

Spring Baptist Academy Athletics



SBA Athletic Handbook

2023-2024

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all
for the glory of God."*

-I Corinthians 10:31

Middle School Athletics:

1. God did not create us with the same abilities as others. We all have our own gifts; therefore, we will not be able to contribute all the same. Some players will play more than others; some players will perform better than others; and ultimately, some players will get more recognition than others. We will follow the principles set in I Corinthians 12:12-27.
2. For middle school, we have very little idea of how a student athlete will mature, so each middle school athlete should have the opportunity to see some type of competition on a daily basis as well as from game to game. This does not mean equal playing time. A student athlete should only expect to see playing time if the following criteria are met:
 - The student athlete has a positive attitude that reflects unity and loyalty to the people and standards of Spring Baptist Academy
 - The student athlete receives instruction graciously
 - The student athlete is team oriented
 - The student athlete works hard every chance he or she gets
 - The student athlete attends every assigned practice
 - The student athlete's ability is similar to the competition, and appropriate for the game situation

If these criteria are met, athletes should have the opportunity to compete, to learn, and to have a positive experience.

3. Middle school athletics is the foundation of a good athletic program. A team can consist of 6th-8th graders. Each sport is expected to run similar schemes and maintain similar practice routines from middle school through varsity levels.

High School Athletics:

1. God did not create us with the same abilities as others. We all have our own gifts; therefore, we will not be able to contribute all the same. Some players will play more than others; some players will perform better than others; and ultimately, some players will get more recognition than others. We will follow the principles set in I Corinthians 12:12-27.
2. We expect our student athletes to:
 - Have a positive attitude that reflects unity and loyalty to the people and standards of Spring Baptist Academy.
 - Receive instruction graciously
 - Be team oriented
 - Work hard every chance he or she gets
 - Attend every assigned practice

If the athletes meet these expectations, they should have the opportunity to compete, to learn, and to have a positive experience.

3. Athletes at the junior varsity / varsity level should have a good foundation and understanding of the rules and fundamentals of their chosen sport. Athletes should also have an understanding and realistic expectation of their role as a student athlete.
4. Because the speed of the individual sports will increase, athletic ability will have to be refined. Off season practice, camp attendance and lessons are encouraged.

5. Many times coaches will ask players to put in extra work. Being the first at practice and the last to leave is a great rule. Take the extra few minutes every practice to improve. Not only will it improve your athletic ability but it will also help instill an attitude of hard work.
6. We have a better idea of the gifts and abilities athletes possess at this level. We will always put the best players on the field/court in any given situation in order to be successful, but this does not always mean the most talented or athletic player. Coaches will bear the responsibility to always do what is **best for the team**.
7. Ultimately we will use athletics as a time to develop God honoring character, to build friendships, to encourage school spirit, and to enjoy the thrill of competition.

Prerequisites for Participation

- A Sports Fee of \$125 per sport paid through FACTS.
- Read SBA Athletic Handbook, sign, and turn in the Statement of Commitment located at the back of handbook.
- Current sports physical

Role of the Parent

A very important goal of middle school and high school athletics is to make the athletic experience a positive one for all athletes, coaches, parents, and everyone who chooses to watch our teams perform. Parents and family members are encouraged to uphold the following:

- As a parent, I recognize that it is vital that I support the efforts and decisions of the coaching staff.
- As a parent, I also recognize the importance of being a positive role model; therefore, I agree to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the dictates of good sportsmanship at all contests. I agree to cheer in a positive fashion for outstanding play and will refrain from criticizing the efforts made by the officials, players, and coaches.
- As a parent, I will make every attempt to insure that my child will be able to attend all practices and contests.

Coaches will never discuss, at length, playing time with a parent; coaches will however, discuss how a player could continue to get better. Athletics at Spring Baptist Academy carries with it responsibility. We appreciate attitudes that promote friendship, sportsmanship, service, respect, and unity.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

- Ephesians 4:29&32

Section II – General Guidelines

Academic Eligibility

A student must be passing all classes in order to participate in athletics. Eligibility will be checked at the end of each nine-week grading period. Semester averages will not be considered for eligibility purposes. Any student who is failing one or more courses will be ineligible until a progress report or a report card shows all passing grades. Any student who is failing one or more courses at the end of the previous school year will be ineligible at the beginning of the fall semester until a progress report or a report card shows all passing grades.

