

# Summerville Catholic School Athletic Handbook 2016-2017

## SCS Seahawks

RESPECT

TEAMWORK

FAITH



INTEGRITY

SELF-DISCIPLINE

SPORTSMANSHIP

## Champions of Character

Welcome to the athletic program for Summerville Catholic. Members of our athletic teams have the opportunity to make new friendships, develop athletic skills and learn about cooperation, sportsmanship and commitment. The athletic program for Summerville Catholic continues to grow each year. With the help of volunteers and teachers, the program promotes a sense of belonging and embraces sportsmanship and fair play. We appreciate your support of our athletic program as we strive to strengthen our students in spirit, mind, and body.

Summerville Catholic School  
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Summerville, SC 29485  
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Dear Parents, Students, and Coaches,

Welcome to Summerville Catholic School! In choosing to attend Summerville Catholic School you have elected a Christ-centered Catholic education and academic excellence. Many wonderful opportunities await you!

As a school community, we all must consider the appropriate role of athletics here at Summerville Catholic School. A core characteristic of Catholic Christianity and Catholic schools is the concept of building relationships and fostering community. Our athletic program adds another dimension to our school community. Pope John Paul II says that as manifestations of the communal body of Christ, athletics serve to unify all individuals, including coaches, student-athletes, and families in a spirit of peace.

This handbook outlines the philosophy and reflects the policies of Summerville Catholic School Athletic Program for the 2016-2017 school year. Please read this document carefully, sign the attached forms, and return them to school before attending the first practice date. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of Summerville Catholic School Athletic Program during the 2016-2017 school year.

Summerville Catholic School athletics extends the work of Summerville Catholic School by offering another environment in which high human and spiritual ideals can be fostered to help children grow towards a deeper understanding of themselves and their roles in God's great world. Thank you for doing your part to help positively affect and develop the lives of all children by building a peaceful environment within our school, our parish, and in our larger community.

Peace in Christ,

David Friedlander  
Principal

**"I consider sports as an instrument of education when it fosters high human and spiritual ideals; when it forms youth in an integral way in values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, solidarity and peace. Surmounting differences of cultures and ideologies, sports offers an ideal occasion for dialogue and understanding among peoples, for building the desired civilization of love. To put into practice these values, based on the dignity of the human person, in face of possible interests that might darken the nobility of sports itself."**

Pope John Paul II

Sept. 16, 2002

## *Summerville Catholic School Athletics*

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### *Mission Statement of Summerville Catholic School:*

As a Catholic school community, we believe in the uniqueness, dignity and potential of every student. Following the life and example of Jesus Christ, we strive to build character while teaching compassion. By strengthening our students in spirit, mind and body, we prepare them to lead lives based on faith, values and learning.

### *Mission of Summerville Catholic School Athletics:*

The Summerville Catholic Athletic program provides a safe, healthy sports environment that compliments the school's academic program. All participants will learn the fundamentals of each sport and be given the opportunity to develop good sportsmanship, fair play, and a spirit of teamwork. Our program is designed to provide an opportunity for beginning athletes to learn the rules of the game, basic skills, sportsmanlike conduct, fair play, and have fun. As athletes progress, the program will focus on refining skills and developing good sportsmanship through competitive teamwork, team achievement and the personal growth of each athlete.

### *Philosophy:*

Summerville Catholic School strengthens our students in spirit, mind and body. We believe that participation in extra-curricular opportunities, such as athletics, is an important component to a well-rounded educational experience. Through participation in Summerville Catholic School's athletic program, students have an opportunity to develop ethical and moral standards, life-long skills, and positive values such as healthy living habits, leadership, self-discipline, integrity, teamwork, and respect for rules and regulations.

Though our athletic teams strive to win in the sense of having the best score, we recognize the real value of Catholic school athletics is realized only if it fosters the development of the human person—both in spirit and in body—by cultivating Christian character, strengthening personal integrity and responsibility, and promoting the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors.

Participation on a team is a privilege. With this privilege come responsibilities in the areas of preparation, attitude, sportsmanship, and academics. These responsibilities exist both in and out of school, both in athletic and non-athletic settings. We recognize the need for God's support and guidance in meeting these responsibilities.

