

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose of Handbook

Strong Rock Christian School is committed to providing a diversified, participatory, and successful athletic program that is available to all students. Our school believes that such a program is a vital and integral part of the total school environment as well as playing a key role in the overall development of each student that is involved in the athletic program. It is our belief that the athletic program at Strong Rock Christian School should assist students in developing positive self-esteem and the qualities of good citizenship, as well as impacting the world for Jesus Christ.

It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents and athletic staff at Strong Rock Christian School. It is designed as a reference source that will facilitate the process of seeking and clarifying information concerning administrative and athletic policies and procedures as well as promote a framework that will lead to the effective and efficient application of those policies and procedures.

Athletic Administration and Head Coaches at Strong Rock Christian School

Athletic Director	Tommy Webb
Assistant Athletic Director	Mike Creasman
Assistant to the Athletic Director	Heather Miller
Fall Sports Coordinator	A.C McCullers
Varsity Cross Country	Heather Donaldson
Varsity Football	Tommy Webb
Varsity Softball	Heather Miller
Varsity Volleyball	Mallory Thomas
Varsity Cheerleading	Lauren Chupp
Varsity Shooting	John Rosich
Varsity Girls Basketball	A.C McCullers
Varsity Boys Basketball	Myron Jackson
Varsity Wrestling	Bob Smith
Varsity Baseball	Toby Evans
Varsity Boys Golf	A.C McCullers
Varsity Girls Golf	Jimmy Higginbotham
Varsity Girls and Boys Tennis	David Mann
Varsity Girls and Boys Track	Jenny Green
Varsity Girls Soccer	Cory Stickle (Pat Cogan and Parker Boice)
Varsity Boys Soccer	Cory Stickle
Varsity Equestrian	Pam Levy
Head Athletic Trainer	John Stavrinakis

I. Introduction

This handbook has been prepared to provide a guideline for the policies, procedures, and regulations governing the Strong Rock Christian School athletic program. The policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are intended to assist coaches in carrying out their duties in a more efficient and effective manner. All coaches and athletes participating in an interscholastic program at Strong Rock Christian School shall abide by these rules and regulations as well as those set down by the Georgia High School Association

II. Mission Statement and Vision

Strong Rock Christian School strives to provide our students and families with an athletic program that reflects the same level of excellence achieved in the classroom. By providing a variety of athletic opportunities, we build not only stronger, well-rounded student athletes, but also a balanced athletic program that takes the interest of our mission statement. Our beliefs are that strong character development and religious conviction be as much a part of athletics as fair play and enthusiasm. Participation is not a right but a privilege; a privilege earned by student athletes who excel in the classroom, honor their families and school, and bring glory to God.

- We believe in a completely Christian athletic program embracing our school mission.
- We believe in the student-athlete concept, where excellence in the classroom takes precedence over athletic endeavors.
- We believe in student athletes that demonstrate respect for their opponents with the highest standards of Christian character and sportsmanship.
- We believe ALL sports teams are important regardless of grade level or gender, and that our efforts must be conducted with fairness and equity toward every sport.
- We believe students become better athletes when they avoid specialization and participate on multiple sports teams.

The function of each coach is to educate the students through their participation in interscholastic sports. Our goal is to help our student athletes develop the important lifetime essentials of self-discipline, self-concept, fitness, interpersonal relationship skills, and sportsmanship. It is also important to realize that striving to win and be successful plays an important part in the development of these essentials. While winning on the scoreboard is desirable and should be stressed; it is by no means the total definition of success. Success is defined as doing the best you can do in all areas. Discipline is what allows you to do your best at all times.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

1. Christ
2. Responsibility
3. Integrity
4. Trust
5. Teamwork
6. Enthusiasm
7. Respect

Our Coaches

The coach is the “living curriculum” for the student athlete. Coaches at Strong Rock Christian School are the most significant components of the athletic program. They are both teachers and active participants at the same time. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes at all times. In order to be an effective coach and role model, SRCS coaches must also be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, capable of detailed preparation, able to motivate athletes, be able to make adjustments during competition, and work effectively under the authority of the athletic director and school administration. Our coaches take seriously the opportunity they have to mold young lives for Christ.

