

Portersville Christian School



"Train yourself in godliness, for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way for the present life and also the life to come."

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Athletic Handbook

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1. Mission Statement/Core Values of PCS

- a. The mission of Portersville Christian School is to glorify God by preparing students to serve Jesus Christ as Lord, partnering with family and church, and instilling high spiritual, academic, social, and physical standards.
- b. The Core Values of Portersville Christian School are:
 - i. Christian Character
 - ii. Passion for God
 - iii. Academic Excellence
 - iv. Service
 - v. Partnership with home and church.

2. Purpose in Athletics

- a. To glorify God in our actions, words, and entire athletic program
- b. To instill in students an understanding that participation in athletics is leadership training, which is a privilege that also carries responsibilities
- c. To develop Christ-like character among our Student Athletes and encourage them to develop their God-given athletic abilities to their maximum potential

3. Foreword/Philosophy

Athletics is an important part of the school's mission to minister to the whole student – body, mind, and spirit. Athletics is not an end in itself, but an application of the Lordship of Christ in every area of life. Just as our academic program is distinguished by a Christian philosophy of education, so our athletic program must be Christ-honoring in all aspects. The Bible frequently uses athletic endeavors as illustrations of the spiritual struggles that Christians encounter. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and should be physically fit. As Christians, we are commanded to strive to do our best at everything we do. The Apostle Paul set the example for us in Philippians 3:14. Striving for excellence, whether in the classroom, or on the playing field, is a worthy and admirable goal for any Christian. Our teams must be both physically and spiritually strong. Each student and each team must be fully committed to developing their full potential to the glory of God, and committed to honoring Christ in all their efforts. As competitors in Christ, our efforts, attitudes, and actions should result in His glory. All involved in PCS athletics—player, coach, and spectator—should understand this distinctive Christian philosophy of athletics and commit him or herself to honor Christ through athletics. This commitment to excellence extends to every facet of our athletic program at Portersville Christian School.

a. Our Coaches

At practice or on the sidelines the coach is the “living curriculum” of our program goals for each Student Athlete. Coaches at Portersville Christian School are the most significant component of the athletic program. They have the responsibility to model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes at all times. They are to be the spiritual leader of the team. In order to be an effective coach and role model, PCS coaches must be thoroughly knowledgeable in their sport, able to effectively motivate athletes, and work successfully under the authority of the athletic director and school administration. Coaches have great responsibilities, but also good opportunities to mold young lives for Christ.

b. Our Parents

Parents of Student Athletes have a responsibility to both their child and to the team. Without strong parental support, the Student Athlete will not be able to achieve his/her greatest potential and the team may suffer. It is important that parents provide positive reinforcement and understand their role as being part of the team. Parents, as well as players, should be supportive and encourage coaches and teammates. It is important that parents honor the Lord when attending athletic events. In order for PCS's athletic program to be successful, coaches, Student Athletes, and parents must make a firm commitment to glorify God at all times.

c. Our Student Athletes

PCS Athletes should be diligent in preparation, give 100% at all times, demonstrate personal discipline, be respectful in all situations, maintain self-control, and show humility in winning and losing. Athletes are expected to demonstrate a consistent level of respect for all faculty, staff, administration, visiting adults, referees, and other students. PCS Athletes will support all PCS school rules and Handbook guidelines.

4. Commitment

a. Commitment to Discipleship

All PCS team activities will involve prayer and/or devotions.

b. Commitment to Outreach

Teams at Portersville Christian School may be involved in different outreach programs throughout the year. Students are expected to be a part of these opportunities to exhibit Christ's love for others.

c. Commitment to Academics

Excellence in academics is important for all Student Athletes. In the phrase, "Student Athlete," student comes first. We hold high standards for our students at PCS, and this is evidenced by a strong Academic Policy that is supported by the athletic program. The Athletic Administration and coaches will work with our Student Athletes to encourage, to motivate, and to work with teachers to help our students do their best in the classroom.

d. Commitment to Excellence

i. Parents should:

