

Providence Academy



Athletic Handbook 2014-2015

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Providence Academy Athletics

Vision Statement

Equipping minds and nurturing hearts to transform the world for Jesus Christ

Mission Statement

-Athletic participation inspires students to grow, learn and enjoy themselves while they use and develop their personal, physical, and intellectual skills. Providence Academy values the lessons that have long been taught by athletic participation: the pursuit of excellence through personal development and teamwork, ethical and responsible behavior on the field and off, adherence to the spirit of rules as well as to their leadership and strength of character and sportsmanship – respect for one’s opponents, acceptance of victory with humility, and acknowledgement of defeat with grace. While winning is not an end in itself, we believe that the efforts by the student athletes to be their best will lead them to succeed in life.

-Building community and pride in Providence Academy Athletics encourages the engagement of students, parents, faculty and staff. Successful athletic teams generate unique excitement across the campus and community, help strengthen bonds among the academy, build academy loyalty and give our community members yet another reason to be proud to represent Providence Academy.

-“Athletes can and should be used as a tool to reach the spiritually lost and to benefit the community around us.” (Proverbs 4:10-13, 11:30, 22:6)

Athletics Core Purposes

- *Compete in God Honoring Ways*
- *Build Character*
- *Learn Life Lessons*
- *Develop Physically*
- *Have Fun*
- *Establish Positive Relationships*

Perspective

Athletics is a gift for us to use, grow as a community, and through it bring honor to Christ. Athletics is a community activity that involves many different people and each play a specific role. The power athletics has to positively impact our community can be great, but typically involves adversity along the way as well. Working through challenges is a positive step in learning the life lessons and building the character only taught through interscholastic athletics. As a community, one of our goals should be to allow parents to parent their children, athletes to compete and support their team, coaches to direct their sport and lead their team, and officials to enforce the regulations of contests. Working through adversity in your role can be difficult with the emotions athletics naturally brings, but the positive growth potential is great. Our community can support all roles by seeking and acknowledging those who contribute well respectively and honor Christ in the process.

It is valuable for our athletic teams to have the goal of winning interscholastic contests, but the accomplishment of winning pales in comparison to the value of preparation, effort, and striving to win. Working hard to improve skills and grow physically with good direction from coaches is God-glorifying. The accomplishment of winning also pales in comparison to competing with character, integrity, and confidence in our role. True success can be found in developing physically and competing in God honoring ways.

Athletics should be a positive experience for our community... especially for the athletes! Students typically desire to “have fun” on their athletic team. When officials officiate, coaches coach, and parents parent, athletes tend to have the best experience participating on a team. The relationships athletes develop on their team and with their coach can often last a lifetime and be an important piece in allowing athletes to have a positive experience.

Participation on a team is not a right for students. It is a privilege to represent Christ, Providence Academy, your family, and yourself to our community. Earning the privilege involves more than being talented with a particular sport. Athletes are held to a higher standard of behavior than other students. Athletes and families must uphold the school’s mission and help foster the school’s goals and athletic department’s purposes.

Ultimately, we desire for students to grow in their confidence as a child of God and be better equipped to transform our world for Jesus Christ. We believe athletics is a wonderful tool to help accomplish this huge task. As a grace filled Christian community of believers, we are called to humbly bring our best effort and seek excellence that focuses on “process” over “accomplishments”. Please assist us in promoting this Christ centered focus in athletics this year.

Guidelines for Parents & Communication

The standards athletes are held to also extend to parents. Parents, as well as coaches and athletes together represent the school community but each play different roles. The parent is expected to display Christian sportsmanship that reflects positively on the school community. It is important that respect for opponents and officials be shown at all times. The parent is expected to encourage loyalty and dedication to the team and to the coach as well. The attitude of parents greatly impacts the attitude of athletes. Sending mixed messages to your child about coaching does not assist in the child's development or allow the team to function at a high level. Coaching and parenting can be difficult, but in spite of the challenges we all want the athletic experience to be positive, educational, and competitive for each student to the greatest extent possible. It is our desire to make this a team effort that benefits the student. We encourage all parents to volunteer in some way and actively pray for athletes, coaches, and the team. Parents will be expected to assist Providence Academy in running concessions at another level on the day of their child's event.

