

# Seton Catholic Athletics



## Student Athlete & Parent Handbook

# 2017-18

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### **Athletic Philosophy**

The Philosophy of the Seton Catholic Athletics Department is to provide all students the opportunity to participate on competitive teams, coached by caring and knowledgeable adults, in a safe environment.

The Athletics Department incorporates and promotes the four charisms of Seton Catholic Preparatory into its athletics programs: Faith, Courage, Determination, and Love. Athletics is an integral component of the overall school structure. Athletics is not above, or below the normal operations and standards of the school, but rather an extension of the school itself. All teams and coaches are expected to fully comply with rules and expectations outlined in the SCP student handbook. Above all else, the goal of SCP athletics is grow its students as disciples of Christ, promoting healthy physical, emotional, spiritual, and social development. When done properly, high school athletics is a positive educational experience, benefitting each student in the same ways as their academic experience.

### **Athletic Clearance Requirements**

Every student who wants to participate in athletics at SCP will have to gain academic clearance through the athletics office by completing the 9 required documents available at [www.setoncatholic.org/athletics/forms](http://www.setoncatholic.org/athletics/forms). This includes:

1. Athletic Medical Card (once per school year)
2. Transportation Consent Form (Once per school year, must be notarized)
3. AIA Physical Evaluation (March 1 of previous school year or later)
4. AIA Physical Examination (March 1 of previous school year or later)
5. AIA MTBI Acknowledgement Form (once per school year)
6. AIA Brainbook Academy (One time only)
7. Tryout Policy Form (once per school year)
8. Athletic Policies Acknowledgement Form (once per school year)
9. FACTS Payment Form (not available on website, provided by school office)

### **Sports Offered at Seton**

Seton currently offers 22 Varsity sports teams. JV and freshman level teams are provided based on participation for each sport. Certain sports (e.g. Boys Golf) do not offer lower level teams as no other schools around the state of Arizona provide lower level teams to compete against

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
FALL	Football Swim & Dive Cross Country Golf	Volleyball Swim & Dive Cross Country Golf Spiritline
WINTER	Basketball Wrestling Soccer	Basketball Spiritline Soccer
SPRING	Baseball Track & Field Tennis Volleyball	Softball Track & Field Tennis

### **Role of the Parents**

Parents need to set the standard of exemplary sportsmanship while attending games/matches and when discussing SCP athletics with others and at home. Because of the nature of athletic competition, parents can be detrimental to a student athlete's development when they become too involved as aggressive spectators and/or when they act as self-appointed player "agents" or "bleacher coaches" who choose to publicly second-guess coaches' decisions. Parents can also be susceptible to the temptation to blame the coach for poor play or lack of performance by their student athlete or the team. When these types of behaviors occur, the child of these parents may feel excused for his/her effort, or lack thereof, and poor attitudes toward the coach and the team may develop as a result. Parents need to trust the school and coach as partners in the Catholic education and development of their child. Coaches are certainly fallible people who will make mistakes at times. However, there must be a trust that the coach is doing everything that he/she can to help their child in their development as athletes and as young adults. Mutual trust, respect, and encouragement among coaches, players, and parents will result in a top quality athletic program. This is not to say that parents of a student athlete should remain silent if a problem arises. As with teachers, parents should feel free to have open, constructive

discussions with the coach on issues pertaining to their child. Parents should expect that the coach will respond with honesty, respect, and a mutual concern for the well-being of their child. Parents are advised not to discuss concerns with the coach “in the heat of the moment,” but, rather, should wait, at least overnight, until emotions have cooled. Parents should use discretion and restraint when determining whether to bring a concern forward to a coach. In all such cases, the Communication Procedure that follows should be employed. Parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, classmates, neighbors and friends) in their roles as spectators should understand their responsibilities to be encouragers of the team, supporters of the school, and, most importantly, representatives of Christ. Spectators should remember that school athletics are learning experiences for the students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Athletes from all sports should be praised in their attempts to improve themselves as athletes and as people. In addition, appreciation for outstanding play by either team should be shown. More specifically, spectators should be aware that it is a privilege to observe the game/match. Respect should be shown to the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as our guests, or the name of Christ and the school may be tarnished. Game officials should be treated with respect. Understand that they, like you, are fallible and are doing their best to promote the student athlete. Admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public and be eager to accept their authority.

