



Welcome to the Suncoast Charter Athletic League (SCAL). The new league that is a result of re-merging with CFCAL. We are excited to launch an upgraded experience for all schools, staff, students, and families.

Many of us have discussed the need to ensure the league is fun and developmental at the younger age groups and then helping to prepare for the migration to high school for the varsity level. We also are all aware of the need to improve on field (players/coaches) behaviors as well as the off field behaviors of spectators that attend our games. With that we will be enacting player/parent contracts as well as coach/AD/principal contracts as a first step in ensuring everyone understands the expectations and corresponding consequences if/when a situation arises.

We are moving to a divisional model for the 2024-2025 season with plans to have 4 divisions of approx. 7 schools per division. This will allow for less travel time for most schools and easier management of season schedules. There will then be a longer playoff schedule for top finishers to meet across all divisions leading to a champion being awarded at the end of the season.

We will also be implementing an assistant commissioner for each division to monitor on field activities, assist with scheduling issues, and other coordination needs.

It is also important to clarify where responsibilities lie during the course of the school year and specific seasons.

WHAT WE DO

We would like to start with welcoming our three commissioners, some of whom you have likely worked with previously.

Casandra Peacock - teacher and former commissioner of CFCAL

Ted Koontz - owner, Reds Team Sports and BHive Awards and prior commissioner of SCAL in 2023-24

TJ Koontz - Reds Team Sports/BHive Awards, Athletic Director - Progress Village Panthers Football and Cheer, and assistant commissioner SCAL

The team of SCAL commissioners are responsible for coordinating the broader field schedules with outside parties like Hillsborough County Parks and Rec, school field access and availability,

and other related coordinations for field use - submission of school insurance forms (COI's and endorsement pages) to Parks and Rec, County SVF forms, and ensuring background checks are submitted to Parks and Rec.

Additionally, SCAL will communicate key deadlines for completion of paperwork, team sign ups, rosters, and then schedules to all AD's prior to the start of a sports season. Missing these dates may result in your team not being eligible to participate in the sport for that season.

SCAL will generate the sports schedules for all levels based on the teams that are signed up for the given sport within each division.

SCAL will coordinate with the referee organizations to ensure they are available for all games for the given sport.

During the season SCAL will notify AD's of rain outs, game cancellations, and other field issues.

SCAL will also ensure game results are available and standings are updated. SCAL will then provide the corresponding playoff schedules for all divisions based on the results of the regular season.

SCAL will coordinate with AD's in the event of rainouts or other broader league cancellations.

SCAL will then provide the championship trophy as well as champion and runner up medals for all divisions.

SCAL will take reports from referees when issues arise that are unsportsmanlike in nature and need to be addressed and reach out as needed to administrations/ADs/Coaches.

SCAL will set guidelines/rules in regards to each sport played, athlete/parent/coach/AD behavior and conduct.

What Are The Responsibilities of Principals, AD's, and Coaches

Principals are solely responsible for all activities that their school and their school's participants (players, coaches, staff, and parents) do or fail to do. It is understood that they generally "hand off" the sports-related school activities to their athletic director (AD). This is a very important role with the school and is the direct link to SCAL. For purposes of responsibilities we will only use "AD" for documenting the school's related responsibilities below.

The AD is responsible for communicating with SCAL within the established deadlines for each sports season. Failure to complete the required tasks by the deadline may result in a team being ineligible to participate for a given sports season.

AD's must submit their COI's, background checks, and any other necessary paperwork at the start of the school year and then subsequent team sign ups, rosters and related tasks per sport.

Schools will be required to pay associated fees in a timely manner based on the number of teams participating. Schools will be billed for their annual membership, seasonal sports teams, and referee fees at the start of the season. They will be billed for playoff participation and associated referee fees separately.

AD's are responsible for submitting their coaches names and contact info and player rosters prior to the start of the season. Lack of a roster may result in a game forfeit.

