

Fairfax County Public Schools
SCSS SOFTBALL
ATHLETIC
TRYOUT GUIDELINES

Philosophy

The philosophy of student activities and athletic program is to include as many students as possible in the overall program of the school. FCPS recognizes that some athletic teams require a maximum and minimum number of participants, while other sports and activities are open to all qualified players. In the case of sport teams that limit the number of participants, coaches should encourage all interested students to try out, and should apply appropriate and fair standards to the selection process. Obviously, time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing policy in this regard, FCPS will strive to maximize the opportunities for students without diluting the quality of the program.

Guidelines

- The South County Softball program will hold a minimum 3 day tryout to determine what student athletes to select to participate on the Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams. The philosophy of the Varsity and Junior Varsity programs are delineated in the “South County Softball Team Policy” located on the Varsity Softball page at www.stallionsports.org.
- The objective criteria used in the selection process can be located online at www.stallionsports.org on the Varsity softball page, titled “Tryout Evaluation form”. The evaluation includes both softball skills and a written softball knowledge test. These objective criteria along with the subjective evaluations of the coaching staff are used to determine if candidates will be placed on the Junior Varsity team, Varsity Team, or will not be selected. The subjective criteria is based upon the combined opinions of the coaching staff of a candidates overall performance on the objective skills as well as their interpersonal skills during the tryout period. The experience of the coaching staff is relied upon heavily to make these decisions based upon years of coaching.
- The number of candidates selected for the two teams varies based upon the following criteria. The Varsity program will select the minimum number of players the coaching staff feels is required to successfully compete for the district Championship title. Players will usually not be selected to be developed for the future as that leads to frustration on the affected player’s part that is detrimental to the program. The Junior Varsity program is designed to be developmental and the number selected is based upon how many qualified candidates can be successfully trained each year.
- **The following information is available online at www.stallionsports.org on the Varsity Softball page and/or will be discussed at the Spring sports information night hosted by South County Secondary.**
 - Overview of the program and coaching staff
 - Length of tryout period
 - Practice commitments if a student makes the team
 - Game commitments
 - Eligibility requirements
 - Extracurricular participation policy
- A student is not permitted to participate in tryouts while serving an out-of-school suspension. Local school extracurricular participation policies are in effect.

- The physical form and emergency care card must be completed prior to tryouts. Also, it is recommended that the extracurricular participation policy be completed prior to tryouts.
- Tryouts are open and available to all students that meet the VHSL eligibility criteria
- Tryouts are structured so that they are fair and equitable for all candidates.
- If a student is going to miss tryouts due to extenuating circumstances, e.g., extended sport season, sickness, injury, or another compelling reason, he or she must have prior approval of the coach and the director of student activities (DSA).
- The results of tryouts will be announced in a timely fashion and empathy will be shown to all candidates. Coaches will meet privately with each candidate on the final day of tryouts.
 - Cuts lists will not to be posted.
 - Coaches will discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport or other areas in the activities program for candidates that are not selected.
- Out of season activities. School employees may use their professional judgment to make informed recommendations to parents so long as the coach does not stand to gain financially. A parent should not infer from a coach's recommendations that any participation in an out-of-season activity will ensure a student will make the high school team. Additionally, a coach may not use student participation in an out-of-season activity as a condition for making the high school team. It is reasonable for a student, parent or coach to assume a student-athlete who works hard in the off season will improve; however, not all students will improve at the same rate and there should be no expectations that a student's off season activity will guarantee the student a spot on the high school team.