### **Communication Procedures**

The Seton Catholic Prep Athletic Department is committed to communicating the goals and objectives of the athletic program, eligibility rules, and expectations of our athletes. If more information is required or should a concern arise during an athletic season, the procedure listed below should be followed:

1. The student athlete should first speak directly with his/her coach
2. If further clarification is required, a parent should then contact the coach (*it is advised that no contact between parent and coach be made until, at least, the day after the incident/event in question – the so-called “24 hour rule”*)
3. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent should then communicate his/her concerns to the Athletic Director.

If a problem involving the SCP Athletic Policies cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties involved, a written request should be made to the Athletic Director stating the reasons for dissatisfaction. A committee consisting of 2 coaches, the athletic directors, and an additional administrator will be convened to adjudicate policy issue according to the following procedure:

1. The written request will first be considered by the committee.

2. The committee may then request a hearing with the involved parties.
3. The committee will make their decision with a simple majority vote deciding the matter.

### **Student Eligibility Rules**

Athletes must adhere to the Academic Eligibility Policy as described in the 2017-18 Student Handbook and included below:

Eligibility for extracurricular activities is determined by grade checks and report cards. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, clubs, drama, or anything deemed extra-curricular by administration. The policy is as follows:

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:** If a student has any grade below 65% or has missed a Christian Service deadline, at the first (8 week) grade check he/she will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until the next grade check. The student is allowed to practice or rehearse, but may not participate in games or events.

Grade checks will be done for all students every two weeks following the initial eligibility check. Any student with a grade below 65% or has missed a Christian Service deadline, will be declared ineligible. The student will be allowed to practice or rehearse, but may not participate in games or events.

Students who fail a course in the first semester are ineligible to participate during the second semester, but may become eligible at the 4-week status check.

**REGAINING ELIGIBILITY:** Students may regain eligibility at a two week grade check if they have no grades below 65%.

All grade checks are done the first school day of the week.

**EARLY DISMISSAL/TRAVEL:** Ineligible students will not be allowed to travel with a team that is playing an away contest if the team has an early dismissal.

Athletes who withdraw from any class in which they have received a failing grade, or currently are failing, remain ineligible until the next eligibility period. Athletic Managers, student aides and statisticians must abide by the same eligibility rules as athletes.

Athletic managers, student aides, and statisticians who become ineligible may not serve as a manager, student aides, or statistician during games, matches, or meets during their period of ineligibility.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students leaving for a sporting event with early dismissal must attend at least 50% of the school day prior early release in order to be allowed to participate. A student missing more than 50% of their classes prior to early release will not be permitted to leave school at the time of early release.

**TRANSFERRING SPORTS:** An athlete may transfer from one sport to another during the same season *before the first scheduled contest*. If an athlete wishes to transfer and/or participate in a different sport after the first scheduled contest, that Athlete must have written permission from both coaches and the agreement of the Athletic Office.

**TRANSFER STUDENTS:** Transfer students must complete a 520 and 530 form per AIA student eligibility policy. For in state transfers, AIA policy mandates that the student sit out the first 50% of games for any sport they participated in at their previous school during the last 21 months.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Per AIA policy, only foreign exchange students with a J-1 Visa may participate in varsity athletics. International students on any other type of Visa may participate only in JV and Freshman athletic teams. 12th grade student without a J-1 Visa are not permitted to participate in athletics.

**TRYOUT POLICY:** Due to roster limitations, certain sports may have tryouts and cuts. Tryout policies are outlined in detail on the Tryout Policy Acknowledgment Form, which needs to be signed by both student and parent. Cuts are made at the discretion of the coaching staff for that sport based on a number of criteria. Cuts are final, and there is no appeal process.

### **Student Transportation**

Students traveling to events off campus are expected to follow all rules and regulations in the SCP Student handbook. Students and parents are expected to be polite and gracious guests when traveling to other schools. A coach or chaperone will be present on all bus trips, regardless of travel distance.

At the conclusion of a game or event, students are expected to ride the bus home unless released by the coach to a parent, or designee outlined in the student's notarized transportation waiver. Many coaches require their teams to travel back to the school after away games with no exceptions. This policy is strongly supported by the SCP athletic department.