### ***Goals of the Summerville Catholic School Athletic Program:***

- Enhance Catholic values
- Develop sportsmanship
- Experience being part of a team and learn the commitment necessary to support the team
- Foster school spirit
- Develop good health through physical fitness
- Encourage self-discipline, self-control, fair play, cooperation
- Teach proper attitude toward winning, losing and competing with dignity

### ***Governance of the Athletic Program:***

The Summerville Catholic School Athletic program is an extension of the school. This program is subject to the authority of the Canonical Administrator and the Pastor of St. John the Beloved parish. The principal is the primary authority over the program. Working together, the principal and the athletic director have the responsibility of supervising the athletic program and maintaining the mission and goals of the program.

### ***Summerville Catholic Sports Programs***

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>
soccer K4-8th(co-ed)	9/10 girls/boys basketball	K5-8 <sup>th</sup> tennis (co-ed)
golf 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> (co-ed)	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> girls/boys basketball	4yr-12yr baseball YMCA co-ed
girls volleyball 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> girls/boys basketball	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> baseball boys
cross country 2-8 <sup>th</sup> (co-ed)	3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> archery (co-ed)	K4-8 <sup>th</sup> grade soccer

## ***Registration Information***

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### ***Nondiscriminatory Policy***

Summerville Catholic Athletics admits any students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

## ***Procedure for Registration***

A Summerville Catholic School student, or student of a supporting parish, can become a full, participating member of a Summerville Catholic athletic team once the following requirements are met:

1. Student and parent/guardian have completed and returned SCS and Diocese of Charleston Athletic forms
2. Student and parent/guardian have read the SCS Athletic Handbook and signed the Athletic Contract.

## **Athletic Registration Form**

Summerville Catholic students, or students of a supporting parish, wishing to participate in a sport must fill out a Summerville Catholic School Registration Form and the Diocese of Charleston Athletic Waiver. These forms are accessible in the main office of the school or can be found on the Summerville Catholic School website. Registration forms must be completed and returned on or before the deadline set. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline should see the Athletic Director. Deadlines are not intended to prevent a student from participating on a sports team, but they are necessary to make sure that team sizes do not become too large to allow for proper instruction of participants.

## **Fees**

All sports offered at Summerville Catholic School have different costs required for operation. Fees are intended to cover part of the operating costs, uniforms cost, equipment costs, and any tournament fees. Students and their families may be asked to provide their own personal equipment for certain sports.

*Financial constraints should not inhibit any student from participating in student athletics. For financial assistance for Summerville Catholic School athletics, please contact the principal.*

## ***Communication:***

The athletic director will act as liaison between coaches, parents, students and the school. Working together with the administration, the athletic director will work collaboratively with parents and coaches to assist with responsibilities such as registration, scheduling, coordinating volunteers, and overseeing league/tournament regulations. The athletic director will disseminate communication and information regarding athletic business. If there is a question or concern that cannot be answered by your child's coach, please contact the athletic director. Please do not take matters into your own hands.

## ***Program Participation:***

### **Attendance Guidelines**

Players have the responsibility to attend practices and/or games on a regular basis. Players unable to attend a practice or game are asked to notify the coach in advance. All players will have an opportunity to play in most games; however, the amount of playing time will be at the discretion of the coach.

### **Practice Schedule**

The number and scheduling of practices and games vary according to the age of the participants and the sport being played. If a practice needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, coaches will notify parents on the team and the school. A general announcement will be made at school to all students, and an effort will be made to allow students to call home regarding the cancellation.

Many teams use the Summerville Catholic School fields for practice and often at the same time. Practice schedule coordination will be developed between the athletic director and the coaches. Safety is a priority. Coaches are responsible for stopping practice if an unsafe situation develops. The practicing athletes are supervised by a coach. Parents/guardians of non-participating children who are on the school grounds while practice is taking place must be supervised by their own parent/guardian at all times.

