Success Academy Network Clubs and Teams Handbook

Dear Families,

Welcome to Success Academy Network Clubs and Teams!

We are excited for your scholar to join a Network Club or Team during the 2020-2021 school year! These scholars are part of a highly selective group of scholars at Success Academy. Members are selected based on their talent and ability to compete or perform with the best scholars across all of our elementary and middle schools. We are so very proud that your scholar was selected and is participating in a Network Club or Team and we celebrate with you in their achievement.

Given the selection criteria, participating on a Network Team 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 his or her greatest scholar talent potential in their given team.

Please read the standard network team commitment expectations below to ensure that your scholar is prepared to join us this school year. These team-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 semester (ES) or trimester (MS). 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
- MS: Maintain 80% GPA.

Club Sportsmanship Expectation
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.

Network Team and Network Club Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Travel Events
For SY20-21, travel tournaments have been paused due to COVID-19 concerns. If travel resumes, the following eligibility requirement will be in place.

We believe that a scholar’s ability to excel within one of our competing Network Teams is not only based on their exceptional talent but also on their ability to demonstrate adherence to the Success Academy Academic and Culture performance. This is especially important for our scholars that have to travel for club competitions or performances or attend our high stakes state or national competitions.

Team or Club Specific Expectations: Network Athletics Teams
We are planning to have network soccer, network basketball, network track, and selective soccer teams practice in person even while we are fully remote. However, game and tournament play is currently paused due to COVID related health and safety precautions.

Practice, Game, and Tournament Expectations

Practice (or, “Training Session”) Expectations
Arrival
Players must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their training session or game to use the bathroom, and mentally prepare. Scholars must be in their uniforms by the time they get to practice.

Early Arrival
Players must not arrive and be left unaccompanied by a parent/guardian prior to the beginning of the session. Should a player arrive early for practice, they must be supervised by an adult until their practice starts and the coach begins providing supervision.
Late Arrivals
Players that are less than 15 minutes late will join the training session or game after the warm-up. Players that 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/guardians should not call their coach during training sessions. Coaches are not able to take any phone calls while coaching unless it is an emergency.

Games - currently paused due to COVID related health and safety precautions

Arrival
Players must arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the kick-off time of any game unless otherwise stated by the coach. This time is allocated for players to use the bathroom, change, and mentally prepare.

Early Arrival
Players must not arrive and be left unaccompanied by a parent/guardian prior to the beginning of a game. Should a player arrive early to a game, they must be supervised by an adult until the warm-up begins and the coach begins providing supervision.

Late Arrivals
Players that arrive later than the allocated arrival time will not participate in the first half of the game. Players that fail to arrive prior to the kick-off of the game will not be allowed to participate and will observe the game from the sidelines with the substitutes.

Please also note that if your scholar is running late, you must text your designated coach with your estimated time of arrival. Parents/guardians should not call their coach during training sessions. Coaches are not able to take any phone calls while coaching unless it is an emergency.

Tournaments - currently paused due to COVID related health and safety precautions

Arrival
Players must arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the kick-off time of the first game, unless otherwise stated by the coach. This time is allocated for players to use the bathroom, change, and mentally prepare.

Early Arrival
Players must not arrive and be left unaccompanied by a parent/guardian prior to the beginning of a tournament. Should a player arrive early to a game, they must be supervised by an adult until the warm-up begins and the coach begins providing supervision.

Late Arrivals
Players that arrive later than the allocated arrival time for the team will not participate in the first half of the first tournament game. Players that fail to arrive prior to the kick-off of the first game will not be allowed to participate in the entirety of the tournament and will observe the games from the sidelines with the substitutes.
Please also note that if your scholar is running late, you must text your designated coach with your estimated time of arrival. Parents/guardians should not call their coach during training sessions. Coaches are not able to take any phone calls while coaching unless it is an emergency.

**Uniforms, Training Gear, and Meals**

*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 Network programs.

