

# **SUNSHINE CHRISTIAN LEAGUE BYLAWS**

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

#### **1.1 Name**

1.1.1 This league shall be known as the **Sunshine Christian League**, a non-profit, voluntary association.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE II**

### **AIM**

#### **2.1 AIM**

2.1.1 The aim of the SCL is to organize, promote and encourage Christian athletic competition between member Christian schools. The leaders of each member school are expected to model and educate their parents, coaches, students and fans concerning SCL standards, policies and procedures each year.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE III**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **3.1 Membership**

3.1.1 Membership in the SCL is limited to Christian schools operating under the authority and control of a Bible- believing church that has signed the Membership Application (which includes the SCL Statement of Faith), and voted in by 75% of the member schools in the District where the school applies and by a majority of the State Officers. State officer's vote supersedes the District member schools vote. (There will be no new schools admitted to the SCL for the 07-08 school year).

#### **3.2 Eligible Schools**

3.2.1 Any Christian school that meets the membership criteria is eligible for membership in the SCL. Home education programs/associations and home school students are ineligible for membership in the SCL.

### **3.3 Organization of Member School by District**

District 1: Tabernacle, Grace, Northside, Corinth, Old Plank

District 2: West Meadows, New Life, Faith, Sunshine, Harvest

District 3: Mill Creek, Liberty, Deltona, Cocoa, Orlando

District 4: North Kissimmee, Citrus, Souls Harbor, Creekside, Temple

As SCL membership grows additional districts may be added and restructuring of districts may occur.

### **3.4 Application for Membership**

3.4.1 A prospective new member school shall submit its application for membership (which includes a signed copy of the SCL Statement of Faith) A copy of the applying schools church statement of faith. A copy of the applying schools handbook to the appropriate district director no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.

3.4.2 Where deadline dates fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the deadline shall be the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

### **3.5 Acceptance and Probation**

3.5.1 After a membership application has been reviewed by the appropriate SCL district director and State Officers. The appropriate district director and at least one SCL officer will coordinate a conference and/or visit with the prospective new member school. The Pastor, Administrator, Principal and coaches should be present at this meeting. Upon completion the applying school's leadership (pastor, administrator & coaches if possible) should attend the next scheduled district meeting and answer any questions from voting members schools. The applying school will then be dismissed and the voting member schools shall vote. Once voted in, the accepted school shall be on probation for one (1) full sports year. Probationary school games will not be included in the District or State standings. Probationary schools will not be allowed to participate in District or State Playoffs.

3.5.2 After completion of the one-year probationary period, the probationary school will be reviewed by their district's voting member schools and State Officers. Voting member schools and State Officers shall vote to determine the probationary school becoming a voting member, having the probationary period extended for a specific length of time, or being disqualified from future SCL membership and participation. State officer's vote supersedes the District member schools vote.

### **3.6 Obligations of Membership**

3.6.1 By signing the membership application, each pastor and administrator bind themselves and their school (students, staff, faculty and coaches) to abide by the standards of conduct, dress, and Christian sportsmanship as defined in the SCL Bylaws. In addition each pastor and administrator agree to instruct their parents, coaches, staff, faculty, students, and fans by "making it clear" what the specific standards are, how they will be enforced, and consequences for their violation.

3.6.2 Member schools shall send a representative from their school that shall have authority to speak for and/or vote on matters pertaining to their school. Pastors are preferred, but in their absence, administrators and/or coaches shall suffice.

### **3.7 Standards of Conduct**

3.7.1 Everything a Christian does is to glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17; Matthew 5:16). Therefore, Christian coaches, players, parents, and spectators should conduct themselves accordingly. Christian athletic competition can be a means of training in character, discipline and teamwork. However, if allowed it can become a battlefield where bitterness, hatred, pride, and selfishness are displayed. Therefore, the SCL prohibits unchristian conduct including but not limited to threatening, harassing, or intimidating others; fighting and/or assaulting others; vandalizing, defacing, or purposely littering property; cursing, using vulgarity, or obscenity in gestures or language; lewd or indecent behavior; complaining and/or murmuring about standards or authorities; belittling or mocking others; spitting on a contest official or opponent, directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official or opponent, purposely running up the score on opponents or other such acts which may be deemed as unacceptable conduct.