## ***Coaching Expectations and Requirements***

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Coaches are first and foremost educators, and must work in coordination with the parents who are the primary educators of children. At all times, coaches must be examples of Christ the Teacher who serve as role models for student-athletes to emulate. They must be messengers of the school mission and ensure that athletic programs embody the Catholic characteristics prevalent at Summerville Catholic School.

### **Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Volunteers:**

You must complete all four (4) components of the Diocese of Charleston volunteering process and turn in the forms to the Summerville Catholic School office **before** becoming an active volunteer.

1. Read and sign the volunteer's code of conduct.
2. Complete the VIRTUS class "Protecting God's Children."
3. Read our diocese's policy on "Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor" and sign the acknowledgement of receipt form.
4. Sign the diocese "Background Screening" form to consent to background check.

## ***Goal Setting***

When working with Summerville Catholic School student-athletes, a successful coach will work towards goals in the following three dimensions: team, personal, and school.

### **Team Goals**

Summerville Catholic School coaches build a team by:

1. Advancing the athletes' understanding of their role as members of the communal body of Christ.
2. Creating a positive and memorable experience that will be cherished by the student-athlete for the rest of his/her life.
3. Teaching the specific and unique skills of this sport to the very best of his/her abilities by using all means, methods, and resources available.
4. Teaching the skills of healthy competition that will prepare athletes and the team to succeed.

### **Personal Goals**

Summerville Catholic School coaches grow as individuals by:

1. Modeling character, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and a lived faith.
2. Appreciating the moments of grace throughout a season, at times of winning and losing.
3. Becoming a lifelong learner of their sport.
4. Maintaining perspective in and throughout all athletic endeavors, realizing teachable moments exist in all experiences.
5. Fostering positive relationships with all school community stakeholders.

### **School Goals**

Summerville Catholic School coaches contribute to the school community by:

1. Infusing the school mission in all athletic activities.
2. Promoting academic excellence as an essential component in the development of student-athletes.
3. Committing to effective communication with administrators, teachers, parents, and athletes.
4. Supporting the development of student-athletes as leaders and role models in the greater school community.
5. Creating a culture of school unity and spirit as exemplified through sportsmanship, positive fan participation, and respect for all.

## ***Conduct of Coaches***

Coaches are called to be models and witnesses to their faith each day and as such, coaches are expected to uphold high standards of conduct in and out of season.

## **Language**

Language should be appropriate and constructive at all times. Coaches are expected to not only monitor their own language, but they should also set and enforce standards of appropriate language for their athletes. This includes, but is not limited to swearing, harassment, exclusionary language, sexual innuendo, personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike gestures.

## **Treatment of Opponents**

Although opponents are not a part of our school community, they are members of the larger body of Christ and should be treated as such. Coaches should model such respect for their athletes and should instruct players on how to welcome their opponents and all visitors in a way that conveys a sense of hospitality and community.

## ***Prayer***

Athletic experiences play an important role in the spiritual formation of students at Summerville Catholic School. Genuine and lasting spiritual development is only possible through careful and conscientious preparation by those in leadership positions. Coaches, as team leaders, are chosen not just to be mentors and role models for student-athletes, but also to be witnesses. Prayer should become an intentional component to a team's culture, not just a rushed event before or after a game or practice. Rather than emphasizing winning, prayers should focus on embodying the spirit of Christianity. Coaches are encouraged to build and create spiritual traditions into their approach to coaching at Summerville Catholic School.

## ***Coaching Duties***

In addition to serving as witnesses and models of faith, Summerville Catholic School coaches are expected to fulfill the following duties:

- Properly supervise and instruct our athletes in order to develop the potential, confidence and skills of each athlete.
- Ensure that the health, well-being and development of athletes take precedence over the win/loss record.
- Serve as role models and exemplify honesty, integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship.
- Commit to the education of our athletes and encourage academic achievement

## ***Communication with Athletes and Parents***

Summerville Catholic School coaches should establish clear procedures and guidelines for communication with athletes and parents that align with the philosophy and mission of Summerville Catholic School. E-mail should be used only to communicate basic information, such as time and location of games and practices. Discussions of concerns should always be done in person. If a face-to-face meeting is not possible, a phone call is acceptable. Before meetings, establish clear agendas and communicate that certain topics will not be discussed. Coaches do not have to discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes.

