

Summerville Catholic School Athletic Handbook



2026 - 2027

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.

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's Athletic Program for the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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,

Caitlin Omilak
Principal

Summerville Catholic School Athletics

Mission Statement of Summerville Catholic School:

Summerville Catholic School, inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, provides a strong, faith-based education that nourishes the uniqueness of each student in spirit, mind and body.

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

Athletics Chain of Command:

Athletic Director – The athletic director oversees all of the sports teams at Summerville Catholic. The athletic director should be notified of any concerns after a meeting is held with the coaches. If you need help setting up a meeting with the coaches the athletic director can help to arrange one. The athletic director is there to support both the students and coaches, helping seasons to run smoothly.

Team Coaches - Coaches will be your primary contact. Coaches are responsible for practices, games and student/guardian communication. Coaches will have the final say on what positions athletes' play, how long athletes play and behavioral concerns and consequences within their team. All of the coaches have been background checked and have completed Safe Haven training.

Team Parent – The team parent helps the coach with all paperwork, scheduling and organization of the team. The team parent would be a good first stop when trying to organize a meeting with the coach.

Parent/Coach Communication:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your student-athlete becomes involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on them. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

Communication You Should Expect from your Athlete's Coach:

1. Expectations of the coaches for your student-athlete and the team.
2. Locations and time of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment.
4. Procedure, should your student-athlete become injured during participation.
5. Team rules and guidelines.

Communication Coaches expect from Student-Athletes:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.

As your student-athlete becomes involved in the athletic program in Middle School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your student-athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to discuss with Coaches:

1. The treatment of your student athlete, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your son/daughter to improve.
3. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties included have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure assists to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern, you may want to discuss the issue with your student-athlete first. You may find through this communication an answer, resolution, or understanding of the situation before contacting others.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, here is the procedure you should follow:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, and the meeting will be set up for you.

Please give yourself time (24 hours) to understand your concern before approaching a coach. Attempting to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice is not an appropriate time. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

What Can a Parent Do If the Meeting with The Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?

1. If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved after meeting with the coach, the athlete and/or parent(s) should discuss the situation with the Athletic Director informally in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If the athlete and/or parent(s) wish to make a formal complaint to the Athletic Director about the coach, it should be put in writing, with a copy provided to the coach.
3. The Athletic Director will investigate the complaint, and discuss the concern with the coach. The investigation may include observation of practice sessions by the Athletic director, if necessary. The Athletic Director will document the results of the investigation and subsequent action(s) taken to resolve the complaint in writing.
4. If the formal complaint is not satisfactory resolved by the Athletic Director, the athlete and/or parent(s) may appeal in writing to the Principal.

Summerville Catholic Sports Programs

Fall	Winter	Spring
Soccer (Boys & Girls, K3-8 th)	Archery (Boys & Girls, 4 th -8 th)	Tennis (Boys & Girls, K5-8 th)
Volleyball (Girls, 5 th -8 th)	Basketball (Boys, 1 st -8 th)	Soccer (Boys & Girls, K3-8 th)
Volleyball YMCA 9-11yr coed	Basketball (Girls, 1 st -8 th)	Baseball/T-Ball (Boys & Girls, K3-5 th)

Registration Information

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 of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

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 any additional forms specific to the registering sport. 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 due date. 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, gym rental fees 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 athletic director.

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.

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

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 three (3) 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. Read and sign stating that they have read and will follow the guidance of the athletic handbook.

3. Coaches have completed Virtues training and all diocesan background screenings.

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.
- Refrain from practicing outside in temperatures that reach or exceed a heat index of 100 degrees fahrenheit.

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

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...
 - cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
 - respect the integrity and authority of game officials.
 - allow coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators.
 - 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

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 athletics at Summerville Catholic School if they maintain a 70% or higher in all subjects, including special areas.

A student-athlete will be considered *ON PROBATION* should his/her class average drop below a 70%. At this time the teacher will let the athletic director know and the student will be placed on probation.

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, however, he/she is not permitted to practice or participate in team events. Instead, the student should wisely spend time improving his/her 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. At the end of this 2-week probation if the student has not improved their average they will be removed from the team to allow them more time to focus on their academics.

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.

Student-Athlete Guidelines for Consequences:

All disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the coaches with the help of the athletic director. Any disagreement with the consequences should first be discussed with the coaches, in a pre-scheduled meeting. If this does not resolve the issue then a complaint should be made in writing to the athletic director to set up a meeting.

Be **responsible** in all our actions.

Be **respectful** in all our interactions.

Behavior	Consequence
Poor academic performance	See eligibility & probation addendum
Disrespectful Behavior towards: teammates, coaches, parents & opponents	1st offense: Sit out of one practice 2nd offense: One game suspension 3rd offense: removal from team
Aggressive behavior towards: teammates, coaches, parents & opponents	1st offense: One game suspension 2nd offense: removal from team
Offensive language/long use of profanity, example every other word is profanity. *A slip up and one word of profanity is used	1st offense: One game suspension 2nd offense: removal from team *Laps at practice discretion of coach
Threats towards: teammates, coaches, parents & opponents	1st offense: One game suspension 2nd offense: removal from team
Parent breaking SCS parent code of conduct	1st offense: One game suspension (player) 2nd offense: removal from team (player) **could lead to future sports participation**

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 in 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 5th – 8th 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 8th grader(s). To be considered for the Seahawk Award, athletes in 8th 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.

SUMMERVILLE CATHOLIC ATHLETIC CONTRACT 2026-2027

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 One Signature: _____ Date: _____

If applicable:

Player Two Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player Three Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player Four Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please have all student athletes, if playing the same sport, complete one form per family.

SUMMERVILLE CATHOLIC PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT 2026-2027

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.

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 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 treats 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.
- I will not discipline any child besides my own.
- I will not speak negatively about any athlete, coach or SCS at practices, games or on social media.

Athlete's Name: _____

All Parents/Guardians Signatures: _____

Date: _____

COACHES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE
2026-2027

My signature verifies that I have received a copy of the Summerville Catholic School Athletics Handbook. I have read the handbook and agree to be Governed by its policies and procedures.

Coaches Signature _____

Date _____