

# Scholars Guild Academy Athletics



Parent Handbook  
2025-26

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# SGA Mission Statement

Scholars Guild Academy is a unique community where qualified, dedicated instructors and homeschooling families partner together in education. Our program is accredited with quality by the Georgia Accrediting Commission to offer home educated students a broad range of quality, college-prep academic classes. Our mission is to support families in their desire to homeschool through high school and we offer an accredited diploma through our transcript program. At SGA, we strive to equip students not just academically, but also socially and spiritually. Our vision is to prepare young adults who will be the leaders of their generation and impact others with the truth of Jesus Christ.

## Purpose of Athletics at Scholars Guild

- To provide our students opportunities to collectively embody the gospel in a competitive venue.
- To extend the gospel to the other teams, groups, and individuals that we interact with via sports.
- To offer the benefits of participating in competitive sports to our homeschool students and their families (including but not limited to cooperation, integrity, unity, teamwork, humility, and good sportsmanship).
- To increase out-of-classroom bonding experiences for our students, which will increase the sense of community among the SGA student body.
- To give students who don't play sports the opportunity to attend sporting events to cheer on classmates, which will provide SGA students non-structured social interactions outside of the school days.
- To reflect the body of Christ in a new way as we work together.

## Athletics Philosophy

All families wishing to participate in SGA Athletics must agree with the [SGA Statement of Faith](#).

SGA Athletics is guided by the biblical principles found in Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Athletics, like all human endeavors, is intended to honor and glorify God. SGA Admin and Board agree that our athletics program is an extension of our mission to share Christ with all we encounter. SGA Spartans strive to maintain an environment where biblical character and values are reinforced for every student-athlete as outlined below:

## Spartan Character

**-Love-** Athletes are provided the opportunity to develop their own skills while also placing the good of the team before their own personal gain (Colossians 3:23; 1 Corinthians 13:3; Philippians 2:4)

**-Humility-** Players glorify God by acknowledging that He alone has given them the skill and ability to win the competition or has allowed the loss (Galatians 6:14; James 4:6)

**-Endurance-** Training and competition provides times of testing in which an athlete can learn that, through perseverance, God brings great reward and personal growth (Galatians 6:9)

**-Wisdom-** Using Godly wisdom, the athlete learns how to respond in various situations (James 1:5; Proverbs 9:10)

## Interscholastic League Affiliations

SGA is a member school of Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools (GAPPS), a statewide athletics sanctioning organization that is governed by its member schools. Our GAPPS sanctioned teams follow the GAPPS Manual Constitution and By-Laws and Sports-Specific Rules. SGA may have academic or athletic policies that go above and beyond GAPPS policies. Where SGA isn't specific, it can be assumed that the GAPPS policy is followed as written. For more info, visit [gappsschools.com](http://gappsschools.com).

For equestrian only, we compete with Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA). IEA's mission is to promote lifelong involvement in equestrian athletics. IEA wishes to introduce students in grades 4-8 (Future) and 9-12 (Upper School) to equestrian sports and to develop understanding and appreciation of equestrian sports through organized competitions and educational opportunities. For more info, visit <https://www.rideiea.org>.

## Academic Eligibility

### Who is Eligible?

Full-time SGA students (3 or more classes at SGA) and approved AES students (less than 3 or no classes at SGA) are eligible to participate in athletics. Public school students or homeschoolers who compete with their public school under the Dexter-Mosely Act **are not** eligible. Students not enrolled in at least 3 classes at SGA or another GAPPS school are considered AES. Students must be enrolled in at least 3 classes at SGA to be considered an SGA student. SGA clubs, lunch, study hall, and Spartans teams do NOT count as classes. Students who wish to ensure roster priority should enroll in 3 or more SGA classes.

Roster limits are determined for each sport by the governing league and an AES athlete can never be accepted over an SGA student-athlete where AES limits apply. With the approval of the AD, coaches may choose not to have the maximum number of roster participants. If necessary, tryouts will be used to maintain roster limits. PLEASE NOTE: If a student is rostered on an SGA team and quits once the season begins, that student may forfeit their ability to be rostered again on that sport's team the following year.

## Age/Grade Classifications

- MIDDLE SCHOOL – 6th through 8th grade (11 years old through 13 years old, as of September 1st) \*Some sports allow 5<sup>th</sup> graders on MS teams. Equestrian will roster younger (3rd and 4th may be allowed to ride with the MS team).
- HIGH SCHOOL – 9th through 12th grade (14 years old through 18 years old, as of September 1st)

For high school, a student has 8 consecutive semesters or 4 years of eligibility from the date of entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Appeals can be made for athletes who are older than their designated age above. Appeals can also be made for athletes who are 19 their senior year provided they did not turn 19 before May 1 of their junior year.

