup>6</sup> CIFSS Home, MaxPreps, or the Athletics Director.

<sup>7</sup> CIFSS Blue Book, NFHS rulebook.

<sup>8</sup> High School sports only.

<sup>9</sup> Scoreboard, stat book, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Gear and equipment.

- Fingerprinting/livescan
- Training
  - Concussion in Sports (NFHS Learn free course)
    - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>
  - Heat Illness Prevention (NFHS Learn free course)
    - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses?searchText=heat+illness>
  - Sudden Cardiac Arrest (NFHS Learn free course)
    - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>
  - The Collapsed Athlete (NFHS Learn free course)
    - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/the-collapsed-athlete>
  - Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behaviors (NFHS learn free course)
    - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/bullying-hazing-and-inappropriate-behaviors>
  - Sport-Specific NFHS Training Video
  - Sexual harassment
  - CPR Training
- W9
- Handbook review and signing
- Key request

### **Facility Management**

Coaches are responsible for the management of the facilities they use for their practices and games, so far as they are able.

### **Gym Management**

Coaches who use the gym are responsible for dry and wet mopping the gym floor before their practices, picking up trash, tidying the gym chairs, and turning off lights, scoreboard, and score table unless there is a group immediately after them.

### **SCCS Athletics-Parent Relationship**

Because of the high enrollment standards of SCCS concerning the commands of Christ and Scripture, the SCCS Athletics Department expects parents to behave accordingly. Parents are the primary disciple-makers of SCCS student-athletes and partner with the SCCS Athletics Department for magnified discipleship. Therefore, all interactions between parents and the SCCS Athletics

Department should be guided by the context of Christian community guidelines found in Scripture.<sup>11</sup>

Suppose there is evidence of non-compliance with the behavior standards of SCCS, SCCS Athletics, or the coach's program guidelines. In that case, the student-athlete is liable to disciplinary measures determined by the school and/or the SCCS Athletics Department.

### ***Communication with Coaches***

Coaches are the primary contact for information regarding a specific program. Depending upon how a coach desires communication to be conducted, parents or student-athletes should first contact a coach. This is regarding any questions or concerns specific to the program. If a coach cannot answer those questions, the coach will bring the question to SCCS Athletics for an answer.

### ***Expectations as a Fan***

Spectators at all SCCS sporting events (home and away) are encouraged to remember their primary goal of making disciples of Christ and subsequent goals of representing the mission of SCCS and SCCS Athletics. Our conduct displayed toward referees, schools of like mind, and schools of contrary mind demonstrates the depth of our adherence to the Gospel.

### **SCCS Student-Athlete Policies**

#### ***Dress Guidelines***

Students are required to adhere to the handbook policy about the SCCS dress code. If a coach has guidelines about game day attire, that attire must fit within the dress code.

#### ***Behavioral Guidelines***

Students participating in an athletics program are expected to behave according to the guidelines set out in the student handbook. Further, students are expected to adhere to the program's behavioral guidelines, which the coaches of that program set.

#### ***Driving***

Students cannot drive themselves or any other student to an athletics event during the school day. Students can drive themselves to athletics events if they take place after the school day or if their parent/guardian signs them out of school.

#### ***Playing Time***

- Elementary: Equal playing time afforded to each player.
- Junior High: Every student will play, but playing time will not be equal.

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 12-16; 1 Cor. 6, 13; 2 Cor.; Galatians 5-6; Ephesians 4-6; Philippians 2; Colossians 3; 1 Thess. 5; 1 Tim. 5; Hebrews 13; James 2-5; 1 Peter 5; etc.

- High School: Playing time is earned (character, ability, behavior, etc.).

Because SCCS views athletics as a whole and each program operates under the purview of the athletics department, fees are collected and then budgeted according to the expected needs of each program. The budget needs for each program are discussed before the season between coaches and the athletics director. Budgets are created based on the non-discretionary costs of a program: coaching stipends, multipurpose or ball field rentals, referee fees, league dues, CIF dues, and necessary gear or equipment. Any budget surplus is provided for spirit wear, banquet costs, tournaments, etc.

### ***Game Management Service Opportunities***<sup>12</sup>

Student-athletes may reduce their high school sports fees by serving in various game management positions. These positions reduce fees by \$10-\$20 each. These positions are available at home SCCS Athletics games, but must be served for the entirety of a game.

### **SCCS Athletics Dismissals and Transportation**

#### ***Early Dismissals***

Elementary, junior high, and high school teams often require early dismissal. The athletics director coordinates dismissal times with coaches. Coaches may request an earlier or later dismissal time. Students are called out of class by the front desk and must be signed out by a parent or designated carpool driver to leave for the game. No sport may have more than one early dismissal per week unless exempted due to unique, uncontrollable circumstances.

#### ***Team Transportation***

Coaches and parents of a program are responsible for coordinating transportation to their respective events (games, practices, etc.). If students carpool with someone who is not their parent/guardian, the driver of said students must obtain carpool packets from the front office.

### **SCCS Athletics Calendars and Schedules**

Athletics schedules are listed on [sccs.org/athletics](http://sccs.org/athletics), which will link to the SCCS school calendar (Tandem).

### **Miscellaneous Athletics Policies**

#### ***Seasonal Banquets***

At the end of each high school sports season, the athletics department puts on a banquet to honor the individual and team accolades for the respective season's teams. For instance, the Fall

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<sup>12</sup> This policy is subject to whether Game Management Service Opportunities are offered during a given season.

Sports Banquet would include the Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, and Football teams. Each program will have time to present individual awards and a slideshow or video. The athletics department would then present Scholar-Athlete Awards, CIFSS and Heritage League Awards, and any team accomplishments by each program.

### ***Scholar-Athletes***

Varsity programs may honor students who earn and retain an unweighted GPA of 3.5 or above during their season with “Scholar-Athlete” award certificates. The GPA will be recorded on the final day of the sport's regular season according to the CIFSS calendar.

### ***Letterman Jackets***

The Athletics Department facilitates letterman jacket ordering. Letterman jackets are available to all SCCS high school students who have participated in a high school sport.

### ***SCCS Athlete of the Year***

Each school year, the Athletics Department chooses a male and female Athlete of the Year.<sup>13</sup> Each of these athletes is selected because they personify the kind of athlete we want to develop at SCCS. The decision is based on multiple factors: athletic ability and accomplishment, academic commitment and success, and character qualification. The Athletes of the Year are the students who promote the values of the SCCS Athletics Department both on and off the field, court, etc.

### ***SCCS Athletics-Participant Agreement***

By signing this agreement, you acknowledge and agree to the guiding principles of the Santa Clarita Christian School Athletics Department laid out in this handbook for the duration of the season and program in which you are participating.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletics Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>13</sup> In tandem with the School Administrator, school administration, and varsity coaches.