1. Exhibit the love of Christ in attitude and actions toward athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.
2. Commit to providing positive support, care, and encouragement to all Student Athletes, coaches, and the school.
3. Commit to providing positive support and encouragement to visiting teams, their players, their coaches, and their schools.
4. Maintain Christ-like behavior and attitudes at all athletic contests.
5. Refrain from the use of foul language and negative criticism toward any Student Athlete, coach, parent, official, or school administrator.
6. Refrain from interfering during practices or games.
7. Respect the decisions made by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Administrator, even when the consequences are undesirable, and when you disagree.
8. Commit to serve the PCS Athletic Program by assisting with admissions, game clock at home games, concession stand, fundraisers, or in other areas of need.
9. Pledge to uphold the Biblical model (Mathew 18: 15-17) for resolving conflicts as noted in the PCS Athletic Handbook under Communication.
10. Understand that failure to follow the "Parent's Commitment to Excellence" may result in removal from an athletic event and/or suspension from future athletic events.

ii. Athletes should:

1. Exhibit the love of Christ in attitude and actions toward athletes, coaches, officials and spectators.
2. Be a positive factor in the classroom – behaviorally and academically (be on time, be courteous, be respectful of teachers and classmates, and be a leader in the classroom).
3. Strive to develop their full potential in academics, in athletics, socially, and in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
4. Commit to winning with class and losing with grace.
5. Understand that making a commitment to an athletic team will be a sacrifice, and it will require diligence and responsibility.
6. Experience and exhibit sportsmanship through fellowship, competition, teamwork, and fair play.
7. Participate in team outreach programs, devotions, and prayer.

iii. Coaches should:

1. Exhibit the love of Christ in attitude and actions toward athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.
2. Model Christ-like behaviors and attitudes at all times.
3. Be a testimony to the players, parents, coaches, opponents, referees, and administrators.
4. Provide a positive environment for players in the locker rooms and on/off the playing field/court.
5. Teach excellence in your sport's strategy, tactics, and skills—with sportsmanship above all.
6. Support and cultivate players academically, physically, mentally, and spiritually.
7. Emphasize the importance of academics and Christian character above athletics.
8. Effectively communicate to parents and players the coach's expectations, team rules, and practice/game times.

5. Eligibility for Participation

Portersville Christian School athletes should be diligent in preparation, and demonstrate personal discipline on the court or field, in the classroom, and in all aspects of academics. To foster the highest academic standard among our Student Athletes, the following policies will be enforced:

- a. Academic Policy – Throughout the school year, grades will be checked every two weeks. The standard to remain active in a sport is a current grade average of at least 70 [in core courses] with no failing grades [including ALL courses]. Anyone not meeting the standard will be placed on two-week Academic Ineligibility [AI]. Students on two-week AI are not eligible for any games during the period beginning with the Sunday after the grades are checked and ending after the second Saturday. [Thanksgiving Break and Christmas Break will not be counted as part of the two weeks of ineligibility.] While ineligible for games, the student may still attend practices and home games—although not in uniform. Academically ineligible students may not travel with the team to any away games or tournaments. At the end of the two weeks, if the student has raised his/her grades to satisfy all academic requirements, the student is eligible to rejoin the team. If a student athlete is determined to be ineligible twice during the same season, that student will be removed from the team.
 - i. When it is determined that a player is on two-week AI, the Athletic Director will be notified and will communicate this to the coach.
 - ii. Students and their parents will be notified by the office.
- b. Detention Policy – In an effort to build leaders with strong character within our athletic program, we encourage Student Athletes to uphold the highest standards of behavior. Students and coaches are expected to respect the discipline process. 1) A student notified of serving detention must serve on the date indicated on the notice—even if this conflicts with a game time. 2) Coaches are strongly encouraged to take some additional disciplinary measures, such as extra running in practice, sitting out a quarter, a half, or a game. Such discipline will be determined by the Coach, in consultation with the Athletic Director. In this way discipline will be tailored to fit the circumstance, the team, and the individual. 3) In circumstances of repeated detentions, the AD and Head Administrator have the authority to suspend or dismiss the Student Athlete from the team.
- c. Attendance Policy – To participate in a game or practice, a student must be in attendance the day of the game/practice. The Student Athlete should be in class by the 8:21 AM homeroom bell. Students arriving late must check in, with an approved excuse, before 11:00 AM in order to be eligible to play that day. Tardiness will be excused when a note from a parent or doctor's office affirms that there was a *legitimate, excusable reason* for the tardiness. See the Parent/Student handbook for more information on excused/unexcused tardiness. In addition, a student must be in class by the 8:21 AM homeroom bell on the mornings *after* a game to be eligible to participate in the next game. If a student is ill the day or days after a game and returns to school the day of the next game, the student may participate in that event provided an excuse from the parents indicates that the student was absent due to illness.
- d. Discipline Policy – Any PCS athlete who uses questionable language including swearing, vulgarity, or showing disrespect to an official, coach, fan, or another player will be subject to disciplinary action. Any PCS athlete who loses self-control which results in aggressive behavior such as striking [or otherwise showing disrespect for] an official, player, coach, or a fan will be subject to disciplinary action. Violation of this policy at any athletic event may result in suspension or dismissal from the team as determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Administration.

