



*Providence Classical Christian
School
Athletic Handbook*

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”
- Hebrews 12:2

Table of Contents

Goals of the Athletic Program	3
Philosophy of Athletics.....	3
Middle School Athletics Overview.....	4
High School Athletics Overview	5
Membership	6
Athletic Fees	6
Limitations of Athletic Program	6
Rules and Regulations.....	7
Relationship to Academics	7
Eligibility	7
Athletes and Coaches	8
Behavior Expectations and Discipline	9
Parents and Fans	10
Parent Communication.....	10
Transportation.....	11
Uniforms and Equipment.....	11
Appendix A – Philosophical Questions and Answers	12-13

Goals of the Athletic Program

“Our mission is to partner with Christian parents in educating their children, in the classical tradition, to think and act biblically and to pursue academic excellence in joyful submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

As stated in the founding documents of Providence Classical Christian School, our aim is to be thoroughly Christian, using the classical methodology for training our children to love and worship God. To this end, we believe that the athletic program complements the academic program of our school in enabling our children to love learning and to think Christianly. In order to accomplish this means, we strive to:

- Teach sports as part of an integrated life with the Scriptures at the center
- Provide a clear model of the biblical Christian life through our coaches
- Encourage every student to begin and develop his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ
- Emphasize grammar, logic, and rhetoric in each sport
- Encourage every student to develop a love for learning and to live up to his athletic potential
- Provide an orderly atmosphere conducive to the attainment of the above goals.

Our documents outline the vision of Providence for our students, our staff, our parents, and our community. The athletic program will support and encourage the pursuit of this vision. We refer you to those documents rather than repeat them in this one.

Philosophy of Athletics

Providence Classical Christian School seeks to provide an athletic program in order to supplement the academic program of the middle and high school. We recognize that God has gifted students in a variety of ways, including abilities in athletics, drama, music, academic study, as well as in other areas. We seek to provide an opportunity for these students to develop and use their god-given abilities.

We believe that participation in athletics provides a good opportunity to encourage Christian students in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

We believe that an athletic program enhances the atmosphere of the Providence Classical Christian School student body, providing students and parents with an opportunity to build community.

We also recognize that athletics provide an opportunity to make the programs established at Providence Classical Christian School known to the broader community.

Middle School Athletics Overview

Goals

The objectives of the middle school program are improvement through participation and the development of basic skills. Coaches will teach the basic rules and principles of the game, with the primary goal of allowing each student the opportunity to participate and grow in sportsmanship and Christian character. A secondary goal is to compete in an effort to gain victory over the opponent.

Middle School Sports

The following sports are offered for Middle School students:

Fall Season	Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball
Winter Season	Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball
Spring Season	Boys Lacrosse and Boys/Girls Track

Participation

All students 7th and 8th (middle school) and 6th grade students are eligible to participate in the athletics program. Approximately 85% of the students in middle school participate in athletics. As a general rule, Providence maintains a “no cut” policy in middle school athletics.

All students participating in athletics at the middle school level will generally be given some playing time in every game, though time may not necessarily be divided equally among all players. The one exception to this is tournament games, where not all middle school students may be given playing time. Depending on the number of students interested in a particular sport, Providence may divide students into two teams. Teams will be named Division 1 and Division 2, and students placed in Division 1 will be selected based on attitude, character, and skill, regardless of grade level.

Length of Season

Each season is approximately 6-8 weeks in length. With three different athletic seasons, all students are encouraged to participate during more than one season, and take advantage of the multiple sports opportunities.

Commitment

All students are expected to commit to attending practices (normally three days a week) as well as games. During weeks when games occur, the games will replace the practices; in general there will be three required commitments each week for middle school athletics. We recognize that various issues may arise during the season (sickness, doctor’s appointment, etc.), but otherwise team members are expected to attend all practices and games.

High School Athletics Overview

Goals

The objectives of the high school program are rigorous competition, development of skills, and demonstration of impeccable sportsmanship. As a general rule, Providence maintains a “no cut” policy in high school athletics.

High School Sports

The following sports are offered for High School students:

Fall Season	Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball
Winter Season	Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball
Spring Season	Boys Lacrosse and Boys/Girls Track

Participation

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in high school athletics. Approximately 85% of the students in high school participate in athletics.

Athletes will be evaluated based on sportsmanship (attitude), ability to play as a member of a team (character), and personal ability (skill). Coaches will make every effort to assemble the team on the court/field that offers the best opportunity for victory, so in high school athletics not all players will play in every game. If a large number of students desire to play on a high school team, a Junior Varsity team will be assembled). Athletes chosen for the Varsity team will be selected based on attitude, character, and skill.

Length of Season

Each season is approximately 12-16 weeks in length. Our fall sports season in high school generally begins two weeks prior to the first day of school, so students participating in fall sports should plan to attend all practices.