The SCL reserves the right to invoke one or more penalties against a member or probationary school and/or individuals whose conduct violates these prohibitions.

### **3.8 General Dress and Grooming Standards**

#### **(Male & Females)**

3.8.1 All students and staff of member or probationary schools desiring to participate in SCL activities must conform to the SCL dress and grooming standards. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

3.8.2 No jewelry may be worn during SCL sporting events. No body piercing allowed. No tattoos. Existing tattoos must be covered. And cover must be same as uniforms dominate color.

### **3.9 Male Dress and Grooming Standards**

3.9.1 Male students and coaches must have a neat, trim, conservative haircut. The hair is to be tapered or blocked and is to be off the collar.

It is to be above the ears, with sideburns no longer than the middle of the ears. Dying or coloring the tips of the hair, corn rows, twists and dread locks are not allowed. Tight curly hair should be short, not above one inch in length. No facial hair is permitted on students. Male coaches may wear neatly trimmed mustaches and/or beards. See Picture.

3.9.2 Male students participating in softball must wear full-length softball or baseball pants. No shorts. Sleeveless shirts will not be allowed. Jerseys may not be tank top or open mesh. Jerseys must be below the waist and remain tucked in. Easily visible numbers must be on the front 4" and back 6" of the jersey. Team uniforms (jersey/shirt, pants, caps, and socks) must match. Batting gloves may be worn in softball.

In flag football pants and flags must contrast in color. Easily visible numbers must be on the front and back of the jersey. 4" in front and 6" in back. Football players must wear football pants or baseball pants that do not have pockets. No shorts allowed. Team uniforms (jersey/shirt, pants, and socks) must match. Players may not have towels stuck in their belt/ and/or pants for hand cleaning. Players may not wear any protective pads. A player with a minor injury may wear a soft protective bandage over the injury but not to cover and hard or plastic cast as long as no blood is involved.

3.9.3 Male students participating in basketball must have shorts come to the top of the knee. Spandex extensions are not allowed to meet this requirement. Numbers may not have a 6,7,8, or 9 in them. Teams should be in uniform; that is, have the same jerseys and shorts. Jerseys must have sleeves. If tank tops are worn, a t-shirt of the dominant color of the uniform must be worn underneath it. Easily visible numbers 4" in front and 6" in back.

3.9.4 Male student's football or softball pants must not be white. Gray or darker color is permitted.

3.9.5 After playing, male students cannot change into clothes that violate the above guidelines.

### **3.10 Female Dress & Grooming Standards**

3.10.1 Female students and coaches must have neat, conservative hairstyles.

3.10.2 Female contestants, cheerleaders, and coaches may wear loose fitting culottes and tops. Culottes must be full, loose-fitting, having the appearance of a skirt, and be no shorter than the top of the knee. Knee length shorts may also be worn and should be *loose fitting*. Team uniforms jerseys/shirts, culottes, caps, visors, and socks that match. Accessories such as wristbands or headbands must coordinate with the team uniform. 1/4 cuffed sleeves are allowed. Female students uniforms shall not be white for softball.

3.10.3

Female jerseys must be properly numbered for volleyball (at least left shoulder 2" and 6" on back), basketball (4" front and 6" on back), and softball (Same as basketball). They should not have excessive v-necks, or be made of thin material that would be immodest when wet. In volleyball, kneepads may be worn. Batting gloves may be worn in softball.

3.10.4

Cheerleaders may not perform cartwheels or handstands as part of a routine. Cheers may not involve rhythmic motion which gives the appearance of dancing. A sense of Christian modesty and Christian sportsmanship must pervade all cheering routines.

### 3.10.5

After playing, female players cannot change into clothing that would violate the above guidelines.

## **3.11 Termination of Membership**

### 3.11.1

Any SCL member or probationary school who does not participate in at least one sport during a regular school year (August-May) shall be automatically terminated from membership and must re-apply for membership in the SCL.

