

# Providence Christian Academy

## Athletics Handbook

Providence Christian Academy believes that student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is an effective tool in preparing young people for the future. Therefore, it is our desire to provide an athletic program that promotes physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual and moral growth.

The coaching staff will provide leadership, in example and attitude, which reflects the Christian character we strive to develop in our athletes and athletic program. Student athletes are always encouraged to do their personal best.

All athletes participating in the athletics program of Providence Christian Academy must strive to maintain social and spiritual attitudes that glorify God.

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*  
*Colossians 3:17*

### Statement of Philosophy

1. A dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of students.
2. Athletics encourages character development, cooperation and personal discipline.
3. Athletes should seek to glorify God.
4. Coaches will provide opportunity for spiritual instruction and growth.
5. Teams and activities will exemplify sportsmanship, school spirit, teamwork and Christ-like behavior.
6. Each sport should strive for proficiency and excellence.
7. The coaching staff will utilize as many student participants as possible, in order to develop both the individual and the team, which is important in competitive events.

## Objectives of Athletic Participation

1. To maximize an athlete's God-given abilities
2. To improve knowledge and skill
3. To improve physical health
4. To develop self-discipline
5. To develop teamwork
6. To improve confidence and poise
7. To demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play
8. To make lasting friendships with team members
9. To be humble in victory and gracious in defeat
10. To have fun

## Athletic Code of Conduct

Participation in athletics at Providence Christian Academy is a privilege. All those who participate should strive to conduct themselves as good citizens and representatives of our Lord. With these goals in mind, the following guidelines have been established.

### Coaches

*"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another . . . with gratitude in your hearts."  
Colossians 3:16*

1. The coach is the leader of the team and a role model for the players. A coach's behavior should reflect Christian virtues.
2. Coaches should remember that they are teachers and that teaching is most effectively done in a positive manner.

3. Coaches should treat referees, officials, opposing coaches and players with respect.
4. Coaches will communicate early and effectively with players and parents whenever behavioral/personal problems are identified.
5. Coaches will have their teams play within the rules of the sport.
6. The Athletic Director and Coaches will have a meeting with parents at the beginning of the season. They will express their expectations and plans for the season.
7. Coaches will communicate early and effectively to parents and office staff regarding practice and game schedules.

### Athletes

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."  
Ephesians 4:32*

1. Athletes will remember their priorities are first to God, then to their parents, then to their academics, and finally to each other.
2. Athletes will remember their actions are a witness to our community. Therefore, their words and actions must positively represent our school and, more importantly, the Lord.
3. Athletes will treat opposing players, referees, coaches and officials with respect at all times.
4. Athletes will always play according to the rules. The pursuit of victory or the heat of the competition does not justify bending rules for "dirty play".
5. Athletes will push themselves to excel to the best of their ability to glorify God and achieve success for their school, their team and themselves.
6. Athletes should accept constructive criticism from their coaches in order to improve their play as an individual and a team.
7. Athletes should feel free to approach a coach to discuss any problems or concerns confidentially.

8. Athletes should relate to teammates in a positive, caring manner. Fighting, unkind words and disrespect will not be tolerated.

### Parents

*"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."  
Ephesians 5:1-2*

1. Parents are expected to encourage their athletes to keep their priorities in order: God, family, academics, athletics.
2. Parents will bring questions and concerns about their athletes to the coach. Open communication between parents and the coach is essential.
3. Parents will treat PCA coaches, opposing coaches, officials and players with respect at all times, in accordance with the principles of Matthew 18.
4. Parents will exhort our players and team in a positive manner.

### Spectators

*"... live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."  
Ephesians 4: 1-3*

1. Spectators should treat the officials and opposing coaches and players in a respectful and Christ-like manner.
2. Spectators will exhort our players and teams in a positive manner.

## General Guidelines

### Eligibility for Interscholastic Participation

1. Student athletes are to exemplify Christian standards and school policies through their behavior.
2. Grade Requirements: Students in Middle School and High School, at the mid-term and at the end of the nine-weeks who do not maintain a "C" average in the academic core (Language Arts, Science, Bible, Social Studies, Math, and Foreign Language) and/or receive an "I" or "F" in any course will be placed on academic probation and may not participate in any athletic activities, whether practice or competition. All grades for students on academic probation will be checked each Friday by the Administration to determine eligibility for the following week. Any student who is ineligible for two consecutive or nonconsecutive weeks during the course of a sport season will not be allowed to return to the sport until meeting with the administrator, coach, and athletic director. This meeting does not guarantee reinstatement to the athletic team.

