The South Carolina Independent School Association

Blue Book

2018-19

Constitution

SCISA Athletic Constitution

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association".

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The object of this organization is to formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard the educational values of interscholastic competition, to cultivate high ideals of sportsmanship, to develop and direct a program which will promote, protect, and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants, and to promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic competition (*create a level playing field*).

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: All South Carolina Independent School Association member schools that field an athletic team shall pay complete dues to the association, unless a waiver is granted by the Athletic Committee.

SECTION II: Schools put on probation for deficiencies by the South Carolina Independent School Association shall not be eligible to participate in the activities governed by this Association.

SECTION III: All South Carolina Independent School Association Full Member Schools' athletic teams must participate in SCISA, unless SCISA does not offer that sport.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

SECTION I: The governing body of this association shall be The Athletic Committee as provided for in Article VI, Section III, of the SCISA Constitution.

SECTION II: The governing body shall meet as necessary. A meeting may be called at anytime by the chairman or by a majority of the Board of Directors.

SECTION III: Grievances or recommendations from member schools shall be made through the Association's Athletic Office.

SECTION IV: The Athletic Office must approve all contests between member and non-member schools. This approval must be in writing prior to the playing of the contest. In scheduling such contest, due consideration shall be given the satisfactory completion of all members' schedules. SCISA certified officials shall be used when the contest is played at the SCISA school.

SECTION V: The Athletic Committee or SCISA Athletic Director may revoke a student's eligibility at any time the evidence so warrants and it will be incumbent upon the school to provide proof of eligibility.

SECTION VI: Any member school that brings legal action against SCISA and the judgment is not in their favor, will be responsible for SCISA's legal fees.

SECTION VII: The Athletic Committee has the authority to rule on any matter not specifically covered by rule, acting in the spirit and intent of SCISA rules, policies, and procedures.

ARTICLE V - CONFERENCES AND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION I: The Athletic Committee shall determine classification for athletic purposes, each two-year period, based on enrollment in grades 8-11 and geographic location. The enrollment of boys should be considered for classifying football schools. A school with an enrollment of forty-eight (48) boys or more in grades 8-11, may not participate in 8-Man football. The Committee shall institute conferences based on the above in the best interests of all member schools.

SECTION II: New members will be assigned to conferences by the Athletic Committee in an equitable fashion.

SECTION III: A school may request to play in a higher classification in: Football or Boys Soccer only; or All Sports; or All Sports except football or boys soccer.

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY RULES: STUDENT

The primary purpose of school is education. The participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are eligible to represent the SCISA member school where he/she is a full time student and is meeting all academic, grade, age, residency (guardianship), eight semester, and additional eligibility rules.

- An ineligible player is not allowed to participate against another school in any competition whether practice sessions, scrimmages, jamborees, or scheduled games (SCISA or out-of-league games).
- An academically ineligible player may not take part in practice sessions.
- A student must not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Article VI - Eligibility Rules: Student

Section I: Academic Requirements:

Academic achievement is a prerequisite to participation.

A. In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina Independent School Association, a student must be enrolled in and attending the member school in order to participate in that school's athletic program. The student must also meet all other necessary requirements for participation.

B. A student in grades 9-12 must take and pass at least **four (4), one unit CORE Courses** or **any five (5)** one unit courses, **each grading period** (6/9/12 week) or semester to be eligible.
   - Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester.
   - A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4), one-credit courses each marking period/semester.
   - A student who is repeating a course for which he/she has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility.

C. A Maximum of **Two Credits** earned/recovered during summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school with an established summer school program.

D. First Semester Academic Eligibility: A student must have earned a minimum of 4 core units or any 5 units of credit from the previous school year to be declared eligible for the First Semester (Fall) of a school year.
   - Any student who did not receive credit for at least **one-half of all courses** taken the previous school year cannot be declared eligible until after the successful completion of the **1st Semester**. Approved summer schools courses/recovery can be applied to this standard.
   - Block Schedule: At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school. (*Example*: a student who earned 4 units for the first semester but withdrew/dropped-out the 2nd semester shall be declared ineligible for the First Semester).

E. Home School Courses. If a school allows a student to take courses at "home", those course are **not eligible** for athletic eligibility.

F. Schools providing non-traditional academic programs such as "virtual school", distance learning or other non-traditional courses shall seek prior approval by SCISA before these courses may be used for athletic eligibility.

G. Core Courses: Those courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science (1), Fine Arts(1) and Foreign Language that are recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools.

H. A One Credit Course is a course taken for 36 weeks, one period each day for a minimum of 45 minutes. A course taken each day as above for 18 weeks would be a half credit which when combined with another half credit course would be the equivalent of a one credit course. A course taken for 36 weeks but only three, 45 minute periods each week would not be a one credit course. Note: A One Credit Course taken for 18 weeks, shall meet for one period each day for a minimum of 90 minutes.
   - **Dual Credit Courses** are treated as one half of a carnige unit.

I. Eligibility is to be declared on the fourth (4th) school day after the end of the marking period. A student shall become eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the fourth school day after the end of the marking period.
   Example 1: The marking period ends on Friday. Student X becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on Thursday. *Example 2:* The marking period ends on a Monday and Tuesday is a holiday for students. Student Y becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the following Monday.

Section II: Age Requirements/Restrictions for athletic participation:

A. A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in athletics if his/her 19th birthday is before July 1, 2018.

B. **Junior Varsity:** In order to participate in junior varsity athletics, a student must not have reached his/her sixteenth (16th) birthday before July 1, 2018.

C. **B-Team/Middle School**: In order to participate in B-Team athletics, a student must not have reached his/her fifteenth (15th) birthday before July 1, 2018. *Exception: B-Team Football. A student must not have reached his/ her fourteenth (14th) birthday before July 1, 2018.*

Note: The Athletic Committee shall not grant a waiver of the age requirements.

SECTION III: GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION:

A. **Varsity Teams**: Eligible students in grades **8-12** may participate on varsity teams in baseball, lacrosse, basketball, softball, football and soccer. Eligible students in grades **6-12** may participate on all other varsity teams.

*To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the **skill level, maturity level, experience,** and **physical competitiveness** of students below the 10th grade before permitting participation on any varsity teams.*

B. **Junior Varsity Teams**: Sport specific grade restrictions exists for Junior Varsity Teams. Eligible students in grades **5-10** may participate on junior varsity teams in track, cross country, swimming, volleyball, golf and tennis. Eligible students in grades **6-10** may participate on junior varsity teams in basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and wrestling.

*To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the **skill level**, **experience**, **maturity level** and **physical competitiveness** of students below the 8th grade before permitting participation on any JV-Team.*

C. **Junior Varsity Football**: eligible students in grades **6-9** may participate in junior varsity football.

To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 8th grade before permitting participation on any junior varsity team.

D. **B-Teams/Middle School**: Eligible students in grades **5 - 8** may participate on B-Teams in all sports except football.

E. **B-Team/Middle School Football**: Eligible students in grades **5 - 7** may participate in B-Team football

To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 6th grade before permitting participation on any B-Team.

SECTION IV: EIGHT SEMESTER RULE

The primary purpose of school is **EDUCATION**. The participation in Athletics is a privilege for those students who are academically eligible.

EIGHT SEMESTER RULE: All students will have Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters of Eligibility beginning when he/she first enters the ninth grade, regardless of whether he/she participates in athletics. Exceptions to the *Eight Semester Rule* may be granted by the Athletic Committee for a **DOCUMENTED MEDICAL CONDITION, caused by an illness or injury,** which prevented his/her attending school sufficiently to pass.

A request for a waiver may be considered at the time that the facts have been determined. *Example: Student A was unable to attend school during the tenth grade because of an extended illness. A request for a waiver could be made and considered as soon as he/she recovers. All requests for waivers must be made in writing by the Headmaster.*

Requests for an Eight Semester Waiver must contain the following:

1. A written request from the school for an Eight Semester Waiver.
2. A copy of: A. Birth Certificate; B. Complete Transcript.
3. Documented medical information from a licensed healthcare provider stating the causal relationship between the medical condition and the school absences.
4. Detailed attendance records clearly indicating and corresponding to absences directly related to the documented medical condition.
5. Statement from the school administration attesting to the academic failure/retention due to excessive absences caused by a documented medical condition. Also, detailed information addressing how/why academic assistance would or would not be able to bring the student up to standard.
6. A written appeal brief must be filed, in its entirety, ten days prior to a scheduled meeting.
7. The school may request to personally appear before the Athletic Committee. Presentations to the Athletic Committee shall be limited to 15 minutes.

The decisions of the Athletic Committee (whether appealed or not) to grant a waiver shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of somewhat similar nature.

Section V: Student Eligibility Below Grade 9

1. Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester to be eligible for the next grading period.
2. A student must have passed the previous school year to be eligible for athletic participation the first grading period.
3. A student who repeats a grade below the ninth grade after having passed that grade would not be eligible during the year that is repeated. A waiver may be considered following the presentation of appropriate academic documentation detailing school's recommendation for repeating the grade. *Note: a student cannot use a course that he/she has previously received credit for current athletic eligibility.*
4. All students must comply with the age requirements and grade level restrictions for each level of competition.

Section VI: Amateur Status

A student-athlete must maintain an amateur status. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. Symbolic value is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. *Some examples are but not limited to: miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs…, plaques, trophies, cups, ribbons, banners, sweaters and jackets. Allowable travel, meals, and lodging expenses are acceptable.*

Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in organized youth sports programs, camps or playground activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. Coaches are responsible for making this known to his/her players.

SECTION VII: RECRUITING

The recruiting or proselytizing of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing SCISA Athletics and considered unsportsmanlike conduct. A student should not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person or group in an attempt to entice the student to transfer primarily for athletic purposes. Recruitment in this manner shall cause the student to be ineligible upon transfer and shall jeopardize the standing of the school in the Association.