Parents and Athletes should expect communication on the following from their coach:

- Expectations including teams rules and policies
- Schedule of team events
- Philosophy of the coach

Coaches should expect communication on the following from parents and athletes:

- Concerns that are brought directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific issues regarding the philosophy or expectations of the coach

If concerns arise during the season, please follow these "Matthew 18" guidelines:

- The athlete should first speak with the coach
- If not resolved, the parent should contact the coach to discuss the situation. The coach and parent may each have additional information about the student-athlete unknown by the other to assist the situation. The discussion should be beneficial to both the coach and the parent keeping the welfare of both the student-athlete and the team in mind. Refrain from approaching a coach directly before or after a game. Call the following day to set up a time to talk or meet personally.

Items not to discuss with the coach:

- Playing time
- Strategy or play calling
- Other student athletes

Items appropriate to discuss with the coach:

- The treatment of your child
 - Ways to help your child improve
 - Concerns about your child
- If the conflict is not resolved, you may call the athletic director to discuss your concern.

Character Athletes

Character Athletes begin with respect and responsibility.

1. Character Athletes treat Character Coaches, teachers and staff with respect at all times on and off the field and in and out of the classroom. Character Athletes believe in:
 - the dignity of each person
 - the authority of adults in the school and on the playing field
 - the necessity to practice respect in order to gain respect
 - the value of lived experience for their personal growth
 - the positive value of respect in developing leadership
2. Character Athletes accept responsibility for their decisions and actions. Character Athletes believe in:
 - their word as a commitment to performance
 - developing all aspects of personal growth including:
 - physical fitness
 - academic excellence
 - social involvement and,
 - community service
 - contributing to the success of the team and mission of the school.

2014-2015 Sports and Fee Schedule

	6 Man Football	Basketball	Track
5th grade girls		\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
5th grade boys		\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
6th grade girls		\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
6th grade boys	\$400/\$450 HS	\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
7th grade girls		\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
7th grade boys	\$400/\$450 HS	\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
8th grade boys		\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS
8th grade girls	\$400/\$450 HS	\$400/\$450 HS	\$300/\$350 HS

HS=homeschool

- Athletic Fees are charged per sport, per year.
- All athletic fees are non-refundable
- * This fee is part of the total cost of each sport.
- * There are no athletic discounts offered
- * Athletic fees are for use of equipment and facilities fees during the season

The Athletic Fee covers:

- One practice uniform per school year
- Use of a game uniform
- Most equipment required for each sport
- League Scheduled Tournament Fees
- * Registration
- * Sport Deadline

Payment Guidelines:

- Athletic Fees may be paid via FACTS, along with regular tuition payments.
- An athlete that is not signed up for a sport by the registration deadline is not guaranteed to have his/her equipment by season start date.
- Up to the season start date, an athlete may withdraw from the team for any reason. Students will not receive a refund of any money.
- During the first two weeks after the season start date, an athlete may withdraw from the team. No refund of money will be given.
- Two weeks after the season start date, no refunds will be given except in the case of a student injury that prohibits participation in the sport.
- No refunds, partial or otherwise, may be given to students temporarily barred from participation in extra-curricular activities due to academic or disciplinary problem.

Participation in Multiple Sports

A student athlete may participate in two sports during the same season with approval of both coaches. The student is required to choose one primary sport, which will take precedent over the other activity in case of conflict. Games will take precedent over practice. Both coaches involved should notify the Athletic Director of the student athlete's desire before the season in order to avoid any potential conflicts during the simultaneous seasons.

Playing Time

All coaches understand that it is in their own best interest to get each player as much game time experience as possible. However, if a team has a large number of players or if a team has a wide range of skill level, then promising playing time to every athlete in every game may not be in the best interest of the team. Playing time is determined by the coach and is based on many factors. Participating on a team, and more specifically playing in games, should never be viewed as a right, but rather a privilege.

