



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR**

### **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of Suffolk Christian Academy Athletics to glorify God by developing, through various sports programs, young men and women to be KNIGHTS for the Kingdom of God; therefore, teaching them to put on the whole armor of God in preparation for the challenges they will face, not only in competition, but in their daily walk as Christians.

### **Guiding Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:4-5**

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.” (NKJV)

### **Vision**

To equip, train, and deploy the highest caliber Christian student-athlete, who are Disciples of Christ, driven to multiply the kingdom of Christ.

### **Vehicles for Vision**

There are many different vehicles that will be utilized to carry out the mission and vision of the Suffolk Christian Academy Athletic Department. These vehicles will consist of coaching, mentoring, partnerships, cooperation, facilities, equipment, and most importantly, academics.

**Coaching:** Coaches will maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship and Christian testimony on and off their respective competition floor or field. They will be knowledgeable in the sport they are coaching and will implement biblical teaching into the different aspects of their chosen sport. It is through each coach’s Christian testimony, knowledge, skills, and abilities that student-athletes will learn the most and be provided the best opportunity for future success.

**Mentoring:** Coaches will play a pivotal role in the lives of their student-athletes and this will be through the relationship they forge over the course of a given season. It is through these relationships that they will be able to become an effective mentor to each student-athlete they coach. The ability for coaches to provide Christian counseling and understanding of different life lessons that every student-athlete will face, ultimately provides for a better and well-rounded student-athlete who is prepared to serve the Kingdom of God. The Athletic Director will also be involved in mentoring student-athletes and will strive to create an atmosphere of trust and Christian growth with each student-athlete who is a member of Suffolk Christian Academy athletics.

**Partnerships:** It is imperative that the athletics department partner with different corporations, organizations, and groups in order to better facilitate the growth of facilities and equipment. The Athletic Director will work alongside the Booster Club in order to facilitate these different partnerships and while the athletic department will grow as a result, we will also be providing a Christian influence into different avenues of secular business.

**Cooperation:** This is a very broad vehicle; however, one that is essential to the growth and success of the athletic department. It is only through an understanding of cooperation that all members involved with the athletic department will be able to cohesively work together in order to complete the mission and vision of the athletic department. While all parties will not always agree on every aspect of business, it is imperative that a relationship of trust and understanding be established in order that we may succeed in the overall goals.

**Facilities:** In order to produce high caliber student-athletes we must also provide high caliber facilities for training, practicing, and competing. These facilities will not be built overnight and the costs, while substantial, are necessary. The building of a gymnasium, softball field, baseball field, and soccer field are necessary in order to accomplish the overall mission and vision of the athletics department, and it is essential that within the next five years, Suffolk Christian Academy not have to rely on outside sources to provide these facilities for our use.

**Equipment:** Equipment coincides with facilities in that it is essential in providing the highest caliber student-athlete. Experience has shown that providing quality equipment will bring a stronger desire for students to become student-athletes. While physical appearance of equipment and uniforms is not the most important aspect of sports, it does provide a healthy sense of pride and desire to be member of the organization, and in order for the athletic program to succeed as a whole, there must be more involvement by Suffolk Christian Academy students.

**Academics:** Academics is the key to student-athlete's success. It is purposeful that student precedes athlete because every student, homeschool or SCA, who participates in athletics will be held to the highest academic standard. Students will not be permitted to participate in sports if they are not first succeeding in the classroom. This success is measured by maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.0 in their respective studies. The Athletic Director will ensure this standard is being upheld, and if it is found that grades are not reported accurately that student-athlete will be suspended from their respective team immediately, and will remain suspended until further review by the Athletic Director. It will not only be the passing of a prescribed GPA, but also the decorum in which a student maintains within the classroom. While this cannot be measured for homeschool students, SCA student-athletes will be held to the highest standard within their classes. The Athletic Director will communicate with teachers on a regular basis to ensure this is being maintained and consequences for failing in this regard may result in physical conditioning, written assignments, or loss of playing time. It is through this standard that the athletic program will excel in producing the highest caliber student-athlete.

## Core Values

### **K – Knowledge:** (Proverbs 1:7)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

### **N – Nerve / No Fear:** (2 Timothy 1:7)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

### **I – Integrity:** (Titus 2:7-8)

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”

### **G – Grace:** (2 Timothy 2:24)

“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.”

### **H – Honor:** (1 Peter 2:12)

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

### **T – Teamwork:** (Ephesians 4:9-10,12)

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

A Knight must exemplify these core values. A person without **Knowledge** is weak-minded and unable to face the dangers that may await (James 1:8). Everything begins with a relationship with Christ and the Scripture clearly tells us that the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord, without that fear of the Lord there is no knowledge. A Knight must have **Nerve** to withstand the enemy which circles like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). Nerve is having no fear, not in an arrogant sense, rather being fearless because one knows they possess the Holy Spirit within their heart and the Holy Spirit is also God and God has overcome the world. A Knight must have **Integrity** in the respect that regardless of who is around they will always choose to do right, rather than being overcome by the temptation to compromise. In this way they will show themselves a model for good works and will maintain the integrity of their teaching. A Knight must be **Gracious** because every battle is not won by force; rather, one may overcome their opponent by serving and showing the love of Christ, when, selfishly, they desire to show the wrath of a man. A Knight must have **Honor**, and exhibit such honor in their everyday conduct. This will allow for a consistent testimony that points to and glorifies God, in order that nobody is able to speak out against that person because their reputation of honor will precede them. A Knight must have strong **Teamwork** because not every battle can be won by a single person; rather, God calls us to depend on others so that we may have someone to keep us accountable and encourage us through the trials of this world (1 Thessalonians 5:11). It is only through implementing each of

these core values that a Knight can truly be called such, and it is through these core values that the highest caliber student-athlete will be forged.