Our Parents

Parents of student athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support the student athlete will not be able to achieve his/her greatest potential and/or the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and encourage coaches and teammates at all times. Parents are not coaches and learning to trust coaches is a key step to learning the value of the life lesson experiences athletics provides. It is also important that parents honor the Lord when attending athletic events. In order for SRCS’s athletic program to be successful, coaches, student athletes, and parents must make a firm commitment to glorify God at all times.

Our Athletes

Strong Rock Christian athletes should be diligent in preparation, give 100% at all times, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, show humility, and aggressively pursue excellence regardless of the score, opponent, time, referee, or situation. The ultimate and final responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the student athlete, for it is the student athlete who is accountable to his/her parents, coach, and the Lord.

Our Team

Our teams should in all things strive to:

1. Glorify God
2. Play Hard
3. Have Fun

Our Athletic Department

Is committed to:

1. Discipleship of our coaches and student athletes.
2. Outreach to opposing teams and fans and to the larger community outside of Strong Rock
3. Preparation of student athletes for both competition and life with Christ as our model.
4. Stewardship of our resources.
5. Pursuit of athletic excellence.

Our commitment to excellence requires hard work, perseverance, and love for our fellow man. Our daily efforts for athletic excellence are inspired by **Col. 3:17**, ***“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”***

Professional Ethics

Each coach:

1. Must demonstrate professional competence and respect for his vocation in all human relationships.
2. Must demonstrate his acceptance of the leadership role as a professional in matters of respect for authority, dress, and grooming.
3. Must maintain a fair, unprejudiced relationship with students and parents, while having their welfare uppermost in his consideration at all times.
4. Must be a working teacher and a master of principles of teaching and coaching.
5. Must constantly strive to have an up-to-date knowledge of what he proposes to teach in athletics.
6. Must maintain friendly relationships. No coach should ever criticize another coach or faculty member. If you cannot say anything good about one of your fellow workers, don't say anything.
7. Should not influence the student athlete to select one sport over another. The choice of where the athlete wants to participate in the program should belong to him/her.
8. Must be careful of his attitude as expressed before his athletes. The coach's attitude is reflected by his athletes.
9. Must not infringe upon another coach's season. The start and conclusion of his season is clearly indicated by his schedule and the GHSA calendar.
10. Must remember that athletes are students first, and as such should be encouraged to maintain the highest standards in their responsibilities as students and citizens. All coaches should be alert to the academic progress of their athletes and communicate issues with the athlete and parent when applicable.
11. Must annually complete any required GHSA rules clinics, whether on-line or in person. Any fines resulting from non-attendance are the responsibility of the individual coach.

Supervision

Each coach is responsible for the student athlete while under his/her supervision.

1. Head coaches are responsible for their total program to include all sub-varsity teams. They should be actively involved in monitoring and evaluating these teams and their assistant coaches.
2. The coach must be present and in control of the activities taking place while students are under his/her supervision.
3. The coach should understand that the coach's responsibility starts at the time when students have been instructed to arrive before an activity, and continues until each participant has left the school grounds. Do not leave an area until all of your student/athletes have been left or picked up. If an emergency arises, see that someone assumes your responsibility.
4. It is the coach's responsibility to see that the facility which he utilizes for practice and games is safe and clean. Anyone using the gym should **sweep the floor before and after using it.**
5. The use of profanity, trash talk, and any form of hazing should be dealt with immediately. These are unacceptable behaviors by players and coaches.

Equipment and Uniforms

1. Equipment and uniforms are on loan to students and are to be used or worn only when authorized by the coach. All equipment and uniforms are the responsibility of the participants during loan and must be returned promptly at the conclusion of the season. If lost or stolen the replacement cost of the items will be paid by the student.
2. All coaches are required to keep an up to date inventory record on file with the Athletic Director. Use the inventory form provided for this.

