



PROVIDENCE
ACADEMY

Athletic Handbook

2023-2024

Vision

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

Mission

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.

Providence Academy Athletics builds community through 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. Athletics 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)

Core Goals

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

Our Unique 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 person plays a specific role. The power athletics has to positively impact our community can be great but typically involves overcoming 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 respect 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 teams and with their coaches 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, one’s family, and oneself 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 children 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.

TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools)

Providence Academy is a member of TAPPS for high school sports. Our department and coaches adhere to the by-laws established by TAPPS for high school sports.

CSAF (Christian Schools Athletic Fellowship)

Providence Academy is a member of CSAF for middle school sports. Our department and coaches adhere to the by-laws established by CSAF for middle school sports.

Expectations for Student-Athletes

- Glorify God through your athletic performances and sportsmanship
- Academic performance is a priority over athletic participation
- You are responsible for missed assignments due to athletic contests; it is your responsibility to communicate with your teachers
- Treat teammates, coaches and opponents with the utmost respect
- Follow all standards and expectations set forth by the Head Coach
- Respect officials and their judgements
- Understand it is a *privilege*, not a *right*, to play sports
- Return all school issued equipment in the same condition it was issued to you, minus normal wear and tear
- Report any injury to the Head Coach, Athletic Trainer and/or Athletic Director

Expectations of Parents of Student-Athletes

- Respect the decisions and strategies of the coaches
- Support your child in his/her journey as a student-athlete
- Exhibit positive sportsmanship behavior during competition, bringing any concerns to the attention of the Head Coach or Athletic Director
- Support our student-athletes through assisting with game operations (gate, book, clock operator, etc.)

Expectation of Coaches

Providence Academy coaches are teachers above all else. Coaches influence attitudes, spiritual growth, healthy habits, knowledge and skills. Coaches understand that academic success is the priority and each student-athlete's welfare will be the focus at all times.

- Coaches will serve as role models and will never place the value of winning above the value of building character
- Coaches will always uphold the honor and integrity of the teaching profession. In all personal contact with student-athletes, parents, officials, athletic directors, administrators, TAPPS, CSAF, the media and the public, coaches will strive to set an example of the highest moral, ethical and professional behavior
- Coaches will be familiar with contest, state, conference and local rules and provide the proper interpretation of such rules to team members
- Coaches will refrain from conducting themselves towards contest officials in a manner that may incite players or spectators to criticize officials
- Head and assistant coaches are responsible for supervising all practice sessions, games/contests, locker rooms, bus rides, and any organized team activities
- Coaches will have all certifications required by their respective governing body (TAPPS and CSAF)

Offerings and Levels of Participation

Providence Academy strongly encourages all students to participate in at least one sport of their choosing during the academic year. Every student will be given an opportunity to try-out for an athletic team at their appropriate level. In most sports, we offer three levels of competition; Varsity, Junior Varsity and Middle School. Each athlete that tries out should expect to be placed on a team based upon their skill set and experience in that particular sport.

Playing Time

One of the primary sources of conflict in athletics is the issue of playing time. Please understand that playing time is at the sole discretion of the team's Head Coach. Coaches will set their own standards for playing time which will certainly include skill set, attitude, and practice attendance.

Varsity level athletes are not guaranteed playing time. These teams are competing for playoff qualifications and championships and athletes should expect that their skill level will be evaluated by the coaching staff and area of needed improvement will be communicated to the athletes by their respective coaches.

Sub-varsity teams are, at their core, developmental teams. The focus will be on developing the fundamentals and skills necessary to compete at the varsity level. In that spirit, every effort will be made to grant each athlete who fulfills their academic and team commitments playing time.

Please do not attempt to discuss playing time with a coach at any time. Coaches will not enter into playing time discussions with parents nor will they discuss another student-athlete's performance. Please encourage your child to approach the coach with any questions as it pertains to playing time.

Athletics Communication Plan

Athletics is an emotional endeavor and occasionally conflict will arise. If you have an athletic concern regarding your child, please consider the "24 Hour Rule". Please wait 24 hours before contacting the coach. Many times, if all parties take a full day to reflect on the situation, any ensuing conversation is more likely to be based on facts and less on emotion.

If after 24 hours you still feel the situation merits further attention, please follow the procedures below:

1. The student-athlete should communicate concerns directly to the coach of that specific team.
2. If the issue is not resolved from that player/coach meeting, the Head Coach of that sport (if not a part of the first meeting) will meet with the coach and player.
3. The parent can enter into the conversation after the second communication if the issue remains unresolved.
4. The Athletic Director will be invited to join the communication/meeting if the parent, Head Coach, team coach and player are not satisfied with the resolution.
5. The final step to resolution will take place with the Head of School, Athletic Director, Head Coach, team coach, player and parent.

