

The South Carolina Independent School Association 2026-27 Agreement for Participation

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of the school is education. Participation in interscholastic athletics is considered a **privilege**, not a right. This privilege is extended only to students who meet the eligibility requirements established by the **South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)** and the policies of the school. Athletic programs are designed to support the educational mission of the school by promoting character development, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

II. CODE OF CONDUCT

All spectators, coaches, and student-athletes are expected to support their school and team in a **positive, respectful, and sportsmanlike manner**. The athletic environment is an extension of the classroom where lessons in responsibility, respect, and fair competition are reinforced. The **safety and well-being of students, coaches, officials, and spectators** is of the highest priority. All athletic events shall be conducted in accordance with the policies, rules, and regulations of the **South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)**. Participants, coaches, and spectators must conduct themselves at all times in a **reasonable and sportsmanlike manner**.

A. Violations of the Code of Conduct

A participant, coach, or spectator will be considered in violation of this Code of Conduct if he or she engages in any of the following behaviors:

Derogatory Remarks Making degrading or disrespectful remarks toward any spectator, official, coach, or athlete during or after a contest, whether on or off the playing surface. School officials, coaches, and players shall not publicly criticize other schools, coaches, players, or officials through media or social media platforms.

Disputing Officials Arguing with an official or displaying gestures or conduct indicating disagreement, disrespect, or disdain for an official's decision.

Profanity or Abusive Language Using foul, abusive, inappropriate, or profane language at any time.

Entering the Playing Area Entering the playing field, court, or competition area to protest, question, or object to a call or play.

Physical Contact or Aggression Hitting, shoving, grabbing, striking, or attempting to strike any official, coach, athlete, or spectator.

Ejection from a Contest Being ejected or removed from any athletic contest.

Confronting Officials After a Contest Detaining, following, pursuing, or confronting an official after a contest to question or express dissatisfaction with a ruling or game outcome.

Use of Prohibited Substances Possessing, using, or displaying alcohol, tobacco products, or any unauthorized drug at an athletic event.

B. Disciplinary Action

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in **disciplinary action**, including but not limited to: Fines, Suspension from participation or attendance, Probation, or Additional penalties as determined by SCISA. The school will be notified of any disciplinary action taken by SCISA and is responsible for enforcing such action.

III. WARNING OF INHERENT RISKS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Participation in athletic activities involves **inherent risks of injury**. Injuries may range from minor to severe and may include permanent disability or death. While serious injuries are uncommon in properly supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risks associated with athletic participation. Student-athletes share responsibility for reducing the risk of injury by:

- Following all safety rules and instructions
- Promptly reporting injuries or physical concerns
- Adhering to safe playing techniques
- Inspecting personal equipment and reporting any damage or defects

Participation in athletics and attendance at public events, including sporting events, may also involve possible **exposure to infectious diseases**, including but not limited to: MRSA, Influenza, COVID-19.

IV. GUARDIANSHIP REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for athletic participation, a student must reside with his or her **parent(s) or legal guardian(s)**. Additional guardianship eligibility requirements are outlined in the **SCISA Blue Book**, which should be consulted for complete details.

V. STUDENT ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY RULES

A. Eight-Semester Rule: A student is granted **eight (8) consecutive semesters of athletic eligibility** beginning with the student's first enrollment in the **ninth (9th) grade**.

B. Academic Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following academic standards to maintain athletic eligibility:

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Grades 9–12 - Students must pass either:

- **Four (4) one-unit core courses**, or **Five (5) one-unit courses** each grading period or semester.

Students Below Grade 9

Students must pass **four (4) academic subjects** each grading period or semester.

Senior Students

A senior who has met or is meeting all graduation requirements must pass **four (4) one-credit courses** each marking period or semester.

Beginning-of-Year Eligibility

To be eligible at the start of the school year, a student must have earned: **Four (4) core units**, or **Five (5) total units of credit**.

Courses or credits obtained through the **Home School method during the school year** may not be used to determine athletic eligibility.

Previous Year Academic Requirement

Any student who failed to earn credit for **at least fifty percent (50%) of all courses taken during the previous school year** will be ineligible for athletic participation until the **successful completion of the first semester of the current school year**.

Practice Restrictions

A student who is **academically ineligible** may **not participate in team practices** until academic eligibility has been restored.

VI. GRADE-LEVEL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Varsity Teams: Eligible students may participate on varsity teams as follows:

Sport Eligible Grades

Soccer, Football, Lacrosse (Grades 8–12) Baseball, Basketball, Softball (Grades 7–12) All Other Varsity Sports (Grades 6–12)

B. Junior Varsity Teams: Eligible students may participate in junior varsity athletics as follows:

Sport Eligible Grades

Track, XC, Swimming, Volleyball, Golf, Tennis (Grades 5–10) / Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Wrestling (Grades 6–10)

VII. B-TEAM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Grade Level Requirements: Eligible students may participate on B-Team athletic teams according to the following grade restrictions: B-Team Sports (except football) Grades 5-8 / B-Team Football Grades 5-7.

For student safety, coaches and parents should carefully evaluate the **skill level, physical maturity, and competitiveness** of students below the sixth (6th) grade prior to permitting participation on any B-Team.