Conduct

As an athlete at Providence Academy, students need to realize that they are continually representing their team, their school, and most importantly their Savior, Jesus Christ. The way that players conduct themselves in all settings, whether it be on the court, on the field, in the classroom, or even on their own away from school, sends a message to others of how the rest of the team, the school, or other Christians must normally act. With that type of responsibility, we place a high value on monitoring the conduct of our athletes to where they understand the importance of carrying themselves in a Christ-like way.

If a coach, teacher, or administrator notices an athlete acting in a way that is not a positive example to others, then that person will report the act to the coach and/or the Athletic Director for whatever disciplinary actions are warranted. This, of course, will be in addition to whatever is required of the teacher in accordance with PA policies. Punishments may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team, depending on the severity of the action. If any kind of suspension or expulsion from the team is viewed as being necessary by the Coach or Athletic Director, the School Administration will be notified. In the event of major discipline offenses, the Administration reserves the right to suspend a player from a game or call for expulsion from the team. We feel that participating in athletics is a privilege, not a right, and with that privilege comes a certain amount of responsibility. The beginning of that responsibility is that we expect our student athletes to be positive examples of proper conduct, attitude, and responsibility in the classroom.

Practice/Game Participation

Participation in all practices and competitions is expected and required of all athletes. If an athlete has a valid reason for missing practice, the athlete needs to call their coach BEFORE missing the practice. Excused absences include the following: tutoring, family emergency, illness, etc. If an athlete has three excused absences, the coach will meet with the athletic director to discuss what, if any punishment needs to be enforced. An unexcused absence from practice will automatically result in the athlete not being allowed to play in the next game. Student athletes are expected to be dressed and ready to practice on time. Being late to practice three times will result in an unexcused absence. An athlete arriving late to practice due to a teacher keeping them after class is an acceptable excuse, but the athlete must bring a note from the teacher. The only excuses for missing a game or competition would be for family emergencies.

School Attendance on Game Day

Athletes must be in school for at least half of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in athletic competition that same day. Missing more than half a day for doctor's appointments, family days, or any other non-school sponsored event is not considered excused and will cause the athlete to miss any athletic event that same day.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents are expected to respect coaches and school personnel as professionals. When a disagreement arises, the parents should talk to the coach involved at the appropriate time to resolve the problem. If the issue cannot be resolved, then the matter will go through the chain of command (Athletic Director then school administration.) We ask that parents not confront a coach after a contest. If a meeting with a coach is desired, this may be scheduled by calling the coach or Athletic Director. Parent conduct during games should be exemplary. Parents are expected to refrain from negative comments about officials, coaches, and opponents. Parents who abuse the expectations of proper behavior may be asked to leave the premises and continued non-compliance will endanger their student's eligibility to participate.

Handling Disputes

If any parent or athlete has a concern over an issue, they have a Biblical responsibility to go to the person that they have the concern about or with (Matt. 18: 15-16). The athlete is expected to attempt to resolve any problems he or she has before parent involvement. It is our desire that any problems can then be cleared up and those involved can move on. If, however, this does not resolve the issue, then and only then, should the issue be brought to the attention of another person. The level of authority at Providence Academy is as follows:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Administrator
4. School Board

Volunteer Requirements

In order to conduct competitions and games in a professional manner, volunteers are needed to ensure the proper support of team activities. These positions include gate entry, concession stand, timer/score keeper, sideline crew, etc. It will be the parents'

responsibility to fill these positions and they will be asked to sign up prior to each season.

Uniform Policy

The Athletic Fee covers the cost and the use of game uniforms.

- Game uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the season and must be returned at the end of the season.
- All athletes will be issued athletic T-shirt and shorts and are expected to wear them for all practices. Students may purchase extra practice uniforms for an additional cost.
- Some sports may require additional equipment not covered by athletic fees. Individual coaches will let players know about these requirements prior to the first practice.

Transportation

Parents will be asked to provide transportation to and from athletic events. On these occasions, the parent or guardian will assume all responsibility for their student athlete and/or anyone transported by them.