Awards

1. Students must complete the season in good standing as a member of a team to be eligible for any post season awards.
2. Students must have returned all equipment/uniforms assigned to them to be eligible for any awards.
3. The Athletic Department will provide one letter per athlete during his high school career.
4. The athletic department purchases letters, inserts, and bars. Region winners, area winners, and final four teams and above will be awarded a patch by the athletic department. Any other patches must be purchased from the sport's fundraising account or booster club.
5. The first year a student letters in an activity he/she will be awarded a certificate and a letter.
6. The second, third, and fourth year a student letters in a sport he/she will be awarded a certificate and a pin.
7. All athletes who complete the season but do not earn a letter will receive a certificate. This includes all sub-varsity players.
8. Each coach should determine the minimum requirements to earn a letter in that sport and submit them to the athletic director for approval.
9. Any other awards can be given out at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director. i.e. Senior Awards on Senior Night.
10. Each coach may decide on additional awards in conjunction with the booster club.

Objectives of Participation

The athletic program at Strong Rock Christian School will provide each participating student adequate opportunities for:

- a. sharing Jesus Christ with teammates, opponents, coaches and stakeholders of Strong Rock Christian School
- b. physical, mental and emotional growth and development;
- c. the acquisition and development of special skills in the activities of each student's choice;
- d. directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence and the ideals of good sportsmanship exemplified through winning and losing graciously;
- e. being a part of a unified team composed of the student body, faculty and community;
- f. the achievement of goals established by the individual student, the team and the school;
- g. the development of skills and an appreciation of sports that may be used throughout life as a participant and / or spectator,

Goal for each Student - Athlete

The overall goal for the athletic program of Strong Rock Christian School is for each student-athlete to become a better overall person through his or her participation in athletics. The major points of emphasis throughout the program will be:

- a. developing as a Christ-follower
- b. teamwork
- c. maximum effort, dedication and commitment
- d. respect for authority
- e. discipline within an organization

Requirements for Participation

All of the following criteria must be satisfied prior to any student-athlete's participation in any athletic practices, games, or team function:

- A. eligibility status filed and verified by the Georgia High School Association as well as any and all local requirements as specified by Strong Rock Christian School; the GHSA requirements for eligibility are as follows:
 - i. A student must be a regular student taking 3 or more units, per semester in Grades 9 through 12;
 - ii. All student - athletes must have passed a minimum of 5 classes taken during the previous semester;
 - iii. There are other stipulations concerning eligibility that are set forth by the
 - iv. Georgia High School Association that are too numerous to mention here. If you have any questions concerning eligibility please feel free to contact the Athletic Director. Eligibility is taken very seriously by the administration at Strong Rock Christian School. Infractions concerning eligibility have been dealt with very seriously by the Georgia High School Association and infraction penalties may include fines imposed on offending schools and/or the forfeiture of games.

- B. A complete physical examination form, (completed after May 1, 2017), on file with the school Athletic Director and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate stating that the student-athlete is cleared to participate without restrictions or with specific restrictions noted. The physical form can be obtained either from the Head Coach, Athletic Director, school trainer;
- C. an Emergency Care card on file with the school Athletic Director, trainer and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate;
- D. documentation of current and active insurance coverage for the student - athlete
- E. by the parents / guardians and / or school athletic department; in addition, a statement signed by the parent / guardian of the student-athlete verifying the understanding that the school is not responsible for any financial obligations above and beyond the primary and secondary insurance coverage payments in the event of an accident and / or injury in the normal course of athletic participation by the student-athlete.
- F. In the event of an injury, a written doctor's medical release **must** be on file with the school Athletic Director, trainer and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate that clears the student-athlete to participate without restrictions or with specific restrictions noted on the release.

