



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

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. The goals of the athletic program are:

1. Encourage students to develop their **relationship with God**
2. **Build character** in the students through physical training and teamwork
3. Motivate students to achieve their **athletic potential**
4. Provide the students and their parents with an opportunity to **build community**
5. **Promote the values and mission of Providence Classical Christian School** to the broader community

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 and we seek to provide an opportunity for them to develop and use their god-given abilities.

The athletic program at Providence is not designed to produce Olympic caliber athletes. Rather it is designed for student athletes to:

- *Develop Christian character and individual talents
- *Learn to work as a team
- *Love their neighbor and glorify God

We are limited by finances, facilities, and the size of the student body. However, just as in academics, the athletic program is devoted to the pursuit of excellence. A commitment to athletics demands a certain level of sacrifice from the athletes and their families in order to grow and compete. With God at the center, we seek to cultivate hard-working, resilient student athletes who strive for balance in their academics and athletics and face adversity with joyful determination.

Middle School Athletics

Objectives

1. Sportsmanship: train Christian character in a competitive environment
2. Introduction to sport: basic rules and principles of the game
3. Development of basic skills: teaching and drilling fundamentals
4. Teamwork: the experience of being a part of something greater than oneself and the camaraderie that comes from that shared experience
5. Competition: to compete to the best of our abilities

Middle School Sports Seasons

Fall: Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball and Girls Soccer

Winter: Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball

Spring: Boys/Girls Track

League Membership

Providence is a member of the Cascade Middle School League (CMSL)

Athletic Fees

The Athletic Fee for Middle School is \$150.

Eligibility

GPA: Academics are the first priority of student athletes and students must retain a minimum GPA of **2.5** which will be evaluated on a trimester basis by the Athletic Director.

Pre-arranged absences: The athletic director will communicate early dismissals for games to parents and teachers. Early dismissals do not affect homework assignments given in class; academic deadlines remain firm.

Game day absence policy: A student who is absent from school **more than one half day** may not participate in extracurricular activities that day (either in practice or games).

Participation and Playing Time

All 5th-8th grade students are eligible to participate in the athletics program. Over half of the students in middle school participate in athletics. 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.

If there is a concern about playing time, do not bring it to the coach during a game. Wait 24 hours and then follow these steps:

1. Athlete to Coach
2. Athlete and Parent to Coach
3. Athlete and Parent to Coach and Athletic Director
4. Athlete and Parent to Athletic Director and Headmaster

Length of Season

Each season is 7-10 weeks in length. With three different athletic seasons, all students are encouraged to participate in multiple sports.

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 on those days. 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.

Transportation

Providence has a few vans to shuttle athletes to and from practices and games. However, preference is given to high school athletics which means middle school athletics relies on **parent volunteer drivers**. The time spent driving may be counted toward parent partnership hours.

Tardy Policy: When picking up athletes from practices and games, parents should arrive within 10 minutes of the event's completion (as previously communicated by the coach). Three grace periods will be given. Upon the fourth tardy pick up, the Athletic Director will meet with the parents to discuss future protocol for the athlete's involvement with the athletic program.

MS Parent Checklist

_____ I have reviewed and understand the protocol for concerns about playing time.

_____ I understand that the responsibility of transporting athletes to and from games relies primarily upon parent volunteers.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the tardy pick up policy.

_____ I have reviewed the eligibility requirements and understand that academics are a priority.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the game day absence policy.

High School Athletics

Objectives

1. Impeccable sportsmanship
2. Development of skills
3. Rigorous competition

High School Sports Seasons

Fall: Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball

Winter: Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball

Spring: Boys Lacrosse and Boys/Girls Track

League Membership

Providence Classical Christian school is a member of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and compete in the Northwest B League (NWB).

Athletic Fees

The fee for high school sports is \$250. An **additional** \$50 post-season fee is required from each athlete on a team advancing beyond district playoffs to cover gym/field rental and expenses associated with the State Tournament. Travel, lodging, dining, and tournament gear are further added expenses to be paid by the athlete's family.

Eligibility

GPA: Extracurricular 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 (the high school league requirement is a 2.0) which will be evaluated on a trimester basis.

Pre-arranged absence: The Providence school policy for pre-arranged absence applies to athletics. The Athletic Director will communicate early dismissals for games to teachers and parents. 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."

