

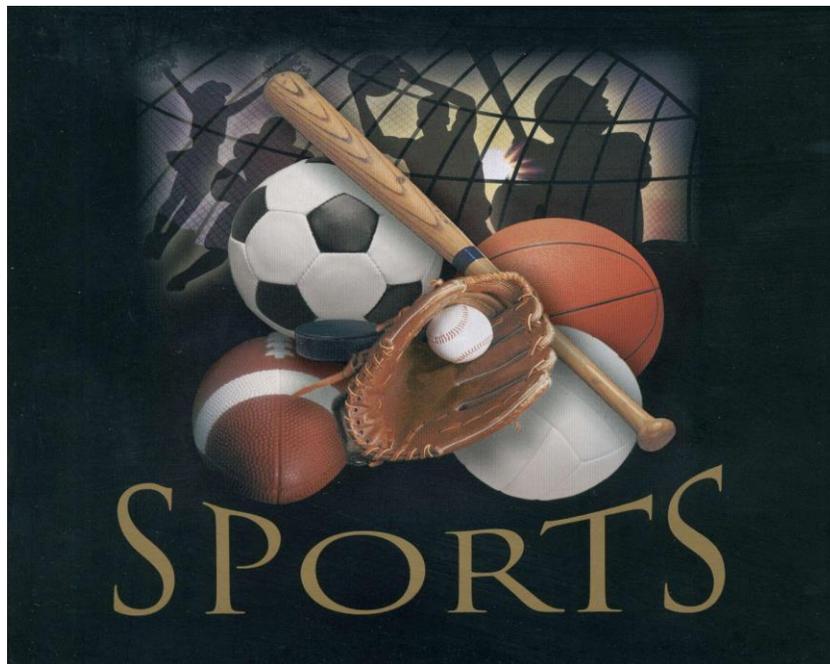
# PATRIOT



PREPARATORY ACADEMY

## Athletic Handbook

**Middle School & High School Students, Coaches, & Parents**



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Athletic Director—Curt Caffey

For updates and cancellations: [www.patriotprep.com/athletics.aspx](http://www.patriotprep.com/athletics.aspx)

Mascot: Eagles  
Colors: Maroon and Gold  
League: United League  
OHSAA Central District Division 4

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The Patriot Preparatory Academy (PPA) Board of Education supports the role of student activity programs as part of a well-rounded educational program. Such activities should either be an extension of the school curriculum or complement the education of students in ways not provided by the curriculum. The goal of Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics is to promote extra-curricular activities as an important part of a student's educational experience. A good academic background is very important for later success, but research has also shown a strong correlation between a high school student's participation in school activities and later career success. The responsibility of Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics is to educate our athletes with the ability to reason, make decisions, and function effectively in a pluralistic and changing society. Also, it is the goal of Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics to provide a broad range of opportunities for students to explore and develop their talents and interests. PPA athletes must always strive to be positive examples in both EFFORT and in ATTITUDE. Our athletes are always to be committed to their teams, act with integrity, and compete with sportsmanship, character, and pride.

Patriot Preparatory athletes are expected to model the following characteristics:

*CHARACTER:* Through participation in athletics, PPA student athletes learn lessons on sportsmanship, teamwork, goal setting, competition, overcoming adversity, and in winning and losing with proper decorum. PPA recognizes that the purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the athlete. Participation in PPA athletics programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student athletes must abide by team rules and they must conduct themselves on and off the field as a positive role model who exemplifies outstanding character.

*DEDICATION:* While it may be challenging at times, those who participate in team competitions have a responsibility to manage their time and commit fully to their teams and obligations. This includes attending all practices, team meetings, occasional film study sessions and team outings, practices, and games during the playing season. This dedication transcends into the off season, where the student athlete is to make it a priority to attend as many open gym/field and training sessions as possible without compromising school, family time, or work. We want our student athletes to be successful, and success often takes sacrifice and hard work. The principle behind the policy is to assure that our athletes stay committed to their team, coaches, school, and themselves so that they may reach their full potential.

*INTEGRITY:* Each student is required to have the utmost integrity on and off the playing surface. This includes truthfulness in all aspects such as grades and reasons for missing games and practices. Integrity also includes: not promoting slander, stopping any rumors, being accountable, and acting with integrity on and off the playing surface.

*PRIDE:* PPA recognizes that in order to be successful on the playing field and in the classroom, students need to have an appropriate amount of pride. Athletic competition provides a venue through which our community comes together in support of each individual athlete and team. Our athletic program commits to excellence and takes pride in its growth, participation, and success. Student athletes and parents should refrain from relaying any negative perception of the school, team, and athletic program to others. The Athletic Department welcomes questions, concerns, and suggestions when done appropriately.