Responsibilities of the Student - Athlete

Each student-athlete is a representative of Strong Rock Christian School, the community, their family and themselves. The actions and appearance of the student-athlete will be viewed by others as a direct reflection of each of these entities. It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to not bring shame and ridicule to any and all of these entities. Any actions that violate this principle will not be tolerated and severe or continuous behavior to that effect may result in suspension of playing privileges or permanent removal from the team or activity. In reference to this responsibility:

1. **Conduct of a Student-Athlete in the classroom and in the total school environment:** It is our belief and expectation that a good student-athlete will portray himself or herself as a positive role model. A lack of dedication and commitment to uphold this standard throughout the total school environment will translate into a similar lack of dedication and commitment in athletics. We expect each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to exemplify the positive qualities of giving maximum effort to attain success in the classroom and in all other school activities. We also expect each student-athlete to conduct himself or herself as a positive role model by adhering to accepted standards of conduct and behavior in the classroom and throughout the school.
2. **Conduct of the student - athlete in athletic participation:** It is our belief and expectation that each student-athlete should conduct himself or herself as a winner no matter whether they or their team has won or lost an athletic contest. All opponents have worked equally hard in order to attain success and should be treated with the utmost respect in all situations. Each and every student-athlete should also conduct himself or herself in practices and games in such a manner as to not be detrimental to the specific athletic team, the entire athletic program of the school, the school as a whole and the community.
3. **Grooming and dress policy for student-athletes:** As representatives of Strong Rock Christian School, the community, their family, and themselves, student-athletes are expected to adhere to all dress code policies as stipulated by the Strong Rock Christian School Family Handbook. Individual Head Coaches may require more stringent rules regarding grooming and dress policies for student - athletes on their team; however, those rules must at least meet the minimum requirements as stated in the Strong Rock Christian School Family Handbook. Violations will be dealt with both as a school

disciplinary issue as well as a violation of school athletic policy and should be addressed by the Head Coach of the sport in which the student - athlete is a current participant.

Penalties for Inappropriate Conduct

Student - athletes that do not adhere to the Strong Rock Christian School Family Handbook on a consistent basis will be subject to the following penalties:

1. On a LEVEL 3 disciplinary action (Saturday School), the student-athlete will face a suspension equal to **5%** of the total number of regular season scheduled contests for the sport for which they are competing at the time. This suspension will occur in the next immediate contest following the Saturday School. The student-athlete will continue to practice and participate in team functions during the suspension period. **Disciplinary actions taken by the school may be supplemented by additional team disciplinary action as deemed appropriate and within reason by the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is a participant.**
2. On a LEVEL 4 disciplinary action (Out of school suspension) the student-athlete will face a suspension equal to **10%** of the total number of regular season scheduled contests for the sport for which they are competing at the time. In addition, the student-athlete will be placed on Athletic Probation for one calendar year, and must adhere to the terms stated later in this document. **Disciplinary actions taken by the school may be supplemented by additional team disciplinary action as deemed appropriate and within reason by the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is a participant.**
3. Any inappropriate actions taken by a student-athlete while participating in athletic practices and / or games that are violations of the Strong Rock Christian School Code of Conduct **shall** be reported by the Head Coach of that sport to the school administration as a disciplinary referral and will be subject to be included in stipulations (a) and (b) above.
4. Any student-athlete ejected from a GHSA contest will be subject to penalties as outlined under the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws. In addition, any student-athlete that is determined to have acted in a manner that is a violation of the expectations as stipulated under the sections "Conduct of student - athlete in athletic participation (p. 5)" will be subject to suspension or removal from the team after a conference involving the school Athletic Director and / or Principal, the Head Coach, the student-athlete and their parent(s).

Training Rules and Regulations

The Athletic Department of Strong Rock Christian School believes that training rules and regulations are an essential part of achieving the stated objectives for participation in athletics.

