



**SEA PINES MONTESSORI ACADEMY
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

2019-2020

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Sea Pines Montessori Academy Athletic Standards and Expectations

As a member of the Gators program, you are representing Sea Pines Montessori Academy, your family, and yourself when you are wearing our school colors. You must be familiar with the SPMA athletic standards and expectations and hold yourself to them when representing the program.

Team Organization

As a member of any SPMA team, you are looked upon as the leaders of your respective programs and an extension of the school. For the older student-athletes, you will also be looked at as role models to the younger students and will have to carry out your responsibilities as a student-athlete with the utmost respect. All students will have an equal opportunity to participate with each respective team they want to join. Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible to participate, while students in grade 6 and older are eligible to participate in varsity competition for cross country.

To participate in competition, ALL 5 SCISA forms must be completed before the first meet.

Team Philosophies

Our goal is to put the best team on the field or court we can. We want the team to be competitive each and every day. We believe that hard work will pay off. We expect self-discipline and complete dedication to the team. We also expect the utmost respect from all the players to each other and from all the players to us as coaches.

Practice Attendance & Communication

We want to play hard, so we will practice even harder. We want to be competitive, but also focus on basic fundamentals, so practices will emphasize those two aspects. Each player is expected to be at all scheduled practices throughout the season. If there is an issue with illness, schoolwork, or other, you are required to inform us beforehand. An unexcused absence from practice without notification may result in sitting out competition. Just like other major commitments, players are expected to be on time every time. If you know in advance you need to be late for a practice, you must inform the coach in advance. We understand there may be things that are not in your control, but we ask that you be proactive and communicate with us. For any lateness or absences, you may leave a text or voice message to:

Coach Dat Phan
(732) 710-8330

Playing Time

We will put the best TEAM out on the field, track, course or court to play. Most sports are team games and it is the coaches' job to not put the best individuals out there, but the best TEAM out there. As coaches, we will try to get everyone playing time, but aside from ability, it will be your attitude, work ethic, and dedication during practice that will earn you the time. Each player and parent will appreciate the fact that individuals will have earned that right in some way to play. If there are questions about individual playing time, players are encouraged to have this discussion with the head coach outside of game time.

Academic Preparation

Being a student-athlete is tough on a student's academic schedule. therefore time management is key. All student-athletes must maintain a minimum 75% average in academic courses to participate on an athletic team. All student-athletes should also carry themselves appropriately in class. **Teachers will provide guidance to the coaches regarding a student-athlete's classroom activities and whether a student-athlete should take a break from athletics to concentrate on academics, behavior, and/or classroom activities.** Participating on a sports team is a privilege. Remember, you are a student before you are an athlete.

Post Practice/Game Pick Up

All coaches and directors will detail practice/game arrival and dismissal times throughout the year. Student athletes who have not been picked up by the designated time will be charged a late fee of \$25. If Upper School Crew is still in session, the athlete will also be dropped-in for an additional fee.

Offseason

We are building a program for the present and for the future. We also hope to develop you into high school student-athletes and even beyond. Though rest is important, we hope you utilize the offseason to continue to work on your skills. We will always strive for excellence and you can only do so if you are dedicated to improving yourself and the program.

SEA PINES MONTESSORI ACADEMY MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Sea Pines Montessori Academy (SPMA) has been educating children for 50 years! South Carolina's original Montessori preschool, we currently serve children 12 months to 8th grade in beautiful Hilton Head Island.

Our mission is to provide each child with the best foundation for character development and academic discovery while promoting leadership and confidence. An internationally recognized private school, Sea Pines Montessori Academy is dedicated to developing the whole child – socially, emotionally, and academically.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to give parents, guardians and students important information on a variety of aspects of the SPMA athletic program. The topics covered are those that have been most frequently asked about and those deemed important by the Director of Athletics, coaches and SPMA's administration.

In addition, SPMA coaches will provide the student-athletes with sport-specific guidelines as well as their general expectations, philosophies and goals at the beginning of each season.

It is our hope that this handbook is one component of ongoing and vital communication among those involved in SPMA athletics, and that it will help everyone have fun and enjoy success throughout the year.

ATHLETIC STAFF & COACHES

Dat Phan	Director of Athletics, Basketball, Golf
John Dogger	Cross Country
Priscilla Barton	Cross Country
Angie Brewster Benson	Basketball
Krista Dunton	Golf

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Sea Pines Montessori Academy
9 Fox Grape Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

P: (843) 785-2534
F: (843) 785-9537
C: (732) 710-8330
E: datphan@spma.com

School Website: www.seapinesmontessori.com
Athletic Website: www.seapinesgators.com
Instagram: [@spmaathletics](https://www.instagram.com/spmaathletics)

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM - GRADES 4-8

Fall

Coed Cross Country

Winter

Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball

Spring

Coed Golf

INTRAMURAL CLUB ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The club athletic program is meant to introduce various sports and activities with a focus on exposing the student to physical activity and sport-specific fundamentals. Unlike the interscholastic athletic program, the clubs will only take place amongst the SPMA student body and any competition will be intramural based. Each program will have 8 sessions.

