

Sports Teams and SOA Students

Students at School of the Arts are eligible to play sports for their zoned school. It is up to the parent / student to contact the coach of the sport they are interested in, and find out about tryouts, practices, etc. The best way to find that information is to visit the zoned school's website.

If the school you play sports for requires you to get out of school a little early to make the drive there, you will need to reach out to our Attendance Clerk to make arrangements to be on our early sign out sports list. She can explain that process to you.

There is a special legislative bill allowing SOA students to try out for and play for Academic Magnet High School. Some of their sports have JV teams that middle school students could try out for, and some do not. Again, it is up to the parent/ student to find the information they need for each sport. <https://lnk.bio/raptorathletics>

Middle School: Many schools allow 7th and 8th graders to try out for JV and Varsity teams. It varies by school.

Students cannot try out for Academic Magnet AND their zoned school. They have to select one before tryouts.

When playing for a team, we ask that you prioritize performances and rehearsals for your Art Major. Each student has a seat at this school that was auditioned for, and there are students on the waiting list hoping to have a seat at SOA. Our Fine Arts teachers work hard to provide as many opportunities as they can for our students and they need the whole "team" to make it happen.

If your student currently plays sports for their zoned school or Academic Magnet, please let us know by filling out this google form:

[SOA ATHLETES google form](#)



SOA Athlete Form

Why Doesn't SOA Have Athletic Teams?

SOA has many student athletes as well as active health-conscious students, but we do not have any school sponsored sports teams. There are a number of reasons that decision was made when SOA was established:

- A survey was conducted when SOA was established that asked students and parents if they supported or opposed having sports teams at SOA. Results revealed that 12% strongly supported, 60% strongly opposed and the remaining 28% were neutral.
- The enrollment at SOA typically reflects a population of 60% female and 40% male. Fielding teams could often prove challenging and might result in pressure for students to sign up for teams.
- Injuries are sometimes one of the unfortunate consequences of participation in contact as well as non-contact sports. If a dancer sustains a leg, ankle or foot injury or a musician suffers a hand or finger injury, they would not be able to participate in their major. If the injury was serious, they might not be able to continue at SOA. Board members did not want students to feel pressured to participate and then incur an injury that might impact their SOA enrollment.
- Many student athletes wanted to have the opportunity to participate in the sports programs with the larger schools in their attendance zones.
- SOA's performance calendar and theater schedule is planned a year ahead, so all majors have access to the spaces they need. If SOA had sports teams, they would be subject to the schedule established by the South Carolina High School League, which would mean students or coaches would have to choose between attendance in a performance or participation on the field or court. For ensemble groups and teams with few players on the bench, the loss of key players is detrimental to the group's performance.

Since SOA does not have athletic teams, we do not customarily take part in National Signing Day. Students, who play for their attendance zoned high school and sign a National Letter of Intent are included in the ceremonies for that high school. If an SOA student participates through another organization and would like to take part in the ceremonies for Charleston County students, they are encouraged to contact the Athletic Director for CCSD.

We want our students to be healthy and active, and we encourage them to find outlets to support their health-oriented goals. If our artists choose to participate in athletic endeavors, we will gladly share their accomplishments and cheer them on.