(1) Tobacco

The purchase and use of tobacco is illegal by any student under the age of 18. Therefore, the possession and / or use of tobacco in any form by a student-athlete will not be tolerated by the athletic programs at Strong Rock Christian School. This will apply to student-athletes **both at and away from school** as well as **in or out of season**. This rule will be inclusive of any student-athlete participating in athletics at Strong Rock Christian School **regardless of age**. The penalties for the violation of this policy will be as follows:

- a. **1st Offense:** School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school - related function); suspension from participation equal to 5% of the of the total number of regular season scheduled contests for the sport for which they are competing at the time of the incident; student-athlete placed on probationary status with the school athletic department.
- b. **2nd Offense:** School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school - related function); removal from the team for the remainder of the current season; the student-athlete will be required to enter into an athletic department contract agreement before the student - athlete is allowed to participate in any further athletics at Strong Rock Christian School.

(2) Alcohol and / or Drugs

The purchase and use of alcohol is illegal for any student under the age of 21. The possession and use of drugs is illegal. Also, the misuse or distribution of prescription drugs is illegal. Therefore, the possession and/or use of alcohol and/or drugs in any form by a student-athlete will not be tolerated by the athletic programs of Strong Rock Christian School. This will apply to student-athletes **both at and away from school** as well as in or out of season. This rule will be inclusive of any student-athlete participating in athletics at Strong Rock Christian School regardless of age. The penalties for violation of this policy will be as follows:

- a. **1st Offense** - School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school function): suspension from participation equal to **10%** of the total number of regular season scheduled contests for the sport for which they are competing at the time of the incident. The student-athlete will continue to practice during the suspension period; student-athlete placed on probationary status with the school athletic department; the student-athlete and their parent(s) will be required to enter into an athletic department contract agreement before the student-athlete is allowed to participate in any further athletics at Strong Rock Christian School.
- b. **2 Offense** - School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school function); removal from **ALL** athletic participation for **one calendar year**.

(3) Social Media Outlets

Social media outlets (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are a great form of communication for school officials, coaches, parents and students. However, abuse of these outlets by student-athletes will not be tolerated by the athletic programs of Strong Rock Christian School. This includes derogatory comments toward staff, coaches, students or stakeholders within Strong Rock Christian School. As stated above, this policy applies to student-athletes **both at and away from school** as well as in or out of season. This rule will be inclusive of any student-athlete participating in athletics at Strong Rock Christian School regardless of age. The penalties for violation of this policy will be as follows:

1st Offense - School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school function); suspension from participation equal to **5%** of the total number of regular season scheduled contests for the sport for which they are competing at the time of the incident. The student-athlete will continue to practice during the suspension period; student-athlete placed on probationary status with the school athletic department; the student-athlete and their parent(s) will be required to enter into an athletic department contract agreement before the student-athlete is allowed to participate in any further athletics at Strong Rock Christian School.

2nd Offense - School Disciplinary Referral (if at school or at a school function); removal from **ALL** athletic participation for **one calendar year**.

Academic Requirements for the Student - Athlete

Strong Rock Christian School maintains that academics and athletics are collaborative partners in the overall development of the student-athlete. Based on this principle, the athletic department believes and will require each student-athlete to meet the following academic requirements:

School generated progress reports (issued every 9 weeks) will be used to track any academic deficiencies of our student-athletes. The Athletic Director and Head Coaches will meet and review the progress reports results to identify those student-athletes with academic deficiencies. If at any of those grade report intervals a student-athlete has a failing grade in any course(s), the student-athlete may be placed on academic / athletic probation and be required to attend either mandatory tutoring sessions for at least 2 hours per week in any and all courses in which they have a failing grade if the academic deficiency is the result of academic problems as determined by the teacher of the course. If it is due to work ethic as determined by the teacher, then the student athlete may be required to attend mandatory study hall Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. This process will continue until the next grade report is issued. The student-athlete may continue their participation in athletics as long as they attend the mandatory tutoring or study hall sessions as required. Failure to attend the required tutoring will result in suspension from the team until the student-athlete meets the tutoring requirements.

If at the next grading period the student - athlete has made Satisfactory Progress (**as determined by the teacher of the course(s), the School Athletic Director and the Principal**) in correcting the earlier grade deficiencies, the student-athlete will be allowed to return to non-probationary status. If the student-athlete has not made satisfactory progress in correcting grade deficiencies they will be prohibited from practice, games and team functions until the point in time that the grade deficiencies have been corrected to an acceptable level.