### 3.11.2

Any SCL member or probationary school who fails to uphold the SCL standards of conduct, dress, and Christian sportsmanship shall be disciplined and/or disqualified according to the procedures set forth in SCL By-Laws.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE IV**

# **GOVERNANCE**

## **4.1 Governance**

At least for school years 07-08 and 08-09 the league will be governed by the charter members as follows: Gil Rosier-Tabernacle, Live Oak Dwayne Jowers-Grace, Baldwin Bruce Armstrong-West Meadows, Jax Ed Wilds-Temple, Palatka David Beecher-Mill Creek, St. Augustine. The Officers and District Directors for the league will be appointed from the members of this charter board

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE V**

# **FINANCIAL STRUCTURE**

## **5.1 Financial Structure**

5.1.1 The Sunshine Christian League's annual fee is \$100.00 for each voting member school and probationary school. This fee is to be paid by September 1<sup>st</sup> each school year. Checks should be made out to the Sunshine Christian League and mailed to the district treasurer who will forward the fee to the SCL treasurer.

Current league fees are as follows: Each school member or probationary will pay an annual fee of \$250.00. \$100.00 state fee and \$150.00 district fee. Fees are subject to change.

## 5.1.2

Checks for the district fee should be made out to the specific district's designation and mailed to the specific district's treasurer by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year.

5.1.3 In order to keep both State and District fees down some districts may choose to have a preseason jamboree.

5.1.4 Regular Season admission fees shall be no more than \$2.00 per student and \$3.00 per adult. Jamboree, District or State Tournament fees will be determined by the League Board.

5.1.5 Accountability is a Scriptural principle. Both district and state treasurers are to give a financial report at each meeting so that every school may know the deposits, disbursements, and account balances.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE VI**

# **ELIGIBILITY**

## **6.1 Eligibility**

6.1.1 In order to represent a member or probationary school in any SCL athletic activity a student must be a bona fide student of that school (bona fide meaning one who is regularly enrolled and in regular attendance, who meets, in addition, the requirements as set forth in other sections of this article).

6.1.2 A student must be a minimum age of 10 (grade 5) and less than age 19, 9 months to participate in SCL activities. Date used for participation will be the player's birthday.

6.1.3 A student must have signed a Certificate of Liability and Release form from their parents or guardians before they may participate in SCL activities. This form must be kept on file by each member school prior to that student's participation in any practice or games. Verification must be sent to District Director verifying all certificates are on file with member or probationary school. This form will notarized and verify that the following information is on file with the school per sport. SCL Liability Release, physical, birth certificate. It will also include Name, DOB, jersey number.

6.1.4 A student must not have graduated from any high school or its equivalent. Nor received a high school diploma of any type.

6.1.5 A student must meet academic and behavioral standards as required by their individual schools. Schools who "bend" the rules on academic eligibility for special games or activities shall incur disciplinary action leading up to and including fines and forfeiture

6.1.6 Before any student is allowed to participate in any SCL activity they must have their parents complete the SCL Consent and Release Form. It is understood that participation in SCL activities is voluntary and each student assumes the risk. The SCL does not take responsibility for injuries incurred during participation in SCL activities. A student must have a physical (that is updated annually) before they may participate in an SCL activity.

6.1.7 Parents, fans, etc. are free to videotape and or photograph SCL activities without written SCL permission.

## **6.2 Eligibility & Rosters**

6.2.1 All SCL members and probationary schools must provide their district director an eligibility list consisting of all the students eligible for participating in SCL competition for the current school year. Team rosters are also to be submitted to the district director prior to the first game of each season sport.

6.2.2 Any player of an SCL member or probationary school that fails to maintain academic or behavioral eligibility and participate (is eligible and dressed out to play) in a minimum of 50% of their district games disqualify themselves from the district and state tournament (playoff) held at the end of each sport's season.

6.2.3 A student who initially enrolls in or engages in an athletic practice at one member or probationary school in a school year and transfers attendance to another member or probationary school during that same school year shall be a transfer student and subject to the bylaws related to students who transfer from one school to another.

