



## Success Academy Elementary School Competitive Clubs Team Handbook

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Success Academy Elementary School Club Program for our competitive Athletics and Chess teams!

We are excited for your scholar to begin their After-School Athletics and Chess Clubs during the 2019–2020 school year! Our competitive club team members are part of a select group of scholars at Success Academy. Team members are selected based on their talent and ability to compete with the best scholars within a given elementary school scholar talent area. We are so very proud that your scholar was selected for and will be participating in our competitive After-School Clubs; we celebrate their achievements with you.

**Given the selection criteria, participating in a competitive club is a privilege and a commitment; scholars must meet the behavioral, academic, and culture expectations set by the school to remain eligible for club participation.** We need your support to ensure that your scholar is reaching their greatest scholar talent potential in their chosen club!

Please read the standard club commitment expectations below to ensure that your scholar is prepared to join us this school year. In addition, each club may have its own set of expectations. These club-specific expectations are identified in separate sections throughout this handbook.

### Your Commitment

We want our club participants to get the most enjoyment possible from participating in our elite clubs. We believe that a large part of this enjoyment is participating in all club-related activities. Therefore, all club participants must fully adhere to the eligibility criteria below. Scholars and families will be required to have a meeting with their school principal and club teacher/coach regarding their eligibility after three eligibility infractions per semester. If a fourth infraction occurs in any of the following requirements, the scholar will no longer be able to participate in the Club. In order to maintain participation in the club, the following should occur:

#### Behavior Expectations:

- No more than one suspension
- Demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and effort

#### Culture Expectations:

- No more than three of the following:
  - Unexcused absences (Excused absences include religious holidays, illness with doctor's note, and tutoring)
  - Unexcused tardies
  - Late pickups

Academic Expectations:

- ES: Maintain 95% completion on homework/reading log
- MS: Maintain 80% GPA

### **Chess Team–Specific Participation Commitment**

Scholars on the chess team must participate in two-and-a-half hours of practice every Wednesday after school, as well as a minimum of ten Saturdays throughout the year. Attendance at SA-hosted tournaments is critical to the success of the program, as each club is competing for a spot in state and national chess tournaments. Chess teams will compete in a series of SA-hosted tournaments, and will also have the opportunity to play in travel tournaments. Top-ranking teams will earn the opportunity to compete in state and national tournaments. See the section below labeled “Chess Club Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Travel Events” for state and national tournament selection criteria.

Additionally, space at the SA-hosted tournament sites allows for only ten scholars from each school to play in internal tournaments. Scholars who compete in these events will be selected by their coaches in advance. Families will receive notification that their scholar has been selected.

### **Athletics Teams–Specific Participation Commitment**

We want to ensure that all of our athletes have enough time to warm up and prepare for practices (also referred to as “training sessions”). The following are the additional commitment requirements for our athletes.

#### *Arrival*

Players must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their training session or game to use the bathroom, change, and mentally prepare.

#### *Late Arrivals*

Players who are less than 15 minutes late will join the training session or game after the warm up. Players who are more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed to participate and will observe the practice or game from the sidelines.

Please also note that if your scholar is running late, you must text your designated coach with your estimated time of arrival. Parents should not call their coach during training sessions. Coaches are not able to take any phone calls while coaching unless it is an emergency. This allows our coaches to focus on the safety of our players. This also enables our players to maximize their practice time with our coaches.

### **Club Sportsmanship Expectation**

We expect our scholars to demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and effort.

### **Chess Team Eligibility Requirements for Selection for Travel Events**

At the ES level, only our chess school teams travel for competitive events. We believe that all schools deserve the opportunity to participate in travel events. Scholars who are selected to participate in travel events are chosen not only on their ability to demonstrate adherence to the Success Academy academic and culture performance, but also on their exceptional talent within their school community and network community.