VIII. AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following age requirements apply to all athletic participation. **No exceptions will be granted to these age standards.**

General Eligibility: A student is **ineligible** to participate in athletics if the student’s **nineteenth (19th) birthday occurs before July 1, 2026.**

Junior Varsity Athletics: To participate in junior varsity athletics, a student **must not have reached his or her sixteenth (16th) birthday prior to July 1, 2026.**

B-Team Athletics: To participate in B-Team athletics, a student **must not have reached his or her fifteenth (15th) birthday prior to July 1, 2026.**

B-Team Football Exception: To participate in B-Team football, a student **must not have reached his or her fourteenth (14th) birthday prior to July 1, 2026.**

IX. TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY RULES

A. Member School to Member School Transfer: Sixty (60) Day Rule

A student transferring from one SCISA member school to another after: Attending at least one class during the school year; or Participating in team practice on or after the first official practice date; shall be required to wait **sixty (60) calendar days** before becoming eligible to participate in any athletic contest, including games or scrimmages. This waiting period **may be waived in the event of a bona fide change in residence.**

B. Non-Member School to Member School Transfer

A student transferring from a **non-member school** to a SCISA member school must complete **ten (10) days of practice** before becoming eligible to participate in a game. Approval of the transfer must be obtained in accordance with SCISA procedures.

C. Transfer Procedure

Students transferring schools must complete the following requirements: Submit a **completed Transfer Form**; Provide a **written statement explaining the reason for the transfer.**

D. Deadlines for Non-Member to Member Transfers

Transfer eligibility deadlines are as follows: **Fall Sports:** Student must be enrolled and attending classes **by September 11 / Winter Sports:** Student must be enrolled **by January 8** or by the **end of the student’s first semester.**

E. Second Semester Transfers

All **second-semester transfers**, whether **member-to-member** or **non-member-to-member**, are subject to the **Sixty (60) Day Rule**.
Exception: Bona fide change in residence.

F. Additional Transfer Regulations

The following additional policies apply to transfer students:

- A transfer student must attend classes for **at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of playoffs** in order to be eligible to participate in postseason competition.
- An academically eligible transfer student must have been eligible to represent his or her **previous school under all applicable school, student, and athletic policies** at the time of transfer.
- If the student was not eligible, the student must wait **ninety (90) calendar days** before becoming eligible. The SCISA committee reserves the right to **extend this waiting period** if circumstances warrant.
- A student who transfers **before the start of the school year**, and who has **not attended a class or practiced with a team on or after the first official practice date**, may be declared immediately eligible if all eligibility requirements are satisfied.
- The waiting period for transfer eligibility shall **begin on the first day the student attends class** at the new school.

X. MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Parents and guardians should understand the school's medical insurance policy regarding athletic participation. The **South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)** requires each member school to participate in the **SCISA Catastrophic Insurance Plan**, which provides coverage in the event of a catastrophic athletic injury. This policy is intended to supplement, not replace, a family's primary medical insurance coverage.

XI. RECRUITING

Students must not transfer schools as a result of **recruiting or undue influence** related to athletic participation. All recruiting policies and definitions are governed by the **SCISA Blue Book**, which should be consulted for complete guidelines and enforcement procedures.

XII. ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION AND MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

If selected, parents or guardians grant permission for their child to participate in **SCISA All-Star Games**. By granting this permission, the parent or guardian acknowledges and agrees that: The **South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)**, the host school, and their respective agents, members, employees, and affiliated organizations **shall not be held liable** for any accident or injury occurring during participation. The parent or guardian authorizes **emergency medical treatment** for the student-athlete if necessary. The parent or guardian accepts **financial responsibility for any medical expenses** incurred as a result of such treatment.

XIII. PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONSENT AND LIABILITY AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian, grant permission for the student named below to participate in interscholastic athletics governed by the **South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)** and the policies of the school listed below. By signing this document, both the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have **read, understand, and agree to comply with** the following:

- The **SCISA Statement of Philosophy**
- The **Athletic Code of Conduct**
- The **Summary of Student Eligibility Rules**
- All **school and SCISA athletic policies and regulations**

Participation in athletics involves **inherent risks of injury**, including the possibility of serious injury, permanent disability, or death. By granting permission for participation, the parent/guardian and student acknowledge these risks and voluntarily accept them. The parent/guardian further acknowledges and agrees to the following:

- **Eligibility Verification** The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) and the school may review the student's academic and school records for the purpose of verifying athletic eligibility.
- **Transfer Rule Acknowledgment** The student named below may only participate in athletics for the school listed on this form. Any transfer to another school after this form has been filed may subject the student to the **SCISA Sixty (60) Day Rule** or other eligibility restrictions.
- **Medical Authorization** In the event of an injury or medical emergency, the parent/guardian authorizes school officials, coaches, athletic trainers, or other authorized personnel to obtain **necessary emergency medical treatment** for the student.
- **Financial Responsibility for Medical Care** The parent/guardian accepts full responsibility for **all medical expenses** incurred as a result of treatment for injuries sustained while participating in athletic activities or events governed by SCISA.
- **Release of Liability** The parent/guardian and student agree **not to hold the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), the participating school, host schools, or any of their agents, members, employees, or affiliated organizations liable** for accidents or injuries that may occur during athletic participation, except where prohibited by law.

This document shall be considered a **binding agreement** between the parent/guardian, the student, the school, and the South Carolina Independent School Association.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School Name: _____ Sport(s): _____

School Year: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT

I certify that I am the **parent or legal guardian** of the student named above and that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms outlined in this Athletic Participation Consent and Liability Agreement.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Cell # _____

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the **Athletic Code of Conduct and eligibility requirements**, and I agree to abide by all rules and policies of the school and the South Carolina Independent School Association.

Student Name (Printed): _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____