Clubs

Volleyball
Grades 4-8
February - March
Basketball
Grades 2-4
September - October

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

Over the course of a student-athlete's career as an SPMA Gator, we hope the following objectives will be realized:

- involve SPMA students in athletics
- develop each individual's respect for himself or herself, physically and emotionally
- teach good sportsmanship and respect for others
- develop personal character in each individual
- teach the value of commitment that is reinforced through athletic experience
- teach the value of collaborative work that is reinforced through athletic experience
- challenge individuals to set personal goals and to strive to achieve them
- give students the tools necessary for them to succeed regardless of their ability
- maintain programs that are competitive with the schools with which we compete
- promote school spirit and a sense of camaraderie
- emphasize that sports should be fun

ATHLETIC AFFILIATIONS

SCISA - South Carolina Independent School Association (Class 2A, Region I, 1A Flex)

SPORTSMANSHIP CONDUCT CODE

Coaches, players, and spectators represent SPMA. We should all remember that our actions are a reflection on SPMA and will influence others.

Coaches

1. Respect each student-athlete as an individual.
2. Take pride in setting a good example as a coach in appearance, conduct, language, and sportsmanship. Teach the players the importance of these values and expectations.
3. Demonstrate and instill in our student-athletes respect for, and courtesy toward opposing players, coaches, and officials.
4. Teach student-athletes to play within the spirit of the game and by the rules. Coaches should be well versed in league rules and agreements.
5. Demonstrate and instill in our student-athletes the ability to win or lose with grace.
6. Emphasize the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play in all competitive situations.
7. Encourage spectators to show respect for opponents and officials and to recognize good play and sportsmanship. When spectators behave inappropriately, coaches should assist in curtailing the crowd reaction.

Players

1. Value your own personal integrity.
2. Play with the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Treat all players, officials and coaches with respect.
4. Accept constructive criticism graciously and respectfully.
5. Take pride representing SPMA in your appearance, conduct, language and sportsmanship both on and off the court or playing field.
6. Recognize and value the contribution of each team member.
7. Keep the importance of winning in perspective.
8. Emphasize the importance of the team over one's self.
9. Strive for excellence.

Spectators

1. Recognize the official as a person of integrity and someone who is qualified. Respect their decisions accordingly.
2. Refrain from creating disturbances which would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or the safety of the participants involved.
3. Show respect for all players, coaches, and officials regardless of their team loyalty. This is essential for raising the standards of good sportsmanship.
4. Cheering should be limited to encouraging words; spectators should refrain from taunting officials or opponents.
5. Spectators who do not follow the code of conduct may be asked to leave an athletic contest.

COMMUNICATION

Communication from all parties is an essential component of a successful team and athletic program.

Student-athletes should expect a clear explanation from our coaches on the following:

- Coaching philosophy
- Expectations our coaches have for the student-athlete as well as the team
- Expectations regarding practices, games and team commitment

Coaches should expect our student-athletes to:

- Discuss any concerns and issues that they are having with regard to the team, playing time, and their own position on the team. It is important that we encourage our students to speak for themselves and learn to deal with issues involving the team or the coach by themselves.
- Notify the coaches of any potential conflicts at the beginning of the season. Coaches and athletes are encouraged to work these out early in the season.

Parents are expected to do the following:

We recognize that there is a lot of emotions involved in athletics and in parenting. Some of a student-athlete's most rewarding moments will be experienced in an SPMA athletic uniform. It is also important to recognize that there will also be times when things do not go the way parents or student-athletes wish. At these times, discussion with a coach is encouraged.

- Encourage the student-athlete to communicate directly with the coaching staff if he or she has concerns or issues before getting involved. It is the athlete's responsibility to speak for himself or herself first. This is an important learning experience for our students and we would prefer not to have parents taking care of issues before their children have spoken with the coach.
- If parents believe there is a need to become involved after a student has addressed the issue with the coach, parents must communicate directly with the head coach to share their concerns. Questions about coaching philosophy or about expectations should be expressed during a private conference and never directly or publicly before or after a contest or practice. Parents may email a coach to request an appointment either on the phone or in person.
- If there is concern from a parent regarding a game, we ask that those thoughts be put on hold for 24 hours after the completion of a game. Like we mentioned, there are a lot of emotions involved and some time to decompress the game and situation is likely beneficial for all parties involved.

Appropriate matters parents can discuss with coaches:

- Their child's emotional or physical development
- Ways to help their child improve their skills
- Concerns about their child's grades or behavior/game conduct
- High school and college aspirations

Issues not appropriate for parents to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Another student-athlete
- Another team or coach

If a parent feels the issue has not been resolved after a discussion with the student-athlete and the coach, or the parent and the coach, the parent should contact the director of athletics to discuss the situation.