6.2.4 All transfer students must submit a letter of release from their previous school as well as a letter/transcript, which satisfy the eligibility requirements previously scheduled. If the transfer occurs during a sports season the student may not participate in that sport. Eligibility deadline dates for transfer students not participating in a sport are as follows:

Boys Flag Football & Girls Volleyball- October 1<sup>st</sup>

Boys & Girls Basketball- January 15<sup>th</sup>

Boys & Girls Softball- April 1<sup>st</sup>

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE VII**

# **DISTRICT AND STATE TOURNAMENT (PLAYOFFS)**

## **7.1 District Tournaments (Playoffs)**

These are intended to be guidelines for a district that choose to have a District tournament.

Otherwise the District Champion and District Runner-Up will qualify for SCL State Playoffs.

### 7.1.1

If there are less than three (3) competing teams within a district, the overall win/loss record with the specific district shall determine the district champion.

If there are more than three (3) competing teams within a district a district tournament shall determine which team is the district champion.

Seedings of a district tournament shall be determined by the regular season standings of the games played within the district only. (i.e. 1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5). Practice games and/or games for fellowship among schools whether within or without the district shall not count in determining a member's overall record. In the event two teams tie during the regular season, the tiebreaker rule shall be followed to seed teams for the district tournament.

The tiebreaker rule is that when two (2) teams have identical win/loss records the tie shall be broken by what member school won when they played each other. In the event the two teams played twice during the season and split, a play-off game shall be scheduled and played prior to the district tournament. In the event it is impossible to play the tie-breaker game before the district tournament the district director shall decide the matter by a coin toss, allowing the team with the smallest enrollment to call the coin toss.

If three (3) schools are tied, the tiebreaker will be decided by a round-robin tournament with the team who went most recently to SCL State Playoffs and finished highest receiving the bye. If there is no team that meets such criteria the district director shall determine the matter by coin toss.

7.1.2 District tournaments are single elimination. The winning team will be the district champions and represent their district. The district runner-up team will represent their district as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team at the SCL State Tournament (Playoff).

7.1.3 District member schools who fail to play a minimum of 75% of their district games disqualify themselves from the district and state tournaments (playoffs) in the specific sport.

7.1.4 Each district shall provide a district champion trophy. District runner-up trophies may be purchased by the runner-up school if they so desire.

## **7.2 State Tournament (Playoff)**

7.2.1 The SCL State Tournament (playoff) is held at the end of each sport season. District champions and runner-ups compete to determine the SCL state champion in each sport.

7.2.2 The SCL provides a State Championship trophy and State Runner-Up trophy for each sport.

7.2.3 Location of State Tournaments will be determined by the SCL State Board.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE, VIII**

# **SPORTSMANSHIP**

## **8.1 Sportsmanship**

8.1.1 As previously mentioned, everything a Christian does is to glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Consequently, students, coaches, administrators, spectators, and all other persons connected directly and indirectly with a member or probationary school as well as contest officials



shall practice and promote the highest standards of Christian sportsmanship and ethics in all SCL activities.

8.1.2 The disqualification of a coach, student or other representative of a member or probationary school from an athletic contest as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject his/her school to appropriate disciplinary action. It is expected that each member or probationary school will exercise control over each individual student and coach to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants.

8.1.3 The removal of a team or individual competitor from an athletic contest by a coach or administrator because of his/her dissatisfaction with contest officials or other conditions of the contest shall be considered an act of gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

8.1.4 In the event of gross misbehavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a team or individual officially representing a member or probationary school at an SCL athletic event shall be disciplined according to the procedures set forth in SCL By-Laws.

## **8.2 CROWD & ANIMAL CONTROL**

8.2.1 The pastor and/or administrator and/or coaches are responsible to control the conduct of their student body, staff, and/or followers, within reasonable bounds. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary actions as set forth in SCL By-Laws

8.2.2 Pets or animals are prohibited at SCL activities. Animals that are team mascots are permitted with written permission from the SCL leadership. Individuals violating prohibition assume all liability pertaining thereto and shall be disciplined according to SCL By-Laws.