Some examples of undue influence are:

1. *The student is asked by a member of the school faculty, a coach or member of a "booster club" to transfer from one school to another. School personnel cannot make the initial contact.*
2. *Special Privileges given to parents such as employment or financial aid.*
3. *Financial aid for transportation, room, board, or tuition.*
4. *Given any consideration not afforded other students. Example: financial assistance cannot be awarded because of the student's participation is a specific sport or sports in general.*

Note: Prior to enrollment a prospective student-athlete may visit a school provided the arrangements for the visit are cleared through the school administration of the school to be visited.

Section VIII: Scholarships and Financial Aid

A school shall have a standard procedure for the awarding of scholarships and financial aid. An acceptable school financial aid procedure/plan must:

1. Be in writing and on file in the school office.
2. Be approved by the school board.
3. Contain details of the qualifying criteria for aid.
4. Include all students in the grade structure of the school.
5. Demonstrate through documentation the application and approval process.
6. Show evidence of including non-athletes.
7. Comply with SCISA athletic eligibility reporting.

Financial Awards:

Many SCISA member schools utilize outside agencies to determine if and how much financial aid should be awarded. Outside agencies or organizations will evaluate the need for financial aid based on information provided to them by parents on a standardized application. Those qualifying for financial aid are determined by the agency, not by the school or one person, putting the school out of the decision process as to who gets help.

Schools who made such determinations "in-house" must have a written procedure and appropriate documentation available for SCISA review. SCISA is duty bound and charged by the membership to provide a level playing and the uniformity of standards.

Warning Signs, Red Flags and Reporting

1. A pattern of transfers into an athletic program, especially at the senior high level.
2. Sheer number of athletes receiving financial aid.
3. Involvement of Booster Clubs with financial aid.
4. No evidence of inclusion of non-athletes.

This type of activity should and will draw scrutiny and an evaluation by SCISA.

Each school is required to file both:

A. New Student Form: School
B. New Student Form: Parent

SECTION IX: ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

1. A student is considered to have enrolled in a school if they:
   A. File a completed Agreement for Participation Form **and** attends a practice at any time during the defined sport season (including the first day of a fall athletic practice regardless whether school is in session); or
   B. **Attends school during a class day** counted toward the gross days requirement.
2. **Sixty Day Rule**: A student who enrolls (see #1 for definition of enrolls) and then transfers must wait sixty (60) calendar days before establishing eligibility (to be eligible to participate in athletics).

   The Sixty Days may be waived following league/Committee review if all of the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Committee at it's sole and absolute discretion for a **non-member to member** transfer:
   A. The school shall file completed a Transfer Form (Parent's Form and School Form).
   B. The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer;
   C. The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before: *1.* ***September 17th for fall sports***; *2. January 9th (end of first semester) for winter sports*.
   D. If approved, a transfer must participate in **ten (10) days of practice** before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.
   E. **Second semester transfers** are subjected to the Sixty Day Rule (*transfers after January 9th/end of first semester)*.
3. Any student who transfers from a member school to a member school must complete a Transfer Form.
4. The Athletic Committee may waive these requirements if a *Bona Fide* change in residence is determined. *Bona fide means: The move must be with the intent of being permanent. The entire household must be moved into the new residence. The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.*
5. A transfer is ineligible to participate in the play-offs or state championship unless he/she has enrolled and attended classes at the member school for thirty (30) calendar days prior to the start of the play-offs.
6. A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former school academically as well as eligible under any school, student or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to be declared eligible for athletics. The Athletic Committee reserves the right to extend this period under special circumstances.

Note: The stated wait period for a transfer student shall begin on the first day the student attends a class.

SECTION X: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An international student shall be defined as any non-U.S. citizen, who is residing with anyone other than his/her own family.

International Students may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of one calendar year from the date of enrollment provided they:

1. Are a part of an approved International Educational program that is listed by CSIET.
2. Have been assigned to schools by a method which ensures that no student, school official, coach, volunteer, employee or other interested party has influenced the assignment.
3. Have not graduated or are not eligible for graduation from high school.
4. Meet all SCISA eligibility standards while a student at a member school.
5. Are submitted on a **Form 4** and an **International Student Eligibility Request Form**.
6. Have not reached his/her seventeenth **(17th) birthday before July 1** of the current school year (2018 for the 2018-19 school year). If he/she has, then he/she shall not be eligible for participation in athletics.

Note: An international student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA.

Note: Form 4 and a complete I-20 Form shall be filed for a student whose home is in another country but who attends a school in the United States outside the auspices of an established exchange program.

Eligibility Review Procedure: A school shall provide the following information for an eligibility ruling.

1. Verification of Date of Birth;
2. A letter from the CSIET approved International Educational program that placed the student detailing the selection process, specifically how your school was selected.
3. A written statement from the school's administration verifying that no interested party acted on behalf of the school to influence the assignment.
4. A completed FORM 4
5. SCISA may Grant or Deny eligibility.

Requests for First Semester International Student Eligibility Consideration Deadline: **September 1, 2018 or first scheduled athletic contest.**
Requests for Second Semester International Student Eligibility Consideration Deadline: **January 10, 2019**

International Student Extended Stay-to-Graduation Policy:
Each student is subject to league/Committee review. Schools shall submit the following information.

1. Completed I-20
2. Completed International Student Form
3. School's written International Student Program description including selection process and cost.
4. International student cannot receive any financial assistance from the school (sources of income/ support listed on I-20)
5. The student's first year must be incompliance with the International Student Policy as stated in Section X, #6 and within his/her Eight Semesters (*Have not reached his/her seventeenth (17th) birthday before July 1 of the current school year, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year). If he/she has, then he/she shall <u>not</u> be eligible for participation in athletics*.

Residency Programs or Boarding Programs will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students/schools shall file all required forms and also a copy of his/her I-20 form for review.

Note: A student returning to his school from a foreign exchange program may resume athletic competition provided he/ she meets all requirements relative to age and semesters of eligibility. The semester or semesters spent in the exchange program will count toward the eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.

SECTION XI: GUARDIANSHIP

A student must reside with his/her parent or a legally appointed guardian to be eligible for athletic participation. A legally appointed guardian will have the same status as a parent under the following circumstances:

1. Both parents are deceased;
2. Both parents reside outside the contiguous United States and the parents are U. S. citizens;
3. A student becomes a ward of the court and the DSS assumes legal guardianship.
4. The student becomes a ward of an orphanage.

Exceptions/Waivers may be granted by the Athletic Committee on a case by case basis. Some examples that would be considered are:

1. A student has lived with a relative for a number of years prior to a request to participate in athletics.
2. A family relocates because of work and a student wishes to finish the school year or complete their senior year with their class.
3. An approved International Student.

NOTE: A student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA or the SCISA Athletic Committee.

ARTICLE VII - ELIGIBILITY RULES - TEAM

SECTION I: Member schools become eligible for tournaments or championships by participation in the regular schedule as set forth in each activity. ***Player Participation is defined as dressed in the team uniform and in the team area or named in the score book.***

1. A student may participate in only one football game each calendar week. *Exception: SCISA may grant an exception based upon a weather or health related postponement of a contest.*
2. No student shall participate in two games or more of the same sport on the same day unless the contests are doubleheaders/tri-matches or a tournament format.
3. A student cannot participate in a JV game and Varsity contest on the same day.
4. Basketball: A student's name must be listed in the scorebook for at least one-half of all JV basketball games scheduled to be eligible to participate in the JV conference Tournament. *Exception: a player who becomes eligible after the start of the basketball season.*
5. A student is eligible to participant in the JV/B-Team Region Tournament or Region Varsity Tournament, not both.
6. Game limitations apply to both the team and student-athlete.
7. Any school or coach that permits any suspended coach or athlete to participate in any athletic contest in violation of the suspension will be suspended. The game shall be forfeited.
8. The removal of a team before the completion of the game is a violation of the code of conduct.

ARTICLE VII - Eligibility Rules - Team - continued

Section II: Team Participation Guidelines

SCISA sport activity-specific participation opportunities and restrictions.

Football: football participation is allowed for all eligible students regardless of gender.

Wrestling: students may only participate for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team).

Volleyball: SCISA sponsors volleyball only for girls. A boy may not compete on the girls' volleyball team for any reason.

Girls' Golf: SCISA sponsors a fall season only for girls. A boy may not compete on the girls' golf team for any reason. Currently, girl's are allowed to play both seasons (spring season one tee box is utilized)

Boys' Golf: SCISA allows for girls to participate in both the fall girls' league and as a member of the spring boys' team.

Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field: A student may only participate in the his/her specific gender when participating in these individual/team, sports.

Bowling, Scholastic Shooting Program: If both genders compete on the same team, they are considered to be a boys' team for the purpose of competition. SCISA offers championships in boys, girls, and Co-ed teams bowling.

Basketball/Soccer: If a school sponsors both a boys and girls team, students may only play for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team). If a school only sponsors a boys' team, then female students may play on the boys' team. A boy may not compete on the girls' team for any reason.

Competitive Cheer: Not more than one (1) male may participate on a girls' competitive cheer team.

Tennis: If a school sponsors both a boys (spring) and girls (fall) team, students may only play for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team). If a school only sponsors a boys' team, then female students may play on the boys' team (spring). A boy may not compete on the girls' team for any reason. The Committee reserves the right to allow girls dual season participation in order to salvage a boys team.

Baseball, Softball: If a school sponsors both a baseball and girls softball team, boys may only play on the baseball team and girls may only play on the softball team. A boy may not compete on the girls' softball team for any reason.

Section III: Team Eligibility: Age and Grade Level Requirements

For team age and grade level restrictions and requirements see Article VI; Sections II and III.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section I: Amendments to this constitution can be made upon two-thirds favorable vote of the SCISA Board of Directors, provided prior notice and text of the proposed changes have been given to the Directors thirty (30) days before a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section II: When an amendment is adopted, its effective date is the date of adoption unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption or passage.

ARTICLE IX - Officials

All member schools will use SCISA certified Officials for all home contests.