Dual Athletic Participation

Strong Rock Christian School encourages participation in all areas of the athletic department. However, because of scheduling conflicts, student - athletes are prohibited to participate in multiple (more than one) sports within an independent season (not including summer athletics). Exceptions to this rule are as follows:

1. In the spring sports season, student-athletes may participate in two sports if, and only if, one of the sports is track and field.
2. In the event that a student - athlete requests to participate in two concurring sports, a meeting must be arranged for the Head coaches of the two sports, the student-athlete and parents, and the school Athletic Director. This group will decide if it is beneficial for the student-athlete, the individual sports and the total athletic department for dual participation within a season. Parameters will also be set during this meeting before dual athletic participation is approved.

Absences

Strong Rock Christian School policy prohibits participation in any extracurricular activity if a student is not present at school for at least one-half of the school day unless there is a clear and justifiable reason for the absence. Any student who is absent for more than one-half of a school day and wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity on that day must receive approval to do so by **the Athletic Director**.

Missed Practices, Games. Team Functions / Tardies

Student - athletes are encouraged to attend all practices, games and team functions as a part of developing and displaying dedication and commitment to the activity in which they wish to participate. The student - athlete should contact the Head Coach **prior** to missing or being tardy to practices, games and team functions in order for the absence or tardy to be classified as excused. The Head Coach will consider emergency situations where contact may not be possible. Consequences for excused and unexcused absences from practices, games and team functions will be at the discretion of the Head Coach and clearly outlined in the individual sports' 'Player Contract' on file with the school Athletic Director and the Head Coach.

Practices: in - Season

Although practice schedules differ from sport to sport it is our philosophy that our student - athletes are **students first and athletes second**. We strongly encourage our coaching staff to take this philosophy into consideration when developing practice and game schedules. There may not be any mandatory or voluntary practices on Sundays. All Wednesday practices will begin no earlier than 3:15 p.m. and will dismiss by 5:30 p.m. with the aim for student-athletes to leave by 5:45 p.m.

Practices: Off-Season

Practices held during the off-season may not be mandatory nor may they be a prerequisite for participation or membership on a team. This means that a coach cannot require a student-athlete to make up a practice they miss out of season. While rewards and incentives may be used to encourage attendance, participation may not be made mandatory. Please note that the GHSA does permit off-season practices to take place in sports. Due to the fact that many of our student-athletes play multiple sports, coaches are discouraged from encouraging student-athletes involved in other sports to participate in workouts, etc. for their sport during the off-season. Please feel free to call the Athletic Director if you have any questions about off-season practices.

Consequences for Quitting a Sport during the Season

Student - athletes are expected to complete the season of the sport in which they are participating in its entirety. However, we recognize that conflicts do arise and that there may be no other satisfactory solution than for a student-athlete to leave the team. If such a situation occurs, it is requested that the student-athlete and their parent(s) meet with the Head Coach, the school Athletic Director, and / or the Principal to discuss the reason(s) for quitting the sport. If a resolution cannot be reached that would allow for continued participation then all parties will agree that this is the best course of action.

If a student - athlete quits one sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport for a calendar year or until a conference is held between the school's Athletic Director, the Head Coach of the sport which the student-athlete quit, and the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate. The welfare of the school's total athletic program, the teams involved and the student-athlete will be considerations as to whether or not the student-athlete will be allowed to participate. Both long-term and short-term effects will be considerations in reaching a final decision.

Conflicts among Extracurricular Activities

Strong Rock Christian School encourages students to become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities according to their individual interests and skills. The faculty and staff at Strong Rock Christian School are committed to working together to allow maximum student involvement. We recognize that this philosophy will result in conflicts between the many extracurricular activities from time to time. Head Coaches and/or Sponsors, the school Athletic Director and/or Academic Events Coordinator along with the student and parent(s) will meet together to work out a satisfactory solution based on the following considerations:

1. best interests of the school;
2. best interests of the student;
3. Best interests of the team / activity as a whole.