*Jewelry*

Out of concern for all scholars’ safety, scholars are not allowed to wear jewelry during practices, games, competitions, or performances. If a scholar has any jewelry on during a session, a coach/teacher will ask the scholar to remove it and address the issue with a parent/guardian at dismissal.

*Glasses*

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

**Meals, Snacks, and Beverages**

- A healthy meal should be eaten a minimum 1.5 hours prior to the start of activity.
- Your scholar should bring a light, healthy snack with them in case they need to eat it before the practice (minimum 15 minutes prior). Junk food is not allowed and will be discarded. We recommend one of the following:
  - Banana, orange, grapes or sliced melon
  - Granola bar or protein bar (no nuts)
  - Carrot sticks and celery sticks
  - Dried fruit or ½ jelly sandwich
- Water is mandatory for each practice. Sugary drinks are not allowed and may not be consumed. Gatorade and Vitamin Water are allowed only as a supplement, not as a substitution for water.

**Practice Visitation for Network Athletic Teams**

All indoor training sessions are closed and no parents/guardians are allowed to be in the gym/playing space. Parents/guardians are welcome to briefly check on the session, but are not allowed to stay more than three minutes.

**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.

**Athletic 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 Network Teams 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.

Moving Between Teams
The SA Network component is highly selective and the spot on the team is earned. In addition to commitment, behavior and academic performance, players are assessed on their skill, effort, and rate of development. Coaches reserve the right to move players back to their school team if it is determined that the Network Team is not the most appropriate place for that player’s development. Program Manager and Network Coach will meet with the family prior to this decision.

External Clubs
- Players are not allowed to participate on any other external competitive team. If the player is found to be participating in any other program at any time of the year, they will be asked to stop participating immediately. If the player continues playing, they will be removed from the SA Network Team and will not be invited back. We must enforce this policy to avoid confusing conflicts of training philosophy and player burnout.
- Supplemental training may be allowed on a case by case basis. Players may engage in supplemental training but only with the written permission of their Network Coach and Program Manager. SA Athletic Department may or may not grant such a request. If the supplemental training is not cleared by their Network Coach/Program Manager, and the family decides to engage in this type of training, SA Athletic Department reserves the right to remove players off the team and the program.

Internal Success Academy Clubs
Players are allowed to participate in any Success Academy offered club if it does not interfere with the Network Team schedule. Attendance rules will still apply and missing sessions due to other activities will be viewed as unexcused. Conflicts with selective special events (i.e. national tournaments) held by other SA programs will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Age Appropriate Play Policy
SA Athletic Department strongly supports the approach that kids play at their age-appropriate level and believes that most players in the program will develop better at their age-appropriate level. However, we recognize that some players may be physically, technically and psychologically ready for the next age level within the club’s competitive team structure. During the annual selection process, the Program Manager, along with the coaching staff for each applicable age group, will evaluate all players that have potential to be moved up an age level and make a determination. Players that are approved to play up at the next age level are approved for one year only and will be re-evaluated at the end of the year to ensure appropriate age group placement.
Exceptions to Age Appropriate Policy:

- After the selection process, if a team is still not full and needs additional players, the coach may consider younger players for their team only if the age-appropriate team is full. These players can only be considered with the approval of the Program Manager.

**Club Specific Expectations: Network Chess Club**

**Club Eligibility Requirements for Selection for 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 16 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:

- 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

For Girls Nationals, we will bring 32 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

¹ If the tournament is hosted in person, SA may choose not to participate if we are unable to travel
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. This is a shared application process across ES/MS/HS. School teams will consist of five scholars per application. Team's 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 scholar’s lichess.org rapid rating as of March 17, 2021, as well as seventy-five percent of their US Chess April Supplement rating.

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 Volunteers for Network 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.

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

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 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.

Closing
We are incredibly excited to have your scholar join a Network Team or Club. 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 network scholar talent programs.