ARTICLE X - Official Rules For Contests

National Federation Rules shall govern all athletic contests. There will be no deviation other than those adopted by the SCISA Athletic Committee or by the SCISA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - Admission Prices

The **ceiling prices** for admission to any contest during the regular season are: ***Adults - $8.00*** *and* ***Students - $4.00***. Play-off prices shall be set by the Athletic Committee.

ARTICLE XII - SCISA Athletic Passes

Five (5) Athletic Passes will be issued to each school in the name of the school. These passes are transferable among eligible members of the school staff during the year at the discretion of each Headmaster. Each pass can be used once at any SCISA athletic event and is good for the holder, their spouse, and dependent children. Each school may purchase up to four (4) additional passes for $75.00 each.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: Organized Practice Guidelines

Organized Practice

SCISA establishes a first organized practice date for all sports. Organized practices must not take place before these established dates. An **organized practice** is defined as: an athletic situation involving **a coach and more than the allowed number of student-athletes** where instruction, correction, drills, and/or skills associated with that sport are taking place. (Note: see player restrictions listed for each sport)

Player Restrictions during Out-of-Season during the school year:

- Football, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Track: No More than four (4) student-athletes
- All other sports: No More than three (3) student-athletes

First Practice Dates

Thursday, July 26, 2018 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Fall Sports
Monday, October 29 2018 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Winter Sports
Monday, January 21, 2019 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Spring Sports

Summer Practice Policy - *Summer schedule runs June 3 - July 27, 2019*

◊ *Teams are limited to twelve (12) total practices/games. Teams shall not have more than two (2) practices/games per week which last no more than 1 1/2 hours per practice.*

◊ Camp*: Teams attending a camp during this period will count the number of days at camp against the 12 total practices.*

◊ *Football is restricted from contact.*

◊ Closed Dates*: Coaches' Clinic weekend; One week associated with July 4th; and the last week of July prior to the first practice July 29-31.*

◊ Camp attendance during a closed season is legal if: the camp is off campus, open and advertised to the general public, and not led by any member of the school coaching staff. *SCISA recommends that summer work-outs should be voluntary in nature.*

Conditioning & Strength Training

General conditioning and strength training is legal throughout the year.
Exceptions: Cross Country and/or track coaches are prohibited from leading conditioning sessions from the date of the State Cross Country Meet until January 7, 2019.

Coaching Out-of-School Teams *(Club, Travel, AAU…) July 26, 2018 - May 2019*

It shall be considered a violation if a coach (*any coach on your school staff; paid or volunteer*), coaches an out-of-school team that has more than 3 students from the coach's school. It is also a violation if one of your coaches practices more 3 players from your school at the same time even though they are on different "teams" (such as JV and varsity).

Open Gym or Free Play

Violations

Violations of the organized practice rule may result in a fine, suspensions, forfeitures and/or probation.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Article VI, Section 3, of the SCISA Constitution states that: the Athletic Committee shall be responsible for the Athletic Activities of the Association. The Committee shall develop operating procedures for Board approval under which the athletic program shall operate. The Committee shall be composed of nine members appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The President may appoint new members between Board of Directors meetings to fill vacancies. All rulings by the Committee are final unless appealed as outlined in the Athletic Association Constitution and Regulations.

Athletic Committee Procedures:

The Athletic Committee is charged to formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard the educational values of interscholastic competition, to cultivate high ideals of sportsmanship, to develop and direct a program which will promote, protect, and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants, and to promote uniformity of standards (*level playing field*) in all interscholastic competition.

1. Any school may submit information for Committee review. This information shall be in the form a complete, written brief, submitted through the office of the school Headmaster or Athletic Director to the SCISA Athletic Director. This brief is due, no later than five (5) days prior to a scheduled meeting.

2. A school may request to appear before the Athletic Committee. The request shall be made in a complete written brief which contains all information that the Committee will need to make a decision. The presentation shall be limited to 15 minutes in length. The written request must be submitted to the SCISA Office at least five (5) days before a scheduled meeting. An Athletic Committee member cannot appear before the Committee on behalf of his/her school.

3. Waiver requests, including Eight Semester waivers, must be submitted in writing, in its entirety, at least five (5) days prior to a scheduled Athletic Committee meeting. The written brief shall be submitted through the office of the school Headmaster to the SCISA Athletic Office. The brief must contain all medical and academic documentation so that a decision may be reached without any further investigation. Presentations to the Athletic Committee will be limited to 15 minutes in length. Notice to appeal an Athletic Committee waiver or eligibility decision must be made within seven (7) days of the published decision. The appeal shall be made to a Committee appointed by the SCISA President and/or Executive Director using only the information which was presented to the Athletic Committee.

4. INTERIM RULINGS AND APPEALS - The SCISA Athletic Director and the Chairman of the Athletic Committee may make such rulings as are necessary between Athletic Committee Meetings, subject to final approval by the Athletic Committee at its regular meeting. A ruling by the Athletic Committee is subject to appeal to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director.

Rules and Regulations: SCISA Code Of Conduct

Section I: Philosophy - The South Carolina Independent School Association believes that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate in athletics must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet these expectations. Moreover, adults shall be models of good sportsmanship and will lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control. Athletes, coaches, officials, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner. Each person will be responsible for his/her words and actions at all SCISA athletic events and will conform his/her behavior in adherence to the Code of Conduct.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Section II: Sportsmanship Expectations

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in any SCISA athletic event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct.

1. I will treat any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, or ability.
2. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
3. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
3. I will not use drugs or alcohol while at any athletic event. I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in an athletic event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will not use tobacco (including smokeless types) while at any athletic event.
5. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
6. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
7. I will not initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
8. I will not argue with officials or go through the motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
9. I will not make any degrading remarks about any official, coach, athlete, or school. I will not make any degrading remark or criticism of any official, coach, athlete, or school to the media or on social media.
10. I will not detain or attempt to stop an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official. I will not follow or "chase" an official after a contest is over.
11. I will not leave the bleachers or stands and enter the playing area to protest, object, criticize, or question a call.
12. I understand that conduct that leads to my removal from an athletic event may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
13. I understand that as a coach or as a school administrator, that the removal of a team before the completion of the game may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
14. I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the code of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in a SCISA athletic event that I will be subject to disciplinary action by SCISA.

Section III: Flags and Banners

Flags and banners can communicate a positive message of school spirit, support, encouragement and sportsmanship. SCISA guidelines require the safe display and appropriate message of all flags and banners. The improper use of flags and banners can obscure the vision of spectators and can potentially injure a spectator. Banners shall not relay a message that can be harmful, hurtful or considered unsportsmanlike. SCISA prohibits the use or possession of flags or banners by spectators at all SCISA events. Cheerleaders and/or a school mascot may: Wave a flag during dead ball situations in areas approved by Home management or the tournament director; Flags may only contain the school name; Display banners which positively support his/her school and are approved by the School Head and displayed with the approval of home management or the tournament director.

Section IV: Consequences - Any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed upon any school, coach, spectator or athlete upon a violation of Code of Conduct or Constitution of this association.

WARNING	*A warning* is an official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanlike action is a matter of record and any such act must not happen again.
PROBATION	*Probation* is a more severe type of penalty and is for a specified time period. A team on probation shall not play in any play-off, championship, conference tournaments, or invitationals.
SUSPENSION	*Suspension is* a severe penalty which may be imposed for any specified time period during which a team, individual, or coach is not allowed to participate. The suspension may be for one or multiple activities.
FINE	*Fines* may be levied for each infraction or violation. A fine may be levied in addition to one of the above penalties. All fines must be paid within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the notification.
Demonstration of Proper Behavior	*A player or coach disqualification is typically a public event. A player may also be require to complete community service while a coach will have a team meeting to apologize for Inappropriate or legal behavior.*

SCISA CODE OF CONDUCT (continued)

SECTION V: REPORTING - Violations of the Code of Conduct may be reported by:

1. School officials filing a written Incident Report or by submitting a written report detailing the violation;
2. Officials filing an incident report or disqualification notice;
3. SCISA Officials or representatives

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS

SECTION I: PRE-SEASON MEETING

Each school shall conduct at least one pre-season meeting with coaches, parents, and players to present the Code of Conduct and the expectations of good sportsmanship at athletic events. This meeting also provides the vehicle to present school policies, introduce school personnel, discuss the warning of inherent risk associated with athletic participation, and outline team goals and schedules. **$250 Fine for failure to hold an annual sportsmanship meeting.**

SECTION II: DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

It is responsibility of each school's administration to be an active agent at every athletic event enforcing the SCISA Code of Conduct. In the absence of the Head of School or Athletic Director, each school is **Required** to provide a **DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE** at all athletic events, both home and away. The Designated Representative will represent the school's administration and will assist with the enforcement of the Code of Conduct. The Designated Representative:

- Must know the SCISA policies governing that specific sport. A copy of the Blue Book section which addresses that sport may be helpful with issues such as: *Are noise makers allowed?, Where cheerleaders may perform?, Problems with students or student groups...*
- Cannot be one of the coaches involved in the contest. The Designated Representative should not have other responsibilities that may have him/her unavailable when requested for by the officials.
- Will meet the officials at least (5) minutes before the start of the contest. They will notify the officials where they will be seated. Each school's Designated Representative should exchange cell numbers or agree to meet if an issue develops.
- Will assist the officials without hesitation when requested.
- Will be announced and introduced prior to the start of game (*If the PA announces line-ups…*).
- **FOOTBALL: Home Designated Representative will escort the officials off the field to dressing room.

Note: ***The Host School Is In Charge Of All Spectators***

SECTION III: UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS/EVENT SECURITY

1. Class AAA Varsity Football and Varsity Basketball Games: The Board of Directors requires that all Class AAA schools will provide a uniformed police officer at all varsity football and basketball games.
2. SCISA recommends that uniformed police officers be used at all contests.
3. If probable cause exists that a problem may arise at a contest, the Athletic Office can request, and the host school will provide, adequate uniformed police protection.
4. Security/school officials shall escort athletic officials from the playing field/court to the dressing room and/or parking lot.