AD's must communicate with SCAL and their partner AD's in the result of an unforeseen game cancellation or other related issue. All make up games should be coordinated with partner AD's - SCAL is not responsible for scheduling mutually agreed cancellations.

AD's are responsible for all on field actions of their coaches and players. They are also responsible for the actions of their parents as it relates to sportsmanship towards the opposing team, referees, etc. Abuse of referees and/or unsportsmanlike behavior from anyone related to a given school may result in immediate forfeiture of a game, suspension of a coach, player or team for the remainder of the sports season. A second offense may result in a player, coach, or school being suspended for the remainder of the school year (all remaining sports to be played in SCAL).

Coaches are responsible for the game day conduct of their team and their parents. The coach sets the standard for their team in how they interact with the opposing coach, opposing players and the referees. Their behavior sets the tone for how their team acts during play and parents will also react based on how they perceive a coach responding to a given game day situation. Cool heads must prevail! Failure to control themselves, their players, or their parents may result in immediate forfeit, suspensions, and/or removal from the game day area.

Coaches are responsible for communicating with the game day referee, providing official rosters, and ensuring their team understands the rules, are dressed out accordingly, have any necessary equipment (scoresheets, timeclock, scoreboard, etc), and meet all safety requirements (mouthguards, hair styling, uniforms, etc).

School staff, AD's and coaches must actively communicate with their parents to let them know unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated, that these games are meant to be more developmental at the lower levels and should be fun. Let's try to leave the overly serious, die hard sports activities to other organizations like travel teams, athletic leagues, and higher levels like high school.

What Are The Responsibilities of the Players and Parents

Players should come prepared to give their best efforts to their team during game days while also having fun and playing with good sportsmanship.

Players must have an average GPA of 2.0 to participate in SCAL sanctioned sports.

Players must be in good behavioral standing. If a player receives a referral that results in ISS or OSS they must sit out a minimum of the one game and that game being the next scheduled game.

Parents must be good role models for their student athletes and support their coaches, referees, and schools in a positive manner.

Parents should ensure they cheer for all participants win, lose or draw and should never second guess their coach or the decisions of the referee.

Parents should remember that this league is meant to be fun and developmental and is not meant to replace travel teams or other competitive non-school leagues.

What Are The Responsibilities of the Referees

The game day referees are responsible for the proper conduct and safety of all players during the course of a given game. They will ensure all rules and regulations are being followed and the game is being conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

The referee's decisions are final during the course of a game. A coach may question a referee during a stoppage of play, time out, or half time but the final outcome is still the responsibility of the referee and the referee only. SCAL staff will not second guess or advocate for any coach, team, or school as a result of a referee game day decision.

Referees have the full support of SCAL and reserve the right to cancel a game, eject a player or coach as needed as a result of unsportsmanlike behavior or other related issues by any member of the school to include players, coaches, parents, staff, or other family members. All issues will be communicated to SCAL staff the same day and then school administrations will be duly notified of the issue, consequences, etc.

2024 - 2025 Fee Structure:

\$250 annual school membership fee

\$100 per team MS sports fee

\$75 per team Elem sports fee

\$75 for single refs and \$55 each for two refs - per game - 2 referees per game for MS varsity and JV and 1 ref per game for girls and elementary

\$70 field usage fees for 2 hours per day / per field- to be determined

What You Get:

Fully coordinated sports league and access to a new, robust website with improved features and functions.

Division level onsite SCAL assistant commissioner

First place team trophies provided by division for perpetual use for a given school year (the Stanley Cup model) and must be returned prior to the end of the next school year season.

First place and runner up medals provided for all divisions (15 per team).

Access to discounted uniforms, equipment, and awards from Reds Team Sports and BHive Awards as our primary league sponsors.

In conclusion,

We look forward to a great 2024-2025 season and firmly believe if we all work together we can help instill the benefits of discipline, sportsmanship, and fun of sports back into our league.