



SCS SOFTBALL HANDBOOK

2017 – 2018 SEASON

GENERAL SOFTBALL PROGRAM INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The following information has been written for the student athletes that are preparing to become part of, or continue with, the Starkville Christian School Softball Program. It has been written to provide the student athletes with as much information about the entire softball program as possible.

COACHES CONTACT INFORMATION

Hayley Martin	Co-Head Coach	hayleyemartin14@gmail.com
Rachel Witbeck	Co-Head Coach	witbeck.rachel@gmail.com

PHYSICAL FORMS/HANDBOOK SIGNATURES

Student athletes must have an up to date physical on file in order to participate in softball practices and games. The softball program also requires that this handbook be read and signed by both the athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian(s).

TRYOUTS, TEAM PRACTICES AND GAMES

The student athlete CANNOT participate until all forms and physicals are turned in and up to date. If you miss a tryout day because your forms and physicals are not up to date, there will NOT be make up evaluation sessions available. Physical forms and handbook signature pages are turned in to the SCS front office.

TRYOUTS/ELIGIBILITY

Grades 6 through 12 are eligible to tryout. Grade 5 athletes are NOT eligible, though some may receive an invitation to participate in practices due to a lack of players or a need at a specialty position. The athlete(s) will be evaluated in the same manner as the 6 through 12th graders. The invitations are offered at the discretion of the entire coaching staff.

The student athlete will participate in a 4- day try out (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). Players are expected to attend— this includes players who were on the previous school year's team. If there is a serious injury, illness, or need to be out of town, please contact the coaches BEFORE tryouts so that we may decide how to move forward. The first day of tryouts marks a blank slate for the upcoming year's roster. During tryouts student athletes will participate in the following:

- individual athleticism evaluation
- physical conditioning evaluation
- offensive skill/capabilities evaluation
- defensive skill/capabilities evaluation
- intangibles (coachable, attitude, behavior off the field, and work ethic) evaluation

Tryouts will be a PROCESS oriented evaluation, and not necessarily a RESULTS orientation evaluation. Coaches will be evaluating player's technique, mechanics, and adjustments and not just whether or not the player hits or fields the ball every time. However, the athlete's physical condition at the time of

tryouts is an indicator to the coaches of how hard she is working outside of practice to become a competitive athlete.

TEAM SELECTION COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The players who make the team will be posted on Mr. Witbeck's door as soon as we make a final decision. His office is located at the back end of the high school hall.

IN-SEASON PRACTICE/GAME SCHEDULE:

The SCS Softball team will practice from 3:30-5:30 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) at the Starkville Sportsplex, located behind SCS, when outdoors. When indoors, we will practice in the SCS gym. Because weather is unpredictable, the athlete should bring *both cleats and tennis shoes* to practice. On home game days we will play on the Starkville Sportsplex fields. A schedule of games will be found on the school's website located under the "athletics" page.

All athletes are required to bring their own gloves, bats, and clothing to every practice. For the athlete's safety we ask that they wear softball pants to practice with long socks and a t-shirt (no racer-back tank tops). Shirt options will be discussed further in person. If the athlete is late to practice or does not bring their equipment there will be a consequence given that has been agreed upon by the coaching staff. If an athlete is absent for an entire practice, they will be expected to have communicated with the coaches BEFORE the practice they are missing. If they do not communicate before practice and do not bring in a doctor's excuse for missing practice, they will receive a consequence to be agreed

upon by the coaching staff. Our team cannot practice to its fullest capacity without the entire team being there, and it requires the coaches to back-track on skills taught and keeps the team from moving forward.

PLAYER INJURIES

All softball players should report injuries to the coaching staff immediately, regardless if the injury occurred during a game, practice, or outside of the softball field. Coaches must ensure that our players receive a proper diagnosis as well as treatment for a quick and healthy recovery.

Any and all injuries that requires an athlete to miss time at practice or on the field is required to get clearance from a doctor or athletic trainer. If the injury keeps an athlete from attending multiple practices before a scheduled game the athlete will NOT be playing in the game. If an athlete is too injured to practice to the fullest extent, they are too injured to play in a game.

AWAY GAME TRANSPORTATION

Buses are provided for all SCS registered student athletes to and from away games. Players are expected to ride the bus with their teammates to and from the away game location. Any exceptions must be cleared by both of the head coaches AND must have a written note from the parent. Players will demonstrate appropriate behavior while on the bus or they will be subject to discipline including, but not limited to suspension from games and/or practices. It is the policy of SCS that a coach/adult is on the bus every time the bus transports student athletes.

Homeschooled athletes are expected to find their own transportation to and from away games. Homeschooled athletes are also expected to arrive at the away field at the scheduled time discussed.

SCHOOL RELEASE FOR GAMES

For away games, we may have to excuse the players early from school. It is our intention to keep the players in the school as long as possible. It is the ATHLETE'S responsibility to make their teacher(s) aware of their early departure ahead of time and keep up with their work.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Athletes are expected to recognize the importance of the example they are setting for other SCS students and the community. They should make sure that their behavior is Christ-honoring and above reproach.

Sports are an important part of a well-rounded education; however, they are secondary to academics at SCS. In order to be eligible to play sports a student must have passed four MAJOR credits the previous academic year. A player must have all assignments current and a minimum of 75 (in each subject) during the season in order to play during a game. Any student who has uncompleted assignments will be withheld from athletic participation until the assignment is completed.

A student who is absent from school the day of an inter-scholastic game will be ineligible to participate. If a student is absent part of the day, due to medical reasons or personal or personal issues, she will be eligible only with

permission from the Principal. The Principal and/or coaches reserve the right to suspend a player from a team for academic or disciplinary reasons. An ineligible athlete may not practice or participate in any contest, or appear in uniform for any contest in which the team is participating.

In addition to these SCS academic requirements, the SCS softball coaches will require any player whose grade drops below an 80 to study for that subject at practice. They will still be required to attend practices.

Homeschooler's grades are to be monitored by the homeschooler's parents. Our attendance policy still applies to homeschoolers missing practices for academic reasons.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the guidelines provided in the SCS softball handbook.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete name (printed): _____ Date: _____

Athlete signature: _____ Date: _____