For State and ES Nationals, school teams of four scholars will be selected to participate based on performance within the internal Grand Prix system:

- Top three school teams in the K-3 division
- Top three school teams in the grade 4 division
- Top eight scholars, not already participating on a school team, entering the current school year with an 1100 or higher rating, will be invited to travel and compete individually
- Scholars must play a minimum of ten tournaments (any combination of internal and external events is acceptable)

For Grade Nationals, school teams of three scholars will be selected to participate based on the October USCF rating lists:

- The top team across the Network for 2nd, 3rd and 4th

For Girls Nationals, teams of three scholars will be selected based on the cumulative September-February USCF rating lists:

- Top two "8 and Under" teams across the network

## Uniforms

We are proud of our selective club scholars and their accomplishments. We want to share our pride in their achievements and want our scholars to look their best and ensure that they are safe when they participate in our clubs. As part of joining our school competitive clubs, all club participants will be provided a Success Academy club uniform. We require all participating scholars to wear their Success Academy club uniform for every tournament and practice. Scholars who are not in their Success Academy uniform will not be permitted to play and will be sent home. The uniform requirements for each club are described below.

### Chess Uniforms

Scholars must wear the Success Academy chess uniform for every chess tournament and Saturday training event. The SA chess uniform includes: SA chess polo (provided by SA) and khaki pants/skirt or SA uniform pants/skirt.

### Athletics Uniforms and Accessories

#### *Uniform*

Scholars must have the full provided SA uniform at all training sessions and games. Players will not be allowed to practice or play in any uniform articles not provided by our after school clubs.

#### *Jewelry*

Out of concern for all players' safety, scholars are not allowed to wear jewelry during training sessions or games. If a player wears any jewelry during a session, a coach will ask the player to remove it and address the issue with a parent at dismissal.

#### *Glasses*

We encourage scholars needing corrective vision to consider prescription sports goggles or contacts, if age appropriate.

## Parent Involvement

We value parent commitment to our club participants and we provide parents with many opportunities to share in their scholar's club experiences.

### Parent Volunteers

#### Chess Club

Parent volunteers may be needed from time to time to chaperone the scholars in weekend events, as well as travel events. Volunteering for a club event provides parents with the opportunity to see their scholars in action!

Parents may speak with an SA chess coach to request to volunteer at Saturday SA tournaments.

To qualify to chaperone an overnight trip, a parent must have volunteered in the team room at a Saturday SA tournament a minimum of three times.

#### Athletics Teams

Athletics programs do not require any volunteers or chaperones for ES Club Teams. However, we highly encourage your attendance at our school competitive events to cheer on your scholar and their team!

### Homework

#### Chess Team

To ensure that our club participants gain the skill sets needed to compete, homework is provided to supplement after-school practices. Parents must be aware of all the required homework for our club scholars and ensure that scholars have completed it.

"TACTICS" are a series of moves in chess that "win material" from the opponent. Solving chess tactics puzzles are essential to scholar improvement in chess. The required tactics homework is done on the ChessKid website as follows:

- September through January: Ten ChessKid puzzles a week
- January through June: Twenty-five ChessKid puzzles a week
- Paper tactics will be assigned at coach's discretion

#### Athletic Teams

Participation in an athletic team does not require completion of content-specific homework.

## Competition and Tournament Day Expectations

We want our club participants to gain as much experience as they can through their participation in competitions and tournaments. These experiences are invaluable in terms of building a scholar's competitive skill set. We have designed our competition and tournament day expectations to maximize the enjoyment of your scholar of the entire team.

#### Chess Team

The following are the competition day expectations for our chess team scholars:

- Scholars must attend 8 out of 9 Saturday SA tournaments.
- Scholars must arrive on time for tournaments. Scholars arriving late may be dropped from the round.

The following are the competition day expectations for our parents:

- Parents/guardians are not allowed in the tournament hall after the first five minutes. Parents/guardians can wait in the designated classrooms for scholars to complete their competition rounds.

### **Athletics Teams**

The following are the competition day expectations for our athletes:

- Playing time may be more or less than that of another player on the team and will be determined by the head coach. Playing time is based on attendance at training sessions and games, player attitude, player commitment level, and playing ability. SA Athletics Programs guarantee 100% playing time at every training session unless there are behavior/safety issues.

The following are the competition day expectations for our parents:

- From the beginning of warm up to the final whistle and a debrief, players are with the coach and should not be interacting with parents/guardians or spectators unless instructed by the coach.
- If there is an injury, players will be examined by the medical crew (if applicable) or their coach. Parents/guardians may not enter the field nor the team-assigned area.
- Parents/guardians should wait 24 hours following the game to address any non-urgent concerns with the coach.

We are incredibly excited to have your scholar join our competitive After-School clubs. We look forward to working with you, your scholar, and our coaches in further developing your scholar's already exceptional talent through their participation in our After-School Club programs.