## Academic Requirements

To be eligible to participate in any interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. The AD will verify the academic eligibility of each student-athlete. Student-athletes must have a grade average of all core subjects (language, math, science, and social studies) above 75% to remain in good academic standing. If a student has 75% or lower average for all core subjects, or if a student is failing any subject, the student will be placed on academic probation. For the purpose of athletics, grades will be reviewed every six weeks. If it is determined at that time that a student is earning a failing grade in any course, a probationary period will begin wherein the student must pull the grade up from failing to passing.

A student-athlete on probation may continue to participate in team practice, but may not compete in meets, games, or competition until released from probation by SGA administration. If, after review, a student has recovered his/her academic eligibility, he/she may return to competition. If grades have not been recovered, the probationary period is extended. If participation in SGA Athletics is a detriment to a student-athlete's academic performance as noted above, SGA Administration may deem the student ineligible for participation in the athletics program.

SGA reserves the right to request AES transcripts or grade reports for the previous semester to determine academic eligibility requirements equivalent to SGA students.

## Alternatively Educated Students

SGA may roster non-full-time SGA students (full-time = taking 3 or more classes at SGA) if they do not have enough full-time students to form a team. Those non-full-time students are considered Alternatively Educated Students (or AES). The AES family will be responsible for completing the application via the GAPPS website (or SGA link, if equestrian), providing supporting documents and paying the application fees. Once reviewed and approved by GAPPS or SGA's Athletics Admin Team, the students' information will appear in a database, and, unless on the equestrian team, found under our school's login on the GAPPS website, for the final approval of the AD. For equestrian, final approval will be sent to the parents by the AD.

- AES students must live within 30 miles of the member school

- Scholars Guild Academy will become the AES student's "home base" for all sports
- AES students must sign an AES Agreement Form and pay an additional athletic fee
- AES students must provide a copy of the Declaration of Intent to Homeschool
- AES students must provide a signed copy of their report card or transcripts
- AES students must provide a copy of their birth certificate

## Competition and Player's Responsibilities

### Attendance and Commitment

SGA Athletics strives to establish and maintain a reputation of excellence and outstanding character in our community, league, and across the state. Spartan athletes and coaches are first and foremost ambassadors of Christ but also of the Spartan brand and are called to maintain the highest standards, which includes excellence in work ethic and attendance in the classroom, on the court, field, and course, an outstanding attitude, Christ-like behavior, and general respect for others and property.

Because of these high standards, once an athlete has been rostered on a team, that student must be committed to arriving on time to practices and games and must compete with the team until the season is over. If a student must miss either, the parent and/or student is responsible for communicating ahead of time with the coach to inform them of the absences. Each coach will determine and announce his or her policies on tardiness and absences. Please note that SGA desires its students to be actively involved in a local church; therefore, Spartans athletic events and practices will be scheduled to avoid conflicts with those weekly meetings as much as possible.

Financial commitments (including sports fees and uniform costs plus add-ons) must be met IN FULL before the first regular season contest.

### Playing Time and Opportunities to Compete

Every student-athlete on our rosters has an important role to play. For our team sports, every player will not have equal playing time and playing time is never guaranteed. Coaches determine game playing time by (not necessarily in this order):

- Raw talent
- Effort at practices/games and at home (work ethic)
- Positive attitude (heart issues matter most – parents help us here)
- Practice attendance (please be sure you can attend things before committing)
- Personnel needed against the specific team we are playing

Please weigh out the costs (time and money) of your student-athlete playing the sport. Being a part of a team is about MUCH more than time on the court/field during a game.

## Quitting a Team

SGA Athletics wishes to instill the traits of responsibility, integrity, and honoring a commitment in our student-athletes. Students and parents should recognize that joining a team will require commitment and sacrifice. Quitting a team should be a last resort only after other options have been exhausted. It is the student's responsibility to arrange work and complete homework so that those things do not conflict with their team's schedule.

If a student is dismissed or voluntarily leaves their team at any point during the season before its conclusion, that student is not eligible to participate in another sport during that same season and may not be permitted to try out for that same team the following year. A parent-coach meeting should be scheduled if a student wishes to quit. If it is determined that it is in the best interest of that student for the student to no longer participate with the team, the coach must forward the student's name, team information, and circumstances to the Athletic Director.

## Multi-Sport Athletes

SGA encourages our student-athletes to compete with as many teams as they desire. Occasionally, sports seasons overlap. When they do, coaches work together to attempt to avoid conflicting events. If there is a conflict, the student-athlete should prioritize the first sport for which they signed up. For example, basketball season may begin before the XC state meet. In that case, the multi-sport athlete competing with both should prioritize XC over basketball, since that was the first sport he/she started.