TRANSPORTATION & DIRECTIONS

All teams will be bussed to and from the competition's location. The bus will depart from SPMA and will return to SPMA, where parents/guardians can pick up their children. Pick up from the event's location is allowed by parent or guardian, however, pick up by someone else must be allowed in writing by the parent or guardian.

Directions to all contests will be posted on the athletic website under the team's respective page.

All coaches and directors will detail practice/game arrival and dismissal times throughout the year. Student athletes who have not been picked up by the designated time will be charged a late fee of \$25. If Upper School Crew is still in session, the athlete will also be dropped-in for an additional fee.

CONTESTS CANCELLATIONS

Scheduled games may be cancelled due to inclement weather, poor field conditions or for other reasons. The Athletic Department will post any changes to the schedule on the athletic website immediately; this site will have the most up-to-date information. In most cases, decisions to cancel a contest will be made by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the contest. If you have any questions, please check the website.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to compete in interscholastic sports, students must be in grades 4-8. Student-athletes must maintain a 75% grade average to remain eligible throughout the year. Teachers will provide guidance to the coaches regarding a student-athlete's classroom activities and whether a student-athlete should take a break from athletics to concentrate on academics, behavior, and/or classroom activities. Participating on a sports team is a privilege. Remember, you are a student before you are an athlete. With that being said, student-athletes must be in school on a game day prior to 11:30 to be eligible for that day's competition.

Aside from being on good academic standing, a student-athlete must also be in good financial standing with the school.

If a student-athlete is suspended from school for disciplinary reasons, they will automatically not be eligible to practice or compete in any competition with their team until the school has reinstated them. Once reinstatement takes place, their place on the team will be discussed with administration, coaches and parents. A decision will then be made.

Behavior during practices and games will be at the discretion of the coaches. The coach will have final say on playing time. If a student-athlete is dismissed or ejected from competition by an official, the student-athlete will automatically be suspended from the next immediate competition. The student-athlete will continue to practice with the team, but will not compete.

ATTENDANCE

Each student-athlete is expected to be at all scheduled practices throughout the season. If there is an issue with illness, schoolwork, or other, you are required to inform the coaches beforehand. An unexcused absence from practice without notification may result in sitting out competition. Just like other major commitments, players are expected to be on time every time. If you know in advance you need to be late for a practice, you must inform the coach in advance. We understand there may be things that are not in your control, but we ask that you be proactive and communicate with us. For any lateness or absences, parents/guardians are asked to leave a text or voice message to:

Director of Athletics: Coach Dat Phan
Cell Phone: (732) 710-8330

TEAM CONSTRUCTION, ROSTER SIZE & PLAYING TIME

Team construction and roster size will ultimately depend on numbers.

We will put the best TEAM out on the field, track, course or court to play. Most sports are team games and it is the coaches' job to not put the best individuals out there, but the best TEAM out there. As coaches, we will try to get everyone playing time, but aside from ability, it will be your attitude, work ethic, and dedication during practice that will earn you the time. Each player and parent will appreciate the fact that individuals will have earned that right in some way to play. If there are questions about individual playing time, players are encouraged to have this discussion with the head coach outside of game time.

VARSITY AWARDS

Varsity letters are awarded to student-athletes who are in 6th grade and older by their coaches and Director of Athletics. A letter will be awarded in the first year of participation with specific sport pins the following seasons.

TEAM WITHDRAWAL

We want to give every student an opportunity to try out a sport. It is during this time we feel it is important to test the waters to see what is of interest and what is not. It also a time to see if the schedule is something that will fit into a student's possible busy schedule. Once a student signs up and participates, we fully expect the student to remain committed to the program and team. However, we understand things can change. That being said, we will allow a student to withdrawal from his or her team anytime prior to the team's first interscholastic competition. Once competition begins, the student will then be required to carry out his or her commitment to the team and finish the season.

UNIFORM POLICY

Each student-athlete on their respective teams will receive a full uniform that belongs to SPMA at the start of each season. The borrowed uniforms will be in the family's possession throughout the duration of the season and must be kept and maintained properly and appropriately. The uniform is meant only for competition and not for practices or other outside use. At the conclusion of the season, the full uniforms must be washed and returned for future use. All uniforms of all student-athletes must be returned before the start of the next season (Cross Country to Basketball to Golf). If the uniform has been misplaced or damaged, there will be a fee charged to purchase a replacement set. The uniform will include a top and bottom.

Warm up suits for basketball and polo shirts and hats for golf will be purchased by the participating families and therefore will be kept by them at season's end.

A reminder that all of these uniforms and clothing items have SPMA or Gators embroidered on them. Once it is put on, you become a visible representation of our school and community.