Success Academy Elementary School Clubs Team Handbook

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Success Academy Elementary School Club Program!

We are excited for your scholar to begin their After-School Clubs during the 2020-2021 school year!

Given the selection criteria, participating in a club is a privilege and a commitment; scholars must meet the behavioral, academic, and cultural 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!

Additionally, our competitive club team members for Athletics and Chess 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.

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. **Commitment expectations may differ if we are operating clubs fully remotely or in person. These variances will be identified throughout this handbook.**

Club Commitment
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 year. 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:
- All suspensions over one-day per trimester result in a conversation with the school principal and club teacher/coach to determine continuation in programming. For competitive teams, the Scholar Talent network lead(s) may also be included in the conversation.
- Demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and effort

Culture Expectations:
● No more than three of the following:
  ○ Unexcused absences (Excused absences include religious holidays, illness with coach/teacher notification, and tutoring) to club practices
  ○ Unexcused tardies to club practices
  ○ Late pickups to club practices

Academic Expectations for games / competition / tournament / performance eligibility:
 ● ES scholars must maintain 95% on time completion of their homework

Chess Team–Specific Participation Commitment
Scholars on their school’s chess team must participate in two-hours of practice every Wednesday after school, as well as a minimum of 8 internal weekend tournaments and 7 external weekend tournaments throughout the year. These Wednesday and Saturday practices will be conducted virtually for SY20-21.

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 high stakes 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 High Stakes Events” for state and national tournament selection criteria.

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.

For when we are conducting remote practices, scholars should be on time to club practice.

For when we are in person:

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 Expectations**
We expect our scholars to demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and effort. Sportsmanship is demonstrated through fair and friendly behavior or treatment of others, inclusive of the opposing team. Any scholars or families with concerns should raise their concerns with their coach to manage.

**Chess Team–Specific Sportsmanship Expectations**
For scholars participating in virtual chess tournaments, sportsmanship expectations are outlined in the [Unfair Play Policy](#).

**Chess Team Eligibility Requirements for Selection to Local, Travel, and High Stakes Events**
*For SY20-21, travel tournaments have been paused due to COVID-19 concerns. However, we will still be participating in High Stakes tournaments that are occurring online.*

We believe that all scholars deserve the opportunity to participate in external chess tournaments, whether it be in person or online. Scholars who are selected to participate in these 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 SY20-21, we expect there to be four High Stakes events that will be hosted virtually¹:
- Grade Nationals
- NY State Championships
- Girls Nationals
- Super Nationals

For Grade Nationals, we will bring 15 scholars to this tournament. School teams of three scholars will be selected to participate based on seventy-five percent of the scholars USCF published rating list as of November 1, 2020, as well as twenty-five percent of their lichess.org rapid rating as of October 21, 2020. We will only attend this event if held virtually this school year.
- The top team across the Network for K-4
- Scholars must play a minimum of 6 tournaments by December 1, 2020, to be eligible for this event

For NYS Championships, we will bring the top team for each section based on an application submitted by coaches. This is a shared application process across ES/MS/HS. School teams will consist of five scholars per application:
- Scholars must play a minimum of 12 tournaments by February 1, 2021, to be eligible for this event
- Applications for the NYS Championship will use seventy-five percent of the March US Chess Rating and twenty-five percent of their lichess.org rapid rating as of February 17, 2021

¹ If the tournament is hosted in person, SA may choose not to participate if we are unable to travel
For Girls Nationals, we will bring 12 scholars to this tournament. School teams of three scholars will be selected to participate based on seventy-five percent of the scholars USCF published rating list as of February 1, 2021, as well as twenty-five percent of their lichess.org rapid rating as of January 20, 2021:

- Top two “8 and Under” teams across the network
- Top two “10 and Under” teams across the network
- Scholars must play in a minimum of 15 tournaments by April 1, 2021, to be eligible for this event

For Spring Nationals (Super), we will bring the top team for each section based on an application submitted by coaches. School teams will consist of five scholars per application. Teams will have the opportunity to submit an application for specific sections at the event. The teams with the highest average team rating using twenty-five percent of the lichess.org rapid rating as of March 17, 2021, as well as seventy-five percent of their US Chess April Supplement rating. This is a shared application process across ES/MS/HS.

- Scholars must play in a minimum of 15 tournaments by April 1, 2021, to be eligible for this event

**Uniforms and Attire**

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. We require all participating scholars to wear their Success Academy club uniform for every tournament and practice. The uniform and attire requirements for each club are described below.

**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.

**Chess Uniforms**

Scholars will not have a chess uniform this year. Competitions are serious events and we expect our scholars to be dressed appropriately to mark the occasion. Even though the scholars will not be on camera, chess scholars should wear appropriate clothing - collared shirts, button-down shirts, or blouses with appropriate trousers (khakis or non-ripped jeans are ok) or skirts. Dresses are ok. Shorts are no longer allowed. Scholars may wear their SA uniforms, if they prefer.

For high stakes tournaments, scholars must wear their SA uniform on the last day of the event (Sunday).
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
Each school chess program will host a parent event twice a year. Parents will be invited to socialize with their school’s chess community as well as learn more about their school’s chess program. Parents are encouraged to take photos of their scholars playing online chess to share with their school community. However, parents should not provide any assistance to their scholars during the online tournaments.

When we are able to travel or host in-person tournaments, 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 when we can host these events in person.

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 or lichess.org website as follows:
- September through January: Ten Chesskid/Lichess puzzles a week
- January through June: Twenty Chesskid/Lichess 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 and of the entire team.

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

● Scholars must attend 8 SA tournaments and 7 external 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
Athletic games and tournaments are currently on pause in accordance with our health and safety guidance. The following are the competition day expectations for our athletes when we are able to play games, host and compete in tournaments:

● 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 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.