## Uniform and Dress Code

Spartans uniforms are purchased by the player and become the property of the player upon receipt. All uniforms must meet all GAPPS and GHSA requirements. Practice uniforms ordered as a team must be modest and expected apparel for that sport.

All athletes are required to wear shirts at practices and competitions. For girls, sports bras are required and must be covered by a shirt. For all athletes, shorts must be worn so as to not reveal undergarments. Athlete's shorts must have a minimum inseam of 3" and spandex or compression shorts may be worn underneath loose-fitting clothing that meets the inseam requirement. Spandex uniform shorts will be allowed for girls' volleyball and other sports we may add (co-ed track, for example) where standard running shorts would not be modest or allow for full range of movement required for that sport.

All decisions regarding dress code for athletic events and violations thereof will be made by the Athletic Director and enforced by the coach.

## Varsity Letterman's Standards

Student-athletes in grades 9-12 who complete a season of a Varsity sport as a rostered participant are eligible to receive ONE varsity letter, regardless of the number of Varsity sports played. Athletes younger than 9th grade who are rostered on a Varsity team are not eligible to

receive a letter until they enter the 9th grade. Playing time is not a factor in earning a letter. If a student is injured during the season, the coaches will determine if the student remains eligible to receive the letter. Letters are included in the cost of each Varsity sport and will be presented at the end-of-season ceremony. Sport-specific patches or pins will be presented along with the letter, and bars will be awarded for each subsequent year a student-athlete participates in that same sport. It is the student and their family's responsibility to order and purchase the additional patches and jacket and to have patches and bars sewn onto letters. The form to order the additional, required patches that SGA provides will be sent to the team near the conclusion of the season.

To order a letterman's jacket, take your letter and patches to:  
Scotteez Custom T-Shirts and Personalized Gifts  
2252 US-78, Suite A  
Loganville, GA 30052  
770-267-1503

## Logo and Branding

The Spartans logo, color scheme, and font associated with Scholars Guild Athletics are not to be replicated, altered, or used for personal or professional purposes without the written permission of the Athletic Director and Executive Director.

## Coaching Information and Problem Resolution

Your student-athlete's coaches are compensated for their efforts, but by no means are they paid what they are worth. If we broke down how much they are paid per hour, it would be fractions of pennies! They are coaching because they love the sport, these kiddos, and because they believe in the vision of Scholars Guild Athletics - that we can embody the gospel as we work heartily unto the Lord in our sport. They have gone through an application and interview process, have been background checked, and have completed hours of specific training that deal not only with sport-specific content, but also how to keep everyone safe and how to build up and encourage your student-athlete.

If you have any questions, specifically about the coaching or your student-athlete's playing time, or have a concern, please reach out to Margaret Woosnam  
[margaret.woosnam@scholarsguild.net](mailto:margaret.woosnam@scholarsguild.net) or 864.653.0166.

You are welcome to speak with your coach, but please do not attempt to have conversations about important matters immediately before, during, or immediately after practices or games as we get very focused and won't be as thoughtful as we would like to be in our responses to you. Please give any issue **48** hours and prayer before bringing it to a coach. Oftentimes, this allows for greater perspective on the matter. If your player is a junior or senior, he or she should be the one responsible for initiating conversations with their coach.



# Parent Responsibilities

- **Provide Transportation**

We don't have a school bus, so you will be responsible for getting your student-athlete to and from games, practices, and tournaments as well as any other athletic event they need to attend. If you can't take your child, please arrange to find transportation for them with another player, etc. The coaches often have significant amounts of gear in their vehicles and won't have room for players. NOTE: Coaches are NOT permitted to drive any player alone at any time for any reason (unless the coach is the parent or legal guardian of that player).

- **Encourage**

Please let the coach be your student-athlete's coach. If you have knowledge and talent in the sport your child plays, please contact the Athletic Director to apply for an assistant coaching position. Otherwise, cheer for your student-athlete and their teammates but please refrain from technical corrections or attitude adjustment comments from the stands. Let your student-athlete's coach handle all of that.

- **Learn**

Please take the time to educate yourself about the rules and regulations associated with your student-athlete's sport. Ask the coach if you need clarification. Be aware that there are specific rules in sports that have implications on playing time and opportunities to play - be sure you understand those rules before making assumptions about coaches' intentions.

- **Volunteer**

Every sport requires parent help on game/meet days. For most team sports, home game days require more parent involvement. For our court and field sports, we will need parents to fulfill the roles of scorebook keeper, scoreboard keeper, and gate keeper. Depending on the sport, there are more specific roles to play (for example: libero tracker and line judge for volleyball). Our sports can't happen without our parents help!