SECTION IV: SCHOOL RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, FANS, AND COACHES

Each School Is Responsible For The Actions And Conduct Of Its Coaches, Athletes, and Fans Before, During, And After The Game***. In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the coaches, school officials, players, students or spectators of a school, the school will be subject to discipline by the Athletic Committee.*** All FINES will be directed to the offending school. The school will be responsible for paying of any fine within ten (10) days of receiving notification of the fine.

SECTION V: HANDLING A FRACAS

Should a fracas begin, only members of the coaching staff will go on the field to stop the fracas. All substitutes and other team personnel are to remain in the team box. The officials are instructed to stay in control of the contest and not allow a fracas to begin, but once one has begun, they cannot get physically involved. Any athlete who leaves the team box or bench area and enters the field or floor area will be disqualified. All cameramen should be instructed to continue filming. This film will be vital to the Athletic Committee's investigation of the incident.

SECTION VI: PROCEDURES FOR INTERSCHOOL COMPLAINTS

1. All violations of the Constitution or the Code of Conduct must be reported in writing to the Athletic Office.
2. Such violations, if possible, should be resolved directly between schools. The Athletic Office will be happy to assist in the resolution. The Athletic Committee reserves the authority to review all cases to ensure that such violations have been dealt with properly.

SECTION VI: PROCEDURES FOR INTERSCHOOL COMPLAINTS (CONTINUED)

3. If direct school to school contact with the assistance from the Athletic Office fails, then the matter will be brought before the Athletic Committee at their next, regular scheduled meeting. Each school must submit a written brief containing all known facts pertinent to the incident. This information should be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation. The written brief must be submitted at least five days prior to the Athletic Committee Meeting through the Athletic Office. The Committee may require the presence of any or all of the parties involved. All parties involved will be offered an opportunity to appear before the Committee.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: GUIDELINES FOR PENALTIES AND FINES

During a school year, situations may arise involving the rules and regulations pertaining to the rules of the game, eligibility, required forms, schedules, entries to tournaments, and unsportsmanlike conduct are considered by the Athletic Committee. In order to avoid inconsistencies and to assist the Athletic Committee in being uniform in its dealings within the Association, these guidelines have been established. The Athletic Committee has the authority to raise or lower a fine depending upon the severity of the offense.

SECTION I: EJECTIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS AND COACHES:

Conduct that leads to an ejection/disqualification will be considered as serious unsportsmanlike conduct or a violation of a safety rule. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a player or coach may be warned, fined, suspended or placed on probation. These offenses are cumulative over the student's career. The disqualification of a coach will be considered on a case by case basis.

GUIDELINES FOR A PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION/EJECTION FROM AN ATHLETIC EVENT

FIRST OFFENSE: An Official warning and a one game suspension. If the disqualification is for unsportsmanlike, or flagrant illegal conduct, a $100 Fine. Note: Additional games may be assessed due to the nature of the offense.

SECOND OFFENSE:a $200 fine and suspension until an appearance before the Athletic Committee or SCISA staff.

THIRD OFFENSE: will result in the termination of eligibility (reinstatement may only be granted by the Athletic Committee and a $500 Fine if reinstated by the Athletic Committee).

Disqualification/Ejection of a coach: An official warning and $250 fine. The Committee could also consider suspension if the incident so warrants.

Disqualification/Ejection Procedure: School Procedure of a Player or Coach Disqualification:

1. The school will file a completed Form B (Disqualification/Incident Report) by 10:00AM of the next school day following the disqualification. *Exception: If the school has another game before the next school day the disqualification must be reported by email (athletics@scisa.org) or by phone (803-308-0330) before the next game.*
2. The school shall suspend the player for the next contest.
3. Appeal Process:
   A. The school shall notify SCISA of the intent to appeal the disqualification by 10:00AM of the next school day following the disqualification. *Exception: If the school has another game before the next school day the disqualification must be reported by email (athletics@scisa.org) or by phone (803-308-0330) before the next game.*
   B. The school shall file a written appeal brief within 24 hours of the conclusion of the contest to SCISA by e-mail or fax. The appeal must include conclusive video evidence that either the wrong player was identified or that a rule was misapplied. The Review Committee has sole discretion in the video evaluation.
   C. The school shall mail a $100 Appeal Fee.
   D. The player may participate during the appeal process.
   E. If the appeal is successful, the $100 shall be returned to the school. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the $100 shall be forfeited to SCISA.
4. Any school that permits a student who was disqualified/ejected from a contest to participate in the next contest shall forfeit the contest and pay a $100 fine.
5. If any school or coach permits any suspended coach or athlete to participate in any athletic contest in violation of the suspension, the coach shall be suspended and the program subject to probation. All games shall be forfeited. A $250 fine will be issued.
6. The school shall have the player complete the required return to play protocol as outlined by SCISA.

SECTION II: PARTICIPATION BY AN INELIGIBLE STUDENT

A student is defined ineligible due to: academic status; age and/or grade requirement; league suspension; participation in two games in one day other than those outlined in the appropriate rule section or any other student or team eligibility requirement. ***PENALTY***: a **Two Hundred-fifty Dollar Fine** will be issued for each violation and All games the student participated in are **Forfeited**. The penalty will be more severe for a school and/or coach who knowingly allows an ineligible student to participate.

GUIDELINES FOR PENALTIES AND FINES (CONTINUED)

Ten Dollar Fine

The party responsible for a schedule change after schedules have been filed in the Athletic Office (football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and softball). This fine is paid directly to Officials Booking Director. Per change fee.

Fifty Dollar Fines

1. Failure by a school to submit a Certificate of Eligibility prior to participation in a contest. This includes inadvertently omitting a name. A school places the name of an ineligible student on a Certificate of Eligibility and the student does not participate. Note: *Any student in uniform and permitted in the team area is considered to have participated.*
2. Minor unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, or fans.
3. Failure to file a required form on or before the deadline in the Athletic Office.

One Hundred Dollar Fine

1. A school permits a student to practice/play without a completed Physical and/or Parents' Permission Form.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct of players, coaches, or fans.
3. Failure to have a representative at a State Rules Clinic.

SECTION III - GAME CANCELLATION FEES

Schools that do not fulfill athletic contracts will be subject to the following regulations. An athletic contract is a scheduled contest. All schools shall file all schedules with SCISA.

A. A school that cancels a varsity home football game will pay the contract guarantee or $1000.00.
B. A school that cancels an away varsity football game will pay the contract guarantee or $1500.00.
C. A school that cancels a varsity home basketball doubleheader will pay a $250.00 cancellation fee.
D. A school that cancels a varsity away basketball doubleheader will pay a $500.00 cancellation fee.
E. A school that cancels any other type of athletic event will pay a $250.00 cancellation fee.
F. The cost of applicable officials' fees will also be paid by the canceling school.
G. All cancellation fees will be paid to the offended school through the athletic office.
H. The above regulations pertain only to written contracts or schedules on file in the Athletic Office.

The Athletic Committee may waive or reduce the above cancellation fees for a school when:

1. Because of financial problems or lack of enrollment, the school has shown good intentions in an effort to fulfill its contractual obligations.
2. A school can provide evidence of a medical hardship in fulfilling the scheduled contest.
3. The school declares: in non-football sports by the third practice date that it will be unable to field a team.
4. The offended school may elect not to seek a cancelation fee.

SECTION IV: FILMING OF ATHLETIC CONTEST

A school is prohibited from filming an athletic contest that it is not participating in unless written permission is granted by both participating teams prior to the contest. Filming of a contest without prior written consent shall be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct. A school may be subject to a $100 fine. *Coaches are encouraged to directly exchange game films.*

SECTION V: SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

All member schools will be notified on a regular basis by the Athletic Committee of the penalties imposed on schools, coaches, and athletes.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: INTERIM RULINGS AND APPEALS

The Athletic Secretary and the Chairman of the Athletic Committee may make such rulings as are necessary between Athletic Committee Meetings, subject to final approval by the Athletic Committee at its regular meeting. A ruling by the Athletic Committee is subject to appeal to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director.

APPEALS

A notice to appeal an athletic decision must be made in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time-sensitive due to tournament and/or play-off schedules. If so, the appeal shall be filed within 24 hours of the ruling. An appeal must be in the form of a complete written brief containing all pertinent information. The brief must be filed with the SCISA Athletic Office. The Athletic Committee may hear the appeal at the next scheduled meeting, a special called meeting, or by a sub-committee appointed by the chairman.

A decision of the Athletic Committee may be appealed to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director. Notice to appeal must be filed in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time sensitive (the see above). The appeal shall be made using only the written information which was presented to the Athletic Committee.

SCISA Return-to-Play Protocol - Student

1. **Penalty or Consequence**.

The player will be suspended for at least the next game for conduct that led to his or her disqualification.

A. The number of games suspended can be increased based upon the severity of the offense and/or if this is the student's second or third disqualification in the student's SCISA athletic career (from B-Team through varsity participation).
B. A student must appear before the Athletic Committee to seek reinstatement for his or her third disqualification.
C. SCISA may impose a fine in addition to any suspensions once the facts have been reviewed.
D. Termination of athletic participation may be assessed by the Athletic Committee after careful review of any serious incident.

2. **Education.**

The student will complete the NFHS learn course on Sportsmanship.
(https://nfhslearn.com/courses/37000/sportsmanship)
The NFHS developed this free course to give you a better understanding of sportsmanship, how it impacts the educational process and identifies your specific role in modeling it at all interscholastic athletic events. Insight is shared throughout the course from fans, players, parents, teacher-coaches and officials. This course will help provide schools a more positive game environment. The student shall complete the course within five days of the disqualification and will submit the certificate indicating successful completion of the course.

3. **Exhibition of Positive Behavior.**

The student will be required to complete a minimum of five (5) hours of community service at his or her school. The AD or school administration will assign service work to complete this requirement within 10 school days of the disqualification.

The conduct which led to the disqualification typically is highly visible. The public display of poor sportsmanship or illegal conduct should be corrected by a public display of positive behavior exhibited through community service.

SCISA Return-to-Play Protocol - Coach

1. **Penalty or Consequence**.

A Coach may be suspended for conduct that led to his or her disqualification.