**EARLY RELEASE:** Students leaving for a sporting event with early dismissal must attend at least 50% of the school day prior early release in order to be allowed to participate. A student missing more than 50% of their classes prior to early release will not be permitted to leave school at the time of early release.

**OVERNIGHT TRAVEL:** All students, when traveling overnight any school function, will be required to an Overnight Travel Policies Acknowledgement Form. This form must also be signed by a parent and returned to the school prior to the trip. All student behavior expectations are outlined in this form and should be carefully read by both student and parent before signing. All school student handbook rules and regulations are fully enforced for overnight trips.

### **Student Conduct Policies**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS:** Athletes are regarded by students, fans, and the general public as examples of what Seton is all about. Therefore, the following rules will apply to all those participating in athletics. The season includes the first day of practice/tryouts and extends through the last day of competition. Consequences will be determined through the SCP Dean of Students and the SCP Athletic Director. Offenses will be examined through the scope of the SCP Student Handbook. All Student Conduct Rules and Expectations outlined in the SCP Student handbook are applicable to all facets of SCP athletics and SCP student athletes. SCP works to fully comply with all AIA rules and regulations. As such, student AIA requirements are fully enforced through the school. Please visit <http://aiaonline.org/about/constitution-bylaws> for more information.

1. All participants in Seton Catholic Preparatory High School athletics will agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct:
  - Be a worthy representative of God, SCP, my coaches and my team:
  - Treat opponents with respect; shake hands after each contest.
  - Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest.
  - Accept seriously the responsibility of representing Seton Catholic Preparatory by displaying positive behavior at all times.
  - Play in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values. Do not bait or taunt opponents.
  - Refrain from using foul, obscene or threatening language or gestures.
2. Student athletes may not use or have in their possession any tobacco product. *Penalty: Immediate suspension from athletic participation until further notice.*
3. Student athletes may not use or possess alcohol. In addition, such students may not be present at any gathering of peers where alcohol or illegal drugs are used. To avoid penalty for being present at such a gathering, a student must leave immediately. *Penalty: Immediate suspension from athletic participation until further notice.*
4. Student athletes may not use or possess any illegal drugs (marijuana, ecstasy, prescription drugs not prescribed for the athlete, steroids, cocaine, etc.) or drug paraphernalia (pipes, rolling papers, clips, etc.). Student athletes may not be present where illegal drugs are used or experienced. *Penalty: Immediate suspension from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.*

5. If a student athlete violates any of the above rules regarding tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs a second time within the same academic year, that student may not participate in any organized athletic activity for the remainder of the school year.
6. The administration may impose penalties greater than those prescribed above for offenses. Also, the administration will not be bound to legalistic interpretations of this policy. Finally, the administration also reserves the right to extend penalties beyond the academic year and into the following year if it deems that to be appropriate.
7. Good conduct is not limited to avoiding tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. . Participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Student athletes must display exemplary behavior and attitudes at all times both on and off the athletic field in order to continue to enjoy that privilege. This includes cooperation, good sportsmanship, respect, self-control, and respect for authority. The administration and coaches may impose penalties restricting involvement or participation in athletics as deemed appropriate for any inappropriate conduct.
8. Coaches may set higher standards of conduct for their players than those set by the school's administration. Coaches may also impose additional penalties on their players in addition to those imposed by the administration as long as those penalties do not violate other school policies.
9. No tattoos may be visible and no jewelry may be worn during any Seton Catholic Preparatory athletic event. This includes all games and practices. Failure to abide by this policy may result in suspension from practices, games or team.

Any violation of the Athletic Handbook or Athletic Code of Conduct may result in the following consequences: Suspension from practice or practices Suspension from a contest or contests Dismissal from the team. Decisions on consequences may be made by and are limited to the school administration, the Athletic Department, and the coaching staff.