Multiple Sport Participation

Providence Academy encourages athletes to participate in multiple sports. We support any athlete's decision to embrace the spirit of the school giving of their time, effort and physical demands on the body to represent the school. The decision to participate in multiple sports is made by the student-athletes and their families. Each family should expect the Athletic Department to respect their wishes as it pertains to multiple sport participation.

The follow expectations address multiple sport athletes:

1. Athletes should complete a sport before trying out or joining another team
2. Athletes should not quit one sport mid-season to join another
3. Athletes should be in good academic standing
4. Athletes should not participate in two sports during the same season without first discussing this participation with the Head Coaches of the two respective teams-athletes will be asked to select a primary sport that would take precedence over the other

School Attendance for Athletes

A student must be present for at least 4 academic periods to participate in an athletic practice or contest (Monday/Wednesday/Friday-HS). A student who is dismissed from school early due to illness will not be able to participate in an athletic event. Families are highly encouraged to schedule non-school activities (doctor's appointments, etc.) so that academic classes are not missed. An athlete with an unexcused absence from school may not participate in an athletic game or practice on that day.

Practice and Game Attendance

Each coach is permitted to establish their own specific set of policies/expectations for attendance. Any such policy should be communicated to the team and parents within the first week of the beginning of that team's season. It is important that any conflicts that will cause an athlete to miss any practices or games to be communicated as early as possible to the Head Coach. Please understand that missed time can have a negative impact on a team's performance or chemistry. It is very likely that an athlete should expect playing time to be reduced for an unexcused absence.

Lightning Safety Procedure

Lightning is the most frequent weather hazard impacting athletic events. The following is our lightning safety protocol:

1. The Athletic Director and/or Athletics Assistant will monitor weather conditions beginning 24 hours prior to an athletic event and will make the ultimate determination if an event will be held or postponed.
2. If lightning is seen or thunder heard, fields must be immediately evacuated and all coaches, players and spectators must seek nearby safe shelter; avoid fences, gates, metal bleachers, golf carts, trees, water, open fields and high ground. The standard for evacuation is when lightning is confirmed or reasonably believed to be within a 3 mile radius of the activity.

3. Wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.
4. Should someone be struck by lightning, they do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch, provide immediate first aid and contact 911.

Post-Concussion Return to Play Protocol

Should an athlete suffer a concussion of any severity, they shall follow the protocol below before returning to athletic competition. A doctor's note clearing the athlete to return is also required.

1. Back to regular activities/classes
2. Light aerobic activity
3. Moderate activity
4. Heavy, non-contact activity
5. Practice and full contact
6. Competition

Academic Eligibility

In conjunction with TAPPS regulations, grade checks will occur every 9 (nine) weeks (utilizing end of quarter grades), starting with the first day of the school year. Any student-athlete failing a course for that quarter will be ineligible for athletic participation for a period of 3 (three) weeks. Should the period of ineligibility fall during a holiday or school break week, this week will count toward the 3 weeks. On the Monday following this 3 week period, all ineligible student-athletes' grades will be rechecked. Provided the ineligible student-athletes are passing all of their courses on this date, they will be eligible to return to full participation. If any student-athlete is ruled ineligible for a second time within a single athletic season, they will be ineligible to return to that sport for the remainder of that season.

Ineligibility means the student-athlete may not participate in any practice, game, fundraiser or sit on the bench during games. The spirit of the rule is not to punish, but rather allow for time for the student-athlete to focus on his/her academic performance.

Letter Jackets and Lettering

All student athletes who participate on a varsity team will receive a letter for that sport. Coaches will confer with the Athletic Director if an athlete has attendance, character, or academic issues including any which require suspensions during the season. Such issues may disqualify the athlete from receiving a letter. The decision to withhold a letter from a student athlete will be made by the coach, Athletic Director, and administration. Coaches will have the opportunity to present special recognition awards at the spring sports banquet.

Letter jackets will be made available from a school-approved vendor for parents to purchase.

Awards Banquet

The Athletic Department believes recognizing athletes for successful completion of a sports season is important to the participants, school and community. There will be an Athletic Banquet in May to honor the year's student-athletes.

Harassment and Bullying

Harassment or bullying in any form will not be tolerated. Any accusation will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Any student-athlete that engages in such behavior should expect severe consequences including but not limited to suspension or removal from the team. Final determination of consequences rests with the Athletic Director.