## **BYLAW, ARTICLE IX**

# **PENALTIES, PROTESTS, & FORFEITURES**

## **9.1 Penalties**

**9.1.1 Any violation of the SCL Bylaws as well as regulations, guidelines and policies and/or procedures shall be reported to the officers and directors of the SCL who shall have authority to investigate all alleged violations. The findings of the investigation shall be made known to the school (or schools), person (or persons) alleged to have committed the violation(s). The sCL officers and directors shall, after conferring, invoke one or more of the following penalties against such school(s) or person(s) found to have committed violations:**

**Reprimand- and official letter of censure to the individual and/or school concerned in regard to the offense committed and warning against future acts of a detrimental nature that are contrary to the aims of this League. This letter of reprimand becomes part of the file of the individual and/or school involved.**

**Fine- a payment to be determined by the SCL.**

**Forfeit- the forfeiture of one or more SCL athletic contest.**

**Probation- leading up to and including suspension from the SCL for a specified period of time determined by the SCL officers and directors.**

**Expulsion- involuntary termination of a school's membership in the SCL for a period of one (1) or more calendar years. No member school of the SCL shall engage in any athletic competition with the expelled school during the time of expulsion.**

## **9.2 Ejections**

9.2.1 Any unsportsmanlike conduct that results in the ejection of the offending party (player or coach) may be ineligible to participate in SCL athletic competition for a minimum period of one game and a maximum period of the remaining season determined by review of the specific district director and SCL officers. In addition, the school may be fined as determined by the district director and SCL officers per person ejected. The offending member or probationary school must contact the appropriate district director stating the cause for the ejection within 24 hours and no ejected player or coach may participate in any games until the matter is resolved by the SCL officers and directors.

9.2.2 Schools that allow ineligible students to play in an SCL contest shall forfeit the game.

9.2.3 Schools that fail to comply with the SCL dress and grooming standards shall be subject to the penalties as set for by the SCL By-Laws.

## **9.3 Protests**

9.3.1 Any member or probationary school who desires to file a protest over the eligibility of a student (s) or actions of a member or probationary school shall submit in writing a full statement of the facts over the signature of its pastor and administrator to the appropriate district director within 24 hours of the sporting event. The district director shall forward a copy to the SCL officers and school against which the protest has been made. The SCL officers and district directors shall investigate the matter and determine if and what disciplinary action is needed. The decisions of the SCL officers and district directors shall be final.

## **9.4 Forfeiture of Contest**

9.4.1 If an ineligible student is accidentally or intentionally permitted to participate in an SCL athletic contest, forfeiture of the game shall be final.

9.4.2 If a member or probationary school cancels or reschedules a game less than 48 hours before noon of the contest date, said school shall be responsible for opposing teams expenses. Example: Official fees. Game preparation cost. Travel expenses.

**BYLAW, ARTICLE X**

**Competition Officials, Rules, Guidelines.**

**10.1 Competition Officials, Rules, Guidelines.**

10.1.1

No school may enter into a contractual agreement for the SCL. Member or probationary school personnel who are state certified to officiate may not officiate for their school against SCL competition unless both schools are in agreement.

10.1.2

Football: At least two officials are required and must be SCL certified. Games will be governed by SCL rules and guidelines.

Volleyball: Officials are required to be SCL or Florida High School Certified. Games will be governed by Florida High School and SCL rules and guidelines.

Basketball (Girls and Boys): At least two officials are required and must be Florida High School Certified. Games will be governed by FHS and SCL rules and guidelines.

Softball (Girls and Boys): Officials must be ASA certified. Games will be governed by ASA and SCL rules and guidelines.

10.1.3 Home teams are responsible for chain crew, officials, linesmen, scorekeeper, timers, etc.

10.1.4 SCL member or probationary schools having a special activity such as a homecoming ceremony during the first half time must not exceed 30 minutes, must be pre-arranged with the officials and visiting team.