A. The number of games suspended will be based upon the severity of the offense and/or if the coach has been disqualified in any other athletic contest.
B. A coach must appear before the Athletic Committee to seek reinstatement for his or her second disqualification in the same season or third in a school year.
C. A fine of no less than $100 for the first offense and up to $250 will be issued in addition to any suspensions once the facts have been reviewed.
D. Termination of coaching privileges may be assessed by the Athletic Committee after careful review of a serious incident.

2. **Education.**

The coach will complete the NFHS learn course on Teaching and Modeling Behavior.
(https://nfhslearn.com/courses/8000/teaching-and-modeling-behavior)
This course, authored by Bruce Brown, Director of Proactive Coaching and a master clinician, helps teacher/coaches understand the importance of modeling appropriate behavior and promoting good sportsmanship. Coaches will understand how inappropriate behavior affects how they and their teams are perceived by students, fans, opposing teams, and officials. This course highlights the benefits of a proactive approach in teaching and modeling behavior, as well as specific approaches for rehearsing appropriate behavior and sportsmanship. There is a $20 fee for this course which will be the responsibility of the coach or school. The coach shall complete the course within two days of the disqualification and will submit the certificate indicating successful completion of the course.

3. **Exhibition of Positive Behavior.**

The coach will be required to hold a team meeting apologizing for his or her inappropriate behavior and accepting responsibility to always be a positive role model. The AD or school administration will require this meeting within 2 days of the disqualification. *The conduct which led to the disqualification typically is highly visible. The public display of poor sportsmanship or illegal conduct should be corrected by a public statement of positive behavior exhibited through good sportsmanship.*

Rules and Regulations: Required Forms

1. ***Certificate of Eligibility***: All students participating in athletics must be submitted on a Certificate of Eligibility Form before being allowed to participate. ** **The Certificate of Eligibility Form shall be filed online through SCISA's PlanetHS site**. Certificate of Eligibility Forms are due at least one day before the first game.
2. ***Change in Eligibility**:* At the conclusion of each grading period, a Change in Eligibility Form must be filed ***online** whether or not any changes in eligibility have occurred.
3. ***New Student / Transfer Student Form: Parents Form and School Form***: All "new-to-your-school" students who play a varsity sport must submit a completed New Student / Transfer Student Form. New Students are defined as students who enroll during the summer and before the start of fall practice. Transfer students are defined as students who transfer after the start of a school year or after practicing with a team on or after the first official practice date. This information will be filed online through SCISA's PlanetHS site.
4. ***Physical Form:*** A completed physical is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition. A Physical Examination is valid from ***April 1st*** **through the following school year or for one year from the Date Of the Examination.**
5. ***Agreement for Participation Form*** (Parent's Permission Form): is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
6. ***Warning of Inherent Risk***: is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. This form must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
7. ***Student-Parent Concussion Awareness Form***: is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. This form must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
8. ***International Student Certificate of Eligibility Form and Form 4***: All International Students participating in athletics must be submitted on an International Student Certificate of Eligibility Form before being allowed to participate. An international student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA or the SCISA Evaluation Committee. Completed **I-20 Forms** are also required.
9. ***Form B: Disqualification/Incident Report***: A school shall file a Disqualification Report on any player, coach or fan ejection. The report must include action taken by the school. All appropriate fines shall be submitted.
10. ***Officials Mark-off Form***: a school may mark-off up to three officials each sports season.
11. ***School Reports***: Reports issued by SCISA including, but not limited to: fall, winter, and spring school athletic profiles; Financial Reports.
12. ***Fall, Winter, & Spring Athletic Reports***.

Each school shall keep on file, a duplicate copy of all submitted eligibility forms. Copies of these forms can be found in the ***Blue Book***. The records of each school shall be open to examination by the SCISA Office or representative.

13. Schools shall digitally archive records.

Rules and Regulations: Protests

1. Protests involving athletic contest rules will be heard only in those sports that allow protests by state adoption. This currently applies to **baseball and softball** only.
2. A protest involving judgment of officials will not be considered. All protests of an official's ruling must be made in writing to the Athletic Office (email or fax). It must be signed by the Coach and Headmaster. Protests must be accompanied by $100. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld; otherwise the protest fee will revert to the SCISA general fund. All protests must be filed within 24 hours after the completion of the game. A faxed statement or e-mail to the SCISA Office or reaching the Athletic Director by telephone will satisfy the 24 hour requirement.
3. In the event a protest involves the actual play of a game, the chief official must be advised before resumption of play by the protesting team's authorized representative (coach), that the game is being played under protest, and the grounds on which the protest is being made. The opposing team must be notified and the game situation recorded.
4. A significant determining factor is: a team was given a significant athletic advantage or disadvantage by the official's ruling.
5. A protest against a school or student eligibility shall be filed in writing within 24 hours following the contest. The protest must identify the player(s) or situation(s) in question. The protest must stipulate the alleged violation. The accused school will be furnished copies of the protest.

Rules and Regulations: Trophies

SCISA has adopted certain types of trophies to be awarded to all State Champion and Runner-up Teams. A State Championship medal will be presented to all team members including coaching staffs of the state championship teams. Plaques may be awarded to the individual winners in those activities that it is appropriate to recognize individuals. The cost of all such awards will be an expense of the championship and will be factored into gate receipts or factored into any entry fees.

Awards presented at the conference or region level are the responsibility of the school or region/conference.

Athletic Policies

Pre-Season Tournaments/Games

A team is permitted to host or participate in a maximum of One (1) Pre-Season Tournament or Play One Game prior to the first playing date, with prior approval of the SCISA Athletic Office. These should be considered official games and count on a team's record, unless SCISA is otherwise notified prior to the play of the game/tournament.

Post-Season Tournaments/Games (*after the completion of the SCISA Playoffs*)

Participation in a game or tournament after the conclusion of the SCISA season is only allowed with prior approval of the SCISA Athletic Office.

Jamborees - The request to have a jamboree in any sport must be made in writing by the administration of a school. That school is responsible for adherence to the rules and regulations as stated in the *Blue Book*. An outside organization may assist in the promotion of a jamboree, but the responsibility remains with the requesting school. A request to have a jamboree must be made at least seven (7) days prior to the event. The request should include:

1. Name of school; 2. Date of Event; 3. Schools participating; 4. Admission Prices;
5. Format of Play; 6. Method of disbursing Gate Receipts and Concession Receipts.

SCISA Tie-Breaker Procedure

Each region shall decide on a region tie-breaker procedure prior to the start of the season. The SCISA Region Tie-Breaker Procedure may be considered and used in absence of an agreed to tie-breaker procedure.

1. In a two-way tie, compare Head-to-Head. If one team has won both games, then they shall receive the higher seed. If they split, then a play-off game will be played (*if time allows ,considering both the start of the play-offs and seeding process for the playoffs)*. In a single game format, then the team that won the game will be seeded higher.
2. In case of a three-way or more tie:
   A. If three or more teams with identical region records tie, and one of the teams has defeated the others, that team will be seeded higher. The remaining ties will be broken by: head-to-head first, then use the point system.
   B. If three or more teams with identical region records tie, the team that has the most wins between the tied teams (against each other) will be seeded highest. The team with the next-highest wins will be seeded next and so on. If this does not resolve tie(s), proceed to Point System until the tie(s) are broken.
   C. Point System will be used. A team will receive 10 points for a region victory plus 1 point per margin of victory up to 5 (baseball, softball, soccer and 15 in football & basketball).

School Closure and Game Cancellation

If a school is closed due to health (medical) concerns, then that school cannot participate in an athletic contest until the conditions that caused the health (medical) closure has been cleared.

If a school is closed due to weather conditions or if forecasted weather conditions could pose a serious issue, then the two schools must communicate. If a mutual consent is not reached, then the SCISA will assist with the process.

All schools shall have written policies and procedures in place addressing the following areas:

Concussions
SCISA requirement: Each year, every coach shall complete either the HNFS or CDC online concussion course before the start of practice. AD's must maintain a dated certificate indicating successful completion of the course by all coaches on staff (paid and volunteer).

Heat, Humidity and Athletic Participation
SCISA requires an immersion tub onsite at football.

Lightning Procedures
SCISA requires an on site lightning detection device or service.

Emergency Action Plan: covering athletic events and venues.

SCISA has policies and recommendation on the SCISA website. Please refer to the website at www.scisa.org/athletics for assistance in policy development in these areas.

*Note. These plans and certificates are subject to SCISA review.

*Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, all schools will be required to use a **wet bulb globe thermometer** to determine safe conditions for practice or competition during times of high heat and humidity.

SCISA Risk Management Program

This is not intended to be an exhaustive management outline but a valuable tool in your school's development of an effective Risk Management Program. Your athletic program, in conjunction with the athletic director, coaching staff, school administration, doctors and athletic trainers must develop a program with primary emphasis on: 1. Reducing the chance of injury to the athlete; 2. Proper Care and treatment of the injured athlete; 3. Reducing the chance of legal action against the program.

Program Statement: The Program's Top Priority is for the well being of the student-athlete.

Program policy and procedure statements should be written covering (but not limited to) the following critical areas:

1. **Participation Requirements for the student-athlete:**
   The following information must be current and on file for each participant.
   1. Pre-Participation Health Assessment and Medical Examination
   2. Injury record and treatment
   3. Insurance Coverage Information
   4. Parent's Agreement for Participation
   5. Off-season conditioning program record
2. **Parent/Student-Athlete Awareness: Schedule a joint meeting of parents and athletes prior to the start of each sport season. Inform parents and students about the following:**
   1. Inherent Risk - the possibility of injury (even catastrophic injury) while participating.
   2. Equipment care, use, limitations. 4. Conditioning requirements
   3. Diet and health habits
3. **Insurance Program:** All athletics should be covered by basic and catastrophic insurance**.**
4. **Staff Development:** 1. Total program review and update; 2. Clinic attendance/rules reviewed 3. Specific duties and responsibilities; 4. Keep records of minutes; 5. Volunteer coaches
5. **Supervision Requirements:** Coach must be on site in a supervisory capacity at all times.
6. **Fundamentals/skills/techniques correctly taught and reinforced.**
7. **Handling the Injury:** 1. Immediate procedure 2. Available professionals (trainer.doctor) 3.Emergency procedure 4. Record all data (if catastrophic) 5. Treatment & rehab 6. Media releases

SCISA State Play-offs:

SCISA sponsors all championships. In activities where schools serve as "host venues", SCISA can designate specific "home" responsibilities such as gate, concessions and other areas as SCISA deems necessary.