*RESPECT:* As representatives of PPA, student athletes and parents are required to be respectful to others in the playing field and in the classroom. This includes a respectful attitude towards the student athlete's teammates, competitors, fans, game officials, and coaches.

*PATRIOTISM:* As representatives of PPA, student athletes, parents, and staff will stand and honor our troops by standing for the National Anthem. PPA events are not the time or place to promote individual beliefs. As a team we will honor our country.

### **ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS**

To be eligible to participate in PPA athletics, a student must meet both the standards set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the standards of Patriot Preparatory Academy. Athletes must maintain an acceptable academic and attendance record during the season. The OHSAA middle school eligibility requires that student athletes must have passing grades in 5 courses in the previous grading period (quarter) to be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. Students in high school must also be currently enrolled in 5 one credit courses, or the equivalence, during the semester in which they are competing.

*INELIGIBILITY:* The standard for PPA student athletes is a 2.0 or higher GPA with a maximum of one failed course determined at every interim and at the end of every quarter. If a student athlete does not meet the minimum requirements at interim, they will be on academic probation until the next interim is successfully completed. During academic probation the student athlete must receive tutoring in every class that he/she has a “D” or lower grade in. The Athletic Director will check regularly to see if progress is being made. If significant progress is not being made, as determined by the Athletic Director and teacher, the student may become athletic ineligible at any time. Academic probation allows the student athlete a second chance at getting to a 2.0 before they become ineligible. Only one interim period per year can be used as an academic probation period. If at any interim or at the end of any quarter, a student has more than one failed course, he/she is automatically ineligible with no option for academic or athletic probation.

### **PRACTICE TIME**

Members of the PPA interscholastic athletic teams are to be present and participate in all practices, video sessions, and team outings. If a student athlete is not in attendance at school, he/she is prohibited from practicing or playing with their team that day. PPA student athletes are to be on time and ready to go at the start of practice. This means that each student athlete is dressed, stretched, and ready to be a full participant. Be 10 minutes early - discipline for not being on time is ultimately up to the coach and/or the Athletic Director.

### **GAME DAY**

*ATTIRE:* No non-uniform game day attire is permitted without prior approval from the school principal, head coach, or the Athletic Director. The team/school sweat suit is required for all Varsity players that will be traveling. This is recommended for all other teams that will be traveling and representing the school.

*COACH ATTIRE:* The coaches are not permitted to wear jeans at any time. The head coach will let their staff know what the dress code will be for the games.

*BUSING AND TEAM TRAVEL:* Only athletes, coaches, and approved people (team managers, scorekeepers, etc.) may ride the team bus. The bus will return to PPA at the conclusion of all games. Student athletes are required to ride the team bus from and back to Patriot, unless the Athletic Director receives a liability release form 24-hours prior to the athletic contest.

*PRE-GAME HOME EXPECTATIONS:* PPA student athletes should always model outstanding behavior, especially on game day. Distracting or disrupting behavior will not be tolerated. PPA student athletes are to be prepared and ready to go ONE HOUR before each home event. This means, they are to be free of distractions; no cell phone use or contact with non-team members unless there is an emergency that the coach is notified about. They are to be with their team in their designated area ONE HOUR prior to the game. This time is very important for team bonding, strategizing, and preparing mentally for the game. The PPA athletic department cannot stress the importance of this rule enough.

*PRE-GAME AWAY EXPECTATIONS:* During away games student athletes should not be roaming the halls of the school. Student athletes are always to remain with their team and coaches, unless otherwise designated. There should be no outside distractions for the team. Players should be at the location of the away game ONE HOUR before the designated start of the game. Players should take only 15 minutes to dress and should be prepared to start their pre-game warm up routines. Again, this time is extremely important for the team.

*TECHNICAL FOULS/EJECTIONS:* PPA will follow the same OHSAA guidelines when it comes to technical fouls and ejections for players, coaches, and fans. We hold ourselves to a high moral standard, but we also understand how the game can get emotional. We are always to remain professional. Technical fouls warrant a player to be subbed out the game with their return decided by the coaching staff. If a member of the coaching staff receives a technical, they are required to be seated for the remainder of the game. If anyone is ejected from a game, they will have to sit out the next 2 following games. For a coach, in addition to the 2-game suspension, they will also adhere to a \$100 fine paid to OHSAA and attend a course in “Teaching and Modeling” behavior before they are cleared to resume coaching.

### **RANDOM DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TESTING**

In order to maintain a clean, positive public image, all students, teams, and individual players are subjected to random testing without any notice, at any time. A failure or refusal to submit to a drug test will result in immediate dismissal from the sports team and discipline from the school up to expulsion in accordance with the PPA Parent/Student Handbook.