## *Expectations of Parents and Stakeholders*

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Summerville Catholic School coaches and administrators respect the primacy of the parents as the first teachers of their student-athletes, and will partner with parents in the formation of student-athletes. Parents and other members of the community play a vital role in the holistic education of children including students' participation in school-sponsored athletics. Together, all stakeholders should actively work to ensure that the Catholic mission and identity of Summerville Catholic School permeates the athletics program.

### *Top Five Ways to Support your Student-Athlete*

1. **Be present** – Show up to games, cheer, and support our teams!
2. **Be positive** – Children learn from modeling. When talking about the game, season, performances and decision-making, please share the gift of a positive outlook on life! Make sure that your child knows that win or lose, he/she is loved and supported.
3. **Encourage independence** – Encourage student-athletes to be responsible for the care of their athletic gear and to be prepared for practices and games. In addition, student-athletes should speak directly with their coach about any questions and/or concerns.
4. **Observe the “24 Hour Cushion”** – As do all good educators, SCS coaches will naturally and deliberately reflect on game situations and decisions. Please allow coaches the time they need to process their decisions before approaching them with any questions. As stated above, coaches need not discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes.
5. **Model Summerville Catholic’s behavior expectations for visiting spectators** – Take pride in our athletic program and model for visitors how we...
  - i. cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
  - ii. respect the integrity and authority of game officials.
  - iii. allow coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators.
  - iv. help clean up at the end of athletic events.

### *Removal from Team – Parent Decision*

The principal, athletic director and coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team for any reason. However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team for the remainder of the sport season.

## ***Student Expectations and Requirements***

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Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the Summerville Catholic School community in a favorable way. By joining the school's athletic program, a student becomes a representative of his/her team and of Summerville Catholic School.

### ***Eligibility and Probation***

We expect student-athletes to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with the Summerville Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and competitions, and in the public arena. A student will be considered *ELIGIBLE* to participate in interscholastic athletics at Summerville Catholic School if their most recent academic report reflects:

- ❖ A passing grade in all subjects
- ❖ A *Satisfactory* grade or better in all special area subjects
- ❖ A *Satisfactory* grade or better in conduct for all subjects

A student-athlete will be considered *ON PROBATION* should his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct:

1. One failing grade in any subject
2. Below *Satisfactory* in any special subjects
3. Disciplinary action resulting in demerits, an afterschool detention, or suspension

*Probation* is one, two (2)-week period during which a student-athlete works to improve his/her grades and/or conduct. During this two-week period, a student is still considered a full, participating member of the athletic team, but *time should be spent wisely in improving one's grades and conduct*. Student-athletes are encouraged to seek extra help from those teachers in courses where he/she is struggling either before school or after school. Summerville Catholic School faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth.

### **Evaluating Probationary Improvement**

A student-athlete remains a full, participating member of a team if his/her grades at the end of the probationary two-week period reflect a passing average or better in every class, and the student-athlete maintained conduct in keeping with the Summerville Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## **Ineligibility**

A student-athlete will be considered *INELIGIBLE* for sports at Summerville Catholic School should there be no improvement after the two-week probationary period. They will remain ineligible until the next progress report or report card is issued. *Ineligibility* means that a student-athlete must attend all practices, but is ineligible to play in any games.

## ***Student-Athlete Expectations***

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the Summerville Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.

## **Attendance**

All student-athletes must be marked as present in school on the day of practice or a game in order to participate. Please see the *Student-Parent Handbook* for what constitutes an absence.

All student-athletes must recognize the time commitment made to a team. One is expected to attend all practices and games. If one cannot attend a practice or game, please make sure the coach and/or athletic director has been notified *in advance*. Consequences for a missed practice or game will be informed by the team rules as outlined by the coach/team at the beginning of the season in addition to the natural consequences that result from missing practice instruction or game experience.

## **Dress Code/Uniforms/Equipment**

Student-Athletes are highly visible representatives of the school and, as such, are responsible for using good judgment in their overall appearance.