Teachers and coaches reserve the right to deem a student ineligible for any academic reason but only after clear communication with student, parent, and athletic director. Ineligible student athletes may not be excused from school to attend sporting events.

Risk Factor in Sports

There are inherent risks involved when participating in athletics. Please be aware of the risks and of ways to help prevent sickness or injury. Players as well as parent/guardians must communicate any health concerns, physical limitations, and/or medical conditions.

Health and safety are a priority. It is extremely important to communicate any injury to coaches and to your doctor as soon as possible.

Athletic Uniforms and Equipment

All Spring Baptist Academy student athletes will be issued athletic uniforms specific to each sport season. All uniforms are the property of Spring Baptist Academy. Each student is responsible for the care of uniforms issued to him/her. Uniforms are to be worn only for games or on special occasions as designated by the coach. Clothes worn for practice should be clean and in good repair and reflect the standards of Spring Baptist Academy. At the completion of the season, students are required to clean and return all athletic uniforms issued to them. Any student who loses or does not turn in uniforms might have grade reports and/or transcripts held until items are turned in or paid for.

Practice

Practices for each season will be scheduled and communicated at the beginning of each season. There will be no practices on Sunday. Practices may be scheduled for days off from school including Mondays and Fridays, summer, Thanksgiving break, and Christmas break.

Games

Games will be scheduled according to league requirements and affiliation and will be communicated to families ASAP. Please note, game times are always subject to change. There will be no games on Sunday. Game schedule/addresses/times are posted on the school website at www.springbaptistacademy.org.

Missing Practices/Games

Individual commitment is necessary to team success. Athletes commit to getting better each and every day, and teammates commit to those that count on them each and every day. Many hours and much work by players and coaches go into team sports. Sometimes family and church responsibilities create situations in which choices must be made between obligations. Remember that coaches have families and are church members as well. If a student athlete must miss practice or a game for ANY reason, inform the coaches ASAP.

Section III - Expectations and Ethics

The athletic program at Spring Baptist Academy is an extension of the larger educational program of the school. While the classroom is often limited to the theoretical, sports provide an experiential basis to help develop in our students Godly qualities such as self-discipline, endurance, self-control, diligence, sportsmanship, submission to authority, teamwork, and numerous other qualities. Sports are important and can provide our students with valuable experiences to reveal and strengthen character. With God's help, we want to see Godly character develop through our sports program.

Participation in athletics at Spring Baptist Academy is a privilege that commands responsibility. Athletes have a responsibility to model proper behavior that reflects the character of their coaches, school, family, and God. Therefore, the following is expected of all student athletes:

- To be present and on time to all practices, games, and special events.
- To daily pray and ask the Lord for His help for yourself, coaches, and teammates.
- To emphasize the values of sportsmanship and fair play.
- To show courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- To establish a friendly relationship with opponents.
- To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- To support and encourage coaches, players, and volunteers through words and actions.
- To encourage a spirit of unity, loyalty, and enthusiasm toward our school and teams.
- To develop leadership by demonstrating initiative and good judgment.
- To commit to getting better each day and to commit to making others better each day.
- To understand that success is not just determined by the score but by your ability to influence others by demonstrating Godly character.

Final Word

It is our desire for each of our student athletes to have a positive and enjoyable experience while playing for Spring Baptist Academy. Our desire also is to create a culture that demonstrates commitment, enthusiasm, and integrity so that athletics could be used to influence others. Thank you for your involvement in SBA athletics.

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit...Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves”

- Philippians 2:1-3

Coaches Email Information

Coach Bowsher – dbowsher@springbaptist.org

Coach Doelitsch - aaron.doelitsch@us.belfor.com

Coach Combest - cdsc1002@gmail.com

Coach Lee – mlee@springbaptistacademy.org

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, _____, as a member of a Spring Baptist Academy athletic team, do agree to abide by the rules and standards of conduct as stated in the SBA Athletic Handbook. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment.

By signing below, I, the student athlete, and we, the parents/guardians, have read and agree with the stated responsibilities expressed within the Spring Baptist Academy Athletic Handbook. The parent signature also authorizes your students FACTS account to be charged the \$125 athletic fee.

Student Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

