

## **Sports Mission Statement of SVHE Eagles**

### **Purpose:**

SVHE Eagles sports are organized to provide an outlet for students to play a team sport. As Christian parents we believe team sports encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and physical development. SVHE sports will provide a learning environment where youth can be encouraged in their Christian growth.

### **Goals:**

- All sports activities are undertaken with an ultimate goal of glorifying God and His Son Jesus Christ both on and off the playing field.
- Our primary aim is to build up each other in Christian character and develop a sound witness for our Lord.
- A key ingredient in this is development of good skills in the sport.

---

### **Foundation Scriptures for SVHE Sports**

**Isaiah 40: 31:** *“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint.*

**Matthew 6: 33:** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

**Luke 2:52:** *And Jesus grew increased in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men.*

### **Purpose & Goals**

Priority # 1 is seeking God daily. Priority # 2 is living a balanced home schooled life. This includes not only sports but honoring parents, academics, learning new skills, church & community activities, etc. thus preparing to be a responsible God honoring adult.

Most people who played basketball as a junior high or high school student will not play college or professional basketball. So what should our goals be? Why have SVHE sports if the purpose is not to prepare for professional sports? The answer is again found in the Bible. Luke 2:52 states that Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men. That is the goal of SVHE sports. We want our players to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men. To grow in stature is to grow physically. We want our players to develop physical skills. To grow in wisdom is to grow intellectually. To grow in favor with God is to grow spiritually. To grow in favor with men is to grow socially. This occurs by participating in a team and by developing Christian character qualities.

The team experience teaches players to work together, support each other, and place the welfare of the group ahead of self-interest. One of the goals of SVHE sports is to help develop Christian character. This will help the players to be better people. It will produce young people who will be an asset to our society. Character traits to be developed include patience, controlling anger, respect for authority, obedience and submission, diligence, discipline, thankfulness, graciousness, integrity, forgiveness, self-control, brotherly love, wisdom, kind speech, sportsmanship, servant leadership, and trust in the LORD. This list is not exclusive and could also include other Christian character traits.

### **Guidelines of SVHE Sports**

#### **Structure of leadership:**

Leadership shall consist of an athletic director, coaches, and treasurer. The leadership shall meet as needed to discuss finances, scheduling, insurance, fund-raising, and other issues. This group will be responsible for recruiting committees. Committees might include: fund-raising, concession stand, tournament, publicity, etc. Coaches shall meet together as needed to discuss any problems, and assure continuity between high school and junior high teams.

All of the above must be members or alumni of SVHE or have a sponsor. All must agree to SVHE Statement of Faith and SVHE Sports Mission Statement and Guidelines.

#### **Guidelines for coaches & assistants**

We value teaching good sportsmanship, fair play, persistence, and character-building above “winning at all costs.” Therefore, we desire to see each player participate in each game, as appropriate for his/her skill level.

The coach should model Christian character at all times, and work to build up each individual, both in terms of Christian character and in the skills of the sport. The coach’s attitude and tone of voice should be one of encouragement and not “belittling” or tearing down.

Practices for the sport will be supported by the parents and the players, but will be scheduled in light of the many other activities in the player’s lives. As such, we will try to limit practices to, on average, two-three times or less per week.

#### **Academics**

Students must be actively homeschooling or attending a private school that does not offer sporting events to participate. Additional restriction may apply for certain events, such as the NDIICHA basketball tournament which requires at least 50% of academic subjects must be taught through homeschooling. This does not include college classes, vocational or technical classes taken outside the home, or classes taken at private or public schools.

Grade point average at least 2.0 (or “C”) shall be maintained.

#### **Eligibility**

- High school students cannot be 19 years of age before Sept. 1st of year participating
- Junior high students cannot be 15 years of age before Sept. 1st of year participating
- Junior High Students are defined as in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and be 11 years of age before 1 September of the participating year
- Once a student is listed as a 9th grader he or she can only play 4 consecutive years as a high school student
- Also, once a student has passed through the graduation ceremonies of SVHE or any other high school graduation ceremonies he or she will not be eligible to participate in SVHE sports.

#### **Parental Choice**

Since 1) Parents are in charge of their children’s education, and 2) most tournament eligibility rules state that anyone not 15 by Sept. 1st can play on Jr. High level, and 3) Every child has certain skills and qualities; parents shall be given the option to place their child on either the High School or Junior High basketball team with the following qualifications:

- 1) Parents must make their decision before the first game of the season;
- 2) Child will remain with that team for the whole season (unless there are unusual circumstances).
- 3) If the child is older than 15, he/she will not be able to play in the tournaments on the Junior High level. Also, during regular season play opposing coaches will need to be apprised of the child.

### **Parental Responsibilities**

Because of safety reasons, it is requested that players ride with a responsible adult to away games, never alone or with other players only. This is because of possible injury at the game or potential traffic accidents.

It is requested that parents volunteer to help with SVHE sports. Remember it is a team effort not only for the players but also for the parents. Many opportunities arise each sports season to volunteer. Parents are needed to keep score, run the clock, keep statistics for the coaches, provide water for players, provide rides, etc. and pray for the team.

Parents are to see that your child gets to practices and games. There is a commitment. If your schedule is too busy maybe it is best not to participate in SVHE Sports.

### **Student responsibilities:**

- to be at all practices & games
- if unable to be there must tell the coach
- do their very best
- work as a team with others
- must be teachable & able to submit to the coach
- exhibit Christian character at all times
- have fun

### **Conflicts**

- Pray & seek God first.
- Consider these Scriptures: John 13: 34-35; James 4: 1-3; Matthew 7: 1-6; Galatians 6: 1; Matthew 6: 14-15; Phil 2: 3-4; Proverbs 16: 32
- Go directly to coach or person involved to solve differences.
- Problem still unresolved should be taken to the SVHE athletic director. The athletic director will take another coach or leader with him or her to help you confront that person.
- If a problem remains unresolved, we may have a meeting with all the parents on that particular team to deal with the issue.
- Do not go to SVHE officers with sports problems.