### School Discipline

1. Teacher-reported discipline problems will be addressed by the Administrator.
2. Any student athlete actively serving a school suspension will not participate in athletic practices and competitions during that time.
3. Discipline problems that result in game suspension(s) must be served at the next game(s), following the infraction.

### Student Attendance on Day of Competition

1. A student must be in school for at least a half (1/2) day in order to participate in an athletic practice or competition. If the game or practice is on a Saturday, the student had to be in school a half (1/2) day on the preceding school day. The Administrator must approve exceptions.
2. Athletes who miss school following injuries or illness classified as serious should secure written doctor and parental release before participating in a practice or competition.

### Physician's Certificate and Parent's Consent

Each Middle School or High School student who is competing for a place on an athletic team must present a physical form that he/she is physically fit to participate if the designated sport requires one. This form must be submitted to the office prior to participating in the first practice.

Because of the physical exertion required for Cross Country, K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are participating must also present a physical form.

Note: The forms for the above are provided by the KHSAA on their website and are available at the physician's office as well as the school website. The physical exam is considered valid for one year from the examination date.

### Potential Risks of Athletic Participation

1. There are inherent risks in athletic participation and in spite of all precautions and accident preventatives, injuries do occur. The benefits of athletic involvement exceed the potential hazards. However, parents/guardians and student athletes should be aware of and work toward minimizing potential injuries.

2. Athletic activities by their nature create the possibility of serious injury, including permanent paralysis and even death. Parents and student athletes assume the risk of serious injury with participation in sports activities even when protective equipment is provided. Parents and student athletes waive, release, and forever discharge all claims which may arise now or in the future which they may accrue against Providence Christian Academy and any of its employees/coaches for any and all injuries suffered by a student athlete while attending and participating in sports activities.

3. These risks can be significantly reduced by the athlete by:

- A. Knowing his/her limitations
- B. Following progressive learning
- C. Properly using sports equipment
- D. Properly wearing protective equipment
- E. Always following the directions of and/or consulting with the coach

### Traveling To and From Athletic Competitions

Parents/Guardians will be responsible for transportation to and from practices and sporting events.

### School Equipment

1. Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletic uniforms are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose.
2. All school-issued equipment is to be returned when the season is over.
3. The student is responsible for the dollar replacement cost of any lost or damaged school-issued equipment or uniforms.

### Athletic Apparel

The Athletic Director and the Marketing committee must approve all team apparel and accessories.

### Athletic Fees and Funding

All students who participate in school-sponsored athletic teams shall pay the required athletic fee per sport in which they participate. This fee must be paid prior to participating in practice. These fees are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to the parents and students.

### Obscene Language or Gestures

Any athlete or spectator using vulgar or abusive language or vulgar gestures during an athletic contest or practice will be removed from the competition. Additionally, the athlete will be excluded from participating in the next athletic event. Further violations on subsequent teams will result in ineligibility to participate on any athletic team for the remainder of the school year.

### Hazing, Initiation, Harassment, and Bullying

1. Hazing, initiation, harassment, and bullying are all contrary to the values of Providence Christian Academy and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Program. Any behavior directed toward another student that denigrates or endangers the mental or physical health or safety of the student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or continued membership on any such team is not acceptable behavior. This behavior will be handled per the student discipline policy.
2. No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the academy shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered by the faculty or staff, the involved students will be informed of PCA's rule against hazing, that the incident fits the rule and it

must be stopped immediately. All hazing or suspected hazing incidents will be reported immediately to the Athletic Director and Administrator.

### **Supplemental Rules and Regulations by Coaches**

Supplemental rules/regulations unique to a given sport or a coach's philosophy may be implemented upon the approval of the Athletic Director. These rules must be in writing and submitted to participants prior to the start of the season.

### **Conduct of Coaches**

The coach is expected to exemplify Christian character to his/her team and to the public. Any disciplinary actions taken by an official against a PCA Coach (i.e. technical fouls, un-sportsman-like conduct, etc.) will result in an informal inquiry and discussion of the event with the current Athletic Director. Repeated violations will result in formal meetings with the Athletic Director and Administrator.



**SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We, \_\_\_\_\_

have read all the preceding pages of this Athletics Handbook, and are in agreement with the philosophy of PCA Athletics. We are also aware of and in agreement with the policies concerning student and parent behavior and attitudes, and will abide by these standards.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Student-Athlete Signature

Date

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO SCHOOL  
DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL OR WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK AFTER ENTRY  
FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING MID-YEAR