



**SPARTANBURG DAY SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
2016-2017**

## **Athletics Mission Statement**

### **Introduction**

Interscholastic athletics, offered to students in grades five through 12 are an important part of the educational program at Spartanburg Day School. Through the years, competitive athletics have provided thousands of Griffins valuable opportunities to work, grow, learn and have fun.

We are proud of the tradition of success that our teams and athletes have established. Spartanburg Day School athletes have earned distinction for themselves and for the school, through their achievements here at school and, for many, in their college careers as well.

### **Mission Statement**

Spartanburg Day School enjoys a rich tradition of excellence in interscholastic athletics that compliments our academic program as well as the arts. Every student will have a quality experience ...in athletics as well as physical education and wellness classes

- Every student will have the opportunity to maximize his/her individual potential while simultaneously learning to contribute positively to any/all group endeavors in which they are involved...TEAM
- Every student will be afforded the opportunity to learn life-long skills that are rooted in (a) individual accountability; (b) humility; and (c) service to others.

## **GUIDELINES GOVERNING ALL ATHLETIC TEAMS AT SPARTANBURG DAY SCHOOL**

Spartanburg Day School (SDS) has dedicated professionals who have been given the responsibility of working with your sons and daughters, and they are very much aware of the impact they will have on your child's development. With that in mind it is critical that we have this handbook in place so that everyone involved in our athletic program understands all of our policies, programs and expectations.

A program must have an overall positive impact toward accomplishing the mission statement of the school. Middle School Teams will be comprised of students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and JV and Varsity Teams with students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade depending on the sport. The effect of enrollment in supporting the number of participants required to field a program will be examined each year. Believing that one of the basic values of participation on athletic teams is for the player to be introduced to a system of requirements to which he/she must agree in order to participate. Each team and coach will follow the SDS general guidelines with more team/sport specific guidelines provided by the coach.

1. Each player is expected to attend every practice unless excused from that session prior to the practice. Permission to miss practice must be granted by the coach or in the case of emergency, secured from the Athletic Director.
2. Missing any practice without prior notification of the coach could result in loss of playing time.
3. If a student is physically unable to participate in practice, but is in attendance at school he/she will be required to attend and watch practice, unless excused by the coach.
4. It is expected that athletes will be on time for practice.
5. Every player is expected to attend every game and every team event throughout the season from beginning to end.
6. Tardiness to an event will result in a consequence.
7. It will be the Athletic Director's responsibility to make sure each coach is informed of these guidelines for the teams and enforcing them.
8. Each coach will establish and communicate guidelines with expectations for that season and for earning a varsity letter prior to the first scheduled contest.

## COMPETITION LEVELS

Fall -	Boys' Soccer	MS
	Girls' Volleyball	MS, JV, Varsity
	Cross Country	MS,V (Boys and Girls)
	Swimming	Varsity (Boys and Girls)
	Girls Tennis	JV, Varsity
	Equestrian	Varsity (6th-12th)
Winter -	Boys' Basketball	Junior Griffins, MS, JV, Varsity
	Girls' Basketball	MS, Varsity
	Cheerleading	Varsity
	Equestrian	Varsity (6th-12th)
Spring -	Boys' Baseball	MS, Varsity
	Girls' Soccer	MS, Varsity
	Track	Varsity (Boys and Girls)
	Boys Soccer	Varsity
	Boys Tennis	JV, Varsity
	Golf	MS,Varsity (Co-ed)
	Equestrian	Varsity (6th-12th)

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

The administrative regulation regarding eligibility for participation in athletics at Spartanburg Day School is divided into four areas:

1. Age/Grade Eligibility
2. Academic Eligibility
3. Game Participation Dress
4. Conduct/Attitude Eligibility

### **1. AGE/GRADE ELIGIBILITY**

- A. A student is ineligible to participate in athletics if his/her 19th birthday is before July 1.
- B. Varsity team participation is for students in 8th-12th grade in baseball, basketball, and soccer. 6th-12th grade may participate on all other varsity teams.
- C. Junior Varsity team participation is for students in 6th-10th grade in baseball, basketball and soccer. 5th-10th grade may participate on all other JV teams.

As a general rule we strongly encourage our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate on our Middle School teams exclusively. In cases of exceptional skill level and maturity, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have an option to try out for a Junior Varsity or Varsity team. Having a JV and a Varsity team will always be our first priority. This will ensure that most, if not all of our students, have a team on which to compete. The only exception to this rule is in the event that we are only fielding a Varsity team with no Middle School team for that particular sport, then 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have the option to play for that sport, but only after the expressed consent of the parents and approval of the Athletic Director.

#### **Participation regarding 5th graders will be as follows:**

In the event we do not have enough students to field a Middle School or JV Team, 5th graders will be considered based on the following criteria:

The coach will first appeal to the Athletic Director to add 5th graders to the roster. The first consideration will be prior experience in the sport in question in addition to a recommendation by the Division Heads regarding the student's maturity level and ability to balance their academics along with athletics. The final criteria would be parental consent.

#### **Junior Griffins**

The Junior Griffins Boys Basketball team and the Junior Basketball League was created in order to provide 6th graders the opportunity for more playing time. Due to the high number of 7th and 8th graders on the middle school team we believe that adding this team will give the 6th graders a better chance to develop and prepare for the middle school team in the future. In the event that we do not have enough 6th graders to field a team ( 12 maximum ), we will have a tryout for those 5th graders who may be interested.