Commitment

The intensity and commitment demanded in athletics increases with the move from middle school to high school. High school teams generally will have practice or a game each day of the week during the season, so students should plan for a commitment five days a week. Additionally, the expectations for athletes increases at the high school level, and students are expected to independently and responsibly manage their academic commitments throughout the athletic season. While we recognize that various issues may arise during the season (sickness, doctor’s appointment, etc.), team members are expected to attend all practices and games and should prioritize their commitment to the sport and to their fellow team members

Membership

Providence Classical Christian School is a member of the Northwest Christian Schools League (NCSL), the Cascade Middle School League (CMSL), and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

To facilitate scheduling of activities and to encourage competition, Providence Classical Christian School will strive to maintain membership in the NCSL, the CMSL, and the WIAA so long as it is deemed beneficial by the school administration.

Athletic Fees

Athletic Fees help to defer the cost of athletics at our school. It helps to pay for equipment, uniforms, field or gym rentals, referees, and coaches.

- The normal fee for **middle school sports** (except track) is \$150.
- The normal fee for **high school sports** (except track) is \$250. Additional costs may apply for teams who advance to tournaments or playoffs.
- The fee for homeschoolers playing on our teams is \$100 more than the amount of an enrolled student.

Limitations of the Athletic Program

The athletic program at Providence is not designed to produce Olympic-caliber athletes. It is designed to allow students to:

- Develop Christian character and individual talents
- Learn to work as a team
- Love their neighbor and enjoy it all to the glory of God.

Our boundaries are driven by finances, facilities, and families. It is our goal to supplement the academic program, not replace it. It is our goal to strengthen families, not cripple them. It is our goal to build community, not fragment it.

We do realize that a commitment to athletics will demand a certain level of time for students, and practice and level of preparation is necessary to grow and compete. Since we do not want to provoke our children to wrath by pitting them against teams that are highly skilled and better prepared, all students are asked to commit to their sport and their team according to the guidelines outlined later in this Handbook.

Rules and Regulations

All applicable policies and guidelines established by Providence Classical Christian School administration apply to students participating in extra-curricular programs at Providence Classical Christian School.

In addition, the rules and regulations of each league (NCSL, CMSL or WIAA) will also be followed. The secondary principal, athletic director and all coaches are expected to become familiar with these rules and regulations.

Each student must have parental permission in writing in order to participate in extracurricular activities. The parental permission will include a medical release form and a transportation release form for each high school student and a physical evaluation by a certified doctor once every two years.

The athletic director shall be responsible for ensuring that all players meet both Providence Classical Christian School and individual league requirements for participation. The athletic director will notify coaches of any ineligible players. Coaches shall submit to the athletic director a list of participants at the beginning of the season in order to facilitate this review.

Relationship to Academics

Extra-curricular activities will not take priority over the academic program at Providence Classical Christian School. This means that though both academics and athletics are important and vital in the education of the student, the first priority for students remains their academic responsibilities. Students must retain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA to participate in athletics (see “Eligibility” for more specific details). The Athletic Director and Secondary Principal will work together to ensure that the role of the athletic program appropriately supplements the academic program.

The Providence school policy for pre-arranged absence applies to athletics. Athletes (and students attending athletic events as spectators) are to discuss early dismissals and absences in ADVANCE with teachers and are to complete those assignments on time, as described in the Family Handbook under “Prearranged Absences.”

Eligibility

All Providence Classical Christian School students participating in extra-curricular activities must maintain a G.P.A. of 2.5 on a trimester basis.

A student who is absent from school more than one-half day may not participate in extra-curricular activities that day, either in practice or in games, unless the Secondary Principal grants permission to do so.

Athletes and Coaches

The purpose of athletics at Providence is to provide opportunities for the training and development of Christian character in an atmosphere that is challenging and enjoyable. The ultimate end is seeing individuals learning to think and act biblically during times of hardship and pressure, success and disappointment.

We expect that our coaches and our parents will model Christ-centered character qualities for our children. During practice and during games, we must be aware that we represent Christ and our school to our kids and to people from other schools. Therefore, compliance with the following guidelines will be expected from all participants.

1. Comments by coaches and participants should be uplifting, positive, encouraging statements.
2. Actions of coaches, directors and athletes should set a positive, encouraging example for spectators.
3. Conduct judged to be improper by the coach, administrator, or athletic director might result in immediate withdrawal from the activity, as well as further disciplinary action. Such conduct may be verbal abuse of athletes or referees.