Lettering Policy

A student-athlete may be awarded a letter by completing the season in a varsity sport only and should be earned through dedication and commitment to that sport and making a significant contribution to the total team effort throughout the entire season. The criteria for lettering will be if a student-athlete completes the varsity season in good standing as determined by the Head Coach of the sport. AFTER a student-athlete has met the criteria for lettering, they are eligible for a letter jacket. Letter jacket fitting/ordering meetings will be held once per school year. A sport specific pin will be awarded for a first-time letter winner. All proceeding letters will be awarded in the form of a "bar" for the student-athlete's jacket. If a pin or bar needs to be replaced by the school because it was lost or broken, the student-athlete will be charged \$3.00 for each.

Awards

Participation Awards

Each student-athlete at Strong Rock Christian School that completes their team's season in good standing will be awarded either a:

- (1) certificate of participation for Junior Varsity and / or Academy competition
- (2) Varsity letter for varsity competition.

Student-athletes will also be awarded patches for their letter jackets for being a member of a team that is a region champion, state runner-up, or state champion. Also, if a student is a region champion, state runner-up or state champion in an individual event or competition they will be awarded a patch for their letter jacket.

Special Recognition Awards

Individual awards for student-athletes will be given at the discretion of the Head Coach and the coaching staff. Special recognition awards include All-Region/Area and All-State, which are chosen by area coaches. Recognition will occur at the Athletic Awards Ceremony that recognizes that particular sport.

Senior Athletic Awards

Senior Athletic Awards will be awarded at the Spring Athletic Awards Ceremony.

3-Sport Athlete Awards

Student-athletes that have participated in three or more varsity sports in an individual school year will be given a 3-Sport Athlete Award. Recognition will occur at the Spring Athletic Awards Ceremony. The student-athletes will also be honored at the annual Tri-Athlete luncheon.

Patriot Award

The Patriot Award is chosen by the coach of each varsity team in recognition of the student-athlete that best displays Christian leadership qualities within the team. Specifically, this student-athlete develops the team, coaches and supporters by his/her participation. Patriot Awards will only be awarded to a team of five or more participants.

Athletic Awards Ceremony

High School student ~ athletes will be recognized in three (3) seasonal awards ceremonies. The dates and recognized sports are listed below:

Fall Athletic Awards Ceremony, November 9, 2017

Cross Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, Softball, Volleyball

Winter/Spring Athletic Awards Ceremony, May 3, 2017

Girls/Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Equestrian, Baseball, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Track and Field

Gender Equity

Strong Rock Christian School is committed to providing equal opportunities and treatment for both sexes. Any concerns regarding such issues should be brought to the attention of and discussed with the school Athletic Director, Principal and Head Coach of the sport in which the concerns exist. Strong Rock Christian School reserves the right to make decisions for the best interest of the school and school community.

Interscholastic Sports

Student - athletes at Strong Rock Christian School participate in interscholastic sports. Parents and student - athletes should have a clear understanding that interscholastic sports are competitive and successful programs combine the attributes of winning with the objectives and philosophies of participation as stated earlier in this handbook. The staff of dedicated, committed and professional coaches must make decisions on the playing status of all student - athletes on the basis of what are the best options for the team and program to be successful. The Principal, Athletic Director and Head Coaches will operate with an open door policy with parent(s) and student - athletes to discuss any issues that need to be addressed concerning the various aspects of the student - athlete's participation in the sport. However, the parent(s) and student - athlete must make prior arrangements for an appointment with all parties to ensure that the most productive atmosphere exists in discussing issues of concern. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach and generally do not promote a resolution.** Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches are: (1) mental and physical treatment of your child; (2) ways to help your child improve; and (3) concerns about your child's behavior. Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches are: (1) team strategy; (2) play calling; and (3) other student - athletes.