*School issued uniforms or equipment must be returned to the athletic director within seven (7) days of the last game.* Progress reports and/or report cards may be withheld until the uniform or equipment is returned. If a uniform or equipment is not returned, parents are responsible for the replacement cost.

## **Sportsmanship**

All student-athletes are expected to represent Summerville Catholic School in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both on and off the court or field. Student-athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. In extreme cases when an athlete has been ejected from a game, multi-game suspensions and dismissal from the team may be appropriate. The athletic director and principal will make the final decision following a meeting with the athlete, coach, and parent.

## ***Transportation Policy***

In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Charleston, Summerville Catholic School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is privately arranged by parents/guardians. Summerville Catholic School and the Diocese of Charleston assume no liability for accidents that may occur en route to any sporting practice or activity.

## ***Sports Banquet***

Each spring, Seahawk athletes will be honored at a Sports Banquet held at Summerville Catholic School. Families are invited to a dinner and awards ceremony to recognize those who have played a sport as well as honor those who receive special recognition from the Trident League and Bishop England. At this banquet, athletes in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> who have played a sport for the first time will receive their Summerville Catholic School letter. This letter can be used to collect additional sports pins that will be awarded each year. The Seahawk Award will also be presented to a qualifying 8<sup>th</sup> grader(s). To be considered for the Seahawk Award, athletes in 8<sup>th</sup> grade must have played at least 2 SCS/BE sports as well as maintain an overall B average.

Information about the Sports Banquet will be sent home in early spring.

**As a Catholic school community, we believe in the uniqueness, dignity and potential of every student. Following the life and example of Jesus Christ, we strive to build character while teaching compassion. By strengthening our students in spirit, mind and body, we prepare them to lead lives based on faith, values and learning.**



## SUMMERVILLE CATHOLIC ATHLETIC CONTRACT 2015-2016

Please initial each statement below to acknowledge your agreement to this contract. Then, sign the form at the bottom and return it to the Athletic Director to be eligible for participation.

As a Summerville Catholic School Student-Athlete...

\_\_\_ I will strive to give my best to the team in every practice and every game.

\_\_\_ I will be on time for all practices and games.

\_\_\_ I will not miss a practice or game because of another outside sport or extra-curricular activity unless approved by the coach or athletic director.

\_\_\_ This experience is an opportunity to learn not only \_\_\_\_\_ (sport), but also teamwork with all its inherent responsibilities. There will be times when I will follow someone's lead and there will be times when I must assume that lead – I always have a contribution to make to my team.

\_\_\_ I will take my coaches' directions and comments as constructive suggestions, which make me a better athlete and my team a successful unit.

\_\_\_ Practice is where I learn the concepts of the game. How I apply those concepts in mind and body in practice will carry over into the game situation.

\_\_\_ I will always play hard, but always will be a fair sport whether we are winning or losing the game, realizing that everyone on my team and my opponent's team is playing for fun and the competitive experience.

\_\_\_ I will carry these principles to my schoolwork and my family life with the realization that these are of greatest importance and take precedence to any sport.

\_\_\_ I will be an example of Christ in all my actions on and off the field/court of competition.

\_\_\_ I have read the athletic handbook and agree to follow the policies and procedures as stated.

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

**SUMMERVILLE CATHOLIC PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT 2015-2016**

The purpose of the following Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct is to help define appropriate parental/guardian actions that support the mission of the athletic program. Parents/guardians should read, understand, and sign this form prior to participation.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship, respect, fairness, responsibility, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competitions reflects these concepts.

As a parent/guardian, I therefore agree to the following:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that the game is for the youth, not adults.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy towards all players, coaches, officials and spectators at all games and practices.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy towards all players, coaches, officials and spectators at all games and practices.
- I (and my guests) will not taunt, harass or use profane language or gestures
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practice that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- I will see that my child treat other players, coaches, and spectators with respect.
- I will emphasize the importance of skill development over winning and losing.
- I will respect the coaches for the time they donate, and I will never publicly confront, question, or criticize them.

Please sign and return this page of the Athletic Policy **with your registration forms**. Keep the policy at home for future reference.

Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_