In a neutral site championship venue, SCISA must approve mutually agreed to game specifics (site, date, time) or SCISA will establish site, date and time.

1. SCISA will sponsor championships in all sponsored and sanctioned activities.
2. If a classification has less than 4 teams participating, SCISA reserves the right to combine classifications.
3. Play-off Pairing / Seeding:
   A. In a two-region play-off, teams are normally cross-bracketed.
      Note: If the number of teams in the regions are significantly different, SCISA may adjust the number of teams selected by incorporating an "At Large" selection.

   B. In play-offs involving more than two regions, SCISA utilizes a seeding process.
      Basic Principals Include:
      1. Region finish qualifies a team for the play-offs.
      2. The Region Champion and the 2nd place team in the region will be placed in opposite brackets.
      3. After teams have been determined on each side of the bracket, they will then be "seeded" based upon their over-all record and strength of schedule. *Note: that each side of the play-off brackets are seeded independently of the other side*. Therefore, a team may be seeded higher on one side of the brackets than a higher region finisher on the other side of the brackets.

   C. Teams are competing for a SCISA State Title. Teams are encouraged to play out-of-region SCISA teams. Head-to-head and common opponents play an important role in the seeding process. Strength of schedule is also an important factor. Wins against non-member schools will be factored but "*quality losses*" are of no significance.

4. SCISA reserves the right to change the play-off format.

The South Carolina Independent School Association
Required 2018-19 Online Courses

The goal of every high school administrator, coach and the sports medicine team is to allow their athletes to participate safely and injury free. Sports provide an opportunity for competition, teamwork, dealing with success and adversity and most importantly to develop a framework for future successes. Sport injuries are an inherent risk of athletic participation. The South Carolina Independent School Association's position is that coaches are better prepared to fulfill his or her responsibility when properly prepared. SCISA requires the following online courses through NFHSlearn.

<u>These courses are required annually</u> (every year)

Concussion In Sports **https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61151/concussion-in-sports**

Heat Illness Prevention **https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61140/heat-illness-prevention**
NFHS Sportsmanship Course ***https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61130/sportsmanship***

<u>These courses are required to be completed every two years</u> (after initially completing the course)

Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behaviors
https://nfhslearn.com/courses/28000/bullying-hazing-and-inappropriate-behaviors

Engaging Effectively with Parents ***https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61154/engaging-effectively-with-parents***

Sudden Cardiac Arrest ***https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61032/sudden-cardiac-arrest***

Fundamentals of Coaching https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61113/fundamentals-of-coaching
* Note: this is not a free course

<u>All First Year Head Coaches will complete the NFHS Course</u>

<u>Football</u>:
Blocking and Defeating Blocks, Shoulder Tackling and Equipment Fitting
*Note: this is not a free course

<u>Additional Courses for your consideration</u>

https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61136/blocking-and-defeating-blocks-shoulder-tackling-equipment-fitting

<u>All Sports</u>:

First Aid, Health, and Safety for Coaches https://nfhslearn.com/courses/26/first-aid-health-and-safety
* Note: this is not a free course
This First Aid, Health and Safety course, brought to you by the NFSH and the American Red Cross, is designed to provide an overview of first aid and the best practices for many first aid situations. The skills taught in this course do not replace professional medical help but offer guidelines and techniques for temporary assistance until advanced medical help arrives. American Red Cross certification is current for a period of two years from date of course completion.

The **Head Coach** shall be **CPR certified**.

2019-20 School Year

By August 1, 2019 - All coaches will be CPR and AED certified.

Rules Clinics
Each school must be represented at a Rules or Clinic or the coaching staff shall complete the online rules presentation each sports season.

The South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association
Agreement For Participation 2018-19

1. Statement of Philosophy

The primary purpose of school is education. The participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are eligible according to rules and policies of the *SCISA*.

2. Summary of The Code of Conduct:

All fans, spectators, coaches, and student-athletes are encouraged to enthusiastically support his/her school and team. We all must realize that the athletic arena is an extension of the classroom. Valuable lessons other than winning and losing are taught. The safety and well-being of students, coaches, and officials is of utmost importance to us all. Athletic events shall be conducted in accordance with the policies, rules, and regulations of the South Carolina Independent School Association. Participants, coaches, and spectators shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner.

A participant, coach or fan will be in violation of the Code of Conduct upon any one or more of the following actions:

- By making any degrading remark about any fan, official, coach, or athlete during or after a game, either on or off the field/floor of play.
- By arguing with an official or going through motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
- By using any foul, abusive, or profane language at any time.
- By entering the playing area or field to protest, question, or object to a call or play.
- By hitting, shoving or striking any official, coach, athlete or fan at any time (or attempting to do so).
- By being ejected/removed from any contest.
- By detaining an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation. By following/chasing after the official after a game to express your displeasure or opinion with a call or result of a play or game.
- By the use or display of alcohol, tobacco or an unauthorized drug.

Violations of the Code of Conduct could result in a school, player or fan being fined, suspended or placed on probation. The school shall be notified of the action taken by *SCISA* and will be responsible for the enforcement of the action.

3. Warning of Inherent Risk/Dangers of Athletic Participation

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injures are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow guidelines for safe play and inspect his/her own equipment and report any problems.

4. Recruiting:

A student must not have transferred as a result of recruiting or undue influence. Refer to SCISA *Blue Book* for clarification of recruiting.

5. Guardianship:

A student must reside with his/her parent(s) to be eligible for athletic participation. Refer to the SCISA *Blue Book* for a clarification of a legally appointed guardian.

6. Summary of Student Eligibility Rules

Eight Semester Rule: A student has Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters of eligibility from the time he/she first enters the ninth (9th) grade.

Academic Requirements: A student in grades 9-12 must take and pass at least four (4), one unit CORE courses or any five (5), one unit courses each grading period/semester. Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester. A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4), one credit courses each marking period/semester. *Note: a student must have earned at least four (4) core units or any five (5) units of credit to be declared eligible at the start of a school year. Also, credits or courses taken by the "Home School" method during the school year are not eligible for athletic eligibility determination.*

Any student who did not receive credit for at least 50% (one-half) of all courses taken the previous school year cannot be declared eligible for athletic participation until the successful completion of the first semester.

A student who is academically ineligible to participate is also prohibited from practicing with the team until the time he/she is academically eligible to participate.

Grade Level Requirements/Restrictions:

Varsity Teams: Eligible students in grades **8-12** may participate on varsity teams in baseball, basketball, soccer, football, lacrosse and softball. Eligible students in grades **6-12** may participate on all other varsity teams. *Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any varsity team. Specialty sport programs may have additional restrictions.*

Junior Varsity Teams: Sport specific grade restrictions exists for junior varsity teams. Eligible students in grades 5-10 may participate on junior varsity teams in track, cross country, swimming, volleyball, golf, and tennis. Eligible students in grades 6-10 may participate on junior varsity teams in basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and wrestling.

Junior Varsity Football: Eligible students in grades 6-9 may participate in junior varsity football. (**Agreement Exception)* *Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any junior varsity team*.

Grade Level Requirements/Restrictions:

B-Teams: Eligible students in the 5th-8th grades may participate on B-Teams in all sports except football.
B-Team Football: Eligible students in the 5th-7th grades may participate on B-Team football.
Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 6th grade before permitting participation on any B-Team.

Age Requirements/Restrictions: *Note: There are no exceptions to the age standards.*

- A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in athletics if his/her 19th birthday is before July 1, 2018.
- **Junior Varsity**: In order to participate in junior varsity athletics a student must not have reached his/her sixteenth (16th) birthday before July 1, 2018.
- **B-Team**: In order to participate in B-Team athletics a student must not have reached his/her fifteenth (15th) birthday before July 1, 2018. Exception: B-Team Football: In order to participate in B-Team football, a student must not have reached his/her fourteenth (14th) birthday before July 1, 2018.

TRANSFER RULES:

A student who transfers after having: A. attended one class or B. filed the Agreement for Participation during the defined sports season **or** practices with team on or after the first official practice date must wait sixty (60) days to become eligible. This may be waived for a *bono fide* change in residence. The Sixty Days may be waived following league/Committee review if all of the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Committee at it's sole and absolute discretion for a non-member to member transfer: A. The student has completed a Transfer Form; B. The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer; C. The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before: *1. September 15th for fall sports*; *2. January 7th for winter sports*. D. If approved, a transfer must participate in ten (10) **days** of practice before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.

⇒ All Second Semester transfers are subjected to the Sixty Day Rule (*transfers after January 7th or the student attends class at the school he/she is leaving after the start of the 2nd semester*).

The following additional policies are also in effect:

- A transfer must have attended classes for thirty days prior to the start of the play-offs to be eligible to participate in the play-offs.
- An academically eligible transfer student (*school year transfer as defined above*) must have been eligible to represent his/her former school under any school, student, or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to become eligible. The Committee reserves the right to extend this period if conditions so warrant.
- A student who transfers before the start of the school year (*has not attended one class and has not practiced with the team on or after the first official practice date*) and has met all eligibility standards is eligible for athletic participation.
- The stated wait period for a transfer student shall begin on the **first day the student attends a class**.

Medical Insurance Coverage Statement

It is important for a parent to understand his/her school's medical insurance coverage policy. SCISA requires that each school participate in the associational catastrophic plan which provides coverage in the event of a catastrophic injury.

New Student / Transfer Student

Any new student to your school or transfer student who plays a varsity sport must complete a New Student/Transfer Student Form (Parent Form and School form).