Off-Season and Club Sports

Student-athletes often participate in sports out of school. Providence expects that should a conflict arise, a student-athlete's primary commitment will be to their Providence team. The coach should be informed of any potential conflict, but we want to be clear that all coaches will expect their athletes to fully honor their commitment to their Providence teammates and coaches.

Collegiate Eligibility

Student-athletes may have a desire to compete in intercollegiate athletics at the NCAA, NAIA or junior college level. Each body owns academic standards to play at their level. Athletes that hope to compete at the next level are encouraged to speak to the Athletic Director regarding their academic standing and how to best proceed forward.

Uniforms and Equipment

Student-athletes are expected to return all school-issued uniforms and equipment as issued, minus normal wear and tear. Families should be expected to be billed for lost or exceedingly damaged items.

Athletic Communication Policy

The athletic department makes every effort to communicate with the Providence community. Below are the various methods families should expect to receive communication from the athletic office.

Families of student-athletes should expect the following communication from coaches:

- Immediate text or email regarding any practice changes, this communication will be sent immediately after a change is made by a member of the coaching staff
- Notice of any game changes will be sent with at least 24 hours' notice; this does not apply to any game changes made due to inclement weather
- Coaches will respond to any email within 24 hours

2022-2023 Sports and Fees

Season	Sport	Age	Fee
Fall	Volleyball	MS/JV/V	\$400/\$400/\$475
Fall	Cross Country	Elem/MS/V	\$400/\$400/\$475
Fall	6 Man Football	MS/V	\$400/\$475
Fall	Cheer	MS/V	Paid to vendors.
Winter	Boys' Basketball	MS/V	\$400/\$475
Winter	Girls' Basketball	MS/V	\$400/\$475
Winter	Swim	V	\$475
Spring	Track	MS/V	\$400/\$475

*Athletic Fees are charged via FACTS per sport and can be paid in full or monthly.

*All athletic fees are non-refundable.

*Up to the season start date, an athlete may withdraw from the team for any reason.

*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.

Athletic Fees cover:

- Use of a game uniform
- Most equipment required for each sport
- League scheduled tournament fees
- Registration
- Rental fees



PROVIDENCE ACADEMY PARENT/PLAYER CONTRACT

As a student-athlete, I, _____, understand the following obligations to my team(s) include:

1. I will conduct myself in a Christ-like manner towards my teammates, coaches, opponents and officials and understand that how I display myself is a reflection of me, my team, and Providence Academy.
2. I will attend all scheduled practices, meets, matches, games, fundraisers and banquets and will be on time. If I will be late to practice I will contact the coach DIRECTLY via the coach's preferred method.
3. I understand that church, academic and health issues are typically what would constitute excused absences. I will inform my coach ASAP of known game absences to that he/she can make necessary adjustments and prepare my teammates as soon as possible.
4. I will be respectful and supportive of my teammates at all times. Failure to do so will likely result in a consequence at the discretion of the coach.
5. I will be coachable. I will accept feedback because I know it will help me become the best player I can be.
6. I understand that playing time will not be equal and is earned via my practice habits, attitude, performance, practice attendance and any other criteria set by the coach. If I have questions about playing time I understand it is my responsibility to have a discussion with the coach about how I can earn more.
7. I will only post positive comments that support my school, team and teammates on social media.
8. I understand that inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
9. I will respect officials and understand that questions to officials will come from the coaching staff only.

STUDENT ATHLETE: _____ DATE: _____

As a parent, I understand that my role as a parent is to encourage and support my child in their athletic journey, regardless of their role on the team.

1. I understand that the purpose of the athletics program at Providence Academy is aligned with the school's vision of partnering with parents to raise up the next generation of Christ-centered leaders. The discipleship of our students through the athletic program is of primary importance.
2. I will model good sportsmanship by the way I treat all athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and other fans.
3. I agree to adhere to the "24 Hour Rule" in respect to communicating with my child's coaches as outlined in the Athletic Handbook.
4. I understand that playing time discussions should be had between my child and their coach.
5. I agree to attempt to resolve any issues/conflicts (not related to playing time) with the coach of my child's team directly. If this fails, I will then contact the Athletic Director.
6. I agree to participate in the Athletic Department's parent participation requirement, which is in-place to ensure that my child receives the best athletic experience possible.
7. I understand I cannot approach the coach or team bench area during games as this is against our league's rules and may result in a consequence that negatively impacts my child and his/her team.
8. I understand that all of my child's practices are open and I am welcome at all times to attend practices.
9. I agree to communicate and stay up to date with any changes to schedules via the communication method preferred by the coach.
10. I understand that the Athletic Director has an "open door" policy and welcomes communication from me regarding my child's experience.

PARENT: _____ Date: _____