To this end, we encourage our players to the following:

- As individuals:
 - Be thankful about everything (I Thess 5:18)
 - Complain* about nothing (Phil 2:14)
 - Look for ways to help your teammates and coaches (Gal 6:2, Phil 2:4)
 - Challenge and push yourself to excellence (Col 3:23)
- Toward the team:
 - Encourage your teammates (I Thess 5:11)
 - Be present for all team activities (Heb 10:24-25)
 - Learn to work together with others (Phil 2:3)
 - Make sacrifices for the good of the team (Heb 12:2, Rom 15:1).
- Toward the Coach and Referees:
 - Be respectful (Rom 13:1, I Pet 2:18)
 - Be obedient (Eph 6:1)
 - Tolerate mistakes (nobody's perfect) (Eph 4:32)
- Toward Opponents:
 - Respect them at all times (Rom 12:17-21)
 - On the field/court, they are your opponent! Do ALL you can (within the rules) to win.
 - Off the court, be friendly. Thank them, encourage them, laugh with them.
- In General
 - Never make excuses for losing (James 4:10, James 4:16)
 - Never gloat about winning. Be thankful. (James 4:10, James 4:16)

* Complaining is not the same as voicing a concern. The difference may be in one's attitude and tone. We encourage our players and parents to voice their concerns in a respectful manner.

Behavior Expectations and Discipline

Students are expected to adhere to the behavioral standards outlined in the Family Handbook. Similar consequences for disobeying the discipline standard of the school will apply toward misbehavior during extra-curricular activities.

Students are expected to behave in the same manner as required on school grounds, with appropriate respect and courtesy. Movies, videos, DVD's, I-pods, MP3 or CD players, and video games are not permitted while traveling for athletics. Cell phones may not be used for music, games, or internet access.

There are several basic behaviors that will automatically necessitate a referral to the Secondary Principal (versus the coach or athletic director). Those behaviors are:

- a. Disrespect shown to any staff member. The staff member will be the judge of whether or not disrespect has been shown.
- b. Dishonesty in any situation while at school, including lying, cheating, and stealing.
- c. Rebellion (i.e. outright disobedience in response to instruction).
- d. Fighting (i.e. striking in anger with the intention to harm the other student).
- e. Obscene, vulgar, or profane language, which includes taking the name of the Lord in vain.
- f. Sexual misconduct, including any public displays of affection, inappropriate touching, kissing, use of pornography, or other forms of sexual impurity.
- g. Illegal substance abuse, including drugs and alcohol.
- h. Weapons on campus (guns, knives, etc.).

When discipline is necessary, the coach may administer any of the following options:

1. Extra exercises (push-ups, sit-ups, wall sits, running, etc.)
2. Suspension from part or all of practice(s)/rehearsal(s).
3. Suspension from one or more games/events.
4. Suspension from the team, with the approval of the athletic director.

Parents will be notified of all major disciplinary actions. The coach is responsible to notify the athletic director of any suspension, who will then notify the parents. Any participation fees charged will not be refunded in the event a player is suspended from the team.

Level 1 and 2 discipline will be determined by the coach. Level 3 and 4 discipline will be determined by the coach and the athletic director. The discipline will be administered in the light of the individual student's problem and attitude. All discipline will be based on biblical principles, e.g. confession, restitution, apologies (public and private), restoration of fellowship, no lingering attitudes, etc.

Parents and Fans

Our fans are a vital part of the success of Providence athletics and we encourage vigorous positive participation by our fans. We do believe cheering should be cheerful, never negative or demeaning. Providence fans are also ambassadors of Christ and of our school and should cheer our teams in an appropriate manner. Our cheering should build up and encourage All who hear (Ephesians 4:29).

Our emphasis on sportsmanship and character amongst our student athletes and student body begins with the example set by our parents.

Derogatory “cheers” (“air ball”, “miss it”, etc.), comments, “booing”, taunting (or any kind of derisive singling out of opponents), arguing, or disputing directed at any participant (players, coaches, officials, and fellow fans) will not be tolerated and will be considered grounds for removal from Providence sport events.

Spectators should NEVER approach an official before, during, or after a sporting event. Never ridicule or shout criticism toward officials and referees. During a game, the team bench is for coaches, players, and officials only. Do not approach the bench area during a game (including halftime). A parent’s/fan’s inability to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while at a Providence athletic event could jeopardize their future attendance at Providence events.

Conducting ourselves in this manner should be done for one reason above all; we are not our own. Our old self has been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20), and we now have our minds set on higher things (Colossians 3:2). “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be new and different people with a fresh newness to your thinking. Then, you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy.” (Romans 12:2)

Parent Communication

The format for voicing a complaint or a concern is similar to the procedure used for regular school issues (see the Family Handbook). This procedure follows the process outlined in Mathew 18. If a parent has a concern, he/she should first speak with the coach about it. If you are not satisfied with how your concern is handled, then parents are encouraged to speak with the Athletic Director. If you are still not satisfied with the situation, a meeting will be set up with the Secondary Principal, the Athletic Director, and the Coach. Parents not following these protocols will be kindly redirected to the proper person.