All-Star Participation: If selected, you also give permission for your son or daughter to participate in SCISA All-Star Games. You also agree not to hold the South Carolina Independent School Association, the host school or any of its agents, members, employees, or affiliate organizations responsible in the event of an accident or injury. By your allowing your son and daughter to participate you authorize any and all emergency medical treatment for the player named and understand that you will be responsible for any and all such cost.

Participant and Parent/Legal Guardian Permission

_____ (student's name) has my permission to participate in athletics. We have read and understand the philosophy of the SCISA, the Code of Conduct, and the Summary of Eligibility Rules. We understand that there are inherent risks in all athletics and that injuries do occur. The South Carolina Independent School Association may examine school records of the student whose name appears above in order to verify eligibility. I understand that this form is considered to be a binding contract. The student whose name appears above may only participate in athletics for the school named below. Transfer to another school after this form has been filed will subject the student to the Sixty Day Rule. I also agree not to hold the South Carolina Independent School association or any of its agents, members, employees or affiliate Organizations responsible in the event of an accident or injury. I further authorize any and all emergency medical treatment for the student named and will be responsible for any and all such cost.

_____ _____
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian Signature of Student

_____ _____
Name of School Date

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Medical History Questionnaire

Note: This form is to be filled out by the parent(s) and student prior to seeing the physician.

Student's Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Exam Date _____

Sex _____ Age _____ Grade _____ School _____ Sports _____

Medicine and Allergies: List all prescriptions and over the counter and supplements (herbal & nutritional) that you are taking: _____

_____

Do you have an allergy? ___ Yes ___ No If yes, please specify: ___ Medicine ___ Pollens ___ Food ___ Stinging insects ___ Other _____

General Questions	**Yes**	**No**
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?		
2. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions, If so Identify: ___Asthma ___Anemia ___Diabetes ___Infections Other: _____		
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?		
4. Have you ever had surgery?		
Heart Heath Questions About You	**Yes**	**No**
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?		
6. Have you ever had pain, discomfort, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?		
7. Does your heart ever race or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?		
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems? If so, check all that apply: ___High Blood Pressure ___A heart murmur ___High cholesterol ___A heart infection ___Kawasaki disease Other: _____		
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (for example ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)		
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?		
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?		
12. Do you get more tired or short of breath more quickly than your friends during exercise?		
Health Questions About Your Family	**Yes**	**No**
13. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected sudden death before age 50 (*including drowning, unexplained car accident, sudden death syndrome*)?		
14. Does anyone in your family have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, long QTsyndrome, short QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic, polymorphic ventricular tachycardia?		
15. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem, pacemaker, or implanted defibrillator?		
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures or near drowning?		
Bone and Joint Questions	**Yes**	**No**
17. Have you ever had an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament or tendon that caused you to miss a game or practice?		
18. Have you ever had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?		
19. Have you ever had an injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT scan, injections, therapy, a brace, cast, or crutches?		
20. Have you ever had a stress fracture?		
21. Have you ever been told that you have or have you had an x-ray for neck instability or atlantoaxial instability? (Down syndrome or dwarfism)		
22. Do you regularly use a brace, orthotics, or other assistive device?		
23. Do you have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?		
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?		
25. Do you have any history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?		

Medical Questions	**Yes**	**No**
26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?		
27. Have you ever used an inhaler or taken asthma medicine?		
28. Is there anyone in your family who has asthma?		
29. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle (males), your spleen, or any other organ?		
30. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?		
31. Have you had infectious mononucleosis (mono) in the last month?		
32. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?		
33. Have you had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?		
34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?		
35. Have you ever had a hit or blow to the head that caused confusion, prolonged headache, or memory problems?		
36. Do you have a history of seizure disorder?		
37. Do you have headaches with exercise?		
38. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
39. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
40. Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?		
41. Do you get frequent muscle cramps when exercising?		
42. Do you or someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?		
43. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?		
44. Have you had any eye injuries?		
45. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?		
46. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?		
47. Do you worry about your weight?		
48. Are you trying or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?		
49. Are you on a special Diet or do you avoid certain types of foods?		
50. Have you ever had an eating disorder?		
51. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?		
Females Only	**Yes**	**No**
52. Have you ever had a menstrual period?		
53. How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?		
54. How many periods have you had in the past 12 months?		

Explain any "YES" answers here or on an additional page and attach to this questionnaire.

_____

_____

_____

I hereby state that, to best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Athlete's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Explain "Yes" answers below. Circle question if you do not know the answer.

Physical Examination Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Date of Birth _____

Examination			
Height:	Weight:	___ Male ___ Female	BP /
Pulse	Vision: R 20/	L 20/	Corrected ___ Yes ___ No

Medical	Normal	Abnormal Findings
Appearance: Marfan syndrome (kyphoscoliosis, high –arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span > height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)		
Eyes / Ears / Nose / Throat - Pupils equal / Hearing		
Lymph Nodes		
Heart • Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva • Location of point of maximum impulse (PMI)		
Pulses - Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)		
Skin - HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis		
Neurologic		
Musculoskeletal:		
• Neck		
• Spine/Back		
• Shoulders/Arm		
• Elbow/Forearm		
• Wrist/Hand/Fingers		
• Hip/Thighs		
• Knees		
• Leg/Ankles		
• Foot/Toes		
• Functional: Duck-walk, single leg hop		

Consider: ECG, echocardiogram and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or event. Consider GU Exam if in a private setting. Having a third party present is recommended. Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history or significant concussion.

____ Cleared for all sports without restriction

____ Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for:_____

_____

____ Not Cleared: (check all that apply) ___ Pending further evaluation ___ For Any Sports ____ For Certain Sports: _____

Reason: _____

Recommendation: _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the participation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. If conditions arise after the athlete had been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete and parents.

Physician's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physician's Address: _____ Phone _____

Physician's Reminders: Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues: (at risk behavior, alcohol, drugs, supplements…)

The South Carolina Independent School Association

Warning of Inherent Risk
Minor Waiver/Release

RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR MINOR PARTICIPANTS READ BEFORE SIGNING

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury which may range in severity from minor to disabling to even death. Although serious injures are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems, follow guidelines for safe play and inspect his/her own equipment and report any problems.

IN CONSIDERATION OF (name of student participant) _____, my child/ward, being allowed to participate in any way in the related events and activities of the **SCISA Athletic Association and this school's athletic program**, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. The risk of injury to my child/ward from the activities involved in athletic programs exist, including the potential for permanent disability and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I FOR MYSELF, SPOUSE, AND CHILD/WARD, I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, and assume full responsibility for my child/ward's participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the program's stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual significant concern in my child/ward's readiness for participation and/or in the program itself, I will remove my child/ward from the participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
4. I for myself, my spouse, my child/ward, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS The South Carolina Independent School Association, this school (_____) and its directors, officers, officials, agents, employees, volunteers, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the Event, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property incident to my child/ward's involvement or participation in these programs.
5. I grant permission to athletics trainers, first responders, nurses, and coaches as well as physicians or those under their direction who are a part of athletic prevention and treatment, to have access to necessary medical information.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS,

_____ _____

(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE) Date Signed:

Student Participant Understanding of Risk

I understand the seriousness of the risks involved in participating in an athletic program, my personal responsibilities for adhering to rules and regulation, and accept them as a participant.

_____ _____

(PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE) Date Signed

The South Carolina Independent School Association

Student / Parent Concussion Awareness Form

Information for Student-Athletes and Parents / Legal Guardians (Keep This Page)

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death. Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document.

***What is a concussion*?** A concussion is an injury to the brain caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head. It results in your brain not working as it should. It may or may not cause you to black out or pass out. It can happen to you from a fall, a hit to the head, or a hit to the body that causes your head and your brain to move quickly back and forth.

***How do I know if I have a concussion*?** There are many signs and symptoms that you may have following a concussion. A concussion can affect your thinking, the way your body feels, your mood, or your sleep. Here is what to look for:

Thinking/Remembering	Physical	Emotional/Mood	Sleep
Difficulty thinking clearly Taking longer to figure things out Difficulty concentrating Difficulty remembering new information	Headache Fuzzy or blurry vision Feeling sick to your stomach/ queasy Vomiting/throwing up Dizziness Balance problems Sensitivity to noise or light	Irritability-things bother you more easily Sadness Being more moody Feeling nervous or worried Crying more	Sleeping more than usual Sleeping less than usual Trouble falling asleep Feeling tired

Table is adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/)

***What should I do if I think a student-athlete has sustained a concussion*?** If you suspect a student-athlete is experiencing any of the signs and symptoms listed above, you immediately remove them from participation, let their parents know, and/or refer them to the appropriate medical personnel.

***What are the warning signs that a more significant head injury may have occurred*?** If they have a headache that gets worse over time, experience loss of coordination or abnormal body movements, have repeated nausea, vomiting, slurred speech, or you witness what you believe to be a severe head impact, you should refer them to appropriate medical personnel immediately.

What are some of the long-term or cumulative issues that may result from a concussion? Individuals may have trouble in some of their classes at school or even with activities at home. Down the road, especially if their injury is not managed properly, or if they return to play too early, they may experience issues such as being depressed, not feeling well, or have trouble remembering things for a long time. Once an individual has a concussion, they are also more likely to sustain another concussion.

How do I know when it's ok for a student-athlete to return to participation after a suspected concussion? Any student-athlete experiencing signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion should be immediately removed from play or practice and referred to appropriate medical personnel. They should not be returned to play or practice on the same day. To return to play or practice, they will need written clearance from a medical professional trained in concussion management.

Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Custodian Concussion Statement

If there is anything on this sheet that you do not understand, please ask a coach/staff member to explain or read it to you.

