



Statement on Gender Identity and Athletic Competition

Salisbury Christian School (SCS) foundational beliefs and teachings are based on Biblical truth. The Bible is God’s Word, divinely inspired, infallible, and is the final authority of truth. We endeavor to teach students, in all areas of life and education, from a distinctly Christian worldview. This includes instructing students to understand the world, issues, and relationships based on God’s Word, which prepares them to assume their proper place in the home, the church, and the world. Accordingly, the Bible is the basis from which we form our foundational beliefs regarding gender assignment/identity. The purpose of this statement is to affirm Salisbury Christian School’s alignment with the truth of God’s Word and provide guidance in relation to interscholastic athletic competition.

However, cultural and social change is a reality and is not new to any period of time. Shifts in American culture can be described as a moral revolution falsely declaring a moral standard higher than the Biblical standard. As portions of the American population embrace moral relativism, religious liberty has been questioned. There are attempts in our culture to deny the freedom of Christians to base moral judgment on Biblical truth. This presents new challenges for Christ-centered institutions that hold to a historical Biblical interpretation of gender assignment/identity. We embrace an opportunity to examine and affirm convictions and to communicate the position of SCS on these issues to anyone who inquires.

EXPRESSION AND GENDER ASSIGNMENT/IDENTITY

It is God who assigns our fundamental human identity and gender. All humans, male and female, reflect the image of God. A person’s gender is sacred and has a divine purpose. The Word affirms that God loves all people, including those who struggle with their gender assignment, identity, and expression. Therefore, we are to love all people, regardless of any type of struggle.

The Bible describes human gender in binary terms. Genesis 1:27 provides the definitive statement: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Regardless of one’s anatomical parts or feelings about them, all humans have the same responsibility for stewarding physical attributes and abilities. Our bodies are God’s dwelling place. In the context of discussing sexual identity and behavior, the Apostle Paul wrote, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Therefore, SCS will uphold the Biblical view of gender and will adhere to its position on gender issues aligned with truth in its teachings, curriculum, and treatment of students.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION

SCS recognizes that not all institutions share these same values and foundational beliefs. As a school, we aim to model the example of Jesus Christ by remaining steadfast in our beliefs while treating others with respect, loving kindness, and remaining free of judgment. As outlined in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, we can stand firm in our convictions while continuing to interact with and compete against others whose values may differ. All people are created in the image of God and, as such, have profound value (Genesis 1:27). SCS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals (staff, students, and parents) treat each other with dignity and respect, which includes freedom from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying.

The safety of our student-athletes is paramount to the Athletics Department at SCS. As such, we routinely assess our competitors to ensure safe and fair opportunities for competition. Based on those assessments, we reserve the right to forfeit or withdraw from any contest deemed necessary by the administration. These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Athletics in conjunction with the coaching staff and school administration.

SCS also recognizes parents' primary responsibility to "train up a child in the way he should go..." (Proverbs 22:6). At times, parents' personal convictions may differ from the decision reached by the school as it relates to athletic play. In such instances, parents should email the Director of Athletics to communicate their desire for their child to "opt-out" of a single competition. SCS will respect parental authority in these cases. There will be no retribution or further consequence for any student-athlete under these circumstances.

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