Transportation

The athletic director is responsible for arranging for transportation to all away games. The athletic director, not the coaches, will establish the time that students will be released from class for participation in games held on school days.

Each student must have parental permission in writing in order to be driven to and from an extracurricular activity.

Coaches should endeavor to have athletes home at a reasonable time.

Coaches and directors should always travel with a copy of each student's emergency form with them. The athletic director will provide the coach with these forms.

Uniforms and Equipment

Coaches may not distribute game uniforms until all fees and forms have been collected and approval has been given from the athletic department. Uniforms will be dispersed to the students at school before their first game. Providence athletic uniforms should be worn for games only, not for practices.

The goal of the uniform is unity. With that in mind, we expect our athletes to dress in such a way as to promote unity over individuality.

Uniforms will normally be returned by the students within a week of the last game of the season. In washing uniforms at home please adhere to the instructions printed on the uniform. Please repair tears and holes and disconnected stitching as they occur.

Uniforms should be worn in the most modest fashion possible. A "Rolled up" waistband to make shorts "short" is not permitted.

Appendix A – Philosophical Questions and Answers

Even when we all acknowledge the spiritual equality of our minds and bodies, there are still many questions left to answer. Here are some of the questions and some of the answers:

- 1. QUESTION: Is physical training a good use of time and energy? To love God with all our strength could mean many things, including working hard at our jobs, helping a neighbor, or doing something practical such as building a house. Should sports be included in this list, or is it merely an entertaining recreation? 1 Tim 4:7 says that physical training is useful, but is “sports” a good form of physical training?**

ANSWER: YES!

- 2. QUESTION: Is competition necessary? Can we just train our bodies and exercise without having to have competitions?**

ANSWER: Training without competition is like studying for a class but never taking a test. Testing is a form of evaluating one’s progress and is a necessary part of one’s education. Competition is a joy to those who are well prepared for it (Ps 19:5). The higher the level of competition, the better evaluation it is (i.e. Latin tests in class vs. the National Latin Exam).

- 3. QUESTION: Should the school provide the means for physical training? Should physical training be part of the school curriculum? Should interscholastic competition be part of the curriculum? Should it be mandatory?**

ANSWER: Our school is a community. One reason for having a school is to make efficient use of our resources. This can be done in athletics as well as academics. I would not mandate interscholastic competition in sports any more than I would mandate everyone being on the debate team. At this level, people’s various talents are being manifest and should be developed accordingly.

- 4. QUESTION: What is the purpose of physical training?**

ANSWER: Physical training gives us good health, strengthens our muscles and gives us more energy for our other labors. But is also a joyful expression of God’s creation. “When I run, I feel God’s pleasure” is a Hollywood script line, but is expressive of how many athletes feel when they are practicing or competing.

- 5. QUESTION: What part do sports play in reformation?**

ANSWER: Sports has at least a twofold purpose in reformation. First of all, it is a development of how God designed us. Our nature is the flesh; Jesus Christ is in the flesh. The development of our physical attributes is honoring to God. In the same way that the soaring of an eagle, the roaring of a lion, the galloping of a horse or the stateliness of a pine tree bring glory to God, so our physical expressions also bring glory to God. Secondly, athletic competition is an area of our culture that needs godly men as much as having a godly dentist or doctor, mechanic or house painter.

6. QUESTION: What part do sports play in developing Christian character?

ANSWER: The answer to this question may have been previously implied, but it is useful for us to ask the question outright. Paul said that physical training was useful, but training for godliness is better. (This is not an argument for training of the mind vs. training of the body). Rather this is an argument of purpose and perspective. Do we just train the body for physical reasons? NO! Do we just train the mind for mental reasons? NO! All our training is for the purpose of developing godliness. All subjects, including sports, come under the sovereignty and authority of Jesus Christ. Physical training develops the same Christian character as academic education (but in a different manner).

7. QUESTION: With this in mind, how should an interscholastic sports program be developed in a Christian manner?

ANSWER: The same way it is developed in the classroom – with Christian teaching to go alongside of the subject matter. It should be taught with a biblical foundation. The students should understand WHY we are doing it and not just WHAT we are doing. They must continually be reminded that we play for God’s glory and not our own. We play to please God and not to please men. We honor God in our conduct and our effort.

8. QUESTION: What sports should we do at Providence?

ANSWER: The answer of this question depends on the facilities, equipment, coaches and participants available. Again, this answer may go back to the question of the purpose of sports. If the purpose is only to train for war, then we should have self-defense sports and rifling. But if the purpose is more generally to exercise our bodies in a way that is glorifying to God, then the sport itself is somewhat irrelevant (grist for the mill, so to speak). If someone feels very strongly about a certain sport, but is not an expert in it, then he should become an expert in it and develop that sport. Otherwise, we should use the resources that we have available to us right now. What can we do this year or next year?