



PATRIOT

— ATHLETICS —

Athletic Handbook

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<https://patriotprep.com/athletics>

I. Introduction and Philosophy

Athletics as a Pillar of Education

Patriot Preparatory Academy (PPA) acknowledges the importance of student activity programs as integral to a well-rounded education. These programs either extend academic curricula or provide growth opportunities in areas not covered in the classroom.

Our Mission

The mission of Patriot Prep is to help every student thrive, leading them to become the best version of themselves in and beyond the classroom. This is accomplished by holding to these five values:

1. **Joy in Learning** - We believe that lifelong learning is the path to happiness and continual growth. Our school exists to plant those educational seeds that will continue to thrive into adulthood.
 2. **Great Expectations** - Our students succeed best when they are respectfully challenged to achieve their potential. That means we hold them accountable both for academic achievement and personal conduct.
 3. **Celebrate Each Other** - Patriot Prep is a community of caring teachers, staff, administrators, and students who lift each other up and who equally value our similarities and uniqueness.
 4. **Be Engaged** - We always strive to arrive at school ready to give our attention and be present, especially on the days when it may feel challenging to do so.
 5. **Lead by Example** - Our school's culture starts at the top with administrators who lead with kindness and wisdom, but it is nurtured by everyone in the Patriot Prep community. We all have a role in fostering a healthy, safe, and encouraging environment.
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II. Academic Eligibility

Academic Requirements

To participate in athletics, students must meet eligibility standards set by both the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and PPA:

- Middle School: Must pass at least four classes during the previous grading period.
- High School: Must be enrolled in and passing five one-credit courses during the semester.

Ineligibility and Academic Probation

- Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher.
 - Failing more than one class results in immediate ineligibility.
 - If a student fails one class but meets the GPA requirement, they *may* be placed on academic probation, receiving mandatory tutoring until improvement is shown.
 - Only one academic probation period is allowed per year.
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III. Practice and Game Day Policies

Practice Attendance

Athletes must attend all scheduled practices, video sessions, and team outings. Students who are absent from school may not attend practices or games that day unless approved prior by the athletic director. Timeliness is critical—athletes should be ready 10 minutes before the scheduled start.

Game Day Expectations

Attire

All athletes must wear the designated team attire. Varsity players are required to dress in accordance with team/athletic guidelines, which may include approved warm-up gear when traveling.

Travel Policy

Only approved team members (athletes, coaches, managers, etc.) may ride the team bus. A release form is required 24 hours in advance if a student is not returning with the team. All communication for traveling will be made by the coach through TeamSnap.

Home Games

Athletes must report to the athletic event at the time communicated by the coach, remain with the team, and avoid distractions such as phone use or visiting with non-team members.

Away Games

Athletes will travel with the team on the bus. They must stay with their team and avoid unsanctioned wandering.

Conduct

PPA follows OHSAA standards regarding technical fouls and ejections. Professional conduct is expected from players, coaches, and spectators at all times. Disciplinary action will be enforced if athletes or fans are removed from a contest.

IV. Health and Safety

Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Testing

Random testing is permitted at any time. Failure or refusal results in immediate dismissal from the team and may lead to school disciplinary action.

Insurance

All athletes must have active health insurance. PPA does not provide insurance coverage.

Physical Examination

Athletes in grades 6–12 must submit a current physical examination form signed by a physician, student, and guardian. Exams are valid for 13 months.

Emergency Medical Form

Required for treatment in the event of an injury. This includes acknowledgment of insurance coverage and disclosure of health conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes).

Injury Reporting

All injuries must be reported promptly to a coach and/or the athletic director. A doctor's note is required for reentry into activity following medical treatment.

V. Participation Requirements

Mandatory Meetings

- Student-Athletes: Must attend an OHSAA informational meeting each school year.
- Parents/Guardians: Must attend sport-specific meetings arranged by the Athletic Department before participation is permitted.

Athletic Fees

Fees must be paid through Final Forms prior to participation:

High School Fees	Middle School Fees
1st Sport - \$125	1st Sport - \$100
2nd Sport - \$112.50	2nd Sport - \$90
3rd Sport - \$100	3rd Sport - \$80

Fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full unless alternative arrangements are approved.

Final Forms Registration

Athletes must be registered in Final Forms to participate in open gyms, practices, or games. All forms must be signed and physicals submitted. No student will be allowed to participate if they do not have an updated physical form on Final Forms.

TeamSnap

Athletes and/or families should download TeamSnap to receive communication updates from coaches.

VI. Team Selection and Equipment

Tryouts

Tryout expectations include skills assessment, fitness, and attitude. Coaches are responsible for team selection. Athletes not selected may be offered roles such as team manager.

Uniforms and Equipment

Athletes are responsible for all issued uniforms and gear. Items must be returned in good condition. Failure to return equipment will result in a billing hold on report cards and transcripts.

VII. Anti-Hazing and Conduct Standards

Anti-Hazing Policy

All forms of hazing are strictly prohibited, both on and off campus. Violations may lead to disciplinary and legal consequences. Student-athletes and parents will be held accountable to the Parent/Student Handbook in conjunction with the Athletic Handbook regarding all disciplinary actions and policies.

Sportsmanship

PPA promotes respectful conduct. Spectators, coaches, and athletes should act in a manner that represents the Patriot Prep community positively. This includes before the game, after the game, while traveling to and from contests, etc. Profanity, taunting, and unsportsmanlike behavior are not tolerated. Fans or athletes violating this policy may be banned from events.

VIII. Coach and Parent Communication

Role of Coaches

Coaches determine playing time, strategies, and team rules. These decisions are not open to challenge.

Resolving Conflicts

1. Address concerns with the coach directly.
2. If unresolved, contact the Athletic Director.

Appropriate Communication Topics

- Athlete treatment
- Strategies for improvement
- Behavioral concerns
- College preparation

Inappropriate Topics

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other players

Parents and guardians should not approach a coach directly after a contest, but instead should email them and schedule a time to meet.

IX. Special Policies

Calamity Days

If school is canceled for weather, athletics may proceed after approval by the athletic director and school administration. Final decisions will be made by 2:00 PM.

Off-Season & Club Participation

Participation in non-school athletic events during a school sport season may result in ineligibility. Off-season rules and contact limits apply per OHSAA regulations.

X. College Athlete Preparation

NCAA/NAIA Eligibility

Students interested in playing college athletics should begin registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center or NAIA at the end of junior year:

- **NCAA:** web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter
- **NAIA:** www.naia.org

Speak with the school counselor for guidance.