Game day absence policy: A student who is **absent** from school **more than one-half day** may not participate in extracurricular activities that day (either in practice or in games).

Participation and Playing Time

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in high school athletics. Approximately 75% of the students in high school participate in athletics. Providence maintains a no-cut policy in high school 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 meaning that 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.

If an athlete has a concern about **playing time**, he/she must first approach the coach to discuss the matter. A coach will not address an athlete's playing time with the parent unless the athlete has first discussed the matter with the coach. Do not discuss playing time with the coach during a game – wait until the next day. Here is the procedure for concerns about playing time:

1. Athlete to Coach
2. Athlete and Parent to Coach
3. Athlete and Parent to Coach and Athletic Director
4. Athlete and Parent to Athletic Director and Head Master

Length of Season

Each season is approximately 10-13 weeks in length (the season runs longer as the team continues to advance in post-season play in the state tournament). Our high school fall sports season generally begins two weeks prior to the first day of school in order to comply with the WIAA requirement that student athletes attend **10 practices** before being eligible to participate in their first game of the regular season.

Commitment

The intensity and commitment demanded in athletics increases with the move from middle school to high school and students should plan for a commitment five days a week. Additionally, 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.

Transportation

Providence has a few vans to transport student athletes to and from practices and games. Vans or parent volunteer drivers will always be utilized on game days. On practice days, student drivers may transport themselves and designated teammates to the practice facility. Designated students will be approved by the parents of both the driver and the passenger.

Tardy Policy: When picking up athletes from practices and games, parents should arrive within 10 minutes of the event's completion (as previously communicated by the coach). Two grace periods will be given. Upon the third tardy pick up, the Athletic Director will meet with the parents to discuss future protocol for the athlete's involvement with the athletic program.

After School Policy

Providence is a **closed campus** meaning students arrive at the beginning of the school day and depart at the end of the school day without the freedom to come and go as they please. This is for the safety of the students and the school. It is usually not a problem on days when practice or games fall immediately after the school day ends. However, on days when there is a time gap between the end of the school day and the beginning of the athletic event, students are to report to a designated study hall room on campus to be supervised by a parent volunteer (counts toward parent partnership hours) or staff member. Students may not walk off campus.

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 (see family handbook).

In addition, the rules and regulations of each league (CMSL and WIAA) will also be followed. Each student/parent unit must fill out the appropriate forms in order to participate in extracurricular activities. They are as follows:

- Physical Evaluation (every 2 years)
- Student Athlete Contract
- Transportation Form
- Concussion/SCA Form
- Sport Specific Risk Awareness Form

The athletic director shall be responsible for ensuring that all players meet the participation requirements of both Providence Classical Christian School and the individual league. The athletic director will notify coaches of any ineligible players.

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 Matthew 18. If a parent has a concern, he/she should first speak with the coach. If the concern is not addressed in a satisfactory manner, parents are encouraged to speak with the Athletic Director. If parents 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.

If an athlete has a concern about **playing time**, he/she must first approach the coach to discuss the matter. A coach will not address an athlete's playing time with the parent unless the athlete has first discussed the matter with the coach. (see playing time procedure under High School Athletics: Participation and Playing Time)

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. In washing uniforms at home please adhere to the instructions printed on the uniform.

Uniforms will be returned by the students within a week of the last game of the season. Athletes will be charged for damaged or lost uniforms. Athletes with uniform fees outstanding will not be able to participate in further athletic seasons until the fees are paid.

Sportsmanship

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 adversity, pressure, disappointment, and victory.

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 parents 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. An example of such conduct is verbal abuse of athletes or referees.

To this end, we encourage our coaches, parents, and athletes 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 lies in one's attitude and tone. We encourage our players and parents to voice their concerns in a respectful manner.

Behavior Expectations and Discipline for Athletes

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.

When discipline is necessary, the coach may administer it from any of the following levels:

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.

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 infraction 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 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.

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.)

Behavior of 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 participants, players, coaches, officials, and fellow fans will not be tolerated and will be considered grounds for removal from Providence sporting 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)

HS Parent Checklist

_____ I have reviewed and understand the 10 practice policy.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the protocol for concerns about playing time.

_____ I understand the closed campus policy.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the tardy pick up policy.

_____ I have reviewed the eligibility requirements and understand that academics are a priority.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the game day absence policy.