## **2. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

- A. All students are academically eligible during the first marking period of the school year.
- B. All students must be in good academic standing before participating in a sport. This will be determined on an individual basis.
- C. Students in grade 9-12 must take and pass at least 4, one unit core courses, or any 5 one unit courses each grading period or semester. Students below the 9th grade must pass 4 subjects each grading period or semester. Student athletes are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA . A student declared academically ineligible at the end of a report period will immediately serve a mandatory two week game suspension.
- D. All students must be enrolled as full-time students.
- E. Transfer students must meet the same academic eligibility requirements as all other students enrolled in Spartanburg Day School.
- F. A student's grades, which determine his/her eligibility, are grades received at the end of each report card period.
- G. In certain cases, unacceptable progress reports may be cause for ineligibility at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- H. Unacceptable conduct within the classroom, on the field of play and among peers may also be a basis for ineligibility.
- I. All cases of Out of School Suspension (OSS) concerning an athlete will be reviewed on an individual bases and the determination as to whether the athlete will be suspended from that sport for the remainder of the season will be at the discretion of the Division Heads and the Athletic Director.
- J. A student must be present in school by 10:00 am in order to participate in an athletic event. The Athletic Director and Division Heads will determine any exceptions to these attendance requirements

## **3. GAME PARTICIPATION DRESS**

All athletes must be in uniform to participate in a game or match. Guidelines for traveling dress code will be established at the beginning of each season and will be enforced. The Athletic Director reserves the right to disallow an athlete to travel to an away game if their attire is not up to standard dress code.

#### **4. CONDUCT/ATTITUDE ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The disciplinary regulations for all students as outlined in the student parent handbook will be enforced.
  - C. Athletes electing to quit a team during a season must petition the Athletic Director to be reinstated and may not try out for another team until their previous commitment has concluded.
- 

#### **PARTICIPATION POLICY**

The Spartanburg Day School Athletic Department wants to encourage all of our students to participate in as many sports as possible. But, with the rise and emphasis being put on club sports in our area, we have been put in a position to take a stand on maintaining the growth and integrity of our own Athletic Program.

If club coaches are not willing to be flexible based on the higher precedence (games), athletes will have to make a choice. If a school game is rescheduled and a conflict in games occurs, they will be dealt with on an individual basis, with the minimum being a loss of playing time. Therefore, athletes who are planning to play on a club or AAU team in addition to playing on a SDS team must meet the following criteria:

- A. If the student is playing conflicting sports (ex: club volleyball and school basketball), SDS practices and games are expected to take precedence.
- B. If the student is playing in the same sport during the same season (ex: club Soccer and school soccer), they will have the option to practice with their club team or with the school at the discretion of the SDS coach. But if there is a conflict in club practice or game and school games, school games are expected to take precedence.

C. All students 6th-12th grade are required to participate in a minimum of one sport per year. Outside activities or additional offerings by the school to satisfy this requirement will be requested on an individual basis and must meet with the approval of the Division Heads and Athletic Director.

D. Non-Compete Clause. This policy prevents any Spartanburg Day School students from competing against each other in the same sport during the same season. For example: If a student decides to play club soccer for a team outside of the school and they are scheduled to play against each other, then the student playing for the club team will not be permitted to play in that game.

## **2. SPORT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Students will be permitted to participate on one team sport and one individual sport per season. Coaches will be required to work out and coordinate a schedule, and then it must be approved by the parents and the Athletic Director. There may be exceptions to this rule based on schedules and the athletes participation requirements.

---

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Spartanburg Day School will provide or communicate the expectations for travel regarding all athletic events.

All team members will be required to travel together to a game. Exceptions to this will be appealed to the Athletic Director.

Any travel, following the completion of a contest, which is not with the team will be granted with the coach's approval and permission from a parent or guardian.

Overnight trips may be part of the Athletic Program and athletes may be requested to help cover the cost of food, transportation and/or lodging. These trips are a school sponsored function and will be governed by school rules as listed in the student and athletic handbook.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Good communication between the students and coaches is imperative to a successful program.

Students should be encouraged to speak directly to coaches in regards to absences, academics, injuries, illness, playing time and ways to improve performance. Parents should support this process

unless they feel their child did not reach a resolution by attempting to handle it themselves.

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS**

The first State Championship ring will be funded by the Griffin Club. Any subsequent championship rings for the same sport will be optional for the athlete to purchase at their own expense.

## **VARSITY LETTERS**

Athletes must meet all of the required guidelines governing athletic teams in order to receive a varsity letter. Additional sport specific requirements established by each coach at the beginning of the season may also be added. These awards will be presented at the team functions at the end of each season.

## **Spartanburg Day School No-Cut Policy**

The purpose of the no-cut policy is to give students who have an interest in sports the opportunity to develop basic fundamental skills with the intent of future, Varsity participation and to insure the growth of our Athletic Program. It will in no way compromise or diminish the success of our Athletic Programs at Spartanburg Day School but is intended to teach hard work, commitment and the discipline required to be successful.

The no-cut policy does not mean equal playing time, but it will ensure that everyone will get some playing time, although limited, through the course of the season. Playing time will be earned in practice and at the discretion of the coach. Each athlete on the team will be required to meet all practice and attendance policies in order to remain on the team. Each athlete must demonstrate a minimum requirement of measurable skills in order to make the travel teams. There is a possibility that athletes will be asked to leave a team not because they are less able, but because they do not have the desire or attitude to accept the goals that the coach establishes for each player. At SDS we are committed to providing an exemplary Athletic Program for all of our students who are interested in sports, and believe that each student should have the opportunity to develop athletic skills with the intent of playing a role in the continued success of our program.

Rita B. Harrell  
Athletic Director  
Spartanburg Day School