## **Program Goals**

**Student-athletes:** Create and implement strategies that will increase SCA student-athletes. This will provide for a long-term sustainable athletic program and will afford the opportunity for advancement into a more competitive athletic conference.

All Varsity level programs will have the opportunity to compete for a chance to play in a State or National Championship title for their respective sport.

Build school pride in such a way that alumni desire to return and assist the athletic program and the school in any way possible.

**Coaching:** Obtain funding and incentives in order to provide quality training to current coaches as well as attract new and qualified coaches as positions become available. It is the goal of the Athletic Department to either host a Christian Coaches Seminar or locate and send coaches to such a seminar. This will better unify the athletic program as well enhance the quality of coaching that SCA is able to provide.

**Athletic Training:** Develop partnerships with higher education entities such as Liberty University, Mid Atlantic Christian University, and Pensacola Christian College, in order to provide summer camps to different athletic programs while allowing upper school students to visit potential colleges.

Create summer leagues for the Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer, Basketball, Softball, and Baseball programs. This will allow for SCA to be promoted in many different areas of the region and potentially yield a larger student body in future years.

**Facilities:** **Secure permanent land and build a gymnasium in the next 3-5 years.** This goal is paramount in being able to build a sustainable sports program for the future of SCA.

Making improvements to and/or building a soccer field, softball field, and baseball field that will be able to sustain many years of use.

- The current softball and baseball fields can be improved upon, pending a lease agreement with the City of Suffolk. These improvements, I am confident, will come with very little fiscal impact to Suffolk Christian Academy.

- The current soccer field is in good condition, but it would be beneficial to construct some form of netting around the field to ensure the safety of players, the quality of equipment, and field conditions.

**Equipment:**

New uniforms for necessary teams by September 1, 2017, and a fiscal strategy that will allow for new uniforms to be purchased every four years. Home jerseys will have the last name of each player and seniors who are SCA students will receive their jersey as a gift from the Athletic Department upon graduation. Any senior homeschool athlete, who has participated with the program, for at least two years, will be allowed to receive their Home uniform upon graduation. Senior homeschool athletes with less than two years in the SCA Athletic Program will be allowed to purchase their Home uniform at a discounted rate.

*The mark of successful completion for the listed goals will be a self-sustaining athletic program made up of Suffolk Christian Academy student-athletes, which will compete at the highest level of competition possible. In so doing we will provide a Christian testimony into places of athletic competition which may not exist.*

### **Coaches Expectations**

It will be the task of every coach to provide each student-athlete with the opportunity to develop within their chosen sport, and to maintain a Christian testimony throughout each practice and formal competition. Each coach will be held accountable for their actions on and off their respective competition floor or field. They will hold their student-athletes to the highest standard of sportsmanship, and they will reprimand any student-athlete who fails to uphold that standard, through methods such as physical conditioning, written assignments, and loss of playing time. While it is understood that competition breeds emotion and emotion can, at times, override rationale thought, coaches are to set the example for conduct at all times. Coaches who receive in game disciplinary action from a referee or umpire such as a technical foul, yellow or red card, or an ejection, will be evaluated on a case by case basis and their action may result in suspension from their team or termination from the athletic program.

### **Parental Expectations**

While coaches and players will be held to a high standard of sportsmanship and conduct, parents will be held to the same standard. It is expected that every parent will conduct themselves in a reasonable manner placing their Christian testimony ahead of their personal anger or animosity toward a coach or official for any decision that might be made. Any negative actions taken by a parent during an athletic event will be reviewed on a case by case basis and could result in the parent no longer being allowed to attend an SCA athletic competition. Parents will refrain from interfering with coaches during practices, matches, or games. While it is understood by the Athletic Director that parents will not always agree with every coaching method, it must be understood by the parents that each coach has been vetted and hired for their coaching abilities and Christian

background. Therefore, each coach is given authority by the Athletic Director to coach as they deem necessary for his/her practice and with his/her team. Should a parent have an issue with a coach that they feel relates to the safety or well-being of their child than they are encouraged to speak with the Athletic Director personally.

### **Student-athlete Expectations**

All student-athletes of Suffolk Christian Academy, whether a homeschool participant or on campus student, will be held to the highest standard in Christian sportsmanship, academics, classroom discipline, player discipline, appearance, and attitude. All student-athletes will adhere to all instruction given by their coaches or the Athletic Director. Student-athletes will not argue with officials or conduct themselves in a manner that would reflect a disparaging light on the message of Jesus Christ or Suffolk Christian Academy. Student-athletes will maintain their professionalism and Christian testimony on and off the competition floor or field. Student-athletes will grow and learn key leadership methods and then replicate those methods through the teaching of summer camps and clinics. Student-athletes who are on campus will wear appropriate business attire on game days, which consists of the following:

Boys – Dress slacks, button-down shirt, and tie. (Sport coat or blazer would be appreciated)

Girls – Pant suit or skirt (no more than 3” above the knee), and blouse (professional appearance)

Homeschool athletes who participate in Basketball will be required to wear the same business attire as on-campus student-athletes to the event venue, and will be change with the team prior to their game as normal.