Objective Criteria for Team Membership

Each athletic team at Strong Rock Christian School will have the most objective method possible to pick teams for the sports that have tryouts in order to determine their final team roster. Each Head Coach will submit to the Athletic Director a written plan detailing the criteria and procedures used for determining team membership. The criteria will be clearly communicated in writing to all potential team members prior to the beginning of any tryout sessions and the results of tryout evaluations will be documented and available for review at the conclusion of any tryout period.

Student-Athlete Safety and Hazard Protection

There are several issues concerning student-athlete safety that Strong Rock Christian School has addressed and will continue to address along-side of the Georgia High School Association.

1. Heat and Humidity Policy - Schools must follow the statewide policy for conducting practices and voluntary conditioning workouts in all sports during times of extremely high heat and/or humidity that will be signed by each head coach at the beginning of each season and distributed to all players and their parents or guardians. The policy shall follow modified guidelines of the American College of Sports Medicine in regard to:

- a) The scheduling of practices at various heat/humidity levels
- b) The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various heat/humidity levels
- c) The heat/humidity level that will result in practice being terminated

2. Accident/Injury Reporting - When a student - athlete has an accident or is injured during practice or competition the coach must complete an accident report form to turn-in to school trainer. The forms can be obtained at the school office. These forms are very important in the event that insurance claims are filed at a later time. The originals of these forms will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office. When a student - athlete consults with a physician to determine playing status, documentation from the physician's office must be provided to the school. Furthermore, appropriate documentation must also be provided before the student will be allowed to resume participation in athletics.

3. Limits of Participation –The Georgia High School Association recognizes a difference between male and female sports. Strong Rock Christian School offers ten varsity male sports and ten varsity female sports. The Academy (Grades 7-8) offers nine male sports and ten female sports. Due to this abundant offering and the Georgia High School Association recognizing a difference in male and female athletic activities, Strong Rock Christian School allows for females to participate in the assigned females sports and males to participate in the assigned male sports for the Academy and High School. Simply put, middle school (Academy) girls play girls' sports and middle school (Academy) boys play boys' sports. High school girls play girls' sports and high school boys play boys' sports.

4. Lightning Policy (GHSA) – The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.

2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.

3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

- a) When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
- b) Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count, reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.

Transportation

Students involved in all extracurricular activities at Strong Rock Christian School will be provided transportation to and from all events. The student-athletes at Strong Rock Christian School will often have a bus provided by Strong Rock Christian School and a trained driver to drive this bus. This is the safest way for your son and/or daughter to get to and from events. Student-athletes at Strong Rock Christian School will not be released to any individual to ride private transportation following contests except the student-athlete's parent(s) or legal guardian. In this case, which is discouraged except in cases of emergency, the parent(s) or legal guardian will have to provide a written request to the Head Coach of the sport in which the student-athlete is participating 24 hours in advance. Under no circumstances will student-athletes be allowed to be transported by any driver that is not on the "Approved Driver" list that is on file at the school. **It is NEVER appropriate for a student to transport another student to/from an athletic practice or event.** In the event of a late afternoon or evening practice, students that do not have a driver's license, may not leave campus between the end of the school day and the beginning of practice. A study hall or team gathering area will be provided by the head coach. If a student has a driver's license, they may leave campus if and only if, the head coach is provided with a signed permission form for the entire season.

NCAA Clearinghouse

The NCAA Clearinghouse is a service provided to potential college-bound athletes to ease their transition to college athletes. It is mandatory that students seeking to play college athletics go through the clearinghouse. The Athletic Director at Strong Rock Christian School has many helpful publications concerning the NCAA Clearinghouse and will be willing to assist any student and the parent(s) in obtaining information and registering with the clearinghouse. Information is also available online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Acknowledgement Form 2017-18

Coaches Name: _____

Date Acknowledgement Form Returned: _____

I acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the policies and procedures as stated in Strong Rock Christian School Athletic Handbook. In addition, I agree to support and abide by the policies and procedures as stated in the Strong Rock Christian School Athletic Handbook.