In all situations, the PCS Administration makes the final decisions.

Parents and athletes, please respect these decisions.

6. Communication Guidelines

- a. As students become involved in the PCS athletic program, they will experience some of the most memorable and rewarding moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the student or the parent wishes or envisions. When concerns or potential problems arise, we ask that you resolve the conflict using a Biblical model (Mat. 18:15-17).
 - i. *Student Athlete meets with the coach* – The first step in avoiding potential conflict is for a student athlete to meet with the coach to discuss any concern and resolve the issue. Many times concerns which lead to conflict are the result of miscommunication or misperceptions. These can often be handled through open discussions.
 - ii. *Parent(s) meet with the coach* – If the Student Athlete/coach meeting has not resolved the issue, or the matter needs adult/parent attention, the parent(s) should contact the coach to set up a time to meet. Please do not approach a coach with a concern immediately before or after a game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach, and do not promote resolution.
 - iii. *Athletic Director* – If the previous meetings between the athlete, coach, and parent(s) do not resolve the issue, contact the Athletic Director and the next step can be determined from there.
 - iv. *Administrator* – Approaching the administrator without making an effort to complete the above steps is NOT the Biblical model that we strive to teach our Student Athletes. Please follow the appropriate steps so that we may honor God in all that we do – conflicts included.

7. Student Athlete Conduct

- a. All players are expected to follow all school policies outlined in the PCS Student Handbook.
- b. Public displays of affection between boys and girls are not permitted on the bus or at any athletic event.
- c. Bus Rules –
 - i. Stay seated with your feet on the floor while the bus is in motion.
 - ii. Keep all body parts and objects inside the bus.
 - iii. Keep your hands to yourself.
 - iv. No shouting, screaming, or other loud noises.
 - v. Keep yourself and your belongings out of the center aisle.
 - vi. Do not throw objects on the bus.
 - vii. Soft drinks are permitted in closeable plastic bottles only.
 - viii. In the case where boys and girls teams are riding together: the boys and girls will be separated.
 - ix. Cell phones and other electronic devices are permitted according to the coach's discretion and PCS policy.

8. Registration

In order to participate in a sport at PCS, athletes must complete the registration on the officially designated team app **by the published deadline**. No athlete is permitted to participate in practice or games until registration is completed and Activity Fees have been paid. All sports participants, including Elementary, Middle School, and High School; Club, Junior Varsity, and Varsity, are included in this policy.

9. Activity Fees & Fundraising

A student is required to pay an Activity Fee prior to participating in practice or games. Information on the Activity Fee can be found on the school website. All students are required to participate in the designated fundraiser in their sports season. However, since the Athletic Committee funds all PCS sports, it is important to encourage everyone to participate in the all-school athletic fundraiser in the fall.

10. Participation by Non-PCS Students

- a. For all elementary sports: Home School/Cyber School students may be given consideration to participate in the PCS athletic program provided that participation would not exceed the maximum number of team members determined to be acceptable for that sport. This decision is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- b. For Middle School sports:
 - i. Middle school teams NOT playing in SWCAC will follow the same rules as elementary teams.
 - ii. Middle school teams playing in SWCAC will follow the same rules as High School teams.
- c. For all High School sports: Home School/Cyber School students may be given consideration to participate in the PCS athletic program provided that:
 - i. They are enrolled in at least one PCS academic class for the entire school year. Specials will not be accepted.
 - ii. They must keep a C average in all PCS courses to be academically eligible. [This is in addition to the regular academic eligibility requirements.]
 - iii. Their participation would not exceed the maximum number of team members determined to be acceptable for that sport. This decision is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- d. Any non-PCS athlete permitted to participate must also meet the following requirements:
 - i. Must have gone through the admissions interview process to ensure Christian testimony.
 - ii. If a former student, must be in good standing with the school [including financial, spiritual, and disciplinary issues.]
 - iii. Must meet the academic eligibility requirements. Parents must agree to provide official, current grade reports to the administrative assistant at every regular academic eligibility check. Lack of grade report will constitute academic ineligibility.
 - iv. Must pay the Athletic Fee and complete registration.
 - v. Fundraising: Parents have the same obligation to support the concession stand, and students have the same obligation to participate in fundraisers, as for full-time PCS students.
- e. Final approval of all non-PCS student participation will be made by the Athletic Director and Head Administrator.