### **General Athletics Policies**

1. Attendance at practice sessions and contests is mandatory. Coaches will ordinarily provide students with a schedule of both practice and contest dates. Students may be granted permission to miss a practice or contest if an excuse is provided to the coach well in advance and approved. Outside of emergencies, last minute requests to miss a practice or game will be denied. Athletes commit themselves to faithfully attend all practices and games and should plan other activities around them during the season. In the event that two school events coincide (i.e. concert and game), the parents of the athlete/musician involved will decide which event is attended without repercussion from either director or coach, but should notify both coach and teacher of their decision ahead of time.

2. Athletes are expected to dress appropriately for any contest, either home or away. Coaches will inform team members of specific requirements. Proper attire must be worn during practice, as well. This means, specifically, that shirts must be worn by female athletes at all times and male athletes must wear shirts when inside the building. In addition, inappropriate company logos, band shirts, etc. will not be permitted.
3. SCP will provide uniforms and, where applicable, warm-up apparel for all teams. School-owned uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in acceptable condition as determined by the coach. Athletes will be held financially responsible (fees added directly to tuition statements) for all items not returned or damaged beyond normal wear-and-tear, and awards, honors, and recognition may also be withheld.
4. Athletes should accept their responsibilities for the cleanliness and maintenance of the SCP athletic facilities. This includes keeping the gym, lobby, locker rooms and grounds clean and litter-free. It also extends to the care for and treatment of the buses, vans, equipment and lockers.
5. Coaches have the freedom to also institute their own policies for their teams and players provided they do not conflict with school and athletic department policies.

### **Hazing**

Seton Catholic Preparatory has a Hazing Prevention Policy which states “Any act of hazing or any act which can be construed as hazing is strictly prohibited at Seton Catholic Preparatory. Serious disciplinary actions will result from any involvement in such acts.”

*Per A.R.S. 15-2301 Hazing is defined as an intentional, knowing or reckless act by a student (alone or with others) committed in connection with initiation into a school-related organization that creates a risk of physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation. It is not a defense to a violation of the hazing policy if the hazing victim consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.*

Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Any activity involving an unreasonable risk of physical harm, including paddling, beating, whipping, branding, electric shock, sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, placement of harmful substances on the body, and participation in physically dangerous activities;
- b. Any activity involving the consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, or any other food, liquid, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm;

c. Any activity involving actions of a sexual nature or the simulation of actions of a sexual nature;

d. Any activity that subjects a student to extreme and unreasonable level of embarrassment, shame, or humiliation or which creates a hostile, abusive or intimidating environment;

e. Any activity involving any violation of federal, state or local law or any violation of school diocesan policies and regulation.

All students, teachers, staff and volunteers shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of Seton Catholic Preparatory policy on hazing.

If an incident of hazing should occur, students, teachers and/or staff who are aware of the incident should file a formal report to the Dean of Students. While the initial formal report may be verbal, this verbal report must be followed with a formal written report describing:

- The date and time and circumstances of the act/event
- The act/event, itself, that was witnessed and by whom
- Those involved in the act/event
- How the act/event violated Seton Catholic Preparatory High School's Hazing Prevention Policy.

### **Playing Time**

Parents with playing time questions are encouraged to follow the SCP Communication Procedures outlined in this handbook. SCP staff is happy to discuss your child with you. They will not discuss other people's children with you in regards to playing time.

The following criteria have been established for the playing time of athletes.

Varsity Level Program: The philosophy of the varsity program is to place the best combination of athletes into a game or match situation. This combination of athletes is to be determined by the coaching staff based on their evaluation of the athletes.

Junior Varsity/Freshman Level Programs: The philosophy of the junior varsity and freshman levels is to emphasize the development of skills for each athlete. Teams are expected to pursue victory, and not all students are guaranteed playing time, but coaches will make every effort to involve every student athlete.

### **Athletic Lettering and Awards Policy**

Individual head coaches will determine the criteria for receiving an athletic letter and other athletic awards that pertain to their given sport.

### **Behavioral Expectations of Parents and Spectators**

As outlined in this handbook, parents play a pivotal role in maintaining a positive and educational environment for the students of Seton Catholic Preparatory at home and away athletic contests. Parent and Seton spectator behavior also acts as an extension of the identity of the school. For this reason, SCP strongly encourages spectators to act as gracious hosts for visiting teams. The school provides security at all home athletic contests and reserves the right to remove any spectator who is not compliance with the behavior expectations of the school.