Student-Athlete Name: _____

Parent/Legal Custodian Names _____

___ **Yes. We have read the Student-Athlete & Parent/Legal Custodian Concussion Information Sheet.**

Student-Athlete Check/Initials		Parent/Legal Custodian initials/checks
	A concussion is a brain injury, which should be reported to my parents, my coach(es), or a medical professional if one is available.	
	A concussion can affect the ability to perform everyday activities such as the ability to think, balance, and classroom performance.	
	A concussion cannot be "seen." Some symptoms might be present right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.	
	I will tell my parents, my coach, and/or a medical professional about my injuries and ill-nesses.	
	If I think a teammate has a concussion, I should tell my coach(es), parents, or medical professional about the concussion.	N/A
	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any con-cussion-related symptoms.	N/A
	I will/my child will need written permission from a medical professional trained in con-cussion management to return to play or practice after a concussion.	
	Based on the latest data, most concussions take days or weeks to get better. A concussion may not go away right away. I realize that resolution from this injury is a process and may require more than one medical evaluation.	
	I realize that ER/Urgent Care physicians will not provide clearance if seen right away after the injury.	
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I am/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before concussion symptoms go away.	
	Sometimes, repeat concussions can cause serious and long-lasting problems.	
	I have read the concussion symptoms on the Concussion Information Sheet.	

SCISA CONCUSSION POLICY: In accordance with South Carolina/Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has deter-mined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certi-fied athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management).

1) No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.
2) Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
3) It is mandatory that every coach in each SCISA sport participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS and available at www.nfhslearn.com every year
4) Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.

Student's Signature _____ Parent/Legal Custodian Signature _____

Date: _____ Date _____

The South Carolina Independent School Association

Form 3 - New Student / Transfer Student Form
Admission Information For Athletic Eligibility

New Student / Transfer Student: This form must be completed on all "new to your school" students who play a varsity sport.

Section I

School Submitting Form: _____

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth:_____

Grade: _____ Age: _____

Date Student Applied For Admission: _____

Date Student Enrolled: _____

School student transferred from: _____

Section II

1. Is the student receiving any financial assistance? ____ No. The student/family pays full tuition. *(skip the remainder of Section II)*
   ____ Yes
2. ***If Yes***, is this assistance based on: ___ academic merit ___ financial need ___ athletic merit
   ___ Other (specify) _____
3. Did the family complete any type of SSS Financial Aid Evaluation form? ____ Yes ____ No
   If Yes, what service is used: _____
   What was the recommended financial award? _____
   If No, who made the determination and what information was this determination based upon: _____
   _____
   _____
4. The amount of Financial Assistance awarded to this student: _____
5. The total school tuition and fees charged for a student in this grade for a school year: _____

Section III

1. Academic Status: ____ Student is in good academic standing PSAT / SAT / ACT Score _____
   ____ Special academic consideration/course adjustment made
   Explain any special academic considerations: _____
   _____
   _____
2. Eight Semester Status: _____ The student is on track and should be eligible throughout his/her high school career.
   _____ The student and family has been notified that he/she will be ineligible for his/her senior year due to the Eight Semester Rule.

This Form must be filed by the Head of School and approved by SCISA prior to the student's athletic participation.

_____ _____
Signature, Head of School Name of School

_____ _____
Date Date Approved by SCISA

The South Carolina Independent School Association

Form 3 - New Student / Transfer Student Form

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth:_____ Age: _____

Grade: _____ Date Student Applied: _____ Date Student Enrolled: _____

SCISA School Transfer Form filed by (*school student has enrolled in*): _____

School student transferred from: _____

New Student / Transfer Student: This form must be completed on all "new to your school" students who play a varsity sport.

Summary of Transfer Rules

- A student who transfers after having: A. attended one class or B. filed the Agreement for Participation during the defined sports season or practices with team on or after first official practice date must wait sixty (60) days to become eligible. This may be waived for a *bono fide* change in residence. *Bona fide means: The move must be with the intent of being permanent. The entire household must be moved into the new residence. The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.*
- The Sixty Days may be waived following league/Committee review if all of the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Committee at it's sole and absolute discretion for a **non-member to member** transfer:
  - A. The student has completed a Transfer Form; B. The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer;
  - C. The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before: *1. September 18th for fall sports*; *2. January 8th for winter sports (the end of the first semester)*.
  - D. If approved, a transfer must participate in ten (10) days of practice before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.
  - E. Second semester transfers are subjected to the Sixty Day Rule (*transfers after January 8th/end of the 1st semester*).
- A transfer must have attended classes for thirty days prior to the start of the play-offs to be eligible to participate in the play-offs.
- An academically eligible transfer student (*school year transfer as defined above*) must have been eligible to represent his/her former school under any school, student, or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to become eligible.

Recruiting and Financial Assistance

The recruiting or proselytizing of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing SCISA Athletics and considered unsportsmanlike conduct. A student should not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person or group in an attempt to entice the student to transfer primarily for athletic purposes. Recruitment in this manner shall cause the student to be ineligible upon transfer and shall jeopardize the standing of the school in the Association.

Recruitment & Financial Assistance Questionnaire: To be completed by the parents/guardian

1. Were you initially contacted by a member of the school or coaching staff about transferring? __Yes ___ No
   If Yes, who contacted you: _____
2. Are you receiving any financial assistance? ____ Yes ____ No ***Source of Aid***: School ____ Family _____ Other _____
   If Yes, is this assistance based on: ___ academic merit ___ financial need ___ athletic merit
   ___ Other (specify) _____
3. Did you complete any type of SSS Financial Aid Evaluation form? ____ Yes ____ No

Change To A New School Questionnaire: To be completed by the parents / guardian

1. Has a *bono fide* change in residence occurred? ____ Yes ____ No ***If Yes***, please provide your former address.
   (Former Address): _____ (New Address): _____
2. Is your new residence closer to the school than your former residence? ____ Yes ____ No
3. The reason for the change in schools: _____
   _____
4. Could your son/daughter, return to his/her former school and participate in athletics? ____ Yes ____ No
   If no, explain why: _____
   _____

I verify that I have read the Summary of Transfer Rules and the Recruiting/Financial Assistance Policy and that the information that I am providing is true and accurate.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

The South Carolina Independent School Association
P.O. Drawer 690, Orangeburg, South Carolina - 803-535-4820 - www.scisa.org

International Student Eligibility Form

Section I - School Information

School Submitting Request _____ Date of Request _____

School Profile: Total Number of International Students This Academic Year: _____ Total Last School Year: _____

Section II - Student Information

1. Name _____
Last (Family) *First* *Middle*

2a. Date of Birth _____/_____/_____ 2b. Age: _____ 2c. ☐ Male ☐ Female
Month *Day* *Year*

3a. Country of Birth _____ 3b. Country of Citizenship _____

4. Permanent address *(in home country)* _____

5. Father's name _____ Mother's name _____

6. Telephone number (including country code) _____

Section III - Program / Placement or Sponsoring Agency

1. Name of Program or Agency: _____

2a. Address: _____ 2b. Telephone # _____

3a. Name of program representative monitoring the student: _____

3b. Telephone #_____ 3c. Email _____

*4. Provide a letter detailing the steps taken by the student and program representative from first contact to final school selection, explaining why this school was selected.

Section IV - U.S. Visa Information

1. Visa classification? ___ J-1 ___ F-1 ___ Other (_____)

2. Visa validity dates _____

Section V - Educational Background - Attendance at all schools (U.S. and International)

	First Secondary School	Second Secondary School	Third Secondary School (if any)	Fourth Secondary School (if any)
School Name and Address				
City, State and Country				
Telephone Number				
Dates of Attendance				
Grades Attended				
Diplomas?				
Who paid for this education?				

Section VI - High School/College Athletic Interest/Contact

Has the student ever:	Yes	No	If yes, list persons and institutions they represent
Communicated with any coach or other person about athletic participation in the U.S.?			
Discussed sports participation in the U.S. with any corporate representative?			
Attended any sports camps in the U.S.			

Section VII - Arrangements for Attending School in the U.S.

1. Name of person with whom the student resides with in the U.S. _____
   Address: _____
   Telephone number: _____ e-mail address _____
2. Relationship of the student to this person: _____
   _____
3. Relationship of the "host" family/person to the school that the student attends and/or its athletic program: _____
   _____
4. How and by whom was the school the student attends selected? _____
   _____
5. Why was this school selected for this student ? _____
   _____
   _____
6. Explain what involvement the student had in his/her placement in a U. S. high school: _____
   _____
7. Does the student receive financial aid to pay for school attendance costs in a U.S. high school? __***Yes*** __***No***
8. If yes, list the source, amount and conditions for receiving all such aid: _____
   _____
   _____

Section VIII - Awards and Benefits

Has the student ever:	Yes	No	If yes, explain
Received money for participation in a competition?			
Received payment of educational expenses from a team or booster?			
Signed or orally entered any type of agreement with a team or representative?			

Section IX - Student-Athlete's Affirmation and School Headmaster's Verification

By signing below, I affirm that I have completed and reviewed the responses to the questionnaire and agree that the information is correct.

Signature of Student_____ Date _____

Signature of Host Family/Person_____ Date _____

I hereby certify that the students whose names appear above are eligible according to the Constitution of the South Carolina Independent School Association.

Headmaster's Signature _____ Date _____

FOOTBALL WARNING: HELMET, EQUIPMENT, AND TECHNIQUE

According to the National Federation (High School Rules) and NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook, "all players shall wear helmets that carry a warning label regarding the risk of injury". This warning label is secured to the exterior of the helmet shell and must be visible and legible at all times. The warning label states:

WARNING

Do not strike an opponent with any part of this helmet or facemask. This is a violation of football rules and may cause you to suffer severe brain or neck injury, including paralysis or death. Severe brain or neck injury may also occur accidentally while playing football.

NO HELMET CAN PREVENT ALL SUCH INJURIES.
YOU USE THIS HELMET AT YOUR OWN RISK.

The National Federation (High School Rules) has identified specific guidelines against a player using their head as a weapon and as the initial point of contact for blocking and tackling.

The equipment issued to you should not be modified, by you, in any way. Any potential modifications to your protective equipment must be brought to the attention of the Athletic Training staff and/or Football coaching staff in advance, this includes adapting or exchanging helmets, shoulder pads, and adding or deleting neck rolls.

My signature below indicates that I have read this entire warning and understood it completely.

_____ _____
Student's/Participant's Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent's Signature Date