11. Make-Up Work for Missed Classes

When a student misses a class due to games, it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work. They must check with the teacher(s) BEFORE the day of the missed class to make arrangements. Any projects, tests, or quizzes due for that day must be made up before leaving unless alternate arrangements have been approved by the teacher. Failure to complete make-up work may result in a zero. The Athletic Administration will support decisions made by teachers.

12. Attendance at Practice and Games

Each member of a Portersville Christian School Athletic team must assume the responsibilities along with the privilege of this position. The Student Athlete has an obligation to the team and the school. This includes regular attendance at practices, and athletic contests. If a conflict arises and the athlete may have to miss a practice, it is the player's responsibility to communicate this with the coach immediately, knowing that consequences may follow. Excused absences are determined at the discretion of your coach. Repeated unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

13. Injuries

All injuries should be treated with caution and handled with care. All injuries must be reported to your coach so that proper aid may be given.

14. Schedules

The scheduling of all athletic events and practices is determined by the Athletic Director in cooperation with each coach. The coach will issue a game schedule to the Student Athletes and parents as soon as possible. Due to the number of athletic teams we have and limited gym space, practices may be at locations off campus. Practice schedules are not written in stone, and are often changed throughout a season. Parents and athletes can expect from their coach information on practice times, game changes, and practice location. Each team's game/practice schedule will be posted and updated on the official team app. The master game/practice schedule can also be found on the school website at www.ourpcs.org via the athletic link. All game changes are listed on the master schedule. ***Please check both the app and the website regularly for changes made to schedules.***

15. Practice Policy

- a. Snow Day – In the event of a school cancellation (weather), the Athletic Director and Administrator may approve an optional practice. With parent permission, players are encouraged to go, but it is NOT required.
- b. Vacation Day – There are times during an athletic season when school is out of session. With the interest of the team in mind a coach may schedule practice at the beginning or end of a vacation. These practices are approved by the Athletic Director and Administrator. They are optional practices. Players are encouraged to go, but it is NOT required.
- c. Wednesday Night – When there are practices after school on Wednesdays, all participants must leave the gym no later than 5:30.

16. Transportation

- a. PCS provides busing for away games for the Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity levels. All students must obey the bus conduct rules found in section 7.c.
- b. Throughout a season, there may be a time where no bus is available to transport the athletes to an away game. Parents, please consider helping with carpooling to an away game if needed. If it becomes necessary for students to drive, no other student may ride with a student driver without express consent from a parent.
- c. Please pick up your child on time after games and practices.

17. Varsity Letters/Season Awards

Athletic awards can be earned in all sports; however, certain criteria must be met. Awards are presented at the discretion of the Coach, the Athletic Director, and Head Administrator.

- a. Letters – Letters are earned on the basis of varsity participation. A letter may be awarded when the Student Athlete meets minimum participation requirements AND has demonstrated the qualities that are deemed desirable for athletic participants.
- b. Minimum Participation Requirements:
 - i. Soccer – *Underclassman* – Must have competed in one-half of the total number of halves played during the regular season. *Seniors* – Must have competed in one-fourth of the total number of halves during the regular season.
 - ii. Volleyball – *Underclassman* – Must have competed in one-half of the total number of games played during the regular season. *Seniors* – Must have competed in one-fourth of the total number of games during the regular season.
 - iii. Basketball – *Underclassman* – Must have competed in one-half of the total number of quarters played during the regular season. *Seniors* – Must have competed in one-fourth of the total number of quarters during the regular season.
 - iv. Archery – *Underclassman and Seniors* – Lettering is available to students on the High School team. Archery lettering is based on a points system. Points will be earned in the categories of practice attendance, behavior/attitude, practice log, and competition score. The exact requirements and points available will be presented to the participants by the coach at the beginning of the archery season. The lettering requirement must be signed by the student and parent, along with the rest of the required forms. These requirements may be revised from year to year by the Athletic Committee.