### **MANDATORY MEETINGS**

*STUDENT-ATHLETE MEETING:* Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics require that all students attend a mandatory OHSAA informational meeting at least once during the school year. These meetings are held three times per year at the beginning of each season. No athlete may participate in a game or a contest in any sport until he/she has attended one of these meetings.

*PARENT MEETING – “MEET THE TEAM”:* In addition, all parents are required to attend a mandatory OHSAA meeting for each individual sport that a child may be participating in. These meetings are set and arranged by the Athletic Director and head coaches of each teams. Attendance at these team meetings is required throughout your child’s athletic career for every sport they participate in. No athlete may participate in a game or a contest in any sport until a parent has attended this meeting as well.

### **INSURANCE**

The Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics requires that all athletes be covered by insurance. Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics does not provide any insurance.

### **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)**

Patriot Preparatory Academy athletics has adopted a participation fee for athletes. Each athlete participating on a team in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> must pay this fee by the set due date in order to participate. The approved fee structure calls for a fee of \$150.00 to be paid for the first sport of the school year in which an athlete participates. All subsequent sports in which the athlete participates during the school year will require a reduced fee, see the last page of the handbook for complete details. Athletes will not be permitted to participate in contests until their participation fee is paid in full or arrangements are made with the athletic director. The fee should be turned in to the athletic office. Checks (\$14.00 return fee) and/or Money Orders must be made payable to “**Patriot Preparatory Academy-Athletics**”. Please note on the memo line of the check the athlete’s first and last name along with the sport which the payment is for.

### **PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM**

Those students participating in athletic activities under Patriot Preparatory Academy Athletics are required to undergo physical examinations pursuant to the regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). The OHSAA requires students participating in athletic activities in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> to have the athletic participation form properly signed by a physician, by the participant, and by a parent or guardian. This form must be on file with the athletic director before any candidate for a team may participate in a tryout, practice, or official game. The physical examination is the responsibility of the student athlete and their parent/guardian. The form can be found at ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), school athletic website, or athletic director’s office. Each exam is good for one calendar year from the time it is completed.

### **OHSAA FORMS**

Both the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility Authorization Statement are required from each student as part of athletic participation eligibility. The forms are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM**

The Emergency Medical form is required by state law in order to help us with treatment in the event the athlete is injured. This form also contains an acknowledgement of insurance coverage.

### **UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT**

Athletes will be issued uniforms and/or equipment at the beginning of each season. The individual athletes are responsible for the proper care and return of all uniforms and equipment issued to them. Students will be billed for any and all lost or missing items. Report cards and transcripts will be withheld until payment is made.

### **ANTI-HAZING/BULLYING**

It is the policy of the Board that hazing activities of any type is inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times, on and off school property. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created by a student or group of students relating to the status or membership in a club, team, class or other formal or informal group that causes or is reasonably likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, emotional harm, extreme embarrassment or ridicule, personal degradation, or loss of dignity. Permission, consent, or assumption of the risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Administrators, faculty members, coaches, and other employees of the District shall be particularly alert to the possibility of situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. It shall be the responsibility of administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the District to intercede when they see any incident of hazing or harassment. Hazing

or planned hazing shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent or designee upon discovery. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with the law.

### **REPORTING OF INJURIES**

Coaches may not allow athletes to participate who do not have the necessary forms on file with the athletic director/trainer. All injuries to athletes should be reported to the athletic director/trainer as soon as possible, including injuries sustained outside of school sports. If the athletic trainer is not available, notify your coach. Any athlete who sees a doctor for an injury must bring a note from that doctor clearly stating the diagnosis, participation status, limitations, and any instructions for the athletic director/trainer regarding treatment and/or rehabilitation. Athletes with ongoing medical conditions (including but not limited to: asthma, severe allergies, and diabetes) should consult with their physician and their coach to determine the best plan to have their prescribed medications and supplies available at all times during athletic activity. Coaches should not allow athletes with such known conditions to practice or participate in games without a plan in place and prescribed medications/supplies available.

### **AWARD CEREMONY**

All coaches and athletes are expected to participate in the season-ending recognition night sponsored by the athletic department or team parents. In the event that there is no single athletic department recognition night, parents may host individual team banquets. These banquets must be held in the school or other free public facility. If a school facility is to be used, a building use form must be completed and on file before the activity. End of season awards banquet costs are to be kept to a minimum. No private catering is allowed, and coaches are encouraged to have pot-luck dinners where food is desired. Students who have not completed the season due to disciplinary reasons, academic ineligibility, or quitting will NOT receive awards at the end of the season.