**\*\*\*NOTE:** Student-athlete's parents must work game-related jobs throughout their player's sport season (the number of jobs will be divided evenly by the number of player parents). If you cannot or do not fulfill this responsibility, your FACTS account will be billed \$100 at the end of the sport season. Parents who wish to opt-out of this, may pay the \$100 at the beginning of the season (checks written to SG Athletics and turned in to SGA front desk). If you desire to serve as the "team parent," you may do that instead of regular game day duties. See the appendix for a list of those responsibilities.

- **Show Good Sportsmanship**

Strive to represent Christ at all of our sporting events. We will not tolerate heckling, arguing, or aggressive behavior of any kind from our teams, coaches, parents, or general spectators at any of our events. You will be asked to leave. Keep your cheers and shouts encouraging and directed at OUR team for the purposes of building up. Refer to the GAPPS Sportsmanship Statement for specifics. If you are ejected from a sporting event, our school is fined by our league and we WILL pass that fine on to you.

## Gate Fees

All games will have gate fees. Gate fees are dictated by our league. For home events, we will accept pre-payments online via our GoFan page and will take cash, card and mobile pay at the gate. Away games will also have gate fees and we will communicate with you as much as we can, as early as we can, regarding how much those are.

## Sports Fees

Each sport offered at SGA will have its own fee associated with it for each player based on the expenses for that sport. Some sports are more expensive - gym rentals, officiating pay, equipment costs, insurance, etc all add to the cost of some sports.

For our sports, we will require the purchase of uniform pieces. However, those uniform pieces will be personalized (have players last names on them) and can be reused from year-to-year so long as they are in good condition and the student-athlete doesn't outgrow them. For our team sports, we are using the same uniform for all levels of each team sport (so you wouldn't have to buy a new jersey if your student-athlete moved from MS to JV, for example). Specific sports fees and uniform costs will be communicated before tryouts or at parent meetings.

## Spartans Administration Team

Heather Boeckman, SGA Executive Director [heather.boeckman@scholarsguild.net](mailto:heather.boeckman@scholarsguild.net)

Ty Rumble, SGA Board Member [hrumble12@gmail.com](mailto:hrumble12@gmail.com)

Margaret Woosnam, SGA Athletic Director [margaret.woosnam@scholarsguild.net](mailto:margaret.woosnam@scholarsguild.net) or  
8646530166

# Appendix 1. Team Parent Responsibilities

A “team mom” or “team dad” may be appointed by the Varsity head coach or may request to be appointed by contacting the Athletic Director prior to the official start of the season. One team parent per sport - representing all team levels of that sport (MS, JV, V as applicable).

The duties of the team parent are as follows:

1. Meet with the head coach to determine needs for the season.
2. Regarding game day operations:
  - a. Meet with the coaches to determine game day needs.
  - b. Create a spreadsheet wherein parents are assigned to each game day duty for the entire season. Be sure that the coach or AD input the assignments into the team platform so that parents are informed and reminders are sent throughout the season.
  - c. Ensure that each parent is in place and ready to perform their game day duty before the game begins. Help parents who need replacements find them within a reasonable timeframe.
3. Assist with senior night. This includes:
  - a. meeting with the head coach to determine what duties need to be fulfilled for senior night and recruit parents to help
  - b. assigning other parents to those duties and ensuring those parents complete the duties
  - c. planning and purchasing senior gifts (check with head coach and AD before purchasing to ensure there is appropriate money budgeting for what is desired)
4. Assist with the sports ceremony that occurs after the season is complete. This includes:
  - a. planning,
  - b. creating a google photo drop for families to deposit photos into that will be displayed as a slideshow during the ceremony,
  - c. determining centerpieces and getting what is needed (check budget with coach/AD before purchasing and requesting reimbursement),
  - d. helping set up the ceremony room 2-3 hours prior to the event, including arranging centerpieces and setting up tables with tablecloths
  - e. contacting team families to contribute to coach gifts
  - f. purchasing coach gifts
  - g. helping clean up after ceremony including taking down tables, putting away centerpiece items, taking tablecloths home to launder and return

NOTE: The team parent will fulfill these duties and possibly other duties as determined by the head coach in exchange of paying the sports opt-out fee or fulfilling other game day duties.

# Signature Page

We have read this handbook in its entirety and understand its contents, including PLAYING TIME, the PARENT VOLUNTEERING requirement (and opt-out fee), and all other sections of the manual. We will indicate this in the appropriate place in the TeamSnap registration that is sent when a roster invite is extended. We can also print, sign, and submit the signed copy to the front desk at SGA. We will refer to this handbook often but will ask our AD if we have questions.

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Parent Printed Name

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Parent Signature

Date

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Student Printed Name

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Student Signature

Date