c. Awards

- i. Varsity Awards – The following, or similar, awards will be determined by a secret ballot vote by the players: Most Valuable Player, Hustle Award, Defensive Award. Coaches will determine the following awards: The Coach's Award, Most Improved. If a sport offers a Junior Varsity program, similar awards will be presented. The list of awards must be approved by the AD.
- ii. Archery Awards – High School archers will be eligible for the following awards: Highest Average Score, High Score, Most Improved, and the Cole Wilson Award. The list of awards must be approved by the AD.
- iii. The Warrior – This award is the highest seasonal, individual award that the Athletic Department bestows upon its athletes. This award is given to the Student Athlete who best exemplifies Christian Character, Academic Excellence, and Leadership. This Student Athlete will have exemplified the fruits of the spirit, displayed a Christ-like attitude, and demonstrated a godly, Christian walk; visible to teammates, teachers, coaches, and administration. The student must excel in all three areas, and is determined by the Administrator, Athletic Director, and Athletic Committee President. This award may not be presented each season.

d. Senior Night

The Athletic Committee will designate a "Senior Night" for each season. All senior athletes who participated during their senior year will be recognized. Senior Athletes that participate in both a fall sport and a winter sport will be recognized during both senior night celebrations, but will receive their award during the winter celebration.

e. Consequences of not Finishing the Entire Season

- i. If the student is suspended from the team for academic or disciplinary action he/she will forfeit all recognition for that season. (letter, award, etc.)
- ii. If the student quits the team he/she will forfeit all recognition. If the student quits for extenuating circumstances, the Athletic Committee will review the individual situation.
- iii. Injuries suffered during participation in a school sport shall not necessarily exclude him/her from receiving an award. Cases involving injury or other unusual circumstances shall be decided by the Coach and the Athletic Committee.

18. Dress Attire for Games and Practices

- a. Practice – Practice clothes must be in accordance to the School Policy for PE. Coaches may have specific requests.
- b. Games – On days of away games, all players (Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity) are required to dress up for school. Girls are required to wear dress pants or skirt with a dress shirt, or a dress. High School Boys are required to wear dress pants, dress shirts, and ties. Middle School Boys are required to wear dress pants and a shirt with a collar. No jeans are allowed. Coaches will determine the dress code for home games—which could be to dress up as for away games, or to all wear team warm-ups, etc. Whatever dress code is established, it must meet the following requirements: all members of the team must be dressed the same, and sweats or athletic pants may only be worn if everyone's are sufficiently similar to look uniform. School-owned team uniforms are never allowed to be worn at school—or at any other time except for a game.

19. Uniforms

Student Athletes will be issued a uniform before the first contest. It is your responsibility. Keep it clean and in good shape. Uniforms must be washed regularly in cold water, and line dried. Lost or damaged uniforms must be paid for in full. If you do not turn in your uniform in a timely manner, you will be responsible to replace it. You will not receive report cards, diplomas, or awards until it is taken care of. Treat athletic and PE equipment with care. If your coach gives you a responsibility for team equipment, see that your job is carried out completely. Any loss or damage of school equipment due to neglect or carelessness by the student will be repaid by the student in full.

20. Music Policy

- a. Only Christian music should be played, out loud, during any PCS practice, game, match, or tournament.
- b. All music played during a game, warm-up, or half-time, must be approved by the high school principal.

21. Directions to Away Games

Directions to away games can be found on the school calendar and the team app. Coaches or bus drivers will inform the students of the team's estimated return time. Students will be asked to call or text parents to let them know when to arrive for pick up. Parents, please arrive promptly at the school to pick up your child.

22. Athletic Committee

The Athletic Committee meets once a month to discuss all aspects of the Athletic Program at PCS including coaches, players, equipment, policy, finances, and much more. All families involved in PCS Athletics are encouraged to come and be active participants in the ongoing growth of our program. Times and locations for meetings can be found in the Tuesday Transfer and on the school website.