### **OFF-SEASON AND CLUB PLAY**

Club or recreational play is prohibited by OHSAA rules during the competitive school season. In addition, rules apply during certain times of the year that restrict how many athletes from the same school team may participate in a club or recreational team at any time of year. Penalties for violations of these OHSAA rules can mean ineligibility for the player or the entire school program.

School coaches are restricted to very specific contact periods during the summer and off-season by the OHSAA. In general, coaches are allowed 10 contact days during the summer off-season with school athletes. This is when most of the camps, clinics, etc. for the various sports take place.

For more information on athletic rules and eligibility from the OHSAA for every sport, please go to [www.OHSAA.org](http://www.OHSAA.org).

### **FOR THE PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETE:**

At the end of an athlete's junior year, they should begin the process of registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center or NAIA to establish their collegiate eligibility. The process is simple but can be time consuming. The entire process can be done online at your convenience. Go to <http://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter> or <https://www.naia.org/>.

Contact your school counselor with questions - they are familiar with the process and can help!

## **DISCIPLINE STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

*SPORTSMANSHIP:* Patriot Preparatory Academy supports an extensive and wide-ranging sportsmanship program. Sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity are the focus of this program. Coaches, athletes, and parents are expected to set an example of sportsmanship that reflects positively on our school and community.

We want everyone to enjoy their participation in athletics, while maintaining a proper perspective. For this reason, we expect parents, fans, coaches, and athletes to adhere to the following:

1. The use of profanity, directed at officials, athletes, coaches, or fans will not be tolerated at practices or games.
2. The “riding” of officials, excessive questioning of their calls (from the stands or directly), or directly approaching an official in any way to express your dissatisfaction will not be tolerated at games.
3. Inappropriate cheers, even if profanity is not involved, will not be allowed.
4. Cheer positively FOR your team, not negatively AGAINST the other team. The athletes on the other team are proud, hard-working athletes, just like ours.
5. When an injury occurs to an opposing player, do not celebrate it with cheers, etc. Sports involve risk of serious injury, and we want NO athlete to be hurt. Please have the courtesy to applaud as the injured athlete leaves the field.
6. Take the high road. An opponent, their fans, or their coaches being unsportsmanlike does not give us the right to behave in the same manner, no matter what the conduct from the opposition. Our behavior should model sportsmanship for all to see.

## **COACHES AND TEAM RULES**

Coaches of each sport set their own rules and expectations which are approved by the Athletic Director. Coaches have the responsibility and authority to enforce these rules as they see fit. An athlete and his/her family agree to these expectations by virtue of agreeing to participate on the team. If you have a question about team rules or expectations, it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to contact the coach.

Remember some key items:

1. The coach determines playing time, positions, level of play, game strategy, and practice routines.
2. These items are purely at the coach’s discretion and should not be items of discussion.

*CONFLICTS AND PROBLEMS:* Inevitably, problems arise between coaches, athletes, and parents. Coaches are hired to run their programs according to their best judgment and are supported by the administration.

Questions regarding offenses and defenses, playing time, substitution patterns, etc. are not appropriate matters to challenge or discuss during the season, either with the coach or Athletic Director.

Conflicts or questions arising around issues of communication, treatment of your son or daughter, or team rules and expectations are appropriate to discuss any time. If you have such an issue you would like to discuss, please follow these steps:

1. Contact your son or daughter’s coach directly to arrange a time to discuss the issue. DO NOT approach the coach during practice, or immediately before, during, or immediately after a game.
2. Keep in mind that the coach has your son/daughter’s best interests at heart. Every coach wants each athlete to succeed, and therefore help the team succeed.

3. DO NOT contact the Athletic Director or other school administrators until you have spoken directly with the coach. As professionals, coaches are to be given every opportunity to address concerns with their program directly with those raising the concerns. Unless it is an extraordinary situation, the athletic director will refer you back to a direct meeting with the coach if it has not already taken place.
4. If the meeting with the coach does not resolve the issue, contact the athletic director to arrange a meeting. The athletic director will listen to your concerns and determine if there are any other steps that can be taken to resolve the issue.

### **Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members on the squad including all team rules.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment).
5. Procedures for if your child should be injured during participation.
6. Coaches off-season conditioning program.
7. Teaching sportsmanship, ethics, good behavior, and drug prevention.

### **Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents**

1. Concern expressed directly to the coach. Encourage your child to make this step first.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. To be a positive role model at contests and practice.

As your child becomes involved in the programs at Patriot Preparatory Academy, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

1. The treatment of your child - mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. College options and recruiting.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals and they make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Playing time
4. Other student athletes